

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

Dear Member,

November 2018, newsletter.

Weekend Chippy



Rod's Mum's house on Church Street

In October and November, I wrote about Mrs Farren. It was she who took in washing Monday to Friday and then turned the copper, used to boil the water into a chip fryer at weekends. I am grateful to a number of people who took the time and trouble to contact me and offer information. I was delighted to be contacted by Rod Proudman, who is Mrs Farren's, Great, Grandson. He was able to confirm that the weekend chippy was indeed in one of the cottages along Main Street adjacent to the Red Lion Hotel. Rod went on to say that the cottage in question faced what is known as Back Lane which I believe, (without wishing to stir up further controversy) at one time led to Bosworth Mill (or Harcourt Mill). The chips were cooked in the back kitchen, access was via an entry to the back of the cottages.

Rod's mother came from Birmingham, and she was married from the house, sadly now demolished on the junction of Church Street and Barton Road, and would have walked along Church Street to marry Rod's father, Frank Proudman. Rod also reported, that when Bosworth Show was on, all the children were required to work in the chippy, the grandchildren being kept upstairs and fed chips! Rod also recalled that when the house, pictured was demolished the Carlton Stone was used to repair a cottage belonging to Roland Smith at Far Coton. The work being done by Billy Beck.

I was delighted to hear from Rod and share in his family history. Thank you again to all those who offered information. Not only do your memories help me to resolve inaccuracies they also go to the archive for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Meeting Report

In November we were given a real treat. Research for this lecture started over 12 months ago and began with a request from the group called Tommies, mentioned in Newsletters previously, for information about World War One. You may recall that the Tommy's wanted to add some realism to the fictional representations called Bosworth Street. We were

delighted to help this enthusiastic group of people with much information as we could. Incidentally, if you have not yet seen their display it is well worth a visit (and free). You will find it at the Battle of Bosworth Visitors Centre to the left of the shop, in the top courtyard. We have also received requests from several other groups seeking information from the Archive, one of which being the Market Bosworth Parish Council (see below). We are very grateful to many kind people who have lent and donated a large number of items to the Archive.

It soon became apparent, to the team, Glynis, Ingrid, Beth, and Robert that the information collected in parts for others, naturally formed the basis for a lecture for Society members and guests

On arrival the audience were able to listen to a number of songs (It's a long way to Tipperary,



Pack Up Your Troubles for example) as they found their seats. The lecture opened with a depiction of Market Bosworth between 1900 and 1918. For example, there were at that time 729 residents and no electricity. Lighting was by gas or paraffin with the Hall benefiting solely from electrification.

The lecture went on to talk about shops, schools, police, and many other aspects of Market Bosworth at that time. Many names were mentioned, including, Robert Long, butcher, Bob Lampard, also a butcher, Dr Keeling, Gilbert Graver, Harry Weston, Canon Percy Harris Bowers, plus many others.



Siegfried Loraine Sassoon CBE MC

Oh and of course Siegfried Sassoon.

Canon Percy Harris Bowers

The lecture was illustrated with over 50 pictures carefully researched and displayed.

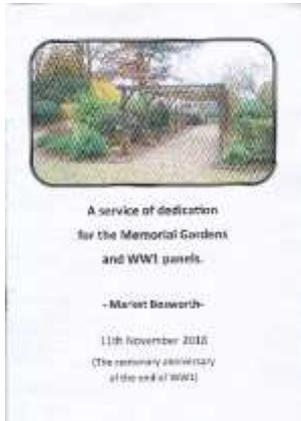
In October we heard David Humberston mention every single man named on the World War 1 section of the War Memorial. It was equally as important to hear about those who remained at home and served by keeping the home fires burning.

I know that some have asked why we keep Armistice Day alive, especially as World War 1 was now over 100 years ago. For me, it serves as a reminder of the horror of war and the enormous cost not simply the lives lost but the lives of their friends and relatives. It also reminds me that "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends".

We shall remember them.

Memorial Gardens

The Market Bosworth Society was delighted to be asked to help with the new boards at the Memorial Gardens as part of the planned refurbishment. After the Wreath Laying Ceremony



*2*Happy Workers setting up the boards
in The Square there was a short

Ceremony of Blessing for the Gardens and the new boards. Led by Mark Poskett it was a moving reminder of why the gardens are there.



*1*Board waiting to be fixed in place

National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants (NATSOPA)



" NATSOPA " MEMORIAL HOMES—1936

Amy Payne from the BBC recently contacted Beth. Amy is the reporter for this area and works for BBC East Midlands Today (usually aired around 6:30pm weekdays). She in turn had been contacted by Rob Burgess who is working with the developer, Springbourne Homes, in particular their MD Adrian Burr (from Nuneaton) of the site at Temple Hall in Wellesborough. You may have seen the recent planning application to demolish the old house. The developer had found an old stone pillar or obelisk on which was a plaque. The plaque had been stolen and he wanted to know what was on it. He believed that it was a memorial to the fallen in World War 1. This is where we came in. In a remarkably short

space of time we were able to help answer several questions and provide a good deal of background information.

Glynis was able to search out some information from the archive and I emailed members asking for information. Thank you very much to those who have responded, you all helped us a good deal. I am particularly grateful to Robert “Bob” Jarvis and Rod Proudman, whose fathers had both worked at the homes. Through the archive and the information shared by Rod and Bob we were able to put an interesting piece together which I thought you might like to read. Do bear in mind the clock was ticking as we did the research.

The beginning (as far as we can tell)

There is evidence that Temple Hall, site of the defunct Natsopa Memorial Homes, pre-dated the Norman conquest. In the Reign of William, The Conqueror, Henry de Temple third son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia and Countess Godiva (yes, she was the one) was the owner of the manor called Temple in the parish of Sibberson

Ownership of the land would have changed hands several times and was home to The Knights Templar in the 13th Century, when Wellesborough was a small hamlet. The land is thought to have been given to the Knights Templar by the Harcourt Lords of the Manor of Bosworth (Sir Robert Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt fought on the side of Henry in the Battle of Bosworth in August 1485) the Harcourts also gave land in Rothley to the Knights Templar. This for a much larger preceptory and manor house, with associated buildings such needed to sustain a large estate. The Wellesborough site, although smaller was still of significant size (the top of Wellesborough Hill and several acres along each side) was to be the home of the Knights and was expected to be similarly self-contained. Temple Hall Farm (now in use by the Dixie Grammar School) would not have been across the road as there would have been no road.

The moated Manor house acquired some history of its own, Judge Temple, a member of the court who sentenced Charles I to death was born at Temple Hall. In 1710 Dissenters of Sibson (Protestant Christians who separated from the Church of England in the 16th, century) built themselves a chapel at Temple Hall, which in 1919 was in use a farm labourers’ cottage.

When the land was acquired by NATSOPA It would have been known as Temple Hall echoing its historic past and would have been a moated manor house, still.

Creation of Natsopa Memorial Homes

The name created a good deal of confusion. Being plural I initially believed that there were more homes scattered around the country, but I soon realised that I was wrong. The name stems from the fact that there were planned to be three homes on the Wellesborough site serving three separate needs. Initially it was decided that there would be a sanatorium for sufferers of Tuberculosis. If anyone knows why Wellesborough was chosen, for the homes, do tell. I think, for the moment at least, that sited as it was on a high hill (390 feet or 119 meters above mean sea level) and well away from local towns and villages for the fresh air needed by Tuberculosis patients. Fresh air has always been seen as an important part of the recovery to good health. In the end there were just two homes, a Convalescent Home, and a Retirement Home. It was also reasonably central to the UK and had good rail links. The

Society members made the decision to provide the homes when they voted in favour of the homes in 1919, as a Memorial to the 380 Natsopa members who fell in in World War 1.

Natsopa Years

The official opening was on the 28th May 1921, by Rt. Honourable Lord Northcliffe (owner of the Daily Mail and the Daily Mirror) The Wellesborough Homes were extensively reconstructed and extended and reopened on the 27th June 1928 by Lord Riddell. The homes now benefitted from 55 separate bedrooms., members convalescing were given 3 to 5 weeks of all in accommodation free of charge (paying only for the rail fare of their wives!). There were single and double rooms available. There was a small hospital of two wards, staffed by a fully qualified Matron and a fully qualified nurse.

Aged members (aged 65 and over with a minimum of 25 years membership) had the benefit of 6 self-contained cottages, two rooms each for married couples and three sets of quarters for aged bachelor or widower members. They were fully furnished and provided with all requirements for board, lighting, warming, cleaning, maintenance, and medical services.

There were amusements provided, indoors – billiards, bagatelle table bowls, table tennis, piano, gramophone, wireless, library (of 600 books) talkie cinema and badminton. Outdoors – two tennis courts, croquet lawn, bowls, cricket, miniature golf. Putting green and darts. I



Bob's Father, Archibald Goddard Jarvis



3Roland Proudman, Rod's uncle

wonder why they did not allow the residents to play darts inside?

There were also within the grounds a number of gardens, an orchard, and ponds. One garden Northcliffe Garden was a rose garden created in the memory of Lord Northcliffe, as a tribute to his fairness as an employer. Other gardens were, The Lord Riddell Garden, The Gurnett Memorial Garden. The Old Timers' Garden all marking important people or events.

The Coming of the End

NATSOPA was consigned to history when it became the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, Division 1 in 1966. The Wellesborough home closed in 1964 (notice was served to the employees at that time on the 1st July 1964). It appears that the die was cast in 1919 when the Homes were created. The property purchased by Natsopa was vested in a board of 5 trustees. During the lifetime of the homes Natsopa had paid substantial amounts in support of the home. Even when the usage fell as social conditions changed. The biggest cost was the



Local Rate and several attempts were made, all unsuccessfully to argue that the charitable status of the homes rendered them free of a Rateable Value. Initially a case was successful but overturned by appeal. Natsopa attempted to raise funds against the homes only to find that they did not own them. Natsopa could no longer allocate funds to the Homes they did not own and finally a formula was worked out with the Charities Commission where the union could lend money in exchange for the security of a mortgage. Finally, with dwindling funds, dwindling demands, and an ever-increasing cost it was decided to close and to sell the existing Homes and move elsewhere. A site was purchased in Rottingdean, Sussex to continue as a memorial to the fallen, now in two World Wars, the new home was completed in 1965 with convalescent accommodation for 25 people and a token accommodation for the elderly.

After Natsopa

The buildings lay empty for around 2 years before being taken over by a Roman Catholic Order, locally identified as the Holy Ghost Fathers when it was used as a seminary and training facility. They did not maintain the gardens to the same standards as Natsopa.

The premises and grounds were purchased in 1973 by the Aged Pilgrims Friends Society, giving the building new life as retirement homes. This Society was founded in London in 1807 and was set up to care for Protestant Evangelists. There were 40 residents when the home was officially opened on the 27th July 1974. The home was called “The Hornsey Rise Memorial Home” after the former London based home, “Hornsey Rise”

The end finally came when the Aged Pilgrims Society closed their home in 2012, after it was first opened by Natsopa 91 years earlier.

Since then the home has been ransacked by vandals and set afire in June 2016. The fire was attended by several appliances from Market Bosworth, Hinckley and Shepshed. The site has since been acquired for demolition and development.

I am grateful to and wish to credit, Rod Proudman, Bob Jarvis, the late Bernard Heathcote, Keith McCarthy, Hinckley Times June 8, 2016 C.P.S. Tudor Street, London EC4, Glynis Oakley and the Market Bosworth society Archive, Natsopa: 75 Years James Moran.

Postscript

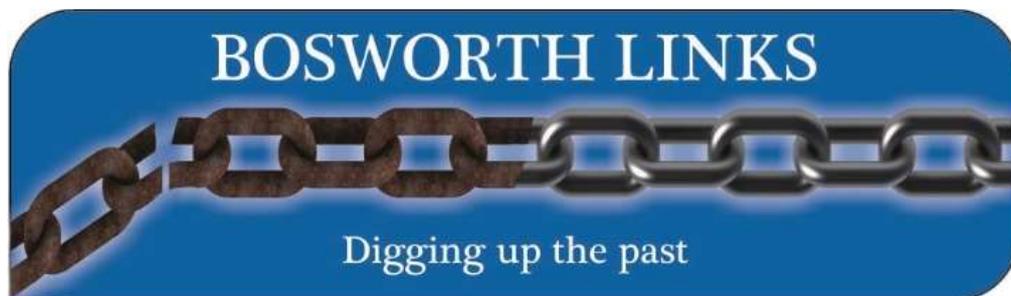
I met both Robert and Adrian whilst the article was filmed, and it was clear that both wanted to restore the pillar or obelisk as a lasting memorial.

More recently, I was contacted by Rosemary Fellowes via Geoff and Fiona Frisby (long standing MBS Members) who advised me that many of the records were transferred to Pilgrims' Friend Society, Pilgrim Gardens, Evington, Leicester. Which include photographs of the building of the Natsopa Homes,



www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk I have been in touch and am currently awaiting a reply. I will let you know if I have any success in subsequent newsletters.

If you happen to have any information or photographs of the buildings especially the pillar or obelisk, which show what was written on the plaque, I would very much like to see them.



I promised the Feedback meeting on the 25th November would be exciting and it will be! Very exciting. The audience will enjoy another first-class DVD made by Bill Newsinger, our official videographer and later we will be wowed by the revelations made by Mathew. We are also delighted to have Professor Carenza Lewis with us. Carenza has been a very good friend to the project and will be giving a short presentation.

During the two-year project our fantastic volunteers had removed 53 cubic meters of soil (equivalent to over 80 tonnes) to unearth over 20,000 finds, weighing over 167Kgs.

All of the finds from 2017 and 2018 have now all been washed, assessed, identified, and catalogued. Information that is been revealed from the dig is truly amazing.

We started as you may recall, to fill in a gap in our knowledge between the departure of the Romans on the arrival of the Normans, some 660 years. We have exceeded that ambition, pushing back the timeline well into pre-history with Neolithic pottery. I would encourage

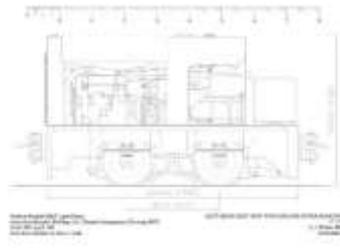
you to go to our website www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links. Remember that if you are not linked to the internet the Market Bosworth Community Library is and the helpers there will do just that, to get you on-line to see the reports (they will be available shortly after the Feedback Meeting) Enjoy a coffee. have a read of the reports and watch the DVD. All in the warm! There is a report for each and every test pit together with an overall report covering the two years. The Leicester University Archaeology Services (ULAS) have done a fantastic job in analysing all of the data. Special thanks go to Mathew Morris, we were very lucky to have Mathew and ULAS as our partners, thanks also to our Project Officer Gemma who has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to make this all possible.

A special thank you to our sponsors and supporters, the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Parish and Community Fund (Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council) The Dixie Educational Foundation, The Market Bosworth Parish Council, The Richard III legacy fund, and the Heart of England Co-operative Society. A massive, massive thank you to our fantastic pit hosts and of course our wonderful volunteers. Thank you all for making this project possible.

A true community run archaeological project.

Battlefield Line

Coen Bos (a volunteer at the Battlefield Line) has contacted me with a request for assistance. He is in contact with Nigel Attwood of the WW2RRG who is working on a booklet concerning the petrol dump, adjacent to the Market Bosworth Station during. Nigel has already been able to provide the Battlefield Line with more information on the locomotive stock, used on the Narrow-Gauge network, some 14 engines of the type as pictured



above were used together with a full-sized engine for shunting the standard gauge trucks delivering to the dump.

Can you help? Any photographs or documents, personal recollections, would be most welcome as Nigel puts together the history of this part of Market Bosworth.

Contact Detail

Website www.marketbosworthsociety.com (for information and membership applications) telephone 07930149408 or 01455290160 or if you prefer email info@marketbosworthsociety.com. We are always happy to hear from you.

Nigel Palmer



Chairman