

Dear Member

April 2018

Lady Florence Dixie



The Leader of Leicestershire County Council
Nicholas Rushton CC
is pleased to invite you to the Unveiling of a Green Plaque
in honour of
Lady Florence Dixie
at

Bosworth Hall Hotel, The Park, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, CV13 0LP
on
Thursday 10 May 2018

It does seem a long time ago now, when it appeared that the whole town had turned out (in a manner of speaking) to vote on-line for Lady Florence to receive a Green Plaque award. We were delighted when the campaign, started by Peter Loseby was successful in securing the accolade for a lady well ahead of her time. I am pleased to report that the unveiling of the Green Plaque will take place on Thursday 10th May at 2:20pm. The Green Plaque will be attached to the entrance to the Hall, where the driveway meets The Park. Anyone entering the drive will see the Green Plaque.

Please come along and support this very worthy recipient of recognition.

Meeting Report: Gemma Tallis “Finding My Family”

It is always good to find local guest speakers, we are very lucky in Bosworth to have a lot of people who have an interesting story to tell and can tell it well. We have seen some notable examples of this recently and the meeting on Thursday 19th was no exception. On our way back from a recording for BBC Radio Leicester Gemma told me how she had been researching her family and some of the interesting things she had learned about her shared past and how to conduct research, Gemma took a little persuading that anyone would want to hear her story but the numerous questions, comments and applause confirmed that indeed we did.

Gemma explained how she had become interested in discovery at an early age and that curiosity led her into archaeology. We were treated to a story woven around a family that Gemma knew but then did not know at all. Her Grandma was a small woman and Gemma remembers that when aged eight she was as tall as her. What she did not know was that at age 17 her Grandma had travelled alone to Canada to work in service returning two years later, still travelling alone to care for her ailing father. Gemma knew she liked to whistle but didn't know that she had taken part in concerts whistling to entertain an entire audience. All this was another woman from the little granny so beloved by Gemma.

It truly was a compelling story and it made me, together with, I suspect, a large proportion of the audience determined to learn more about our own families and our own shared past.

Next Month's Meeting

We are delighted to be hosting Jo Connell, who most of you will know. Her lecture is billed as “An introduction to decoration on Roman and Medieval pottery”, or as Jo put it when we spoke recently, “What is clay and what did the Romans do with it?” Jo went on to say “In the light of recent archaeological digs in the town, my idea is to talk about some of the pottery which may be found in the next round of excavations this coming July. But rather than just identification and classification I hope to throw some light on the pots

themselves. I will be talking mostly about Roman and Medieval pottery and the many ways it was made and decorated. I hope that looking at the history of ceramics from a maker's perspective will help you understand and appreciate the processes used by potters of old. Many of these techniques are still used today (potting can be a low-tech business!) and I will try to show a few ways of working with clay. Along with my collection of shards, which tell so much about the past, I will also bring some pictures, clay, and tools, along with bucket and sponge to ensure that the Free Church is left in a presentable condition!"

"Come and join me, bring your questions – even your shards if you have some? I will be bringing mine." Jo!



This is not one to miss. Members will be admitted free, guests and visitors are most welcome, subject to seating capacity and will be asked to make a small contribution of £3.00 to help defray costs.

Bosworth Sculpture Trail

I was very pleased, recently to be invited to a meeting for the Bosworth Sculpture Trail. You may recall that a little while back we were asked to visit the Community Library and vote for one of the artists. Stephen Broadbent has been commissioned to co-ordinate and produce much of the artwork and he has a team around him, Peter Davidson, Andrew Thomson, and Mandy Taylor. The meeting was, quite appropriately at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre.

Whilst the concept is forming it is far from a finished product but so far, the thinking and shaping is along these lines.

"The Calm Before the Storm" The idea here is to represent Richard III one the eve of the battle. The concept is to show his vulnerability and the hope he has for victory. An unclothed statue of this man staring back at his reflection in water. We can all identify with the anxiety, hope and excitement felt before a life changing event.

"The Storm Breaks" This will be a much larger piece of artwork. Standing stones to show the enormity of what was taking place. Perhaps some stones lying flat as would be the case in battle and of course one victor.

"The Victor Catches the Wind" Standing tall as did Miquel De Cervantes windmills joisted at futilely by Don Quixote. Once can imagine Henry VII standing calm, surveying his new kingdom for as far as he could see.

"The Howling" The terrible and horrible cost of battle. Homage is paid to all the fallen of both sides. Brave men who went to battle to fight for what they believed was right and paid the ultimate price.

"Digging up the past" The research and effort which has gone into discovering the past and the stories it can tell. Richard III own mortal remains were unearthed in Leicester and indeed the Bosworth Links Project is working on similar lines in Market Bosworth as it works to release the past into the present.

"Two Sides to a Story" To the victor the spoils, the victors write history are two phrases we hear but, both the story of Richard III and Henry VII are well known, and it is to this end that recognition is given to the artwork.

As said the concept is far from complete and there will be many twists and turns on the creative journey to fruition, but I hope that I have whetted your appetite to learn more of this exciting project. Please look out for the chance to become involved and to play your part in shaping the Sculpture Trail for this and future generations that the stories may not be lost. For a look at some of Stephen's work try <https://broadbent.studio/about>,

Bosworth Tommies



The Tommies. Photographs by Bill Newsinger

Friday 20th Saw Glynis, Beth Ingrid, and I at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre. We were there to see the official opening of the Bosworth Tommies exhibition, delayed from March due to that horrible snow. We had a lovely time. The Tommies took turns to say a few words about their part in the project. Their tutor aided them and the Lady Mayor and Councillor Ould were there lending support. The Tommies have done an excellent job and have made a wonderful exhibition. The information boards were produced by the Battlefield Centre under the supervision of Richard Knox and the backgrounds fit in very well. I had a chat with Maurice Harris who had shared his research about those named on the Market Bosworth War Memorial to help the Tommies along.

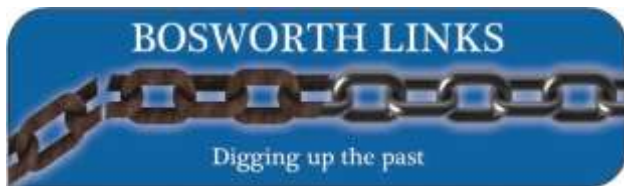
The Tommies shared their work folders with us and we could see that they had been working very hard. There were some splendid examples of learning and the fun they had in doing the project. Whilst looking through the folder belonging to Jorge I asked him what his next project was, and he said that after Christmas they would be studying the Romans and Medieval Times. I managed to have a few words with their tutor and we both

agreed that taking part in the Bosworth Links dig would be a great start to that project. I will do all I can to make sure that we have a pit team made up of the Tommies.

We were all very moved by what the Tommies had to say about their experiences of learning about the Great War and making friends. The exhibition is free and well worth a visit (next to the gift shop). Do please go and look, I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Membership

It is that time again! May I respectfully remind members that fees for 2018/19 are now due. Following the Annual General Meeting the current rate is £12.00 for a single membership and £18.00 for a joint membership. You can pay by cheque at any of the meetings or drop the cheque in at The Forge or on-line by using Sorting Code 40-32-03 an account number 91001108. If paying by Bank Transfer, please put your name(s) in the reference section. Thank you.



This year's Big Dig

We have now completed our list of test pits for this year. I have to say that the people of Bosworth have been extremely kind and generous to us in permitting pits on their properties. We might even be over target of 25 for this year, which is utterly fantastic. My gratitude goes out to the pit hosts, last year and this, without your kindness and cooperation this project could not have gone ahead, let alone show the fantastic promise of success that it does. Our next step along the journey is to arrange for Mathew and Gemma to visit the sites and ensure that they are safe and suitable (no underground pipes or cables) and then we are all set. Gemma will be contacting the hosts to arrange visits, towards the end of this month.

Beaumanor Hall History Fair



Sunday 15th of April saw Judy, Roger, Martyn, and I were at the Beaumanor Hall History Fair. Arriving at 9:00 we set about getting our tables ready. We had some of the Market Bosworth Society books for sale, some local Roman Greyware, some finds from last year's dig, three excellent posters produced by Mathew and a large screen TV. We showed the PowerPoint which was used at the Feedback Meeting last November which includes the excellent Bill Newsinger DVD "Pits, Pots and Pipes". The DVD proved to be a big draw and we caused a bit of a bottleneck as people crowded around to watch the TV. This gave us the chance to talk to a lot of people (the organisers estimated the visitor numbers to be around 3000 people), a great turnout. We signed up three volunteers on the day and handed out loads of flyers and have already had on-line volunteers. Now is the time to volunteer if you want to take part in



something truly amazing. There is unlikely to ever be another dig of this size in Market Bosworth. Certainly not for many years. Anyone reading the overall report, or the individual reports can see how significant the finds were in piecing together our past. Please, please do not miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. Age and ability is absolutely no barrier to joining in the fun. We have tasks which will suit everyone, I promise no one will be left out who wants to play a part.

Market Bosworth Festival of Archaeology

You may know that this year there is no National Festival of Archaeology, which is because next year is their 75th Anniversary and it was decided to save resources to have a special celebration next year. Leicestershire and Rutland have their own as part of the overall festival and this year is no different. In support of this we are having our own mini festival. We shall be digging two test pits on the Parish Field and will also have a Flint Napper and Medieval Tile Maker present on Saturday 21st July. This is in addition to the Hinckley Archaeological Society (you may recall Malcolm Lockett their Chairman supporting us last year). We will also have a limited amount of space for local societies to take part. If you are involved in a local society and would like to be part of the scene, please get in touch (details below).

All is set for a brilliant second year. Can it be better than last year?

As usual if you wish to comment, ask or get in touch about this article or anything else to do with the Market Bosworth Society or Bosworth Links please do. My telephone numbers are 01455290160 and 07930149408. You may email me on info@marketbosworthsociety.com and of course you can always visit our website www.marketbosworthsociety.com and come and take a look at our social medial offerings on Facebook Market Bosworth Society and Bosworth Links are both to be found there.

Have a brilliant May!

Nigel Palmer, Chairman