

June 2018

Dear Member

## Meeting Report

In June we had two meetings, both held at St. Peter's Parish Church. Our first meeting was a Community Meeting in support of Bosworth Links. The meeting gave a brief introduction to the project for our new volunteers as well as an introduction to the team, Mathew, Gemma and the rest. Everyone enjoyed some light refreshments whilst the talk began.



Mathew gave a short but informative presentation which covered last year's dig, and of course what 2018 might hold for us. It is important to remember why we are doing this. We have had tantalising glimpses of prehistoric activity in Bosworth and there is clear archaeological evidence of Roman habitation in the form of a villa. There was then a gap for us to fill in up to the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 where Market Bosworth is mentioned twice with reference to having 34 households. To find out more we all needed to become time travellers!

Last year's dig appears to have supported this pre-historic habitation with flint debitage being discovered in 21 of the 25 pits. No Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 410-850) activity was documented in Market Bosworth before the Bosworth Links digs in 2017, although Peter Foss, in his book *The History of Market Bosworth*, had speculated that the villa site north of the town centre was a focus of post-Roman occupation. This was unproven, archaeologically, until a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in Test Pit 24, on Barton Road, at the villa site. This is a significant new addition to the site's history and is the first evidence that the villa may have remained occupied after the Roman administration of Britain ceased in AD 410 and, therefore, is now one of the earliest known areas of post-Roman occupation in the parish. With only a single sherd of pottery recovered, it is impossible to learn anything more meaningful about the nature of this activity. However, Anglo-Saxon pottery is fragile and relatively rare, and the discovery of a single sherd in a test-pit can reasonably be interpreted as evidence of occupation of 5th to mid-9th century date in the vicinity. Paired with the fact that two other Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were found at other test pits close by, the evidence certainly becomes more compelling.

The gap is closing but we are still looking for further evidence. Mathew went on to explain the distribution of this year's test pits and the value and importance of each pit. It is hoped that this the second and last year will prove to be as successful in finds (over 80kg last year) as year 1. We also hope that as well as making new discoveries the pits will reveal information which consolidates our knowledge from last year.

I would like to once again thank every single person involved in Bosworth Links. The pit hosts have been both welcoming and enthusiastic and the volunteers equally enthusiastic to take part in something special. Whatever your role we could not have done it without you. Thank you. Now, get ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July!



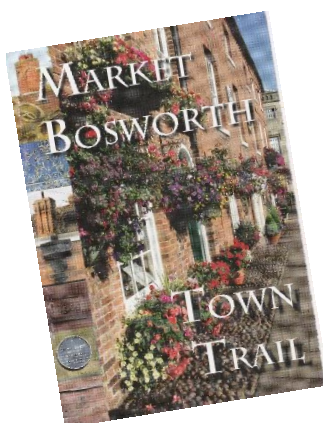
Our second meeting was the MBS Lecture Meeting for June and we were extremely fortunate to have Dr Julie Attard as our guest speaker. Julie had chosen for her title 'Stories of the Stone Wood: Investigating Charnwood's Medieval Past'. Julie was instrumental in the hugely successful Charnwood Roots Project which included the Rothley Big Dig. Julie brought the dig results to life and demonstrated how the Charnwood Area had been used and lived in over the centuries. To give a fascinating insight into 14<sup>th</sup> Century life Julie dipped into the court proceedings. These documents are

held in the National Archive in London and as part of the project a dozen of the 650 volunteers learned how to interpret them and to translate them into modern English. We were all given a name, someone who had lived at that time and had appeared at court. Some to be prosecuted and some to seek redress. My Character was in trouble for blocking a public right of way with manure. Julie really made history fun and it certainly made me want to travel to London and read similar documents for Market Bosworth. One thing did strike me was the number of neighbour disputes that were settled by the court. That may well have been the genesis of our modern community for whilst we have disputes from time to time they are much less severe than in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. And a lot less manure.

## Next Month's Lecture

Not a lecture at all, but a Summer Visit. Most of us pass by Bosworth Hall as we travel along The Park. Some may remember the Hall from visits. I recall vividly being there for two weeks aged around 7 convalescing from an illness. I recall that I spent most of my day running being a wheel chair before leaping aboard to hurtle along the corridors. Much to the annoyance of the nurses and porters who had to leap clear. Unless you have been a guest there recently you will not have seen the inside of the Hall, especially as many of the rooms have been redecorated. We have a lovely visit planned. We will have a tour, led by Peter Loseby of the Hall (upstairs and downstairs). A cream tea will follow this, (Lynne and I sampled the tea recently. We had to make sure it was suitable, it was! It was a real treat). After the tea for those who are willing and inclined Robert Leake will lead a walk to the Wilderness where he will point out items of interest. I think this will be a memorable visit and we are hoping for a good turnout. I am currently finalising the details and will be sending out a flier with times, costs etc. shortly. I do hope that you will be able to come.

## Town Trail Guides



As you know we have been working on updating and amending the Town Trail Guide (TTG). This process is nearing completion. We have the text all completed and will shortly have all the images we want to include. We will then be setting the form ready for printing. Guided Tours of Bosworth are something I am keen to promote and develop.

I can report that we have three new guides, training has started, and they will be able to lead tours soon. My appeal to you is to promote guided tours where you can. If you belong to a group, society or club please offer the opportunity of a guided tour. Maybe you would like a tour with some friends or members of your family? The tours are designed to be a "light touch" in that they are not a history lesson, nor are they packed with statistics, but give an insight into the buildings and structures past and present. I have lived in or been associated with Bosworth for over 50 years and I have learned so much about our town since becoming a guide.

Tours should last around one and a half to two hours and can be started at any time during the day or evening. We could arrange a pre-lunch tour, a post lunch tour, or an evening tour. Currently the tours cost £3.00 per person which includes a copy of the TTG. Thank you to those who have contacted me about becoming guides. We have had a marvellous response and for now, at least, have a full complement of guides.

## Local Events

### **Market Bosworth Agricultural, Horticultural and Equestrian Society holds music and games evening in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution**

The Fantoms will be playing songs from the 1960s on Friday 29 June in the members marquee at the Market Bosworth Country Showground. Starting at 7.30pm there will be music and games plus a roast beef supper. Tickets are £12.50 (£6.00 for children 10 and under).

Monies raised will go to R.A.B.I. who offer financial support to farmers and farmworkers of all ages, including those still working as well as others who have retired through age, illness or disability. R.A.B.I. run 2 care homes, provide training grants and offer practical help at times of crisis.

Tickets are available from Helen Earp phone 01455 290489 or email [heearp@gmail.com](mailto:heearp@gmail.com)

### **Market Bosworth Country Show Sunday 1 July 2018 from 10am**

#### **at Cow Pastures Farm CV13 0DP**

Heavy horses, Shetland ponies, Pony Club show jumping, cattle, sheep, and pigs. Lots of dogs including a fun dog show and displays by Nuneaton Dog Club, Canine Partners and Bob Hogg's dog and ducks.

Vintage tractors and farm machinery will be on display. Country crafts will be featured and include chainsaw sculpture, wickerwork and coracle making. There will be opportunities for hands on experience of bee keeping and archery plus animals and reptiles to pet.

The Flower Show has classes for arrangers, gardeners, and photographers plus classes for children and cooks. A range of crafts and skills will be exhibited in the Craft Tent and there are lots of shopping opportunities all around the Show from cars to cheese.

Come to the Show and take a thrilling helicopter flight over the town with Turweston Helicopters. Flights are only £45.00 per person, book in advance for a time of your choice

<http://www.turwestonhelicopters.co.uk/book-a-flight>

Find the latest news via the website [www.marketbosworthshow.co.uk](http://www.marketbosworthshow.co.uk) or via Facebook

I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to the **Market Bosworth Festival Committee** for putting on, once again, an excellent programme of events Very well done and thank you!

## Membership

May I ask members to check that they have renewed their membership for this year? Fees become due at the Annual General Meeting in March. The current level of membership fee set at that meeting is £12.00 per member or £18.00 for a joint membership. This gives access to at least 10 lectures or summer visits/field trips. It also enables the Society to continue to do its work in preserving the history of Bosworth together with protecting the Conservation Area and offering a community resource.

## Famous Bosworthians

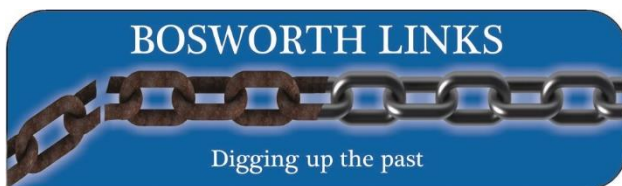
Bosworth has its fair share of famous people; a recent example is Lady Florence Dixie for whom a Green Plaque was erected at the Hall gates. Some names that come to mind are John Grundy a civil engineer, Mrs Pochin, Rev. Arthur Benoni Evans, Captain Alexander Dixie, Lady Agnes Tollemache Scott, Bernard

Newman to list but a few. There will be more, maybe some later names may spring to mind. Have a think about this and let me know. This list is far from complete. If you have information on any of the names mentioned, then do please share that information with me. We will be looking to develop this theme to recognise Bosworth's famous son's and daughters even if adopted in some cases. There may even be the possibility of a blue or green plaque

## **Archive Digitalisation**

I must confess that progress has been quite slow. Mainly because the project will be quite complicated and will take some considerable time and ability. If you have experience with this sort of project. or archives, digital or otherwise do please consider offering to join me on a sub-committee to see the project through to completion. Currently, research is being undertaken to establish the equipment needed and the costs of that equipment. We will then move on to the actual digitising of the thousands of items and work out a cost for that. Once known we will then seek funding. If you have experience in raising funds for this type of project (or know someone who does) please get in touch. I am determined to make the archive as widely available as possible. It will be a hugely valuable source of information for future historians and researchers. Done properly this will be a lasting and growing legacy for future generations.

May I also ask that if you are having a tidy up, clear out or are moving that you consider the archive before disposing of anything? We are interested in most things, photographs, brochures, documents, timetables, VHS tapes (we can convert these to DVD or digital storage). CD's Books, pamphlets, magazines (although we do have a complete set of Aspect magazines) the list is endless. You never know that something you preserve today will be highly valued by someone in the future.



## **Master Class**

The next Bosworth Links event is the Master Class which is being taught by Peter Liddle MBE. Peter will show and explain different shards of pottery. At the end of the class you will be able to identify the most popular shards likely to be found in this year's test pits. You will also be able to age them as well. Peter will show how to differentiate between manmade and naturally occurring items.

The Master Class will be in the Dixie Grammar School Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Starting at 2:00pm it is expected to end by 4:00pm (depending on questions). The event is free and even if you are not taking part in the dig, you are welcome to come along. It may make digging and weeding more interesting as you realise those bits of grey stone are really shards of Roman pottery!

## **The Bosworth Festival of Archaeology**

The Bosworth Festival of Archaeology will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July between 10am and 4pm.

You will be able to see archaeology unearthed before your eyes in the Parish Field test pits and take part in washing and identifying the finds. There will be activities for children including excavating their own finds in our special buried treasure pit. You will be able to see flint knapping taking place to replicate the flint scatter found in many of last year's test pits and even make a Medieval tile with Karen, our Medieval craft demonstrator. Added to this will be the Hinckley Archaeological Society with their fantastic display of prehistoric flint tools. The demonstration of responsible metal detecting is also sure to interest adults and children alike. Come along and help us celebrate archaeology in Market Bosworth during the last year of this Heritage Lottery funded project. Do not forget, entry and activities are FREE!

Do come along and enjoy the fun.

## Contact Details

If you would like to comment upon any part of this News Letter or suggest some famous sons and daughters of Bosworth please contact me via email: [info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com) or by telephone 07930149408 or 01455290160.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Palmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Palmer

Chairman