

September 2018

Dear Member

## Meeting Report: Market Bosworth Film Night

After our two highly successful summer visits it was time to come indoors and return to the Free Church for our lecture meeting. Robert Leake had suggested last year that we should have a film night. His idea was to use film taken by residents of Bosworth over the years. The search was on. We are very thankful to Mr & Mrs Bamford for sharing their DVD and to Peter Bailiss for sharing his videos. Other items were taken from the archive and from more recent events. Robert narrated the evening in his usual relaxed and humorous way adding to the enjoyment. Also included was a section of photographs researched by Robert taken of The Bosworth Park Infirmary over the years. As usual, members were able to add to the narrative and identify some of those pictured. The highlight, of the evening, was a never seen section of film taken on one of the wards of the Bosworth Park Infirmary, which gave a unique and never to be repeated insight into the work of the hospital at that time. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. It was another very convivial evening with members and guests alike offering their own recollections and memories. These events are so important to keep history alive.

Please look out for VHS tapes and DVDs and photographs as well. They can all be placed in the archive and be made available to future generations. Who knows, one day your great, great, great, great, great, great grandchild might be looking for examples of living in the late 20<sup>th</sup> early 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is vital that this information is not lost but preserved for the future.



Market Bosworth Infirmary 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, April 1957

## Leicestershire County Council Merger

As you are aware the Market Bosworth Society is non-political, and I do not intend to introduce politics to the Newsletter. I am, none the less surprised at how few members know about the recent proposals made by Leicestershire County Council. The proposal, in short (read all about it here: <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/futureservices>) is to replace a number of local councils within Leicestershire including Hinckley and Bosworth and create one large administration based at County Hall. There may be some economies of scale, but these may well be overshadowed by a distancing of the council from its citizens. When more is being asked of local volunteer groups and that power is being transferred downwards this does seem to be an odd step. Whatever you might think please read the proposals and then vote ([https://myaccount.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/service/Future\\_services\\_survey](https://myaccount.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/service/Future_services_survey)) it is important that we all have our democratic say in the future of our borough and our County. The survey takes seconds to complete and will be open until the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

## Horiba Mira Limited

The application for planning consent for the construction of a Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) testing track, a control tower and storage building, ground works, landscaping and associated infrastructure has attracted a lot of attention. The local media both radio and press have carried articles. As, indeed have the national radio and press. There has been discussion on our Facebook page and on the Facebook page Bosworth News. I do not plan to cover it here, except to say that I understand that the next Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September and will start at 6:30pm The application is item 7 on the agenda. For more information please refer to <https://pa.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=P822DYIIFKJ00> and <http://moderngov.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=127&Mid=1678&Ver=4>

## The Missing Body and Mysterious Stones

I have had a couple of mysteries just recently and have only managed to resolve one of them. At the launch of the new community website ([www.marketbosworth.org](http://www.marketbosworth.org)) I was told about the body of a Richard III soldier in Cadeby. The information was a little sparse, but my initial thought was, what were the soldier doing there so far away from the battle? I started to research the story and it unfolded piece by piece as all good mysteries should. It also has a twist to it, another requisite of a good mystery. It stems from when there was some building work undertaken, some 10 or 12 years ago, at the tea rooms on Cadeby Lane. During the excavation work a leather purse was found. It was in good condition but began to deteriorate when exposed to the air. So, it was sent, with haste to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for freeze drying to preserve it. But what of the body? Well when the purse arrived at the ULAS some investigation was done, and human remains were found on the edges of the purse. ULAS demanded to know what had become of the body. Fortunately, as there appeared to be no body this was not followed up. A replica was made by a fellow called Roy at the leather shop, which at that time was situated next to the Post Office, in Market Bosworth. This replica was on display in the tea rooms for some time. So, mystery almost solved. It was a purse found and not a body. But what had happened to the body and why was it so far away from the scene of the Battle?

Now for the stones. At the same event I was approached by Nick Sherwin of The Old Rectory. Whilst gardening Nick had unearthed two pieces of sandstone. Both had a neat hole drilled into them and both had an inscription, sadly too badly weathered to be read. He could just make out a date of 1836 (or 1831). Nick thought this was unusual as the rectory was not built until 1849, some 13 years later. He visited the former gardener who remembers the stones being unearthed during his time at the Old Rectory. He also remembers

several people coming to look at them but could not remember who or what the stones were. A search of the archive has not turned up any information so over to you. Were they taken there from the previous rectory? Who can tell me about these stones? I know someone will know all about them.

## Bosworth Rural Tourism Ambassadors

I recently joined the above group at their September meeting. It is a group of local business owners who are working together to promote their businesses to residents of and tourists to the Market Bosworth Area. It was a very interesting meeting with the Leicester editor of Muddy Stilettos, Keya Modessa, present to tell us more of what they do (on-line magazine and bloggers). Some good opportunities for promotion to their readership.

I was particularly interested in attending as the meeting was held at White Dove Gallery, Tim Richardson's new venture. Many of you will know Tim as he was the proprietor of Michaelmas House for several years, now in the hands of his daughter. I was very interested to see the various works on display, paintings, prints and sculptures. There are some lovely and very interesting pieces on view. The gallery is not open all the time, but on the first weekend of the month or by appointment. If you would like to arrange a visit Tim's mobile number is 07890002127 and his email address [tim.richardson220@gmail.com](mailto:tim.richardson220@gmail.com). I wish Tim and all the members of the Bosworth Rural Tourism Ambassadors every success for the future.

## Heritage Open Days

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September the Society supported the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's tourism project "Heritage Open Days". Brian and Glynis Oakley kindly agreed to open The Forge, Park Street and Ed Robinson, Farrier & Blacksmith kindly gave his time to demonstrate his art. We are very lucky to have people like Brian, Glynis and Ed who are prepared to support the community. We sold a few books that day as well. We had offered a two Guided Tours (based on the Town Trail Guide) we had no takers for the 11:00



am slot so Sally Dowsett, a new guide, and I took the chance to have our own tour. We had a look in to the Memorial Gardens now much better after a lot of arduous work in clearing the overgrown vegetation, (this again with community help) and then to the Free Church. Maurice Harris invited us to take his tour, which we did eagerly. Maurice showed us around the buildings and told us about when the alterations had been made to the kitchen. Below the kitchen were very large and extensive cellars where barrels of beer were stored. These had to be filled before the kitchen could be built. Maurice assured me that there was no beer left in the cellars!

A view from The Forge to the well-stocked museum.

The Dower House now stands on the site of the George Inn. I remember the cottage well as I was a regular visitor as a child. Mrs Harris, Maurice's Grandmother had met my maternal Grandmother in a café in Nuneaton many years ago. They chatted over cups of tea and remained friends for over 50 years. I often wondered why the chimney was so large and the cupboards so high. It was because it was a Laundry. The large chimney was to house the large copper which boiled the water and the cupboards were airing cupboards. Upstairs is a large room with windows facing South, West and East which was the drying room. Everything was dried indoors.

The washing always had to be done by Friday, because on Saturday after a quick wipe the copper was filled with fat and used to fry chips. What a great entrepreneur the owner must have been. Maurice recalls having chips from there wrapped in newspaper with the vinegar turning black with newsprint.

Seen here is one of those tall cupboards. I mentioned and a view of St. Peter's Parish Church. I had not seen that view for 50 years it brought back a lot of memories.



We had more people for our afternoon tour, so it was back to work. I enjoyed taking a group of people around Market Bosworth, explaining about the houses and the architecture. Bosworth Links has added to our knowledge and the story of Dr Pull always goes down very well.

If you, your family, or any group of which you might

be a member would like a guided tour please use the contact details at the end of this article. Tours can be arranged for any day or time to suite. We normally limit the group size to 15 people per guide to make sure everyone gets to hear the narrative and can ask questions as we go along. Tours typically take around 90 minutes to two hours but can be tailored to suite most requirements. We had one well known Bosworthian on this tour and they admitted that they had learned quite a bit about Bosworth, even after having lived here for many years.

## **18<sup>th</sup> October Bosworth's Battles by David Humbertson**

Our October meeting will again be in The Free Church, Barton Road. It will commence at 7:30pm and as ever guests are more than welcome subject to us having room. A small fee of £3.00 is payable by guests to help defray costs. David is the chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland Western Front Association. David and his partner Valerie Jacques have noted all the fallen from WW1 from the War Memorial in the Market Place. They have then researched the battles in which our soldiers fell. The lecture will not only talk about those named but about the battle in which they were taking part. It is important to remember those from Market Bosworth who gave their lives in battle but also that sadly many, many others also died. David will weave a picture around the research helping us to see what the soldiers were trying to achieve when they died. Following on from this in November we have a much more personal and specific look at the First World war as we focus upon Market Bosworth. The research has been based on the archive and other data bases and will concentrate on telling the story of Bosworth between 1914 and 1918. Glynis, Ingrid Beth and Robert, have as usual done a splendid job and the evening promises to be both fascinating and entertaining. Both events are the Society's contribution to the recognition of the end of the First World War 100 years ago. I do hope to see you at these meetings.

## Murder Mystery Evening 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Special Offer for Members!

Bosworth Hall Hotel is hosting a Murder Mystery Evening on the 27<sup>th</sup> **October** 2018. Ruth, whom some will have met on the Summer Visit in July has made a very generous offer!

The price for the evening, which includes a three-course dinner (and additional table cheese platter) is £35.00 but for MBS members this will be reduced to £30.00.

This is a very generous deal, because as long as a member makes the booking, you may book a table for up to 10 people and all will receive the discounted price (that is a saving of £50.00).

There are conditions. One is that you must pay, in full when making the booking (cards are accepted) and two you must quote reference **BHMME27918** to get the discount. Three is that you are not allowed to choose your own victim or bring your own weapon!

For booking please telephone the Bosworth Hall Hotel 01455 293135 (please do not forget the reference).

Those who have been to these evenings will know what fun they are and those who came on the visit will know what good care the Hotel take of its guests. Remember the cream teas? It would be great to support this event and encourage future events and discounts.

I hope to see you there!



## Feedback Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Dixie Grammar School Hall 1:00pm

I thought the digs were exciting, especially seeing all the finds and information being unearthed but the next stage seems even more exciting. Mathew Morris and his team have been working away examining, dating, and categorising all the finds from the dig last summer. They will then write reports for each of the test pits together with an overall report which will then cover two years and 53 pits. That is 53 cubic metres of earth dug up and replaced. This would fill the fuel tanks on 815 average sized cars! That is quite an achievement. We set out to dig 50 pits but due to the enthusiasm and help we have received from homeowners and volunteers we have comfortably exceeded that objective. We really have learned something about the development of the settlement and can fill in the gaps between 410 and 1086. The finds will be on display so come along and look at the pre-historic pottery shards, Anglo-Saxon pottery shards, Roman pottery shards and other finds right through the Medieval period to the modern day. We will also have another world premier! The new DVD will be available and will be shown during the afternoon. For those that have asked if they can see it before, the answer is still no. What you can do is look at some excellent photographs taken again by Seth Lewis. Seth did a fantastic job last year and has done us proud again this year. To take a look at Seth's pictures please go to <http://marketbosworthsociety.com/seth-lewis-big-dig-summer-2018-photographs/> where you will be able to see them. Alternatively click the link on the Bosworth Links page of the website. More details about this event next month.

Nigel Palmer

Chairman

If you would like to contact me about this newsletter, have answers or addition information on the mysteries please call me on 07930149408 or 01455290160. You can email the Society on [info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com) and the website is [www.marketbosworthsociety.com](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com)