

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

October 2018

Dear Member,

Last Month

I must start with an apology and a correction. Like most people I enjoy a good and interesting story but, on this occasion, I got it wrong. When I was visiting the Free Church during the Heritage Open Days I was shown around by a very kind and attentive Maurice. I enjoy listening to Maurice's recollections and the results of his research. Last month I reported that the copper in the cottage (once the laundry for the Dower House) was used on a Saturday to cook chips. This was incorrect, and I apologise for the error. The copper was never used thus and always served the Dower house. The story is true, but the people and location were not as reported. It was a Mrs Farren who took in washing Monday to Friday who cooked chips on a Saturday. It was initially reported to me that she lived in the row of cottages along from the Red Lion (one of which has been incorporated into the Red Lion Hotel) but latterly it was reported that she lived on Station Road. If anyone knows more, please do get in touch I am always interested in local history in and around Market Bosworth. Apologies to Maurice and a promise that I shall, in future, pay better attention. Thank you to those who contacted me with the correct information.

Friends, Bosworthians, Countrymen lend me your.....

Lawn edger's. Not the Black and Decker type but the more traditional half-moon shaped metal ones with a wooden or metal handle. I also need to borrow you, together with a bucket as well, oh and a brush and dustpan. On a recent visit to St. Peter's Parish Church I noticed that the slate gravestones, lying flat were gradually being overtaken by the grass. Some are only just visible. After a chat with Rev. Mark Poskitt he has agreed that MBS can trim the edges to make the stones more visible and tidy up the graveyard. I think this would be a grand thing to do and as we are celebrating the switching on of the Christmas lights on the 2nd December, and yet another example of community work. I have picked two dates, Wednesday the 28th November and Saturday 1st December. We will be making tea, coffee, and biscuits available in the church. We will start at 10:30am and will work no longer than 12:30pm. If it is harsh weather on Wednesday, we will hope for better weather on Saturday. We may even be finished on Wednesday, in which case I will email you. Please help otherwise I will be a very lonely grass trimmer.

October Meeting Lecture Evening.



Thursday the 18th found us once again enjoying the hospitality of the free Church. We met to hear a lecture given by David Humberston, accompanied by his partner Valerie Jacques. David is the chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland Western Front Association and they do a lot of work to keep the memory of the First World War alive. They also organise visits to the cemeteries in France and Belgium where many of the British fallen remain. As a Society the committee felt it appropriate to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice with a special lecture, as our tribute to those who gave their lives in that conflict.

We wanted to make it personal to Bosworth and this is where David came in. Through his research David has managed to find out about all 19 names on the memorial. As he took us through the war, from campaign

to campaign, battle to battle he was able to tell us where our young men fell. David wove within the story of this war the more human aspects bringing home to us that these young lads, many miles from home, died fighting for those they left behind. It was a very moving tribute to the fallen of Bosworth.

Next Meeting November 15th 7:30 pm Free Church Barton Road



Hetty Lovell Railway Porter

a neighbour, sweetheart, husband, brother or other relative lost to the war. You will hear of the Market Bosworth the soldiers left behind, the Market Bosworth of their return and how those remaining also served. The lecture will commence at 7:30pm. Members are admitted free of charge, guests are very welcome, subject to seating availability. A small fee of £3.00 will be levied to offset costs. This will be a very special evening and possibly a highlight of our lecture year.

Our next meeting will be something special. Very special in fact. Several local groups have asked the Market Bosworth Society to search the archive for photographs and information about Market Bosworth during the period of the First World War. Our researchers, Glynis, Ingrid, Beth, and Robert did an excellent job in answering these requests. We were also delighted to receive on loan some artefacts from that time, some of which were permanently given to the archive. People have been very generous and helpful. Much of this research and information, whilst different did naturally overlap and it appeared to our team that it deserved to be put together and shown. The lecture will be a real team effort in both research and delivery. The lecture next month is all about Market Bosworth in the period between 1900 to 1918. The researcher team will be telling the story of Market Bosworth in the lead up to and during the First World War. This is the second of our tributes to those who gave their lives in World War One. It was a period of great loss. Soldiers lost their lives and in many cases their health but people at home also suffered losses too. Few people did not have

Appeal for information or Photographs

I have asked before if anyone has any photographs, VHS tapes or even DVDs to consider donating them or even simply sharing them with the MBS Archive. We are currently searching for any photographs of men or women serving in any capacity during World War 1 or World War 2 the Armed Forces, (Army Navy and Air Force) Land Army, Home Guard, Air Raid Precaution, Fire Brigade, Police Force to name but a few. If you have any photographs, we would love to borrow them and enter them into the archive. We will make sure that you will get your photographs or tapes back. We will even provide a free copy of a DVD of your VHS tape if we can (sadly not all VHS tapes can be copied, but we will do our best). The MBS has been working with the Market Bosworth Parish Council to help with a project they are running. Whilst that project is ending, we would like to build up our records. We are also interested in any documents, Conscripton Letters, Telegrams, Letters, Postcards, Petrol Coupons, Ration Books, the list is endless. Again, we are happy to accept them into the archive for safe keeping or to copy them for future generations. If you are not sure if your photographs or documents would be useful give me a call. My number is at the end of this Newsletter.

A Survey of Important Trees and Hedgerows in the Parish of Market Bosworth.

In August last year Lynne and I, together with several others took part in this survey. Everyone was allocated a section within the Parish Boundary and the job was to identify all the trees within that section, mark them upon a plan and to note the formation of the hedgerow and any unusual or interesting aspects. Our section was from the railway bridge on Priory Lane, to the canal then left along Coton Lane to the junction with Shenton Lane. We had great fun using our charts and photographs to identify the trees and mark them on the plan. We also took photographs of the trees and a close up of the leaves (just in case we had mis-identified the trees and hedges). On Thursday 7th October we were invited to a presentation, at Bosworth Hall Hotel, to see



the final report and where I received a copy of the printed report and a CD for the Archive. The hotel had provided tea and coffee and some very delicious cakes.

We were also very excited to hear that possibly the oldest tree in Market Bosworth had been discovered. Peter Loseby explained that the Yew Tree on the eastern corner of the Hall, just off the pathway leading to the Wilderness, was between 280 and 500 years old depending on which formula was used to calculate the



age of the tree. As you may imagine it is very difficult to age a tree without cutting it down and counting the rings. Even this is not a precise calculation because a yew tree grows quickly

Peter Points out the Ancient Yew

The Yew pictures in July 2018

in the first 200 years of its life but as the weight of the crown bears down on the trunk growth dramatically slows to a point where yearly growth rings can merge into one another. Peter explained that the tree was no older than 600 years because after that time the heart of the trunk begins to rot. He also pointed out that the yew hedge, created by the boughs of the yew tree, framed the south wing of the Hall when viewed from the moat. He felt that this was not due to the foresight of the architect and 2nd Baronet visualising what it would look like 200 years later, but the tree was already there possibly screening the outhouses which lay to the south-east of the old Manor which would suggest the tree was at least 400 years old. This is just Peter's theory, but no-one really knows. Or do they?

Peter Foss

Peter recently visited Market Bosworth as he was staying nearby with friends. He met with Robert Leak and I and amongst many items discussed Peter kindly offered me an article he had written thinking that our members would be interested. Having read the article, I agree and with Peter's kind permission here it is. I hope you enjoy reading it, as I did.

As published in the *Ricardian Bulletin* (September 2018)

King Richard's Well, Bosworth Field

I was interested to see the Saxon Barton photograph of 'King Richard's Well' in the June 2018 *Bulletin* (frontispiece), and I have some comments to make on it. These arise from correspondence I have had with a PhD candidate in Canada doing research on the commemoration of battlefields. He asked me specifically about the Well and the cairn above it.

To begin with, as far as I know, the Well has never been called 'Dickon's Well' but rather 'King Richard's Well' or 'King Dick's Well'. Nor, so I now believe, was it built in 1813 by Dr Samuel Parr. Its history, as far as I can piece it together, is as follows:

Samuel Parr (1747-1825) was an antiquary and minister resident in Hatton, Warwickshire, elderly at the time but well-known to Nichols. His letter to John Nichols of September 1813 quoted in Nichols' second edition (1813) of William Hutton's 1788 book, *The Battle of Bosworth Field* (p.24 in the 1999 Tempus reprinting), states that at the time the supposed Well was not commemorated with any monument and so he tried to ascertain its location, and then to have it preserved. But before he could do anything, he first had to discover who was the owner of the land. This took some time, and the dates of his two visits seem to have been about 1807 and then 1812. Because the landscape had changed so radically in the interim – drainage, clearance and boundaries established (in the wake of the Sutton Cheney Enclosure Act of 1799), Parr had difficulty finding

the exact place on the second visit. In the event it was the local farmer, ‘a good intelligent fellow’, who showed him the place. They put stones and wood in the hole (a boggy patch) and Parr sought then to involve Lord Wentworth of Mallory Park and others to commemorate the place with a monument.

The exact ownership of the land was crucial because the spring lay just a few feet on the western side of an important Enclosure boundary dividing the Stuart estate from land allocated to William Webster Esq., attorney of Ashbourne, legatee of Dr John Taylor, also of Ashbourne and former Rector of Bosworth. This explains in part Parr’s convoluted enquiry. Webster, living in Derbyshire, would not have been too much concerned about the historical significance of a spring on a rough parcel of his distant property. However, he had family connections in the village, so he may have been quite willing to give permission, although his main concern was a pecuniary one. In any case his property was amalgamated with the Stuart estate (the main holding in Sutton Cheney) in 1826. At the time of Enclosure this was held by William Stuart, Bishop of St David’s (afterwards Archbishop of Armagh), and again he, another absentee landlord, was unlikely to involve himself in the historical preservation of a spring on Ambion Hill. Then there is mention of Lord Wentworth, which is puzzling, since the Noels had no proprietary status in Sutton or Ambion, though it may well be that he was consulted through the mediation of the Rector of Kirkby Mallory, Lynes, antiquarian friend of Parr. Thomas Noel, Viscount Wentworth, in any case, died in 1815, after which the title was in abeyance. So, in all, the consultation on such a proposal with local landowners, and its putting into effect, did not look promising.

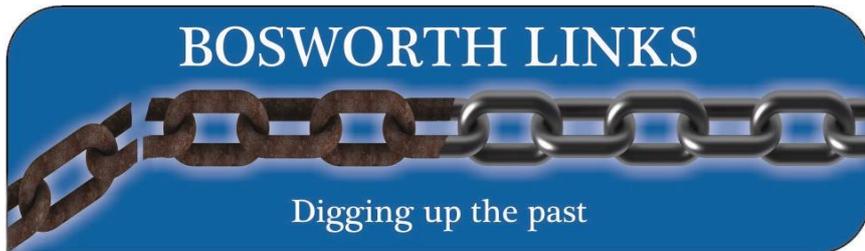
Furthermore, we have evidence that the cairn did not exist in 1813, because a certain ‘C[harles?] Yarnold’, traveller from Cheshire, visited the site in 1818 and gave a fairly detailed description of the landscape of Ambion Hill, specifically mentioning the spring, devoid of monument but simply boggy ground. This account, dated 22 January 1818, is in a manuscript notebook discovered by Tim Parry some years ago at the British Library (copy now in my possession). It seems likely, therefore, that the date of the building of the cairn can be placed after 1818 and before 1825, the year of Parr’s death. My guess is that, first, a memorial of such significance on a major battlefield, if constructed by a local worthy or landowner, would have been a more distinguished structure than the rather crude cairn that exists, and, second, that Parr’s only hand in it would have been to contribute some, if not all, of the money needed and provide the Latin inscription. This indeed seems to be confirmed by the citation in Nichols’ edition (p.[23] in the Tempus reprinting), quoting the Latin inscription and giving a date of 1822. This was a copy of a broadsheet published by Ward the Printers of Hinckley and could very well date the cairn exactly.

So, who built it? I have no doubt it was the local farmer, Samuel Abell, Parr’s ‘good intelligent fellow’, and his farm-hands (again described by Yarnold as ‘intelligent fellows’, the ‘hinds’ that helped him find the spring). These people would certainly have had the initiative and motivation to commemorate a spring which, though maybe not strictly on the land they farmed, was nevertheless used by them for years past (as recorded by Parr). They would have had to organise the carting of stone from one of the granite quarries not far off, as the stone used is not from the locality. Samuel Abell was the tenant farmer who, after Enclosure, was put in by the Stuart estate at the newly-rebuilt Ambion Hill (or Upper Ambion) Farm (now the Battlefield Centre) in 1801. His family had farmed in the neighbourhood for generations, and he was the second most important tenant farmer in Sutton. He would have been familiar with the historical connections, and possibly very willing to build on them. (Maps and documents show that the Stuart estate, after the appearance of Hutton’s book and its re-publication by Nichols, began to elaborate erroneous associations with the battle through their reorganisation of field-names etc.). The Abells knew where springs were, but whether this particular spring was the spring of legend is difficult to say. There are about three springs on Ambion Hill and there is topographical evidence that the King Richard’s Well one had been re-channelled. A Sutton Estate terrier of 1784 mentions only an ‘Ambiem Well’ [*sic*] on Ambion Hill, although the earliest citation I have been able to find of a ‘K. Richd Well’ [*sic*] is on a canal map drawn up in 1781 giving an alternative route for the proposed Ashby navigation. This, of course, predates Hutton and is good evidence of the existence of the legendary Well before the antiquaries got hold of it.

Dr Peter Foss

Missing Body and Mysterious Stones

You will hopefully recall that last month I referred to the above. I am indebted to Phil Tebbutt who called and informed me that the Leather shop was run by Roy Thorley who many will remember. I still have a mystery, those stones. To remind you 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 and so I asked for any help you could give. If anyone does have any information, no matter what please get in touch. Your bit of information may well unlock the story.



Feedback Meeting 25th November 2018

I was already excited about the Feedback Meeting but after an email from Mathew I am even more excited. As you will know the finds from the 28 test pits dug during 2018 have been with the University of Leicester Archaeology Department for sorting, cleaning, and analyses. Mathew is well advanced he tells me, so much so that he has managed to fit in yet another holiday! Before he left for his break, he emailed me to say that in our own garden there had been identified a shard of Anglo-Saxon pottery! I will take that together with a lot of later medieval pottery too. The finds have been just as interesting and exciting as 2017 and when put together the picture is fascinating. If you are interested in Market Bosworth's past and its present and future do come along and have a look at the finds.



The finds will be available from 1:00pm on that Sunday for an hour. We will then have a presentation by Mathew at 2:00pm which will end with questions and a world premier screening of "More Pits, Pots and Pipes" another wonderful DVD by the very talented Bill Newsinger. If you did not get a chance to view the finds earlier, they will be available again between 4:00pm and 5:00pm for viewing. Light refreshments will be served which may or may not include biscuits.

We have also confirmed that Professor Carezza Lewis will be coming to the meeting. It will be lovely to have her present at the Feedback Meeting as she has been a very good friend to the project. It is fair to say that the test pits have delivered in telling their story. A very interesting and complicated story of how the settlement of Market Bosworth began and moved around the current location. We started out looking for information to fill in gaps in our knowledge between 410 AD and 1086 when the Domesday Book was published. The information we have has exceeded that timespan and our expectations. I cannot repeat often enough; just how very grateful I am to the people of Market Bosworth who allowed us into their gardens and playing fields to dig holes. Without their kindness this would not have been possible. Nor would it have been possible without the hundreds of volunteers of all ages who riddled, dug, recorded, washed, and collected together with all the other jobs that had to be done to make this wonderful, wonderful community led archaeology project work. To you all, thank you. Thank you everyone very, very much!

Christmas Lights Switch On

It is confirmed that the switch on this year will be on Sunday, 2nd December. I hear that festivities will start at 2:00pm with activities in The Market Place and elsewhere. St. Peter's Parish Church and St. Peter's Hall will both have events to mention just two. I can confirm that Brian and Glynis will be opening The Forge and Ed and friends will be making shoes using the forge. We will be entertaining as usual and it is planned to have a regular screening of the new Bosworth Links DVD "More Pits, Pots and Pipes" throughout the afternoon. Come along and get warm by a roaring fire and see what we have to offer.

And finally,.....

A story of how the Market Bosworth Society saved the reputation of one of its members. The other afternoon I received a call from a concerned and dare I say it, agitated Peter Loseby. Peter explained that he had been shown a copy of the Market Bosworth & Shenton Parish Magazine dated June 1951. Looking through it Peter was shocked to read a note of thanks from Canon Payne to Mr & Mrs Gerald Percy and family for their donation of the window at the east end of the north aisle in St Peter's. A distraught Peter explained that he had been telling visitors for years that the Perry family of Shenton Lane had donated the window. Had I any idea of how to verify if the article was correct and had he been guilty of another act of misinformation! Never fear Peter a quick detour on the evening walk with the dogs took me to the graveside of Gerald Perry who died in 1952. I knew Tertius well and he had mentioned it to me many years ago. I was certain that it was a typing error in the magazine, (odd that I recognised a typing error). Peter's reputation was restored. That is one for the Society and one you owe us Peter!

Contact Details

If you would like to get in touch with the Market Bosworth Society, me or any of the Committee Members, please view www.marketbosworthsociety.com or email info@marketbosworthsociety.com or call me on 07930 149408 or 01455 290160.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman.