

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

February 2018

Dear Member

Meeting Report: “Bob Wells Flint Knapper”



Bob started his lecture by sharing how he started out on his journey to become a flint knapper. Back in 1981 Bob began field walking with friends and they found bits and pieces of flint and pot that were later identified by another friend. Later on, Peter Liddle showed them how to set out a field with a grid in order that they could record, accurately where flint and pottery was found. The group is now part of the Leicestershire Field Workers. Finding flint that had been shaped and used by someone of the Neolithic period (2500 to 4000 BC) Bob wanted to know how it was made and as an engineer his appetite for knowledge was aroused.



Since this beginning Bob has made many items out of flint. He showed us how he knapped flint with an antler. As the flint

is harder and more brittle by pressing at the correct angle the flint can be shaped. Larger pieces of flint are knapped using a stone to cleave them. Bob had brought with him many, many items to share and these were passed round. Bob had made authentic knives (he knows they are authentic as he copied items found from that time, often in boggy conditions which helps to preserve them), spears, arrows, a dagger, axes, bow drill (which he demonstrated by boring through a piece of slate) and many other items. We were all impressed at how sharp they were, the knives could be used to shave with (although no-one tried to do so). The flint

blades were quite small but by adding a number together a sizeable knife could be made. Bees wax



and resin was used as a glue. Bob had also made some pottery again in the style of pots and sherds found from the Neolithic period.

We all enjoyed handling the items as they were passed around and it was very interesting if not a little moving to hold a flint hide scraper, made by someone some 5,000 years ago, and that these items could still be used today. All present agreed that it was a wonderful experience and taught us that our ancestors were just as clever and resourceful as we think we are today.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on the 21st of March 2019 as previously notified. The meeting will take place in The Free Church. The AGM will commence at 7:00pm sharp, but committee members will be present at The Free Church from 6:30pm to facilitate the renewal of memberships. If you cannot renew prior to the meeting you will be able to do so after the lecture meetings ends.

The AGM will end prior to the lecture meeting which will commence at 7:30pm. Should any members wish to become committee members (Nominations for the election of Officers and committee members shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary one week in advance of the AGM from a paid-up member of the Society who has obtained the consent of the proposed nominee). If you would like to help organise the Society but are unsure give me a call. It is a surprisingly busy committee but also very rewarding.

Next Month's Lecture "The Tigers Caged" Robin Jenkins

Robin is making a welcome return to us to tell us the story of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and one of their battles which took place during World War 1. It is not long since we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the end of that war and if you recall we paid our respects with two talks given in October and November last year. Robin's talk will be about our local Regiment and I would be surprised if there were not some Bosworth men involved. If you have heard Robin speak in the past you will know that he is a master of his subject and has a great presentation style, making the lecture both interesting and entertaining. Do please come along and support Robin and the Society. You are always welcome to bring a friend or friends with you.

Peter Foss



We all know Peter as the author of, *The History of Bosworth* but what you may not know is that Peter is also an accomplished artist. In a recent conversation Peter very kindly, offered to share a watercolour of King Richard's well. I used the watercolour to illustrate his article about King Richard's Well which will be in the March issue of *Aspect*. We enjoyed the article last October, but I thought you might like to see the watercolour here.

It is entitled King Dick's Well and was painted in 1993.

Peter Foss is clearly a man of talent and I am very grateful to him for sharing this with me and allowing me to shar it with you,

Heritage Matters

Paul Grundy, the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Conservation Officer has recently been in touch with me. Paul is working on a major project as the Borough Council are currently seeking to deliver the aims and objectives of the Heritage Strategy 2018-2023. One such aim is to "increase understanding and awareness of heritage with improved accessibility". In order to achieve this, aim the Council would like to request assistance in determining **what is the heritage of your area** (this could be your parish area or wider). By ensuring the heritage of your area is known it provides a baseline position to ensure that the Borough Council can then deliver on the other aims of objectives of the Strategy which includes:

- Implement positive action to manage and enhance heritage
- Ensure a partnership approach to care for our heritage
- The promotion and enjoyment of heritage

Two workshops were held during the summer of 2017, where a number of people interested in the heritage of the borough attended, (I attended one of the workshops and gave a report here in Aspect and The Graphic, asking for your recommendations and suggestions, you may have responded to one of those articles). To assist in the drafting of the Strategy the following question was asked:

What do you consider to be Hinckley and Bosworth's heritage?

This generated a number of responses, all of which are summarised as:

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Heritage Strategy 2018-2023 Responses to the question "What is the heritage of Hinckley and Bosworth?" as asked in the Borough Bulletin and at two stakeholder workshops were: General:

- Agricultural heritage • Historical village and town centres • Archaeological sites • Hosiery industry
- Baptist Movement • Infrastructure - canal, train lines, roman roads • Boot and shoe industries • Methodist Movement • Conservation areas • Names of old lanes and roads • Coal mining • Quakers
- Diversity • Quarrying • Domestic home working • Steam Whistle development • Each village offers something to the overall heritage of the borough • Transport development - MIRA, Triumph, Hansom Cab, Mallory Park • Former wind and water mills • Transport feeding coal industry • History and heritage groups • Treaty of Wedmore

Sites/buildings/spaces etc.:

- Argents Mead • Highcross building in Hinckley • Ashby Canal and wharfs/buildings • Hinckley Castle • Atkins building • Hinckley Golf Course • Barton Baptist Chapel • Hinckley Medieval Priory
- Barwell Meteorite • Hinckley Museum • Battlefield Centre • Hollycroft Park • Battlefield Railway • Ivanhoe way • Bilstone Gibbet Post • Kirkby Hall • Bosworth Battlefield • Land at Home Farm • Bosworth Country Park • Leicester to Swannington railway • Bosworth Hall • Leicestershire Round footpath • Bosworth Water Trust • Lindley Lodge • Bradgate House and Stables • Mallory Park • Brascote ponds • Market Bosworth as predominantly Georgian market town • Brascote windmill • Martinshaw Wood • Burbage Common - ancient woodland • Medieval deer parks around Bosworth • Bury Camp • Moat near tropical bird land • Centre of England at Fenny Drayton • National Forest • Chaplin's butchers, Groby • Newbold Verdon Hall • Charnwood Forest • Newhouse Grange Tithe Barn - built by the Knights Templar? • Churches within all parishes • Old Airfields – Nuneaton and Desford • Cliffe Hill Quarries • Old Salt Lanes • Cock Inn • Queens Head in Barwell • Crown field

Stoke Golding • Ratby Burroughs • Danish history of Groby and Ratby • Roman camp at Witherley • Deserted and abandoned villages - • Shackerstone railway station

The questions now are:

Do you agree with this list?

Do you believe any heritage has not been accounted for?

Please remember that heritage can be wide-ranging and include the following common elements:

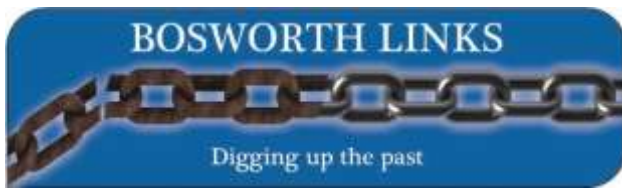
- The historic environment
- The natural environment
- Buildings, structures, and spaces
- Places
- Natural and designed landscapes
- Archaeology and historical records
- Objects and collections
- People, communities, and groups
- Culture and tradition
- Stories and experiences

Rather than known heritage such as designated heritage assets (which includes listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, and the Bosworth Battlefield), the Council are particularly interested in the other elements of heritage listed above that we may not be aware of. It would also be interesting to know why you value such heritage

For reference the Heritage Strategy can be downloaded here: https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/200023/conservation/1416/heritage_strategy_2018_to_2023

Please let me have any thoughts or suggestions, either via info@marketbosworthsociety.com or call me on 07930149408 or 01455290160. I will be happy to pass on your comments to Paul in order that the Heritage Strategy can be as comprehensive as possible. Alternatively, you may send your comments directly to Paul via his email address paul.grundy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

Please do take part, your opinion is important and will ensure the heritage we treasure will be enjoyed for generations to come. If you are unsure then get in touch, contact details at the end of the Newsletter.



Bosworth Links was set up in 2016 as part of the MBS and had a number of objectives, some archaeologically based, and some community based. We wanted to find out what happened in Bosworth between 410AD when the Romans left and 1086 when the Domesday Book was published. Well, as you know, we did a lot better than that, we were able to describe a landscape inhabited by Stone age man right through the ages up to the 20th century. We achieved our community ambitions as well. Volunteers of all ages and abilities pitched in to help and have some fun whilst they were doing it. You only have to look at the photographs or the DVDs to see that. Links to the reports, photographs and the DVDs are on our website (details below). Please have a wander over and take a look, if you have not already done so. Do not forget that that the Market Bosworth Community Library, on Station Road, can help you to get on-line and see the reports and watch the DVDs. What better way to spend an hour in the warm being entertained? And learning a new skill at the same time?

The reports are excellently written and very detailed. If you want an overview then Mathew has written a Souvenir Guide which is a shorter version of the main report. Every test pit has its own very detailed and interesting report and you can actually track the movements of Bosworth's early inhabitants from pit to pit.

What now? Well, the project should have ended with the finalising of the Heritage Lottery Grant process and the writing of the last report (which is now available to read on the website). Any group looking to apply for a grant or already in the process can see what an excellent job Gemma has done with the report. No copying though! The Market Bosworth Society committee and the Bosworth Links Committee are very enthusiastic for the project to continue. I can confirm that we have all signed up to continue the project and have some very exciting and ground breaking (no pun intended) ideas.

I cannot reveal much at the moment as we are still putting together our plans, but I can say that there will be some digs in Market Bosworth this summer. Nothing like the numbers of the past two years but a few to keep our hands in and hopefully in places where we have gaps from 2017 and 2018. Mathew and I have been out and about recently looking into likely test pit sites and asking for permission from the owners.

I promise to keep you up to date as we progress our plans. The remarkable thing is that over ninety volunteers have given us permission, to hold contact details. There is a lot of interest in archaeology and community involvement in Market Bosworth.

The volunteer form is once again live on the page (a sure indication that something is being planned). If you have heard all about the digs and want to join in, fill in a form via the website. If you are already a volunteer, do not worry once we have finalised our plans, we will find you!

What's On

Quite a lot actually, apart from the MBS programme I have been asked to share some events taking place locally. Here we go.

Gardening Club



The Gardening Club are organising an outing on June 20th, 2019 to Rockingham Castle Market Harborough Leicestershire.

There is a lot to do and see there and this should be a lovely trip. Hopefully you will be back in time for the Society lecture that evening (all about The Battlefield Line)

If you are interested in going can you get in touch with Judy Buckle at one of the Society meetings or via our email (see below) and I will forward your emails on.

English Tourism Week

As part of **Visit England's English Tourism** week, we would like to invite everyone to a complimentary talk, to be held at the

Bosworth Hall Hotel

The Idiosyncratic Dixies •

3rd April, 2:00 PM

This presentation sets out to trace the history of the Dixie family from the time the Manor of Market Bosworth was purchased in 1589 through to when the estate was sold in 1885, and subsequently to 1975 when the 13th and last Baronet died.

Everyone welcome, subject to seat availability on the day!



Community Tree Planting in Nutswood Pastures

The Dixie Grammar School will be planting 800 trees on the 6th March 2019.

More importantly, they need your help!



This winter the school was given a grant of 1000 trees by the Woodland Trust as part of their DOSE (Dixie Open Skies Education programme) involving around 40 year 6 pupils. Some of the trees have been planted at the Junior School and some to create a hedge around the DOSE in the playing fields. This leaves around 800 trees to be planted in Nutswood Pastures. The planning is to mark the centenary of the end of The Great War (1914 to 1918) and will be a legacy for future generations.

Nutswood pastures is the sloping field behind the school next to the High School which the Dixie owns. Our plan is to plant the trees on the slope at the far end of the field next to the track. Although the vegetation has been cut down we still need to chop through it and into the soil to produce slits into which we can drop the trees.

And this is where you can help. Although year 6 know how to make the slits to plant the trees they do lack the muscle power. Word has already been sent out to local groups for help and the older pupils will be getting involved, but they also need you.

It would be great if you can come along (with a spade) and cut the slits, the students can then drop in the trees (these are 30cm saplings know as whips) add a cane and top with a rabbit guard.

Market bosworth has a strong community spirit as can be seen by the support given to the highly successful Bosworth in Bloom and the equally well supported Market Bosworth Society's Bosworth Links project.

If you can help, please arrange to assemble on the lawn by the Sixth Form Building on Back Lane opposite the doctor's surgery by 1.45pm, and very importantly, **PLEASE BRING A SPADE**. If you cannot take part but would be able to lend a spade please bring it along at the same time and place. The Dixie Grammar School will ensure it is returned to you.

The planning session will run from 2:00pm until the end of school, or sooner if the planting is finished early.

We think this is a great legacy for Bosworth.

There will also be a hot drink and a biscuit waiting in the school hall after the planting is complete, so a chance for a chat and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Please do what you can to support this event which will be a lasting legacy for many generations to come.

Roger Thomas has completed a Metal Detecting sweep (with full permission, I might add) of the area where the trees are to be planted. He has turned up some interesting, but not particularly valuable items which I will share with you next month. Do try to get along and help with the tree planting of the spade lending.

Questions (and therefore hopefully, some answers)

At the risk of rivalling Ask Aspect I have a few questions which I know the Society's members will be able to answer (although you did fail rather badly regarding the dated stones found at the Old Rectory, still time to answer that question, though).

Question Number 1 is about Bosworth Hall. Most of the rooms are named after previous owners and occupiers and acquisitions (the Newgate Bar and the Wolstan Lounge, for example) but we are puzzled as are the hotel management about the name Thornley. Can anyone suggest or explain why one of the rooms is so named?



Question Number 2, This one I saw in Bosworth News a Facebook page. Someone was asking if anyone knew about this small lion head at the Main Street Entrance to the Red Lion. There were no takers and so I thought I would ask here if anyone knows anything about it. Who put it there, why was it put there, when was it put there? Any information will be gratefully received.

Finally, Question Number 3, does anyone know about any agricultural use of the Country Park during the Second World War? Was any part of that park used for digging for victory or any other agricultural activity? Have you any photographs or recollections? Please do get in touch.

And Finally

Plans to digitalise the archive are coming along nicely. We have our second meeting shortly and have already identified the modus operandi together with our preferred business partners to help and support the process.

Our Town Trail Guides have been busy working on new routes and experiences for visitors to Bosworth. We are hoping to add a number of options and grow our portfolio of walks. If you would like to become a guide or would like to organise a walk for your group, family, work colleagues (anyone at all) please use the email or telephone number below to let me know. We can cater for a number of tastes and times. We can also offer enhanced walks with catering available.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting, if not before.

Contact info@marketbosworthsociety.com or 07930149408/014550290160

Nigel Palmer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Palmer', written over a light-colored background.

Chairman