

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

Dear Member

Here is the May News Letter.

I was delighted to welcome an excellent turnout for “The Retail History of Market Bosworth”, held on the 12 May 2016 at the Free Church. As you know Robert Leake is a society member and our Vice-Chairman and he did a brilliant job as the narrator, our researchers, Glynis Oakley, Beth Dawes and Ingrid Davison also did a first class job. In welcoming the audience, I referred to the loveliness of the day, teasing Robert by expressing my hope that he would not spoil it! In all truth Robert did the exact opposite. Robert narrated the story with wit and humour bringing it to life. He involved the audience who enjoyed identifying some of those photographed and adding to the story as it went along. I have to stress that the evening was underpinned by the excellent research by Glynis and her team who had constructed a very accurate, professional and interesting presentation. The Retail History of Market Bosworth was an utter triumph of local history. Many of the audience had contributed to the presentation, in the form of memories and artefacts. The Swan House Coffee Shop for example, had loaned several radios and valves of yesteryear and Martyn and Sue Andrews had lent several items seen in shops in the 1950's and 1960's. There was even an old Raleigh push bike (allegedly ridden there by Glynis, photo's please) on display! Ingrid opened proceedings by creating a vivid picture of life, as experienced by her great grandparents in the year 1884. Robert then took over and narrated the remainder of the story, starting with the Co-Op (Derek Pallett and Valerie Neal's era), then the late lamented Post Office and finally the shops owned by Lizzie, Gene and Walter Perry, the grocery, electrical and cycle shops. The audience was asked to contribute throughout and they did so, helping to identify people in photographs and where Billy Beck kept his sawdust pit! Two tramps were also identified - Tramp Neddy and Joe Bright who collected unsaleable food from the Co-Op. A truly local event, greatly enjoyed by all present. Audience members were treated to old fashioned sweets, provided by Tina's Sweet Dreams of Castle Street, Hinckley, and all were given a Bosworth Society pencil! Many remained, sharing memories for quite some time after the lecture. I understand that Robert is planning to publish the talk in Aspect (which was how the project began) and on our website. If you missed the evening you will at least be able to read it, but believe me this was one occasion when you had to be there! A second evening is planned for September 15th to concentrate on the various businesses which have occupied the current Elizabeth Anne premises, that is indeed not one to be missed. It was a great evening, thanks to the team who put the lecture together so well. Well done indeed.

Also at our May meeting I reminded those present that Peter Loseby has for sometime been investigating the opportunities of carrying out a programme of excavating test pits around Market Bosworth. Those of you who attended Peter Liddle's talk in April will appreciate that these test pits can supply a great deal of valuable information about a community's history. Some of us will be volunteering to help at the Rothley Dig on the 23rd and 24th July from 9:00am – 5:00pm so that we can see what is involved in test pit digging before we committ to a similar dig in Bosworth. If you would like to join us then you will need to attend on both days. The organiser requires the namesof the volunteers and their contact details.Please let either Peter Loseby on 01455 293659 or Nigel Palmer on 07930 149408 know if you would like to volunteer. From what Peter Liddle said the test pits are a metre square and are excavated 4cm at a time until the subsoil strata is reached. The work is not too energetic and you will be rewarded by the excitement of unearthing the history

of previous communities. Please pass on the numbers to any family, friends colleagues, acquaintances, neighbours, etc. who may be interested.

I hope that you will be able to come and visit the Societies stand at the **Jewery Wall Museum on the 10th July**, 11:00am to 4:00pm. Which is the start of the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archeology which actually runs from the 16th to the 31st of July. The Market Bosworth Society is not only supporting the opening event but we have also arranged for a Town Trail Guided Walk and a Guided tour of St. Peter's church and it's graveyard. I will be sharing the full Programme just as soon as it is concluded. It is currently being proof read by the many societies taking part.



Have you voted yet? There is an extremely important vote taking place right now! No, not to decide our European future but to support a Green Plaque for Lady Florence Dixie! If you have not yet voted please do so, as we need every vote. Lady Florence has some worthy competition but is equally deserving of a Green Plaque, please support our efforts to gain recognition for her life and work. **Voting ends soon**, on the 6th June to be precise, so please get those votes in. Everyone can vote by going to www.leicestershire.gov.uk/vote-for-your-greenplaque-winner and following the instructions.

I have been in touch with Peter Foss and he is very excited to be returning to Market Bosworth, as indeed am I together with the remainder of your committee. His lecture is entitled "The History of Market Bosworth – How it began" and promises to be a fascinating insight into the creation of the book. The lecture is scheduled for the 16th June, 2016 7:30pm. Please note that the venue is **The Dixie Hall** and not as advertised elsewhere. The lecture falls within the Market Bosworth Festival and advertised in the Festival programme. It is likely to prove extremely popular and my advice would be to arrive early to avoid disappointment. Everyone is welcome I hope you will be able to come. Do please spread the word, it would be smashing to have a packed house for Peter. There will be an opportunity to ask Peter questions at the end of his lecture. I am certain I will enjoy another great evening and I hope that you will be there to share that enjoyment with me.

Other forthcoming events: include a trip to the Ashby Canal at Moira (21st July, 2016) and our field trip to Calke Abbey, (18th August, 2016). Further details will follow in the next newsletter or by separate draft.

Finally, for now at least you may know that Lynne and I moved back to Market Bosworth four years ago. Shortly afterwards we discovered Leicestershire Hand Made Cheese Company, Sparkenhoe Farm, Main Road, Upton, Nuneaton CV13 6JX. (<http://www.leicestershirecheese.co.uk/>) They stock many locally made and specialist cheeses. I can honestly say that their Red Leicester (or vintage Red Leicester) takes me back to how cheese used to taste when I was a lad. They have recently opened a tea room which with the cheese shop, are well worth a visit. The shop and tea room are open Friday and Saturday between 9.00am and 2.30pm. I am arranging for David and perhaps Jo to give us a lecture on the History of Local Cheese production following our AGM in March. (But don't mention it to our committee as I have not discussed it with them yet) I will let you know how I get on next month.

I hope you are enjoying May's sunshine (I'm sure it is there between the showers and above the clouds) and do take care if having a bar-be-que. As my father always used to say when grilling over charcoal, "When its brown it is done. When its black it is done in the middle"

See you on the 16th June in the Dixie Hall.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman
Market Bosworth Society