

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

Dear Member

Welcome to the July Newsletter, I apologise for being rather late this month but I hope that will not diminish your enjoyment. You will recall from the June Newsletter that The Society had been successful in securing a Green Plaque for Lady Florence Dixie. Since then consideration is being given to the wording on the plaque and its location. The final decision regarding both lies with others and so I am not able to say any more at the moment. Be assured that I will keep you fully apprised of any progress made as and when it occurs. Watch this space, as it were.

On the 10th July, I attended the opening event of the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology at the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester. Aply assisted by Peter and Sheila Loseby, we not only supported the event but also raised £21.00 towards Society funds, mainly thanks to Sheila's sales technique. We also offered two events in the brochure of festival activities. The first was a guided tour of St. Peters Parish Church on the 18th July, led by Robert Leake. This included a tour of the inside of the church followed by the churchyard. Although I was unable to attend personally I have heard that the event was well received and enjoyed by those taking part. I will be asking Robert if we can schedule another similar event in the near future. I know Robert is very busy and so if we are able to schedule a tour I will let you know in advance.

We also offered a Town Trail Guided Tour on the 26th July. Peter Loseby had agreed to lead the tour and suggested that we offer it free to members. It proved so successful that I was pressed into service. I led a group of 10 whilst Peter led a group of 14 around Market Bosworth. I certainly enjoyed the walk as did my group. Together we actually raised £54.00 for Society funds. A lovely way to spend a summer's evening, Bosworth looked beautiful decked out in lovely flowers. Chris and his team, Bosworth in Bloom, have once again done a fantastic job and I would like to wish everyone concerned well deserved success in the East Midlands in Bloom Competition. It is delightful to see so many members of the Society as well as other groups in the community who take care of verges, hedges and pathways. It is a great example to our youngsters to see how proud so many are of our beautiful Market Town.

I can also report that your committee has voted to support the setting up of a sub-committee to explore the possibility of taking part in next year's Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology by way of a series of test pits. Society members Richard Liddington, Peter & Sheila Loseby took part in the 'Rothley Dig' last weekend. Peter has told me that there were 150 volunteers taking part who dug 37 test pits which produced finds ranging from Stone age flints, Roman remains and many pieces of medieval pottery. In the debrief on the Sunday afternoon representatives from all of the teams reported back on their experiences and everyone said how enjoyable and exciting the weekend had been.

This is a marvellous opportunity to work together across all the age groups as a community and gain more knowledge of those who lived in Bosworth before us. I cannot think of many better ways of teaching today's children about our history and engendering a love and respect for their home town than working together to discover the past. We are currently at the point of taking advice and consulting with experts in order that we may proceed with confidence. I really hope we will be able to do this and I also hope that you will be involved in some way in the event. If you or anyone you know (friends, family, neighbours, etc.) has experience of test pitting then please let me know as they may well be able to help us move our plans forward.

This month did not see us meeting in The Free Church, but instead we had a Summer Visit to the Ashby Canal at Moira. A leisure walk was led by Geoff Pursglove. Regrettably due to personal circumstances I was unable to attend the visit and so Peter Loseby stepped forward to represent The Society on my behalf. Thank you Peter. Peter provided me with a report of the visit which I include here:

“Visit to the Ashby Canal Thursday 21st July

On a sultry summer’s evening a group of Society members met with our guide Geoff Pursglove outside of The Globe in Snarestone. Geoff led the party who little realised, as they crossed a recreation ground, that the canal lay just fifteen feet beneath where they were walking. It was in fact the Snarestone Tunnel and we soon arrived at the entrance to the tunnel where Geoff explained that in all probability it was built because the land owner would not agree to a cutting so the tunnel was constructed and then the land reinstated over the tunnel.

A little further on Geoff pointed out the remains of a boathouse which had been owned by Mr Travers Lisney which, in its day, had, with its associated buildings, been a major feature of that part of the canal.

The party continued to walk along the tow path admiring the trees that lined the canal side and views across the countryside no sound of road traffic just the singing of the birds in the trees.

We arrived at the end of the canal which is marked by bridge number 61A otherwise known as the ‘Boston Bridge’ donated by Society Member Mrs Audrey Boston.

We then started to follow the canal that has been reclaimed by the Ashby Canal Trust passing the Snarestone Water Pumping Station with its elegant chimney stack and we could see part of the fly wheel, through one of the windows, which was part of the pumping mechanism.

We finally reached the current end of the reclaimed canal at bridge 62 which is due to be opened by the LCC Chairman on August 10th. The bridge itself is remarkable in that it is partly constructed using ‘Wilkes Gobs’ these are bricks made approximately twice the size of an ordinary brick. The objective was that construction of bridges could be achieved in half of the time it would have taken using standard bricks.

From the top of the bridge the party could see just a short distance away the infilled route of the canal which it is hoped will be cleared over the next five years to give access into the centre of Measham. The enormity of the task facing the Trust in achieving this target could be appreciated as could the work that has already been carried out in the reclamation of the canal from Bridge 61A to 62.

On our return to the Globe most of the party took advantage of the landlord’s hospitality whilst Peter Loseby thanked Geoff and his partner Fiona for a most enjoyable and informative visit. In lieu of a fee Geoff asked that the Society should make a donation to the Ashby Trust which we were happy to do.”

I am very sorry to have missed it.

Coming up in August is another Summer Visit, this time to **Calke Abbey 18th August, 2016**. This will take place in the afternoon with members arriving in the car park by 13:30 for a guided tour of the house at 14:00. Further details will follow but if you wish to attend then please contact nigel_palmer.MBS@btinternet.com, or by calling 07930149408 or if I am unavailable please contact Robert Leake, r.leake@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01455 290020. I will shortly be closing the list and submitting the final figures to the Calke Abbey Visitors Team so please do not delay. Don’t forget that entry is free to National Trust Members and at the reduced Group Rate, currently £11.60 which includes access to the gardens and a guided tour of the house. I hope that I will see you there.

I would like to remind you of our meeting scheduled for the 15th of September, at the Free Church, Barton Road, commencing at 7:30pm. The title of the lecture is “Memories of Bosworth Panel”. This will again be narrated by Robert Leake and if you remember the excellent job he did in May you will, I am sure not want to miss this lecture. You will recall from May that many members and some guests remained well after the lecture reminiscing, which I am sure will happen again in September. I understand that Glynis and her team are hard at work preparing the text with Robert.

Finally, I hope you have seen our display in the window of Bosworth News. Once again Glenys, Beth, Ingrid and Robert have done a splendid job in showing the sporting history of Bosworth. As we speak plans are being finalised for the smaller window so please keep your eyes peeled for a new display there. I hope

that you continue to enjoy the summer and look forward to seeing you at Calke Abbey and our future meetings.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman