



July 2020

Dear Member

Usually about this time a gentle reminder would be sent to those who have yet to renew their membership subscription. This year is, as you all know, vastly different from other years and that calls for different actions. Your Committee have discussed the question of membership and the Events Programme for 2020/21. I can confirm that the August visit is cancelled, the Bell Foundry is unable to accommodate visitors and meet Government regulations, they have therefore suspended all of their visitor activities until further notice. We have agreed to them retaining the deposit paid, with an intention to visit in 2021. Lectures for this September and October are also cancelled. We will try to rebook the speakers and the visits for next year. I have spoken to Geoffrey Pursglove, our lecturer for November. Geoff is not hopeful but like me dislikes cancelling plans and disappointing people. We have agreed to review the situation nearer to the date but be assured that should there be any doubt the event will not take place. At the moment at least, it is something to look forward to.

As part of the decision to cancel lectures and visits your Committee thought it justified to roll over fees paid to next year. For those who have paid for this year, you will not be asked for a subscription in 2021. It was the feeling of the Committee that as there is no lecture programme taking place and the Summer Visits have been cancelled it was the appropriate thing to do. Your committee are monitoring the situation carefully and will not compromise safety. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please get in touch. But be sure to read Good News! At the end of this newsletter. Thank you to those who have renewed this year. If you would like to renew for 2020/21 and 2021/22 you may do so in the usual ways. Any questions give me a call or email me.

VE DAY 2020

Can it really be two months ago that we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day? It seems that in Lockdown rather than dragging the time seems to have flown by or is that just me? Dick Bates sent me this and I was not able to include it last month but am happy to include it now. It made me think a lot about duty and sacrifice.

Just one of thousands...

And so, Dunkirk.



Over 300,000 men trapped with no chance of evacuation unless the onrushing enemy forces could be delayed. If you have watched the film “The Darkest Hour”, you will recall Churchill’s decision that the only way left to save the bulk of the army was to sacrifice some in a last-ditch rear-guard action to protect the soldiers escaping to Dunkirk. So it was that the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment and the 4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were ordered to hold a small hill-top town called Cassel “to the last man” as a defensive screen on the road to Dunkirk.

There followed a fierce three-day battle in which the 4th Battalion was devastated. Most of the men were either captured or killed, and as food and ammunition ran out, survivors were told that it was “each man for himself” to try to reach Dunkirk. The sacrifice they had made and the unfaltering defence they had put up played a vital role in holding up the Germans while the Dunkirk evacuation was taking place. In his book *Redcoats to Riflemen: A short History of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Regiment*, Robin Draper states that of those who escaped from Cassel, only four soldiers from the 4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry got back to the UK.

One of these was one George Thomas Burnett who had become Private G T Burnett 5380506 of the 4th Battalion OBLI when WW2 broke out and who therefore had been one of the diminishing number at Cassel, fighting to hold back the Nazi forces. Extraordinarily, he was also one to have survived the battle. Now separated from his unit and his comrades, he was faced with a desperate cross-country trek of some 20 miles across the war-torn land. Any food or drink he managed to obtain on the way would have been what he could find from farm troughs or abandoned vehicles, and at times he was reduced to drinking from puddles.

Nevertheless, he reached Dunkirk and was evacuated, but already seriously ill. On arrival in England he was moved to a Military Hospital in Devon where he received extensive treatment including an initial operation which he was not expected to survive. He had suffered irreparable disease and damage to his intestines, and his mother was called to his bedside. Yet once more he clung to life. His condition deteriorated even more, and a further operation took place seven days later. This time he did not recover. He died with his mother still at his bedside. In the days before widespread use of antibiotics, the lengths to which he had to go to survive in France proved eventually to be his death.

He was my uncle. He was 31.

Remembered with honour. Their name liveth for evermore.

Thank you for sharing this Dick, what a brave and determined man he was before succumbing to unsurmountable odds. If, like Dick you have a story to tell please do share it for everyone to read. I wonder how I would have coped being tested like this. I can only hope as bravely as George.

Can You Help – ONE? Update

Last month's enquiry resulted in two battles of bosworth, although the fabled book 'Is It True What They Say About Dixie - The Second Battle of Bosworth' by the 13th Baronet Sir Wolstan Dixie 1910-1975' allegedly published in 1972' remains just that, a fable. Personally, I do not believe that there is a book or even a manuscript. A number of people have searched for it and not found any evidence of its existence. We all know about the first Battle of Bosworth, 22nd August 1485 and the second, a skirmish of the Civil War which took place in the field afront of the Visitor Centre and Country Park, but that is not in question here. I am indebted to Peter Loseby who helped me out with the following 'Battles information' and who feels that it was Munday who won the third battle, as we shall see.

Battle of Bosworth III

As with other squires the 4th Baronet (1713 to 1767) considered himself above the law. The public highway bypassed the centre of the town by going around the church and across the Park in front of the moat and southern terrace. Sir Wolstan decided that he did not want to see drovers and travellers passing in front of his newly built mansion so simply closed the road and locked the gate, at the back of the church. The local squire from Osbaston Hall named Mr Wrightson Munday was not prepared to accept the closure and dressing himself as a wagoner, drove along the road, forcing open the gates to continue his journey. Met by an irate Sir Wolstan who threatened to whip him to an inch of his life. Wrightson Munday alighted from the cart, revealed himself as a nobleman and there followed another battle of Bosworth. The outcome is in dispute. Mr Munday claimed to have beaten Sir Wolstan to a point where he ran for refuge in the Hall. Sir Wolstan would have none of it and when he was later presented at the court of George II. The Hanoverian King, wishing to demonstrate how familiar he had become with English history, remarked, when told that Dixie came from Bosworth, "Bosworth? Bosworth, isn't that where a great battle took place"? Sir Wolstan oblivious to the battle which the King referred replied "Yes sire and I soundly beat him" leaving the King in total confusion about English History. Peter went on to say "I am persuaded that Mundy won the day because it is reported that the 4th Bart was often teased about his version by the County Gentry".

Battle of Bosworth IV

Unfortunately, Sir Wolstan the 7th baronet, who came to Bosworth following the death of Lady Eleanor Pochin, eldest remaining relative of the 4th Bart in 1823, was probably as insane as his predecessor which

led to yet another Battle of Bosworth. On this occasion there was an ongoing dispute with the incumbent rector the Rev Wright over the Chancery Court case dealing with the finances of the Grammar School. On Saturday 23rd July 1825 Sir Wolstan was in the billiard room when he saw the Rev Wright and his son, a curate riding, in their gig, through the Park so he took up his gun, opened the widow and fired at them. The Rev Wright informed the local magistrate who instructed the constabulary to arrest the baronet. News got to the estate workers who used the George Inn and due to his popularity and the fact that if the baronet was in gaol they could be out of a job went to the defence of the baronet and to prevent his arrest. There followed something of a riot in which a man's head was pushed through the window of number three Main Street and the carriage intended to carry Sir Wolstan to Leicester gaol was smashed up and thrown into Beau pool. The outcome was that reinforcements were sent from Leicester to carry out the arrest. Sir Wolstan's defence was that he regularly shot at the wild birds in the trees of the park and it was unfortunate that the Rev Wright and his son had ridden through his line of fire. The Rev Wright did not prefer charges probably due to him fearing for his own safety having seen the loyalty of the mob defending the baronet. Discretion won the day, it would seem

Can You Help – Two Update

I was contacted by Tom Carr, chairman of the Belmont Local History Society, in Lancashire and he was enquiring about the Revd. Charles Wright (1799-1865). I was contacted by Ruth Slater who offered the following "There are several Wright families associated with Bosworth. At least 2 of which are not related unless there is a connection before 1850 One household is still in Bosworth, but I am unsure as to when they came. Another family has left the village in the last decade. These go back to at least 1850. However, the ages do not match very well with the age of Thomas Wright (the rector?). This family are descended from William (b c1816) and Rhoda Wright, who had children between 1846 and 1869."

Thank you, Ruth, for my own research I turned to 'The History of Bosworth' by Peter Foss. He talks about the Revd. Wright on page 121 together with his two surviving sons Charles and Henry. Peter believed that it was Charles who remained in Bosworth all of his life as curate of Sutton and Barlestone and Henry who moved to Stockport in around 1829 to become vicar of St. Peter's there. In his email Tom says, "I have traced Revd. Charles Wright (1799-1865 who has a plaque in St. Peters Belmont)" It would appear that it was the other way around, otherwise the plaque would surely celebrate Henry? I am still researching and would be grateful for any help you may give. Research continues for now and I have been in touch with Peter Foss.

This Months Can You Help

Just as I was clearing my inbox up popped this:

Hi Nigel

I am writing biography of Bernard Newman. On the website I found this. If it is possible for you to send it to me I would be most grateful. If you have any other information about Bernard Newman that would be most helpful. If you have any questions please ask.

Any reminiscences by people who knew him or have any knowledge of him would be very welcomed.

Thank you very much.

Jeff Malter

Newman B Biography by M Roe Bursar F7/DGS/10

The item should be in a filing cabinet in the Archive Room. I have yet to access it and take a look at what is there. It may be subject to copyright and so I shall have to proceed with caution. I also think that as it

appears to be for a commercial purpose it is not unreasonable to ask for a donation. But that depends upon what we can find.

So far, Martyn and Marion have contacted me. Marion has given me the name Martin Roe, who delivered a lecture to the Society some years ago. Marion believes that Martin lives in Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon. Do you know Martin? Can you put me in touch with him? All I know so far is that Bernard Newman wrote *The Bosworth Story* about the Dixie Grammar School in 1967. It is an interesting book but sadly Bernard reveals little about himself, as might be expected. There is little information in the fly leaf. A search of the publishers, Herbert Jenkins Ltd. webpage gave little help. Did you know Bernard? Do you know Martin? Can you help?

Thomas Drackley - The Grand Old Man of Bosworth

The article last month prompted Peter Loseby to send me an email with an interesting piece of information. "The 11th Bart recorded the mail received on a daily basis.

He often received what he called begging letters but rarely recorded the sender. On this occasion he recorded that it was from Tom Drackley. Following this letter there were two more within a couple of weeks from Tom Drackley neither described as begging.

Initially I wondered why someone from Bosworth was writing to Sir Alexander 20 years after he left the Hall. Sir Alexander was a Governor of the Grammar school so Glynis and Ingrid's article prompted me to think if Tom Drackley was also a Governor then he might have been writing on behalf of the Board seeking the Bart's endorsement of something.

There is only one other incident of a Bosworth resident sending a begging letter and that was in 1889 when the daughter of the late Tom Storer Postmaster at Bosworth wrote to him.

Regards"

Peter

Thank you, Peter, it is always great to have feedback from an article, glad it was of interest.

Living though Corvid-19 – It's all about you!

We may be living through difficult times, but are we recording them? I had an interesting email from Ingrid recently which made me stop and think. Ingrid had been looking into the 'Flu pandemic of 1918. There are lots of national archives, but she could find nothing local. Maybe this pandemic will pass Market Bosworth by and leave us relatively unscathed, fingers crossed. But it made me think about what I was doing and what WE could do to help researchers in 2120 mark the 100 years since Corona -19 (hopefully not 2121!).

Before lockdown releases us (hopefully not Lemming like) to the pubs, shops, and beauty salons we still have a little time on our hands. So, this is what I would ask you to do:

Record what you have been up to, what you did to keep yourself amused.

Where did you get your information and news from?

What have you missed most?

What have you enjoyed most (certainly the lack of diesel fumes has been noticeable)?

How much you have enjoyed the irregular 'Laughter is the best medicine' bulletins?

How have you stayed connected? Video calls, Zoom Quizzes, letter, even emails?

Have you taken any photographs? (We already have some brilliant pics of VE Day – but are happy to receive more).

What books and writings have you turned to?

What information has been useful and what information confusing?

What photographs have you of closed shops and notices?

Have you kept any letters you have received (for the archive) similarly any closed notices you have had to display?

Have you been involved in supporting anyone, or have you received support?

Have you taken part in any fund raising?

Why not write a few lines of your personal experiences?

The latter could be prose or poetry. If you are happy to share I will include them in future newsletters and bulletins, if not you may seal them in an envelope and we will hold them safe in the archive until 2120 or whenever you say we can use them. Just imagine how exciting that will be for someone researching the Great Corona Crises to find real memories of someone who actually lived through it. Even more exciting if that person may have been a relative. Imagine if we had found 50 letters to open from residents of Market Bosworth who lived through the First World War. This is your history and you are writing about your town. Do please get involved and help us to build a legacy.

I mentioned this in a bulletin and had an interesting response from Ruth (North) at Bosworth Hall. Here is her illustrated report:

Hi Nigel

Just a little summary from Bosworth Hall.....

On Tuesday 24th March 2020, with heavy hearts after our last few guests had checked out, Bosworth Hall's door were closed..... the first time since Britannia Hotels reopened the Hall in the early 1980's.

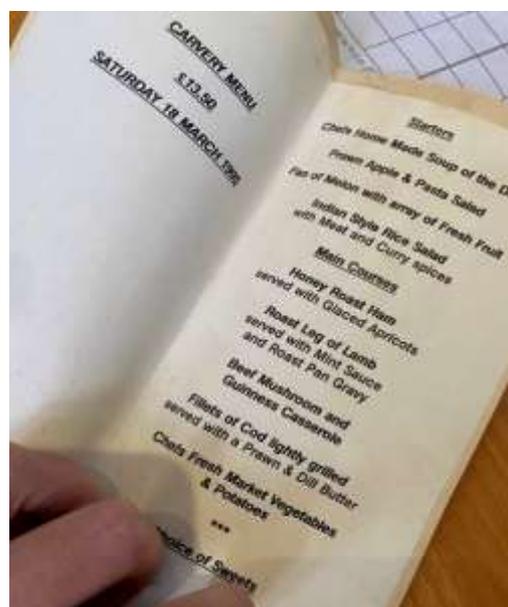
One by one team members were furloughed, leaving only a few of our trusty colleagues who have worked incredibly hard during this difficult time keeping the Hall safe and tending to its gardens. (lawnmower pic)

They joined the nation in clapping for our carers, NHS, and key workers (pic) and even found time for some decluttering! (1985 menu pic)

Nature has flourished (duck pic) and we have been part of many people's daily exercise routines, some finding the enchanted woodland/ fairy garden for the first time!

Preparations are now in place and we are looking forward to reopening the Hall's doors and welcoming guests back to the hotel from Saturday 4th July. Although a hugely different summer to the one that we had planned, there's still plenty of time for us to continue to help make special memories in what looks to be the year of the Staycation!

Ruth





Thank you, Ruth, now over to you. Please do keep notes, even if you do not share them because this is how real history, accurate history is written.

Ross, from the Red Lion shared some photographs with me showing their readiness to open again.





I also hear that the Dixie Arms and the Black Horse are open (albeit only outside at the Black Horse for now). I hope that these businesses, and others that support Market Bosworth so well, can look forward to a return to full trading after what must have been an exceedingly difficult time.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Roger Thomas

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has just announced the 1,500,000th find, which was recorded a few days ago. The PAS was set up in 1997 and expanded to cover the whole of England & Wales by 2003, which was when Wendy Scott, the first Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire & Rutland, was appointed. Wendy left last year, and we now have a new local FLO in Megan Gard. If you find any interesting items, she will be glad to assist in identifying them – her contact details are on the website.

Most of the items on the database were found by metal detectorists, but FLOs are happy to record finds made by people when out walking or gardening. The only stipulation is that they should be over 300 years old, although if they are of particular local significance then later finds are sometimes put on as well.

Since 2003 there have been nearly 20,000 finds recorded for Leics & Rutland, including several for the Market Bosworth region. All the finds are publicly viewable on the scheme's database. If you go to this page <https://finds.org.uk/database/search/postcode> and enter your postcode it will give you a list of all local records.

Here is a taster - a selection of local finds from various periods.

When metalworking was introduced around 5½ thousand years ago someone lost this beautiful Bronze spearhead - LEIC-F0A3B8 - near Sutton Cheney



From the Iron age there is this cute duck - PUBLIC-65F1E1 - which probably dates from 100 years before or after the year zero, and was found just south of Bosworth.



When the Romans arrived the amount of objects being lost in the countryside increased dramatically, and there are nearly 700 recorded Roman finds from the local area. Bosworth has its fair share of really interesting stuff, and these 'horse & rider' brooches, this [LEIC-937BC4] being a typical example, seem to have been a local speciality as more have been found in Bosworth than anywhere else in the Roman Empire!



The Anglo-Saxon period isn't anywhere near as prolific, but this copper mount - PUBLIC-61D859 - which would have been part of a stirrup and dates to just before the Norman Conquest, was found west of Bosworth a few years ago. The iron stain at the bottom is where the foot rest would have joined it.



For the Medieval period I couldn't really leave this one out! [LEIC-A6C834] You can see this Richard the Third boar badge on display at the Battlefield centre (when it re-opens).



The Battle of Bosworth is generally reckoned to mark the end of the Medieval period, and post-Medieval finds are relatively common. Coins become much easier to identify, and the date is often marked on them, as on this Elizabeth the First threepence found near Bosworth [PUBLIC-86260A]



Not too many modern finds are on the PAS database, but I couldn't resist recording this late Victorian horse harness mount [PUBLIC-95E230] – William Chapman was in business in the Market Square from around 1880 until the Great War. This is



probably half of a noseband for a plough horse.

Thank you, Roger. Roger very kindly responded to my request for information about the Portable Antiquities 1,500,000th find and he offered to write an article for the Newsletter. I have had a look at the database, and it is truly absorbing. I love the name, Portable Antiquities, it is exactly as it sounds. Roger, as many of you will know is amongst other things a keen metal detector. We made sure we included Metal Detectors in Bosworth

Links as we wanted to demonstrate the benefits of good quality metal detecting. A lot of damage can be done by removing finds without recording them and it is vital that procedures are followed. Have fun on the website, I know I did.

Local News

I know a number of members are a little concerned that the Co-op is now selling Newspapers and Magazines. This is a nationally agreed decision between the Co-op W H Smith. The staff at our local Co-op did not make that decision. Commercial decisions of this nature are made all of the time. Like many, W H Smith are not finding current market conditions easy and they do have a business and employees to support. More importantly we have a Newsagent who serves us very well. The Newsagents offers a delivery service much valued by residents, particularly those residents who cannot get to the shop easily. I shall continue to buy my papers and magazines, cards, and confectionary from the Newsagents and if you wish to show your support for Bosworth News, there is no more positive way of so doing.

Good News!

Some time ago I approached the owner of the field, Fred Wynn, in which stands Hercules, for access for organised walks. You will recall that we planned to expand our Town Trail Guided Walk to the beautiful countryside around Market Bosworth. And what a godsend the countryside has been over the last weeks. Lynne and I have walked miles and miles and feel fitter for it. We are truly blessed to live in Market Bosworth. A full list of the walks is on the website. If you would like a guided walk either fill in the form or get in touch. We have guides waiting to show you around and we also know where all the tricky styles are too. We can offer socially distanced walks for small parties. What better way to spend some time apart from friends and relatives?

But, as usual, I digress. I had visited Hercules with Robin Clarke, Land Agent, and he was to prepare an agreement between the Society and Fred offering limited, pre-arranged access. That was in 2018 not long after I had a new right knee (Robin walked up the hill from Sutton Lane at such a pace I thought my lower leg would come adrift at any moment). I had followed up the request and was advised that it was being considered but that was all.

Last week, out of the blue I received a letter from Robin with a contract offering us access. Initially I believed we were being offered 3 visits per Season, 12 in a year but I since discovered that it was 3 visits over a year, a year being the 'season' in question. Not just me that gets hoist by the written word. (By the way I have yet to tell the committee of the misunderstanding so shush for now).

We are limited to a maximum of 20 people per visit. I have a couple of dates in mind.

I was wondering what you thought about a socially distanced afternoon cream tea? I have spoken to Ruth and she thinks it possible. My idea is that we meet at the Hall for tea/coffee and then proceed to see Hercules. If more than 20 want to go, I will draw the names from a hat. The unlucky ones can still enjoy a socially distanced afternoon and a cream tea, by joining the walking party upon their return. I have no details of price yet and will say that whilst the walk is reasonably flat, there is one shallow ditch to be crossed and the field may be uneven. Stout shoes will be necessary. **Can you let me know if you would like me to arrange this? If I don't get a response, I will conclude that you don't think it a good idea and will move on. You may email me or call, whichever you prefer, do let me know either way so that I can be certain of your wishes.**

And Finally!

You will be relieved to note that this month's newsletter is much smaller than last months. Thank you to the wag who suggested I might improve the readers enjoyment by the addition of a contents list, that made me smile. Well, next month's looks to be even shorter so if you do have an article, a jotting or a photograph please do send it in. We might only need the back of a bus ticket to house next month's issue. As one

famous comedian once said "Always leave your audience laughing" so with that in mind I thought I might include this for you.

Adages for life

"You attract more bees with honey than vinegar". Harry Shepherd.

If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic of peace work. Thich Nhat Hanh, Being Peace.

True love is born from understanding. Gautama Buddha.

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn the past, nor to worry about the future, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly. Gautama Buddha.

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared. Gautama Buddha.

A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity. Gautama Buddha.

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant with the weak and wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these. Gautama Buddha.

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned. Gautama Buddha

We are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves. Gautama Buddha.

As rain falls equally on the just and unjust, do not burden your heart with judgements but rain your kindness equally on all. Gautama Buddha.

"I hate housework! You make the beds; you do the dishes and six months later you have to start all over again". Joan Rivers.

Keep well and keep safe.



Nigel Palmer
Chairman

To contact the Market Bosworth society please either, email: info@marketbosworthsociety.com. Telephone 07930149408 or write to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. CV13 0JU.