

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

August 2017

Dear Member

Welcome to the August News Letter. I hope that you will enjoy reading it and find it interesting and informative. I do realise that my style is not to everyone's taste, nor could it ever be, but please feel free to make comments and to contact me if you would like to have items included or subjects covered. It is after all for you, the members. I hope that so far summer has been kind to you and that whilst the weather has been mixed there is still some sunshine around which enables us to get out and about.

August saw a number of members out and about at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre as the second of our summer visits. It was a smaller than usual number who ventured thus but I suspect some had already visited recently and others were keeping their powder dry for the Anniversary Celebrations taking part two days later. Having made the journey to the Centre we met in the car park, in glorious sunshine. You can see Market Bosworth, St. Peter's Church Spire clearly in the distance flanked by the many woods and coppices which make the scenery around Bosworth so picturesque. I consider myself very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of Leicestershire, probably the most beautiful part.



Robert shared out the car park passes. The Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre staff had very kindly provided us with car park passes to save us the cost of parking. Which was a lovely kind gesture and much appreciated. We then spent a very enjoyable time in the exhibition. Some very interesting exhibits to be seen. As can be seen here the Medieval soldier had a choice of a number of a number of gruesome



weapons, and was smartly attired. We learned about the lineage of both Richard III and Henry VII, who ended over 300 years of Plantagenet rule and ushered in the new Tudor era. We also saw which armies had lined up and which leaders played a very careful game. There was a lot to see, cannon balls, weapons, chain mail (which was extremely heavy) and a long bow which took a very strong arm to bend. Add to that a number of short video presentations, one of a cannon ball being fired and bouncing merrily across a field and a whole lot of other things to do, the Centre is well worth a visit.



Above is another life size model of the soldier of the day, a fearsome weapon in his hand but I doubt if his helmet would offer much protection from a combatant swinging a similar weapon in his direction.

After a visit to the exhibits we retired to the Tithe Barn for a lovely cream tea. It was a very sociable afternoon, and all for a tenner.



As can be seen the cream teas went down very well. I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the Bosworth Battlefield Centre, the exhibition is very entertaining and informative and the staff very helpful. We all had a great time. Shown left is a photograph I took of my scone (is that pronounced scone or sconn?) which was very nice indeed.

Our next meeting will be on **September 21st**, back indoors at **The Free Church**, Barton Road. The meeting will commence at 7:30 pm . At the committee meeting I heard a lot about the plans for the return of our hugely popular **Memories of a Bosworth Panel**. We have a distinguished local panel lined up (including Audrey Boston, John Smith, are just two I can mention with several others). You may remember that John gave a delightful account of his time working for Mr and Mrs Bamford at our last Panel event.

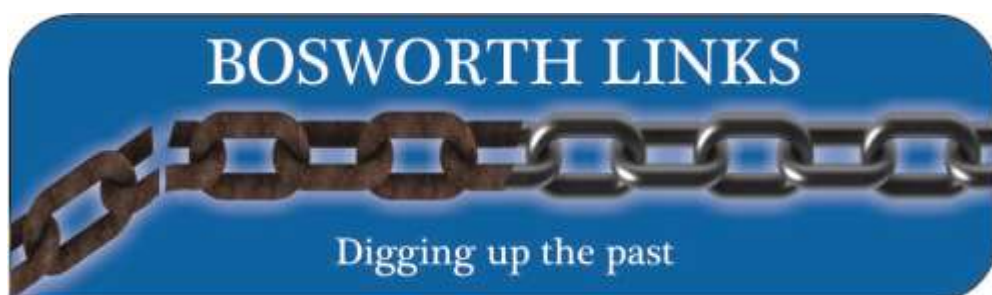
Glynis, Robert, Ingrid and others are busily working away on the archive to research recent history and events, but we really need you. Please come along and share your memories and enjoy hearing the memories of others. As you know the meetings are for members but, if you have friends or neighbours who would like to join with you and take part please bring them along. Sharing memories enriches the experience of all present. There will be **no fee to non-members for this meeting** as we would like as many as possible to come and share. Do remember that these meetings are always very popular and I would recommend that you arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Coming up we have in **October The Story of the Ghurkhas** by **Margaret Cross** who is a very enthusiastic and entertaining guest speaker and well worth a listen. Then in November **Terry Sheppard's Bending The Beams!** Visitors to Beaumanor Hall in July will recall seeing a map showing where bombs of all types fell in Leicestershire during World War 2. It was noticed that there was an anomaly as one part of that map appeared to have received rather more attention than it appeared to warrant from the Luftwaffe. Terry will be revealing all! Two really great events as we move towards Armistice day and next year's 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War.

I have mentioned before that the **Archive** will soon be in its new home, and my gratitude goes to both Glynis and Brian Oakley who have provided a safe haven for the archive for many years. Glynis has worked tirelessly as our Archivist and does a brilliant job of it. Brian has also helped the Society in many ways often without recognition. I am very grateful to them both. Plans for the move are well advanced and further updates will follow in future News Letters.

Bosworth Street The Tommies only meet during term time and whilst they have been on holiday, as you know, Glynis and Ingrid have been very busy. Following appeals in Aspect, The Graphic and also here they have been able to build up quite a data base of information about Bosworth during the Great War. At Thursday committee meeting Ingrid gave a very positive and full report which I think will put the Tommies in an excellent position to finish their project off as they wished. I am also aware that Maurice Harris will be meeting with Richard Knox very shortly in order to share his research with the Tommies. My grateful thanks to the Society and its members we have been able to provide a substantial amount of information.

As you will recall I have been researching **Bill Beck's builders yard** and Harcourt Spinney. I have received a lot of information and wish to thank those who have helped. I am still looking for more information and if you, or someone you know can help do please get in touch with me.



Whilst it is a little quiet after the weekend dig, I hesitate to call it the calm after the storm, there is work taking place behind the scenes. Mathew reports that the finds have now all been washed and sorted (bits of brick and natural stone removed) and they have now been passed to the experts at ULAS. The experts will analyse the finds and identify them, pottery shards and clay pipe pieces especially. They will be able to say from whence they came, where they were manufactured and the name of the previous owner. I may have

exaggerated slightly here, but in reality the experts really live up to that title. A date for your diary is the **19th November 2017**. This is the date of the feedback session where everyone is invited to come and see the finds and listen to a full explanation, from Mathew of what they tell us about our settlement over the last 2000 years. As there have been finds of pottery from prehistoric times up to the 20th Century it promises to be very informative and should help to begin to fill the gaps in our knowledge from around 410 AD to 1086.

The video has also been edited and is in a post-production state awaiting final edits and additions of credits etc. I have seen the video and have to say that it is brilliant. **Bill Newsinger** has done a fantastic job. The world premier will be on the 19th November at that meeting, something you will not want to miss. It wasn't just Bill who did a splendid job but **Seth Lewis** our photographer. Seth has captured some really great shots of the dig weekend. They have all been loaded onto our website for you to see them. Simply go to www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links and click on the Seth Lewis link. There are 250 photographs to see and if you took part in the dig you will be pictured there, of that I am almost certain. Please go over and take a look. I have added another gallery with photographs by Robert Leake, Iain Jones and Trevor Smith. If you have any pictures of your own do please upload them. We would love to see them and add them to the archive. If you are not sure how to upload pictures or do not have a computer then please visit the **Market Bosworth Community Library** where, I am sure, someone will be able to help you. Alternatively feel free to get in touch with me.

At the last Market Bosworth Parish Council meeting I was asked to report back to the councillors on progress and what if any further help and support they could offer. I will say again that the people of Bosworth have been very supportive of Bosworth Links and there is a genuine interest in the history and development of Market Bosworth. We will be continuing with the research on the Parish Field to complete the work of the metal detectors and also to reveal the true nature of the structure discovered there. I have been reading a book "The Book of Bosworth School 1320 to 1959", recommended to me by Ingrid who found some interesting information in an appendix. The appendix (iii) is headed "The Monastery at Bosworth" and goes on to cite 6 reasons why it is highly likely that there was at one time a monastery in Bosworth. Page 8 makes another strong argument for the presence of a monastery and further investigations into the Parish Field structure may well prove once and for all that a monastery did stand in Bosworth until dissolved in around 1528. That would be a fantastic piece of history to be unearthed by Bosworth Links!

I am always happy to hear from members especially if they have information to share, suggestions for guest speakers or field visits or simply want to comment upon the News Letter. You will find the your committees details on the website (www.marketbosworthsociety.com) or on your membership card. If you would like to get in touch with me then you may call me 01455 290160 or 07930149408 or email me, info@marketbosworthsociety.com.

I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting, but until then my very best wishes to you.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman