

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

August 2018

Dear Member

I have had a little help with this month's Newsletter, whilst I was off on a short break Robert, Glynis, Ingrid, and Gemma helped with the text and Martyn took some excellent photographs of the visit to the Battlefield. I will not bore you with my holiday, except to say that should you wish to explore Whitby and that part of the East Coast, together with the North Yorkshire Moors, there can be few places to use as a base more suitable than Aislaby. A real gem was the church, St, Margaret's. Some of the most beautiful stained glass we have seen. Sadly, I also missed the Summer visit to the Battlefield Line. Here is the report.

Summer Visit Report

In August our gathering was at Shackerstone Station for a field visit to the Battlefield Railway., where we were met by Richard Gregory, our guide for the trip. Early arrivals had the opportunity for a quick look in the museum where a cosy coal fire was burning. There was a bit of a morning chill!

Before boarding the 12.30 train we crossed the track to look inside a 1951 buffet car used for special events, before departing on a 1960 railcar. Along the line, old telegraph poles were still in place, though unfortunately, some were rotting away.



Arriving at Bosworth Station.....after departing from Shackerstone Station.

At Market Bosworth Station we were introduced to Coen, a Dutch volunteer who lives in Desford and described by Richard as a terrific archivist. Whilst on the platform, Richard pointed out the 'garage' station building opposite. A 1943 extension to this station was used as a kitchen to feed soldiers working on the petrol exchange so it became a NAAFI.

We continued to the goods shed for a power point presentation and were informed that much of the research by Stuart Gamble was being updated and put into digital format. Richard gave us a brief history of the line. We heard that George Stephenson was involved in the Leicester Swannington Railway which was the third line built in the country and our line connected with it at Coalville. We were shown track plans of Shackerstone and photos of early steam engines. In addition, there were examples of timetables, advertising posters for day trips, royal train arrangements and freight train destinations through Shackerstone.

Several photographs of Market Bosworth Station were explained, and we did see how amazing the station building looked before its extension. A 1906 track laying photo showed the Joseph Ellis & Sons wooden construction building at the end of the platform. It was built on stilts to prevent rats getting into stored animal feed.

In December 1900 there was an accident here when two goods trains collided but fortunately no one was hurt.

The latest discovery about Market Bosworth Station concerned the WW2 petrol dump. Coen had used his research skills to add to and to confirm what was already known. In short, the network of narrow-gauge tracks, laid on ash, was vast, probably one of the biggest in the country! The aerial photo showing Godson's Hill, together with track plans, helped to locate its size more precisely. Needless to say, it was 'Top Secret'. Also, of interest were the camouflaged roofs of the Timber Fireproofing buildings nearby.



After the presentation, we enjoyed a welcome coffee and biscuits and there was an opportunity to go into the LNWR vintage signal box.

Our destination was to Shenton Station for a short stop and for a quick viewing in the glass making show room. This station building was moved brick by brick from Humberstone Road, Leicester in 1992.

We had a pleasant scenic journey back to Shackerstone where a delicious cream tea awaited us, served very efficiently by Jonathon and his staff (well recommended).



After tea members chatted with volunteer, Roger, in the museum about the artefacts.

Overall, a very informative and enjoyable day.

Thanks to Glynis Oakley and Ingrid Davison for that report of the excursion and to Martyn Andrews for the photographs...

Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be at the Free Church on Thursday September 20 at 7.30 when we have another 'memories of Bosworth' presentation. This year there is no panel and we are promised something a bit different, which may involve some old films about Bosworth.

Do please bear the Society in mind if you are having a clear out of your old video tapes or DVD's (photographs, documents, memorabilia, etc. etc) We can transfer VHS to DVD and can add them to the Archive. Very often, tapes of local events paint a very thorough picture of the times and are invaluable for future generations. I am sure there was a lot of filming done in the 1980's and 1990's (why stop there?) when video cameras became popular and affordable. Local events would have been captured and it would be a real shame to lose these records when they could have a positive part to play in future research. If only video had been available in Medieval times!

Then on October 18 commemorating the end of the First World War we have David Humberston talking about 'Bosworth's Battles'.

An appeal for help

Those of you who check our Facebook page will have seen that Vicky Butler has been in touch trying to trace any information about Janice Murphy who lived in Bosworth during the 1940s. If anyone has any information, please get in touch either through Facebook or directly to the Society. Contact details below.

Heritage Weekend Events.

During September we have the annual Heritage Weekend supported by the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. This year we have several events in Bosworth mainly on September 8th.

There will be a ninety-minute guided tour of St. Peter's Parish Church meeting inside the church at 11.00am and two opportunities to join a 'Walk to Discover Bosworth' starting at The Forge on Park Street at 11.00 and 2.00pm

The Forge itself will be open from 10.00 until 4.00 to see a blacksmith working in an 18th century blacksmith's forge, using many of the traditional tools, bellows, and techniques.

The working blacksmith will be Ed Robinson, seen in the photograph with the remains of the St. Peter's church spire weathercock, blown down earlier in the year. Sadly, this weathercock is beyond repair, so Ed will be working on other items.



All are invited to these Heritage Walks which are free of charge. Similar Heritage events are taking place over the whole country while Hinckley & Bosworth are publicising many other local events, including a tour of Bosworth Hall on Thursday September 6th at 1.00pm. The Heritage programme covers two weekends, from Thursday September 6 to Sunday 9th and Friday September 14 to Sunday 16th. Details can be found in publicity leaflets or on the H&BBC website.

Famous Bosworthians

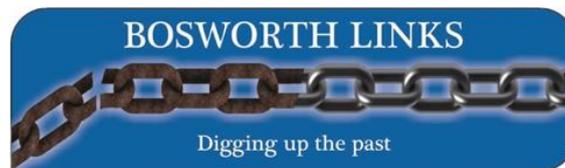
I have been contacted by Walter Baynes and David Woolerton who have suggested two very interesting names. Walter provided me with research on Arthur Benoni Evans, who I am sure you will recall was Head Master of the Dixie Grammar School in the 1800's and made an enormous success of his time there. It is possibly due to his success that we have the beautiful Dixie Grammar School building to enjoy today (part of it as the building had to be extended to accommodate extra pupils). David provided me with the details of Richard Dawes, whilst born in Stapleton he was baptised and educated in Bosworth. I will not reveal more as that may give these two nominees an unfair advantage but please do let me have details of anyone who you

think would be worthy of a Green Plaque or similar recognition. Do not worry about having research at this stage, that will come and do not worry if you are not an expert historian or particularly knowledgeable about the person or persons you would wish to nominate. Do not be shy!

Digitalisation of the Archive

I must admit that progress is slow, very slow. I have found the topic one which becomes exponentially bigger as one answer is found another three appear. I have already approached a small number of people who have expressed an interest. If you, or you know of someone who has been involved in similar projects then do please let me know. If you are interested in preserving the Archive and making it more available for future generations again let me know. I do not see experience as a barrier, everyone has skills, knowledge and abilities that can aid a project such as this. It would be wonderful to make it a community project as much of the Archive material is from the community. Now that Bosworth Links is scaling down for the winter and my other projects have been completed I will have more time to spend in formulating a plan and subsequently an application for funding. I will approach your committee with a request to form a sub-committee, like the way in which Bosworth Links was organised and with hopefully a similar level of success.

Bosworth Links (report by Gemma Tallis, Project Leader)



On 21st and 22nd July 2018, 23 archaeological test pits were excavated across Market Bosworth as part of the Bosworth Links Project (The Market Bosworth Society). 6 test pits had already been excavated across the three schools in Bosworth earlier in the summer.

The weekend began with a very warm start, in keeping with the scorching summer this year. Over 130 volunteers and homeowners assembled in the Dixie Grammar School Hall where Mathew Morris from the University of Leicester spoke to the audience about how to excavate their test pit.

We were incredibly fortunate to be joined by Professor Carenza Lewis (formerly of Channel 4's Time Team) who also talked to the volunteers in the morning and visited the pits during the rest of the day.



This year Bosworth Links also hosted the 'Market Bosworth Festival of Archaeology' on the Parish Field where visitors could make a Medieval themed tile, watch a flint knapper at work and learn about finds from the Hinckley Archaeological Society. The festival was a huge success with families coming to join in the fun from across the county.

The Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth enjoyed her tour of the activities both on the Parish Field and in people's gardens and we were joined by BBC Radio Leicester who broadcast live from the Parish Field along with pre-recording a piece for a show the next day.



All the finds were initially processed in the Dixie Hall by a team of volunteers under the watchful eye of supervisors from the University of Leicester. It quickly became clear that Modern, Medieval and Roman pottery were all being quite literally 'unearthed'. We now await the analysis and results from the University of Leicester's Archaeological Services. Last year's discoveries included prehistoric pottery and worked flint and even rare Saxon pottery. We cannot wait to find out more about our discoveries from this year and add them into the incredible story that we are building about Market Bosworth's history.

The weekend was rounded up with celebratory barbeque and short de-brief from each test pit team. Some test pit teams had been more successful than others finding pottery, bone, and even archaeological features but everyone found something.



All the results and the DVD from the weekends excavations will be available in November at the community feedback meeting the date of which will be set nearer the time. Bosworth Links is grateful for the support of The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Parish Community Initiative Fund (Hinckley and Bosworth Council), The Market Bosworth Parish Council, The Dixie Educational Fund, The Richard III Legacy Fund, and the Heart of England Cooperative for their support.

For updates please visit:

**www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links
or the Bosworth Links Facebook Page.**



Contact Details

If you would like to comment on any part of this article, or make suggestions about future topics for meetings or venues for excursions, please contact Nigel Palmer via email: info@marketbosworthsociety.com or by telephone on 07930149408 or 01455 290160.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman

