



August 2019

Dear Member

Welcome to our August Newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading it and that you will let me know what you like and dislike, of course. I am always happy to receive feedback and do please let me know if you have an idea for an article or would like to submit one of your own. Come along now, do not be shy. We are all friends here!

## Can you Help

I want to start this month's edition with an appeal. I received a telephone call and subsequently a letter from Celia Hornbuckle who had been looking into a mystery for many years. She is researching her father, Gordon Taylor who was in a tank regiment during the D-Day landings. Here is what she sent to me:

## The Troop Trains

It was a beautiful and lovely sunny day when we were down Mr Waddell's farm fields close to the Tunnel, which once took you to Joe Freeman's Farm, Valley Farm.

On this particular day there were about seven or eight of us down at the tunnel; those being Norman Taylor, Henry (Tad) Lovell, myself Gordon Taylor, Harry Cheshire, John Archer, Aubrey Ellis, Arthur(Bill) Garrett and I believe Jack Freeman, when in the distance we saw this express passenger train coming down the line, which was very unusual on this railway line.

We all ran down the field and jumped onto the fence to watch the train speed by, and to our amazement it was full of soldiers, some with bandages around their heads and arms. Some of the soldiers were hanging out of the train door windows, waving and shouting to us and we waved and shouted back. Then about an hour later another express troop train, came speeding along the line, so we all ran back down the field and waved to them. In all these years, I have pondered and wondered about these two trains and where they came from and where they were going. When I look back I wondered if they were troops from the disastrous "Dunkirk Beaches" and were heading to some Medical Army Hospital camp somewhere near Market Bosworth or beyond, probably up North Yorkshire to the big Army Camp at Catterick, but this is only my own theory about these two troop trains. I would love to know more about them, but I doubt I ever will.

Celia has taken up the challenge as written by her late father and I promised to ask our members if they might help. The information printed above is all she has so it is quite a challenge.

Celia has also discovered that Bosworth Park Infirmary was used as a military hospital. Later in the war for example, after the D Day Landings 65 wounded soldier and airmen were admitted there between 12<sup>th</sup> June 1944 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 1944. She has also discovered that between 12<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1945 754 military patients were admitted to the Bosworth Park Infirmary.

Has anyone any information or recollections that will help Celia? Do you remember seeing any troop trains? Were you one of the named playmates of Gordon? Do you know about Bosworth Park Infirmary during its time as a military hospital? Do get in touch if you can add anything for Celia and I will pass it on to her.

## Membership

Membership renewal fell due last March at the Annual General Meeting. For those who have not yet renewed a reminder was sent out in July. If you have not renewed then your membership will have lapsed. This means that we are no longer able to hold your details on our live database under General Data Protection Rules. We will not be able to send to you Newsletters which means that not only will you be missing an excellent read (ahem) you will not know what the Society is up to and planning to do next. If you are unsure if you have renewed or need any help do contact me or our Honorary Treasurer, Maron on 01455 290978. Either of us would be happy help as indeed would any committee member.

## Those Radio Times. September 19<sup>th</sup> Robert Leake



Robert Leake is returning to his familiar role as referee and compere for this event. Unusually, researchers have not been used nor do we have a panel ready to share their memories. Robert has built this presentation on his own and I am really looking forward to enjoying it. Whenever we run an evening of nostalgia it is always very popular, and the promise of Robert's excellent presentation skills and undoubted sense of fun and humour mean that this will be a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. Do come along and support Robert! Bring a guest or guests for a small donation of just £3.00 per guest to help defray the costs of the evening. If your guest decides to join the Market Bosworth Society at this meeting then entry will of course be free. I hope to see you there

cheering Robert on as he entertains us.

# Visit Report Glenfield Tunnel

Our visit was on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and 25 members and their personal guests visited the Glenfield Tunnel. The tunnel took two years to build and was opened in 1832. It was needed to provide energy in the form of coal for a growing Leicester City. Mills were being built as were houses all of them needed coal to power the steam engine and to warm the hearth. The coal was in the Leicestershire coalfields and the Swannington to Leicester line was needed to



*Pre-tunnel briefing. I did not manage to get everyone in the shot so apologies to the missing.*

transport the ever-increasing quantities of coal needed. The population of Leicester in 1826 stood at some 24,000. By the time the tunnel was built that number had increased to over 40,000. A lot of coal was needed, and the railway was the only method able to carry those volumes at speed. When the tunnel was opened it was, at 1 mile long, the longest steam railway tunnel in the world. It was designed for the Leicester and Swannington Railway; the first steam railway in the Midlands by George Stephenson. His son Robert Stevenson actually



*3The tunnel was mostly dry but not completely*



*2A Refuge. Somewhere to avoid being crushed by a train*



*1One of the service tunnels now in someone's garden!*

oversaw the building of the tunnel as George was busy elsewhere. The tunnel was needed to overcome a ridge between Gilroes and Glenfield and once completed it remained in service for over 130 years.

The tunnel was a very difficult engineering project and we learned about the challenges faced by the builders and the ways in which they overcame them. It reminded me of Bradgate Park as mankind had to use ingenuity to overcome difficulties and it also brought me right up to date as it actually cost £17326 12s (and tuppence ha'penny) against a budget of £10,000 (an overspend of almost 74%, it seems that railway projects had not changed much in 187 years).

We learned that to qualify as a Navvy 10 tons of earth had to be moved each day using pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow. That equates to around 200 wheelbarrow loads and I suspect that the career of a Navvy was not a lengthy one. One person died in the making of the tunnel. An overseer fell into one of the access tunnels (these were dug along the length of the tunnel so that more people to work on the tunnel, rather than relying on two gangs at each end)..

We thanked our most courteous and knowledge guides by insisting they join us for a cream tea in the nearby Co-operative store. The Co-op do not normally do cream teas and we are very grateful to Liz Quinn and her team for putting on a special tea just for us. It was very nice. A special thank you to David Woolerton who recommended the tunnel for a visit. Thanks David!

## Free Church 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Last month I asked for help in building a memory wall from those who had associations with the Free Church. This was to help celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday in September. Thank you very much to those who have shared your memories. Do please keep them coming, we would love to have a few more. It is not just residents of Market Bosworth who have been associated with the Free Church, here is an example of a memory we received.

Valerie Fall nee Marshall, now living in Hinckley, sent us her memories and wedding photograph. Here is an extract which may trigger your own memories.



*L to R Ann Hulme, Rod Fell, Valerie Marshall and Rev. Baker*

“I have very happy memories of days spent at the Free Church which we called ‘Chapel’. When I was young, I went to Sunday School with my brother Geoff. My Mum was a member of the Chapel and she went every Sunday night at six o’clock.

We had outings to Wicksteed Park, Skegness and Mablethorpe. They were lovely

times. I remember Carols by Candlelight at Christmas. I read a lesson from the Bible once. I was very nervous, but I did it!

Every May we had Sunday School Anniversaries. All the children stood on a platform just made for the occasion and we all wore our best clothes.

I got married at Chapel in 1973 and the Flower Festival was on so everywhere was lovely....

**Now, every birthday must have a party!**



## **Market Bosworth Free Church**

is 70 years old this year and to celebrate we invite you to

**The Big Messy BBQ  
The Dixie Pavilion & Sports Ground,  
Barton Road, Market Bosworth, CV13 0RL**

**Saturday 21st September 2019**

**3.00pm - 5.30pm**

**Something for everyone – sit & chat, or join in the games, quizzes & fun  
for all ages.**

**Food & tea/coffee/squash provided.**

**Bring a picnic rug/chairs (if required).**

**RSVP by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September:**

Tel. 01455 842876 Text: 07501150082

Email: [marketbosworthfreechurch@gmail.com](mailto:marketbosworthfreechurch@gmail.com)

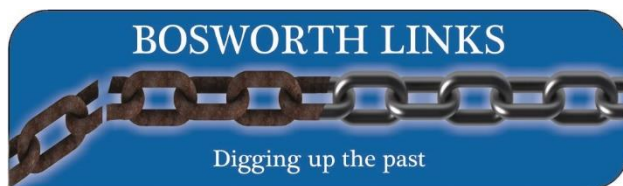
*Please advise any special dietary requirements*

Donations welcome towards our Mission and Outreach work in the local community.

Please come along and join in with the celebrations to make this a great party!

## Lecture Meetings and Summer Visits

At the last meeting your committee began planning for the 2020/21 season of lectures and Summer visits. A special thank you to all who have suggested guest speakers and places to visit. We have quite a few names and places and so I must apologise in advance if your suggestion does not appear on the plan for next season. The committee have tried to vary the topics of lectures and places to visit so you may well find that your suggestion pops up in 2021/2022 season. I have kept all your suggestions for the future and will add any new ideas as they come along. It is always an exciting time and quite a challenge as we try to look for varied topics with a Market Bosworth theme. Not easy but we have the makings of another great season ahead. Please spread the word to your friends and family and encourage them to come along to lectures as guests, or even better as new members! I am hoping to be able to give an update in the next newsletter.



The process of planning for the next three years is well underway, and we are due to meet shortly to start the process to apply for funding from grant providers. The main sponsor we are hoping will again be the Heritage Lottery Fund. If you have an interest in Community Archaeology have a look at the website and Facebook pages for information. If you would like to get involved then contact me (details below) and we can have a chat about how you can help the project.

Mathew is still working on the finds from early July but once we have them assessed, analysed, and categorised we will let you know. We are thinking about having a mini feedback session to explain how the latest information fits into what we know overall about the development of the settlement of Market Bosworth. Watch this space and the on-line media for information.

## Contact details

Please see the website [www.marketbosworthsociety.com](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com) for information or email on [info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com) or if you would like to call me then 07930149408 or 01455290160. Correspondence can be sent to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. CV13 0JU

Nigel Palmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Palmer', written in a cursive style.

Chairman