

# MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

January 2018

Dear Member

## **A Happy New Year!**

I hope that the old year ended happily for you and that 2018 will be full of happiness and peace. I hope too that you will be looking forward to a new Society year (which starts with the Annual General Meeting, this year 7:00pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the Free Church, Barton Road) when membership fees normally fall due. Your committee have been working hard on several projects, one of which is next years Lecture and Visit programme. It is still to be finalised, but we have been out and about having meetings to line up venues and to organise lecturers. I think that once finalised and published you will agree that we have a good spread of topics and most of them local. There will be one or possibly two surprises and we have done our best to make sure that there is something for everyone, but as they say the proof of the pudding.... So, do come along to the visits and lectures, the more the merrier. We have also been working on updating the Town Trail Guide (TTG) which as the name suggests, guides visitors around our beautiful town. The guides are an accompaniment to anyone who has a guided tour or can be used by individuals. They sell like hot cakes at the Bosworth Hall Hotel where guests buy them, not only as a guide but also as a memento of their visit to Market Bosworth. We are also working on transferring the Archive, assisting the Tommies with Bosworth Street and several other activities which will be taking part in Bosworth this year.

## **An appeal**

One of the first things I was charged with doing when I became chairman two years ago was to act as a guide for tours of Bosworth. I have lived in and been closely associated with Bosworth for over 55 years but realised that I still had a lot to learn about our history. I need not have worried, I was given excellent training and support and I have a folder to use on the walks which goes beyond the TTG. The guided walks are intended to be an introduction to Bosworth and not a history lesson. There are some dates and facts of course but we also point out many features that are not always so obvious. The tours usually last about 90 minutes and take a circuitous route around the centre of Bosworth (Rectory Lane, Park Street, Main Street and The Market Place). We also joke that members of the tour group are not allowed to look in their TTGs until after the tour! There are currently three volunteer tour guides, but we would love to recruit two or three more volunteers. It is not onerous, and I must admit I enjoyed learning more about Bosworth and sharing my knowledge with visitors. A larger team of volunteers would help with cover for holidays and sickness plus we do on occasions have to turn groups down as we don't have enough volunteer tour guides available. This is a shame as we lose out on some income for the Society (we currently charge £3.00 per head) and disappoint people, something I hate to do. So why not put yourself forward? Full training will be given. It is

unlikely to be more than a couple of hours per month in the Summer and my experience is that the tour groups are very grateful. I really enjoy the feedback and sharing Bosworth. Please do get in touch, contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

## Meeting Report

**Disaster at Desford.** January the 18<sup>th</sup> saw us meeting in the Free Church, Barton Road to hear two lectures given by David Woolerton. I knew that I was not going to be disappointed. There were over 50 members and guest at the meeting which made a great atmosphere. David is a brilliant speaker who generates a great deal of contagious enthusiasm. He is also a master of his subject and was able to answer questions on all aspects of his lecture and beyond. David started this double header explaining how he had traced his family connection to Desford to his four-times great grandfather who started a Blacksmith Forge in Desford, aged 24 in 1739. He developed this theme until we reached that disastrous day, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1881. There had been storms and hundreds of ships had been lost at sea. Structural damage had been done by the winds as well as damage to over 800 railway signals. One of which was at Desford West Junction. That line was a mixed line carrying goods (which made the profit) and passengers. Being a single line, the points and the signals were locked together but the signal was down. The signalman sent the all clear message to the flag man after he had admitted a goods train into the passing loop. (The Battlefield line will have the benefit of a passing loop at Bosworth very soon, so more trains can be run at busy times). Sadly, he did not change the points and a passenger express, travelling at between 50 and 60 Miles Per Hour collided with the back of the good train. Students of ballistics can work out the energy of around 150 tons



travelling at that speed. Three people died instantly and two more died later. One being the driver

Midland Railway Type 156 Like the engine pulling the passenger train on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1881.

who was initially thrown clear. The Fireman was also thrown clear and whilst scolded by the escaping steam from the engine survived. David explained the reasons why the disaster occurred and the outcomes. I was amazed that despite the damage to the trains the loss of life was not much greater.

David then went on to share with us:

**“A day at Shackerstone Station in 1907”.** He caused quite a stir in the room when he asked why Shackerstone Station was more important than Market Bosworth Station. The answer was that in

1907, Market Bosworth had 20 trains per day, whilst Shackerstone had an amazing 38 per day. David went on to explain how the link to Gopsall Hall influenced the number of trains and passengers and then described the morning rush hour (actually a little under an hour). Between 9.35 AM and 10.17 AM there were ten train movements. Some trains were only allowed 1 minute at the station, where milk, mail and anything else, including passengers, had to be loaded and unloaded. All had to be done strictly on time as the next train was hurtling along towards them and any stoppages caused enormous disruption along the line and lost the rail company money. David shared his methods of research, Bradshaw's Guide, popularised by Michael Portillo on his Railway Journeys TV programme is still available as are maps and timetables of previous ages. The large audience fully enjoyed hearing David's lecture and asked numerous questions which David answered with ease. Clearly a master of his subject, thank you David for a great evening.

## **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Heritage Asset Plan**

Please don't forget to submit your suggestions for addition to the Local Asset List, currently being compiled by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Please send in as many as you feel relevant. If you do not have access to the internet at home, then please remember that the Market Bosworth Community Library does. They also have lovely patient people who will help you to use the computers there. It is important that we do not miss this opportunity to list as many assets as we can. The actual nomination form is available via: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/3570/nomination\\_form\\_for\\_the\\_local\\_heritage\\_list](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/3570/nomination_form_for_the_local_heritage_list)

## **Market Bosworth Community Library (MBCL)**



I have in the past mentioned the MBCL, as I think we should all do what we can to support local services and facilities. I found out something very interesting recently and think you may find it interesting too. Members of the MBCL (if is free to join) can then have access to all the facilities. One of which is access to the internet via the computers. I know that many Society members are interested in genealogy and here is the interesting bit, you can access "Find My Family" and "Ancestry.com" at the MBCL completely free – now. That of course may change in the future. So, if you are looking for long lost relatives or researching your family tree the MBCL offers the best option to try out these normally paid for services.

## **Next Month's Speaker (7:30PM on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018)**

Many of you will know Mathew Morris as the archaeologist who discovered the mortal remains of King Richard III in a car park in Leicester. Some will also know him as the project Manager for Bosworth Links. If you have been fortunate to be at one of Mathew's lectures you will know that he can make difficult and technical details very easy to understand and he has a great sense of humour. His talk "**Beneath Bus Stations and Breweries: Recent archaeological discoveries from Leicester**" promises to be hugely interesting and highly entertaining. It will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Free Church, Barton Road and will commence at 7:30. Guests are always

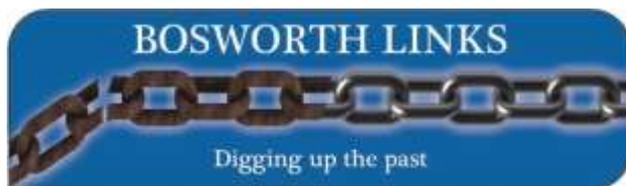
welcome at our lectures, for a small fee of £3.00 to help defray costs, subject to seating availability. It is most likely that Mathew will attract a large audience and so my advice would be to get there early. If anyone had seen the queues of people waiting to see the Roman Mosaics unearthed in Leicester in the Summer will know just how popular archaeology is in Leicestershire. If you know of any friends or relatives who may be interested, do please bring them along. They may even want to become members. Mathew has also completed the report on the metal detecting work on the Parish Field and will be giving a resume of his report during his lecture. I have added the report to our website, the link is on the Bosworth Links page.

### **March Meeting 7:30PM on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Our meeting in March will follow our Annual General Meeting (which will take place between 7:00pm and 7:30pm). Peter Liddle MBE will be our guest lecturer and will deliver his lecture “**Mercian Leicestershire**” In his lecture Peter will detail the archaeology of Middle Saxon Leicestershire and surrounding areas putting this into its political context. This is a period when Leicestershire was at the heart of the most powerful English kingdom of the period. It is only in recent years that information has been discovered enabling more than just a few minutes lecture covering this period in history - fieldwork, excavation, test pitting and metal detecting have all added new information. The Bosworth Links data has added some excellent new information. If you took part in Bosworth Links last year you will undoubtedly have helped with this new information. Come along and see what Peter has to say.

### **The Tommies**

The Society has been busy helping and supporting the Tommies with their project “Bosworth Street” It is now almost complete, and Glynis, Beth and Ingrid are helping Richard Knox with the final edits before it goes on display at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre in February 2018. Do please go along and have a look at the display. You will not be disappointed.



At our forthcoming committee meeting we will be planning for this year’s dig and intend it to be every bit as successful as last year. We will be drawing up a list of gardens where we would like to dig a test pit and will then start to visit the owners. We already have many offers so if you would like to host a pit this year (the weekend will be 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2018) do get in touch with us, (contact details are at the end of this article). Another date for your diary is the **Masterclass** delivered by Peter Liddle MBE. This was very well received last year, and Peter showed us examples of what we may find in our pits, how to date pottery and how to tell the difference from natural items and man-made items. The Masterclass will be in the Dixie Grammar School Hall and will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Exact times have yet to be decided but probably between 2:00pm and 4:00pm

We have completed our end of year report to the Heritage Lottery Fund and expect the next tranche of funds shortly. We have also received a grant from the Parish and Community Initiative Fund, part of the Hinckley and bosworth Borough Council. Other sponsors have already given guarantees for

2018 and so we are very hopeful that our financial situation will be settled and robust well before this year's dig. One of our volunteers Roger Thomas, has been fieldwalking at nearby Cadeby. He and his fellow walkers have found large amounts of Neolithic flint and a surprising amount of Mesolithic flint. All these finds have been photographed and recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. You will find the details and images of these finds here:

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/cadeby%2C+leicestershire/materialTerm/Flint> (definitely worth visiting the Market Bosworth Community Library to have a look at these and of course the 2017 dig reports together with Pits, Pots and Pipes). There is evidence building, that there was once a sizeable population of pre-historic humans living in the area (remember we found flint debitage and pre-historic pottery in the pit at St. Peter's Junior Academy).

If you would like to take part in this year's dig, no experience is necessary and there are jobs available for everyone of any ability, then get in touch or complete a volunteer form from the website.

Please, please do not be shy. Ask anyone who took part last year and they will tell you that we all had a great time, you must watch the DVD to see all the smiling faces of those taking part. Come and join in. This may be your last chance to take part in a dig in Bosworth and play a part in discovering our past for future generations

## **Contact Details**

Telephone **07930149408** or **01455290160**. Email: [info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com) Or [nigel\\_palmer.MBS@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel_palmer.MBS@btinternet.com). Websites, [www.marketbosworthsociety.com](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com) and [www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links). We also have two Facebook offerings. Market Bosworth Society and Bosworth Links. You can get information and updates from there, plus get in touch and share experiences and pictures. We love to hear from you!

Nigel Palmer  
Chairman