

# MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

 December 2018 

Dear Member

We are well into the season of mince pies, mulled wine, holly and for a lucky few Mistletoe. It is this time of the year that we often reflect upon the last year and what a year it has been. Here are a few highlights from your committee.

## Highlights of the Year



On reflection, it's been an extremely busy year and at times everything seemed to be happening at once.

Whilst researching life in Market Bosworth around the time of the Great War, we made some interesting discoveries. One of our favourite resources used, were the memoirs of Dr H N Keeling of Beech House, Church Street who was a doctor here from 1907 - 1937. It is hard to imagine the town streets lit by gas lamps and travel by horse drawn vehicles.

We have trawled through drawers of photographs and there is always something special about holding an original photograph of the time, as opposed to a digital image.

All this led to a grounding for supplying work to support both the Parish Council and the Bosworth in Bloom Committee for the town's WW1 commemorations.

With the help of two dogs, often lying at our feet, Brian's patience, the computer screen in front of us and innumerable cups of coffee, we completed a busy year.

Phew!

Glynis, Beth, and Ingrid 2018



Looking back over the year there were several highlights for me. The first, as part of my research into the Bosworth Park Infirmary, was meeting former nurses and staff from the Infirmary and joining them to look around the present building, the Bosworth Hall Hotel, and to recall where different parts of the hospital were located – the wards, the main office, the sluice room, etc. It all helped me to build up a picture of the hospital ready for the tour of Bosworth Hall with Peter Loseby and a large group of Society members in July.

The second highlight did not involve me doing any research, but I was privileged to narrate the story of Bosworth during World War I, the research for which was carried out over many months by Glynis, Ingrid, and Beth from the Committee. I really felt transported back in time to those years, especially with the photographs carefully put together on the big screen by Nigel.



*1Peter Foss examines one of several cabinets*

Finally, work on the Archive Room in St. Peter's Church Hall has been continuing. The room has been created from a storage room by Premises Officer Andrew Jackson and we will shortly be moving the Bosworth Society Archive into the awaiting cabinets to join the Church Archive and the Teddy Boston Cadeby Archive already in place. One of the first visitors to the room was Peter Foss, author of 'The History of Market Bosworth' who seemed impressed.

An eventful year indeed.

Robert 2018



I really enjoyed taking part in the committee meetings and see the plans for the year emerge. The other committee members are always very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. I think this year we have a very good programme sorted out. The highlight for me, this year, has to be the visit to Bosworth Hall. To have a peek into some of the luxury rooms was lovely. The cream tea afterwards was superb. Ruth and the staff at the hotel really did us proud. I have enjoyed a number of interesting lectures and helping Nigel to clear the gravestones in the rain was also fun and full of banter. A good and happy year.

Lynne 2018



After the repeated snowfalls (fortunately mostly light) for so many of the earlier months all was forgiven and forgotten by the long hot dry summer, but through it all Bosworth Society has provided such an array of meetings. Most memorable of course was the second year of the 'Big Dig' with Bosworth Links which as a find's collector allowed me to visit several of the sites at regular intervals and then see the dirt being painstakingly removed from them back at base. The community spirit of Bosworth shone through and particularly when representing the Society at the annual Parish Meeting when

there were so many groups presenting reports that time was limited. All of them can be read at the Parish Council minutes website.

Martyn.2018



Another great year for Bosworth Society. Highlights for me include the weekend of the Big Dig and the follow up Feedback Afternoon, hearing the complete picture of what had been revealed thanks to all our volunteers hard work. With regard to our speaker evenings Market Bosworth's War on 15th November was particularly fascinating.

Marion



As we can see it has been a busy year. Where to start? Well one thing that stands out is the wonderful display made by The Tommies (on display at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre). It was great fun working with this lively group of people. Then the award of a Green Plaque for Lady Florence Dixie, granted thanks to a community effort in voting for her. Bosworth Links in July, a hugely successful Community event. The feedback session in November confirmed that we had answered all of the questions about our settlement but also posed a few new ones. Where was St. Ann's Chapel? Is one such example, more time travelling to come methinks. Working with Market Bosworth Parish Council to provide images for the new boards in the Memorial Garden and seeing them installed. Add to that our lecture evenings and Summer Visits and yes, it has been a full year! I am very grateful to the members who support the Society and the Committee Members who support me. Oh, and not forgetting the rewriting of the Town Trail Guide and the recruitment of two new guides, it has been a busy year. Now, to digitalise that archive!

Nigel

## Christmas Lights Switch On



*Glynis and Michelle*

Brian and Glynis Oakley once again agreed to open The Forge to support the Market Bosworth Lights Switch on. Glynis also gave a demonstration of smithery whilst Ed got set up.

Michelle also came to help, and she worked hard making sure all of the visitors had the chance of a mince pie and glass of hot mulled wine.

We set up in The Studio and were showing the pictures from this year's dig, which caused a lot of interest and discussion.

The DVD went down very well with many taking the chance to have a sit down and watch More Pits, Pots and Pipes. We were also selling books and CDs and had a visit from the Lady



Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth who enjoyed seeing herself on the DVD. She told me it reminded her of the happy time she spent with us that sunny afternoon. Thank you to all who came to see us and also those who gave a donation. Thanks also to "Shep" (a diminutive of Shepherd, I suspect), a friend of Ed's who drove from Shenton on his Marshall tractor to join in the fun. Lovely



*Marshall tractor visiting The Forge (left)*

to see this vintage tractor running smoothly and being cared for. I did manage to have a go on a

Marshall, many years ago. Once we had managed to start it up. A tricky process involving a huge starting handle and a piece of smouldering paper. Some have a cartridge start, as did the early Spitfires, but this is frowned upon by preservationists.

## A star is Born

Your committee thought it would be a promising idea to support the Star Festival, held by St. Peter's Parish Church this year. We had a discussion at one of the committee meetings and decided to look into it. I contacted Ed Robinson. After looking at the highly technical drawing (seen here) he felt sure that he could do a lot better!



*So, it begins...*



*Rounding off the ends*

After a couple of days of thinking it over Ed got back to me with the positive news that he would do it. He also refused to accept any payment. I was delighted by the response and accepted his very kind offer.



*Making the rivet holes*

It was not as easy as we both thought. The first job was to measure out the parts of the star and cut the metal into lengths. We decided upon a star around 4' high (that is 1.22 metres in new money) and the stem and star had to be in balance. Ed loves working at The Forge and luckily Brian and Glynis enjoy watching him work there too. The star began during a special private evening and then continued into the "Christmas Lights Switch on Event" where it



*Setting the angles*

really began to take shape and to look much as we had hoped. Ed had even managed to add some star rays to the metal. Watching him work was fascinating, he really does make forming metal into exact shapes look very easy.



*Can you tell what it is, yet?*

A master of his craft. Although working out some of the angles gave us both a lesson in mathematics.

After forming the star, he then had to work out how to fit it together. Ed decided on rivets which looked in keeping with the effect was trying to achieve. There the star was made, now for the supporting upright. That again was not as easy as it might sound. It had to be of sufficient strength to hold the star upright but not too thick as to make it unwieldy. We looked at a few options until Ed settled on the final one.



*Taking shape.*

Having completed the top, it was now the turn of the bottom. Several suggestions were put forward and considered. It was Ed again who came up with the idea of using horse shoes as the base. What could have been more fitting, (no pun intended) than horseshoes made in The Forge? Ed welded them together very cleverly so that



*Well shod*



*Testament to Ed's skill. A star is born*

they would give a firm base. It is surprising just how steady the star is thanks to a clever bit of engineering on Ed's part.

We plan for the Society to donate the star to St. Peter's Parish Church after the festival, this we thought would be a nice touch and reminds visitors that the Society supports a lot of local churches, events, clubs, and societies.

The star was originally planned to have a wax candle. We found that, through Robert that the church use oil filled candles. These do not fit well on a spike and so Ed has come up with a plan to make a wooden collar with a hole in the bottom to accommodate the spike and a wider hole in the top to accept an oil candle.

Do go and have a look, I think it looks very well suited to its new home. It is just the right size to stand on the floor or a table.

## **Another Good Idea! Gravestone Tidy Up**

Robert has already mentioned that we had a visit from Peter Foss in the Summer. Whilst walking around the graveyard we were all a bit disappointed and worried that a number of the flat gravestones were disappearing. The grass was gradually covering them up, some to the extent that they could not be seen. After taking advice it seems that slate fares better when uncovered than it does when the grass is allowed to grow over it. I suggested that we should do something about it and after gaining approval from your committee I approached Rev. Mark Poskitt who was very pleased to hear our plans. We were worried about tripping but then the graves are not that low, and it is customary not to walk on grave stones. Peter Bailiss gave advice as to what to do with the turf removed (which turned out to be a lot more than I thought it would be). Choosing two dates one in November and a backup on the first day of December, in case of inclement weather (I need not have worried. It rained both days) we went ahead. On the first day we were joined by Robert who made us all a lovely cup of coffee for our Elevenses, with biscuits I might add. As we entered the church porch the heavens opened up and stair rods of rain fell. Thinking that would be it for the day I enjoyed my coffee and biscuits. But as we rose to resume the rain stopped as quickly as it had begun.

We had a small but highly capable team. Wednesday we had Harry Whitehead (representing the Market Bosworth Parish Council). Peter and Sheila Loseby (representing Bosworth in Bloom) Me,

(representing the Market Bosworth Society) and Richard Liddington (representing The Leicestershire Field Workers). That is four groups from just five of us. On the Saturday Lynne swapped with Harry. Overall I counted 130 graves uncovered. Some obviously worse than others and it is rumoured that we have two more to find.

On the Saturday we were delighted to receive hot Coffees from the Hall Hotel. They had been watching our antics and decided we could do with a warm up. We were very grateful, and their kind act was most welcome We were also grateful to Dick Bates for the loan of his wheelbarrow, which made the job a lot easier. If you are interested the pile of turf is under an Elm tree around the East side of the church. There is quite a sizable heap (which will rot down to next to nothing in 12 months).



Some of the stones were very old, one dated to 1738 I believe and a name on one was given a birth date in the mid-1600s. Some interesting names and information was found. Some stones were made in Market Bosworth and some in Barwell. Others were from further away. When you get time, do go,

and have a look at them. Peter claimed that it was Tollemache-Scott who had them laid flat as he considered that looking out upon the erect gravestones spoiled his view (write to him, not me).

Robert Leake wrote this article for the parish magazine, *New Insight*, and it is worth including here:

### **Gravestone Tidy Up**

There were many interesting inscriptions on the graves revealed by the clean-up operation and many local families and visitors to the churchyard will be pleased to see the names of their ancestors from many generations ago. The Moxons, near the north door of the church, are there in number. Joseph Moxon [1816] was the former Head of Dixie Grammar School during the time of the 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet who was a declared lunatic. His predecessor as Head had been the Dixie's butler – but that is another story!

Just behind his grave is that of John Grundy. Sadly, he was just two when he died of typhus in 1846. Closer to the church vestry is John Beadman [1812], the 12-year-old son of Elizabeth Beadman who kept the George Inn [*now the Dower House*] after the death of her husband in 1817. Here too is Jeffrey Tilecote [1771], a local draper who was a friend of Thomas Simpson of Sutton Cheney, at the Grammar School, who was to become a respected mathematician.

One of the closest graves to Bosworth Hall is Anne Slade, who died on May 24, 1768, after a long illness "*borne with exemplary patience*". With her is John Slade, 35 years Master of the Grammar School, "*who after bearing a most painful disorder many years*", died March 22, 1787, aged 84. Their son, Richard, died aged just 6. Some couples have such difficult lives.

Blanch Clifford, born in 1668, is one of the earliest birth dates recorded in the churchyard. She died in 1753.

At the east end of the church it is now easier to read the inscriptions of several medical men buried there. John Bucknill [Surgeon, 1825], then Charles Harper "a chirurgeon" who died in 1739. Of course, further along is the well-known Dr Robert Pull [1755] who may have been buried alive according to local legend.

On the east side of the church are James and Ann Messenger [1801] – a familiar local name. James was a church warden for many years.

On the grave of Daniel Hickling [1796] can now be clearly read the inscription:

*"Take time, while time doth serve, 'tis time today*

*But secret Dangers still attend delay;*

*Do what thou canst, Today hath Eagle's wings*

*And who can tell what change tomorrow brings?"*

So much of interest has been made visible again by the work of the volunteers and it will be much appreciated by many. By uncovering the slate stones they are less likely to suffer the amount of weathering they would have experienced exposed to the acids within the soil, but people taking a short cut round the church to the Hall will now have to be extra cautious to avoid tripping on the gravestone edges and the grass mowers will have to try to avoid scratching the exposed stones!

Very interesting, thank you for sharing, Robert.

## **And Finally**

I am left with nothing else to say, other than to thank you for being a member of the Market Bosworth Society. You have enabled us to have another successful year. Some excellent lectures and equally excellent and convivial Summer Visits. We have been able to entertain and educate as we are required by our constitution, having a lot of fun along the way. Bosworth Links was a hugely successful project and will live on. Just wait and see. Your garden is far from safe! Please remember that all of the information is available via the website, look for the Bosworth-Links tab.

I hope you enjoy reading your newsletter. I try to put in items I think will be of interest and really enjoyed the feedback recently regarding the Weekend Chippy and the Natsopa Homes. Incidentally, if you missed me on the TV the item is on the Facebook Page, accessible via the Market Bosworth Community Library. Do get in touch if you would like to comment upon an item or have an idea for future items.

I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful 2019.



### **Contact Details**

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Nigel Palmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Palmer'.

Chairman