

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

March 2018

Dear Member

I hope you remembered to put your clocks and watches forward last Sunday. I remember some years ago one of my staff turning up to work at 10:45 very flustered. She had put all her clocks back instead of forward. She was taken to the staff room for a sit down and cup of sweet tea. It was only then that she revealed that she had taken her kids to school (twin girls as you asked) and finding the playground deserted and the gates locked called the school demanding to know why they were closed.....I repeat this now as time makes a great healer and I am, sure that she laughs about her experience every March and probably in October too. Laughter is the best medicine, or so it is said and the best thing to do in many a situation. I have been taken to task by a few of you because the Newsletter was a little long last month. I shall try to do much better this month. May I also, respectfully remind you that subscriptions fall due at the Annual General Meeting, thank you to those who have already renewed their memberships. You will read in the minutes that membership fees have increased and are now £12.00 for a single membership and £18.00 for a joint membership. Still a great bargain.

Meeting Report March 2018

As you are aware there were two meetings on the 15th March 2018. Our first, starting at 7:00 was the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) the second starting at 7:30 was our normal lecture meeting. I have included a copy of the minutes of the AGM and invite you to read them, if you were not present, obviously. I will make mention of my report to the members later, but first we were treated to a welcome return by Peter Liddle MBE with his lecture "The Archaeology of Mercian (middle Saxon) Leicestershire". Peter explained that only 20 years ago the lecture would have taken only a few minutes as so little was known of this period in our history. But more discoveries are being made and more importantly recognised as belonging to this period. One of the problems is that people living in this time were very green, to use a modern term. They used mostly natural materials, wood and thatch for example and pottery was not fired as it is later so being friable and susceptible to frost. Much of the pottery did not fare well with ploughing and was easily broken down into small pieces. Obviously wood rots in time as does thatch so not a lot of evidence left behind. Much information is found from graves, for example, Nobles were buried with a sword, Freemen were buried with a spear and Serfs very little. The Glen Parva Lady was very interesting in what she was wearing and what her grave revealed.

Middle Saxons lived mainly in small groups or farmsteads made up mainly of an extended family. They



needed a certain number to be practical, to tend the fields, care for the animals and protect themselves from thieves. Their houses were most usually rectangular, with wooden posts along the main axes

thatched roofs and earth or straw matted floors. This is why there is so little evidence remaining of this period. Peter outlined the bigger connections and the 7 kingdoms spreading across England up to Wales in the West and Scotland in the North. There was even a family tree of the Saxon kings within the Chronicles of John of Worcester dating from 635 to around 800. Mention was made of Earl Shilton, Stoke Golding and the, much bigger Staffordshire horde. Churches also play a part in discovery, Breedon and Rothley are good examples. Breedon was founded as a place of worship in around 7C similar in time to our own St, Ann's Chapel and Rothley (in the latter case the church dating back to the 13C approximately). As usual with one of Peter's lectures the audience thoroughly enjoyed the experience and Peter kindly answered numerous questions after his lecture.

On the left is St. Mary and St. Hardulph Parish church, Breedon on the Hill together with some of the Saxon carvings on display. Peter highly recommended a visit to see the church and carvings. Perhaps the Society will add it to our field trips next year.

Thank you, Peter, for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Peter will be returning to us this time in the Dixie Grammar school hall on the 30th June for his Masterclass for anyone taking part in this year's dig.

Chairman's Report

My report forms part of the AGM minutes and so I do not intend to repeat all of it here. I would like to mention some of the items and changes to which I referred. I mentioned in my report some developments or changes which will be taking place. Shortly., work will begin upon giving Wireless internet (Wifi) to much of the centre of Bosworth. This will enable visitors and locals alike to use their devices whilst in Bosworth. Following the installation of Wifi it is planned to install Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in the Market Place and elsewhere. The Market Place is at the heart of the Conservation area and I ask that you let me have your thoughts and views about both Wifi and CCTV. Are you for or against, for example. What benefits will it bring and how best can full advantage be taken of the new facilities. The contact details are below and it may be necessary to send out a questionnaire nearer to the time but for now I would like to gauge opinion and be directed by you. I also made reference to the redevelopment of the Market Place which will not take place without public consultation but again some ideas and thoughts would be useful.

I made mention that we, the Society had enjoyed another very successful year and had been busy helping several local groups and supporting local events. I am interested in hearing from you about any ideas you may have for future projects. Bosworth Links has been hugely successful, and I am not sure that we are ready to take on another project of that size, just yet. But, what would you like to see your Society doing? What would you like your Society to become involved with. Do please let me know.

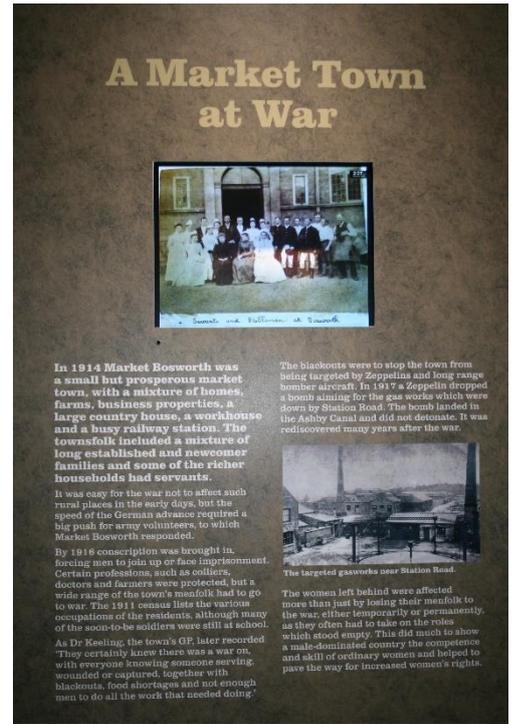
Volunteers needed

I have had one volunteer to join our Town Trail Guides (the Town Trail Guide Book is nearing its renewal) and we have room for a couple more guides. Come on, it is fun! I am also putting together a sub-committee to work on the digitalisation of the Archive. This will be quite a large project but some of the ground work has already begun. If you are interested in committee work, archiving or project management. Please make yourself known to me. In this case many hands will make light work! We shall not be working in a kitchen. If you know of someone who may be interested but is not a member, please share the contact details with them. You never know we may also gain a new member or two along the way.

The Bosworth Tommies.

The promised exhibition of the work from the Bosworth Tommies is now complete and the promised exhibition is open to the public. Sadly, the weather prevented the official opening taking place, but Lynne and I ventured forth after the thaw and our little trip was well worth doing (we fortified ourselves for the trip home with coffee and cake in the Tithe Barn). The exhibition is housed in the Gift Shop building, just to the

left as you enter the shop. It is free to visit. I would encourage everyone to visit, there are some excellent exhibits and certainly made me wonder just what life would have been like during World War 1.



I am quite sure that my feeble attempts at photography do not do the exhibition justice, but I hope they are enough to whet your appetite to go along and see the exhibition. The Society is delighted to help local groups, if you have a project on the go and need help do contact us. We will help where we can. Well done to Glynis, Ingrid and Beth who have worked so hard in support of this tremendous project.

Next Month's Lecture Meeting, April 19th, 2018 7:30 PM

We will once again be at The Free Church, Barton Road to hear Gemma Tallis tell her story she has called "Finding My Family" Gemma will share with us her voyage of discovery, what she discovered and how.

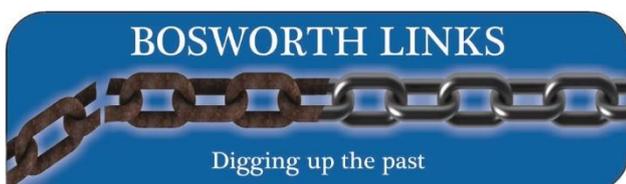
Gemma found the experience, both moving and interesting as I am sure you will too as the years are pulled back from Gemma's family history.



Gemma (standing) as we more usually see her, rushing around as the Bosworth Links Project Leader.

Do come along and support her and share in her journey. I am sure if you are thinking of researching your family history or family tree you will find it very useful. I dare say we will persuade Gemma to answer questions after her talk.

Members are admitted free of charge; guests and visitors are always welcome (subject to available room) and we usually ask for a small donation of £3.00 to help defray some of the costs.



Plans are going along nicely. We have already decided on more entertainment this year. There will be Test Pit visits, like last year but we also hope to make the washing centre in the Dixie Grammar School Hall viewable. We must be careful that items are not transferred by accident into an incorrect tray or this would affect later analysis. We have arranged for a Medieval Tile maker to join in the fun together with a Flint Knapper (if you do not know what a Flint Knapper does, you will have to come along). We are also looking to put together a guided walk of the Test Pits and other interesting parts of Bosworth. Most of us will be busy with the dig so if you would like to volunteer as a guide, do please let me know. Full training will of course be available and you will be invited to the end of weekend Bar-be-Que. We have signed up most of our pit hosts but will be approaching a few more in areas we would like to develop. If you would like to host a pit you are not too late. Let me know as soon as possible. You don't have to have your own dig team (or even have to be there on that weekend) but you can still take part and find out what secrets your garden may hold.

Contact Details

If you would like to get in touch, please contact any of the committee, Me, Robert Leake, Marion Lambourne, Glynis Oakley, Martyn Andrews, Beth Dawes, Ingrid Davison or Lynne Palmer. Alternatively you can contact me by email info@marketbosworthsociety.com or by telephone 07930149408 (leave a message if I cannot take your call) or 01455290160. There is a lot of information on the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com We also have a Facebook group Market Bosworth Society and a page Bosworth Links.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, do let me have your thoughts, views, questions, suggestions.....

Nigel Palmer,

Chairman.