

Dear Member

I hope you are enjoying or at least coping with this hottest July since 1976 (I can well remember that year). I also hope that you will enjoy reading this latest newsletter.

Meeting Report

As this is a summer month the report is about our first of two Summer visits. For this year your Committee decided that we should try to stay local and therefore, the first of our Summer Visits was to Bosworth Hall Hotel. Bosworth Hall Hotel is part of the Britannia Hotels family since the mid-



1980s It appeared to the committee that we had neglected to visit, what is Bosworth's very own stately home.

Whilst we all have different memories of the Hall it was felt that an update was due. We

approached Ruth North, Sales Manager, who putting her more usual activities aside, those of organising weddings and other events, turned her hand to helping to organising our visit. We could not have been made more welcome. Nor could we have had a more enjoyable time. I have received more positive feedback about this visit than any other event since I became your chairman. I am delighted that it was so well received by those attending.

Over thirty members had a wonderful time. We met in the Wollaston Room where we were introduced to our guides for the afternoon, Robert Leake and Peter Loseby, the MBS equivalent to Morecombe and Wise (seen above in full flow). Robert kicked us off with a fascinating history of the Hall when it was used as a hospital. Robert adopted the role of porter to be able to show us around, metaphorically, as obviously the wards, beds, nurses, and operating theatres are long gone. Peter then took over and led us through the Hall looking through the eyes of Lady Florence Dixie. Peter



described the Hall as she would have seen it when arriving shortly after her marriage to Beaumont Dixie. We went through the rooms she would come to know, from lounges to the billiard room and then to the bedrooms. This is where we had our biggest surprise.



Many bedrooms have been extensively redecorated and refurbished and judging by the luxurious pile of the carpets and beautiful curtains no expense appears to have been spared. The bedrooms and the rooms downstairs are all tastefully decorated and afford beautiful views across the County Park. Room occupancy costs a lot less than one might think, another pleasant surprise. Both Peter and Robert added anecdotes as we went along chuckling on our way. We were also given some ghostly updates by Ruth who had personally witnessed some unusual events in some of the rooms. Events not easily dismissed or ignored. Between then Robert, Peter and Ruth made the tour not just fascinating but fun as well.

We halted halfway and had a Cream Tea, a feast really. Sandwiches, cakes, scones, jam, clotted cream and gallons of tea and coffee. Refreshed and sustained we moved on. After the sumptuous tea I am sure the stairs were even steeper! Those of an adventurous spirit, later joined Robert for a walk to Smuts grave and the Ice House, via the Water Tower, whilst those less ambitious took refuge in the comfortable seats of the Wolston Lounge and imagined how lovely it must have been to be lord of the manor. A great convivial afternoon of luxury right on our doorstep.

Next Meeting

Once again not a meeting but a Summer Visit. Keeping to our local theme we are to visit the Battlefield Line. You will see from the flyer I have attached that the visit will hopefully prove to be very interesting and once again very social. We will not only get to see some items not normally available to the visiting public but will also have the chance to sit and have a chat, possibly reminisce about trips to the coast and elsewhere on that very line. The visit will be on the 16th August. Please see the flyer for all details. You will be asked to pay upon arrival at Shackerstone Station. I do hope you will be able to come along and enjoy the visit. The more the merrier I say.

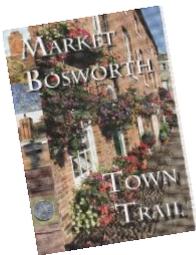
Membership

I have recently written out to those who have yet to renew for this year. Thankfully the response has been quite good but there are a few who have not responded. Whilst I hate to lose members because of the GDPR rules I will have to cease sending Newsletters after this one. If you have not yet

renewed then please do so to prevent having to re-apply. You may renew (single membership, £12.00 joint membership £18.00) by cheque, either post or drop in to me at 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth. CV13 0JU or The Forge, Park Street, Market Bosworth. CV13 0LL or you may pay at our Summer Visit, or electronically using, sorting Code 40-32-03 and Account Number 91001108. If using the latter method kindly ensure you add your surname & postal Code to the reference field.

Famous Bosworthians

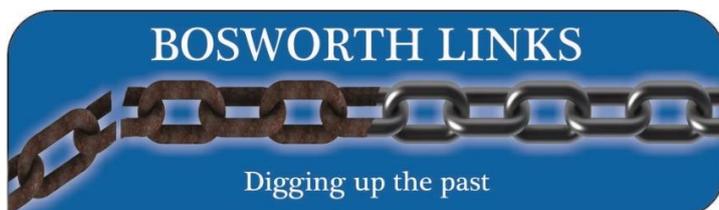
I have received an excellent response from members who have suggested several names for consideration. I am in the process of researching them and will then ask you to vote for the one you feel is most worthy of recognition. In the event of a tie your committee will make the final decision, which may mean that we will support more than one candidate. Although not necessarily the same year. Please continue to contact me and submit your suggestions. It will be nice to see even more Blue and Green plaques around our town than we now have.



Town Trail Guides

The new guide booklets are coming along nicely. I have received news today that the final choice of photographs has been completed. This was no easy task as there are a myriad of beautiful and interesting things around Bosworth.

Now that we have three new guides (and shortly a new booklet) we would like to conduct even more tours. We can accommodate tours on most days at most times and can take from ninety minutes to two hours, depending on the time available and tour desired. Why not have a tour and see what you could discover about our beautiful market town? We can accommodate groups of any size. So, if you would like to show your family around, have colleagues curious about Bosworth. Or if you are a member of a club or society why not suggest a guided tour to that committee? Now the cost is only £3.00 per person which includes a copy of the Town Trail Guide. It is a lovely way to spend a summer's evening and the feedback we receive is always very positive.



Bosworth Links is a project by the Market Bosworth Society and is a Community Led Archaeological project. It all started with an idea Peter Loseby and I had three years ago now and has developed into its current form. On the 21st and 22nd of July we held our second of two planned Big Digs. Last year we had a hugely successful dig with over 8500 finds (pottery, glass, pipe bowls, pipe stems, coins all weighing in at over 80 kilogrammes (or just over 12 stones 8lbs if you prefer).

Last year the weather was not as bright as this year and one wag suggested that we had dug twenty-three swimming pools following the deluge on that Saturday night. Fortunately, the weather was kinder on Sunday and we managed to keep dry. This year we had the opposite problem. The dig took place under a blistering Sun on Saturday although Sunday was a little kinder, we were glad of the

shade of the gazebos, especially on the Parish Field. Thanks to The Market Bosworth Festival for lending them to us and to Bosworth In Bloom for delivering them.

The dig was an enormous success with a variety of finds being turned up, some expectedly and some not so. The pattern of the finds was different to last year which is what we had hoped for. Not every pit turned up a volume of finds which is important in helping us to understand where the centre of Bosworth was originally and how and when it might have moved. We will be in a great position after these finds are analysed to answer the two main questions, what happened to Bosworth between 410 AD and 1086 AD? And how did the settlement of Bosworth develop?

We were very excited to be visited by Professor Carenza Lewis, who spent the complete day with us and was very impressed by the warm welcomes and happy diggers she encountered as she visited the test pit sites. Carenza formulated this method of archaeology, where pits are dug where people still live and not where people may once have lived. Carenza was very complimentary about how we had gone about the dig and gave a brief introduction on Saturday morning. She referred to the similarities shown by our research with that of her own in other parts of the country. Carenza explained that our project had attracted attention from a worldwide audience who were gaining confidence that they too could carry out a project like Bosworth links. We have become internationally recognised. Carenza is hoping to take this method into the Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. She had asked if we could accommodate Johan Verspay, who is studying for his PHD in archaeology and is working with Carenza on the European project. Johan spent a couple of weeks with us and it was on the very last day as he was about to leave for home that he heard that the European Commission had agreed to their request for a grant



We were also visited by The Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Jan Kirby who also enjoyed the events on the Parish Field and meeting some of the test pit diggers. We were delighted to welcome Peter Foss, author of the History of Bosworth who enjoyed chatting with our volunteers and pit hosts. Peter is very knowledgeable about Market Bosworth and was able to share this knowledge to enhance our understanding of the relevance of some of the finds.

Our Friend Malcolm Lockett gives the Lady Mayor a warm welcome



As can be seen, nothing was left to chance (from left to right) as Gemma and Johan checked out the children's finds pit. Harris recording an interview with Carenza and Mathew and finally Carenza explains some finds at the Grey House, Park Street.

The Bosworth Festival of Archaeology, on Saturday 21st on the Parish Field was a remarkable success. We had a few hundred visitors who enjoyed seeing two test pits being dug, a display of hand

knapped flint together with a display of Medieval Tile making, where visitors could try their hand at making tiles. Added to this was a display of last year's

find and our friend Malcolm Locket, Chairman of the Hinckley Archaeology Society, brought with him a display of pre-historic flints collected over many years. BBC Radio Leicester also visited us. I took part in a live interview with their travelling reporter Harris. Those of a strong disposition will find it on the Market Bosworth Society Facebook page. We also recorded several interviews which will go out over the next week or so.



The Barbeque at the end was well attended by our volunteers and hosts with over 130 volunteers and hosts attending. Add to these 250 school pupils from each of Bosworth's three schools and you get a sense of how far reaching was this project. A great second dig. The feedback meeting, which will be open to all will take place in November, date to be advised. I would like to end by saying a huge thank you to our generous sponsors, The Heritage Lottery Fund, the Parish and Community Fund, The Dixie

Educational Foundation, Market Bosworth Parish Council, The Richard III Legacy Fund, and the Heart of England Co-operative society.

But most importantly you. Who by being a member and supporting the Society made all this possible, our wonderful pit hosts and our veritable army of volunteers who undaunted by concrete like soil made it all happen. My hard working and enthusiastic committee who gave of their time freely to ensure a successful project. I would also like to thank Mathew Morris and his team from the University of Leicester Archaeological Services who supported our teams magnificently. I cannot ever say just how very grateful I am to you all.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman
Market Bosworth Society

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