



December 2021

Dear Member

Welcome to your December Newsletter. Traditionally December is when we look back over the last year and whilst I do have a few more items to mention than last year it has still been a difficult year for many of us, missing family and having plans disrupted. Despite all of that I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter and that you also have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will start with our traditional messages from your committee.

Messages from your Committee



" What a strange year it was, with few meetings because of 'you-know-what'. It was so good to meet up again in the autumn on Thursday evenings at the Free Church despite a few continued restrictions. Have you realised how much sanitising work was carried out by Nigel and Lynne before and after our meetings? Thanks to them both for making meetings possible.

It was also good to meet up on our visit to the Blaby Icehouse. That was certainly a highlight for me, wondering if the example at Bosworth Hall could also be restored?

I was excited also by the small research group led by Ingrid which has been researching the walled garden which had been so productive until the Bosworth Park Infirmary closed. Former head gardener, Rod Proudman, and his daughter Louise revealed what the garden was like and found lots of pictures taken at the time they actually lived in the garden.

Finally, thanks to every member of the Society for their continued support and friendship and to Nigel for all the work he undertakes to make sure that the Society will continue to function and grow.

Happy Christmas everyone and let us hope for a healthier year ahead".

Robert



The year 2021 will certainly be memorable but because of covid the regular interesting Society meetings and visits had to be suspended. The long closure of premises at the start of the year meant a return of long hair of the 1970's which I quite enjoyed. The resumption of Society events has been very welcome and for members who have missed them please check your inbox for the earlier monthly newsletters. Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Martyn.



We have had another year of restrictions but with getting the vaccine in the spring it felt that things were getting better. Unfortunately, it looks as though even with the booster jabs, we are still not out of the woods. Let us hope that we are not exchanging Christmas gifts well into the spring. I was sorry not to be able to attend the Icehouse visit in August due to recovering from a hip operation. My goodness it feels like a miracle, finally being without pain and back to walking, driving and even gardening. It was such a wonderful feeling to be able to meet in person in September to hear about David Aylsbrook's life in Market Bosworth fire brigade. We

are so fortunate that there are men and women in our community prepared to do this vital job. Roger King held me captivated in October as he informed us about the very early history of Newbold Verdon. I for one wish to hear more on this topic. November's talk from Marianne Whiting introduced us to the Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and Frisians. What interesting and varied topics to welcome us back from isolation. Let us hope that

this new variant of the virus is managed by the vaccines, and we can look forward to more interesting talks in 2022. Stay safe and look forward to seeing you all next year. Marion



This year we were trying out online Zoom meetings and a lasting memory is Nigel's 'high scoring' quiz where we learnt about the colour of French toilet paper!



Disappointingly, our planned Bosworth Society visits had to be cancelled but then, in August, Nigel was able to invite members to visit the restored icehouse at Bouskell Park, Blaby. Up to this point, there had been no indoor lectures for months, so it felt good to greet each other on arrival. It seemed like a big day out after all the Covid restrictions. Our guided tour of the grounds and icehouse was most interesting, particularly as Bosworth Hall also had its own icehouse in the garden landscape. We discussed whether it could have been of a similar size.

Currently, we are researching a time when Rod Proudman was Head Gardener at Bosworth Park Infirmary in the 1970's. His help has been invaluable, and we hope to have something to share with you later on. Glynis and Ingrid



It was such a long time before we could all get together, even our visit to the Blaby Icehouse was delayed, but it finally went ahead and was a lovely afternoon. It was nice to have a walk around the grounds and to see the icehouse all explained by Gemma.

It was great to get the lectures underway again and thanks to David, Roger, and Marianne the end of the lecture and visit season ended on a high. We are lucky to have people in our community that give so willingly and serve us all so well. I have enjoyed the visits and the lectures and look forward to the coming year. Merry Christmas to everyone. Lynne



Being your chairman has given me the chance to meet some interesting and delightful people. One such is the talented Walter Baynes. Walter recently invited Lynne and I to the last ever meeting of the Dixie Grammar School Founders Day & Reunion. It has been decided to end the reunions after 37 years. Not only was I invited to attend but I was also honoured to be asked to cut the celebration cake, baked by Mrs Yates, wife of my Geography teacher, Terry. A serious business as you can see. It was Terry that encouraged me, many years ago, to seek out a small group of local historians that met in the High School Community Centre to help with my 'O' level project. This group was of course the foundation of the Market Bosworth Society, odd how history has a way of repeating itself. I look forward to an exciting programme of Lectures and Summer Visits put together by your committee. I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their hard work over the last challenging and trying year and wish to them and to you a Very Merry Christmas. Nigel

Can You Help?

I received an email from Peter Folwell of Aspect asking if we could help. The email from Peter read: "Hello, I am looking for a local expert on the history surrounding Twycross.

Can you help? Specifically, the origins of the name "Harris Bridge" that crosses the A444."

If you can help please email info@marketbosworthsociety.com or directly to Peter sbbh99@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you.

Ingrid found that the Twycross History Group had folded but there is a nearby group in Sheepy that are active. Anyone wishing to contact the Sheepy History Society can do so by calling Lynne Percival on 01827 880721 or by email using sheepychistory@btinternet.com

I hope we can help to shed some light upon the origins of Harris Bridge.

Tony Squires

I received an email from Chris Peat about our late friend Tony Squires. Chris had received an email about Tony. A bronze oakleaf plaque is now in place in Bradgate Park. The plaque is within the memorial wood which can be reached by the tarmac pathway which crosses the park. The wood is not too far from the deer barn. The plaque is near the entrance on the left-hand side.



Next Lecture January 20th, 2022

TWEAKING THE DRAGON'S TAIL – THE ZEEBRUGGE RAID OF 23RD APRIL 1918

The story of the midnight raid against the German-occupied port of Zeebrugge in April 1918 is one of the most stirring actions undertaken by the British Navy in the entire Great War. Now fading into comparative obscurity, the valour displayed by our Marines and Sailors, which resulted in the award of eight Victoria Crosses, is worthy of greater remembrance . . .

Do come along and join us on January 20th, 2022, at 7:30 pm in the Free Church, Barton Lane, Market Bosworth and hear about those **eight Victoria Crosses!**

Booking essential on info@marketbosworthsociety.com

Sir Thomas Cope's Electric car.

At the Dixie Grammar School Founders Day and Reunion, I was chatting to Walter and a few others, and the rocking horse cropped up, information supplied in an earlier Newsletter by Alan Eames, who will be coming to lecture us next September. Another member (Jeff Pierce) offered some more information and remembered Sir Thomas driving an electric car long before it became fashionable. He followed it up with an email.

Hi

I promised last Saturday that I would look into the electric car that Sir Thomas Cope used to drive. After much searching, I found a list of makers of electric cars in the 1940s/50s. There was one Leicester company, Partridge Wilson Engineering, Leicester so I looked it up in Grace's Guide to Industrial History. The Partridge seems to have been dropped but Wilson Electrical listed a Wilson Emergency Runabout which I am almost

certain is Sir Thomas's car. My wife thinks so, as does Alf Pallet who is going to check with Ken Coleman for reasons given later.

Google Wilson Electric Grace's Guide and it is the second car down.

Alf remembers the number plate as 498CNR, but the DVLA website yielded nothing other than the fact that this number existed and as it was available as a 'cherished' number plate the inference is that it no longer exists.



At the age of 13 or 14 my wife was walking through the park towards the Bull in The Oak to babysit for John and Mary Coleman. A strange car stopped and offered her a lift which she, as her mother had told her to, refused. She was therefore embarrassed to find the car parked outside John and Mary's on her arrival. The driver was Tom Coleman, John's uncle, and Sir Thomas's 'man'. These three are dead but Tom had other nephews amongst them Ken Coleman. At this time Ken would also be 13/14 and he was of course very interested in cars. Alf is checking what he remembers. I will keep you informed. Jeff Pierce

Marionne Whiting Author and Guest Speaker.

We had an incredibly interesting lecture from Marianne in November and at that meeting she had brought some of her books. Not everyone had an opportunity to make a purchase and I have been asked by several members where they may buy copies of Marianne's books. Marianne has kindly supplied a short synopsis and where her books may be obtained (is an electronic copy still a book?).

“Shieldmaiden is the story of Sigrid, a young Viking woman in Cumbria in the mid-10th Century. Her father is accused of treason and killed during a raid on his farm. Sigrid is faced with a life in poverty unless she can persuade the King of Norway to allow her to inherit her father's farm. But she is the impoverished daughter of an outlaw and Norway is far away. Sigrid has nothing to help her in her quest except her wit and her skill with the sword. Books two and three, To Save a Kingdom and Honour is All, follow her struggle to be accepted by her Cumbrian neighbours while the war between the Viking Kingdom of York and the Anglo Saxons draws her in.”

The books are available as e-books from Amazon (look under Books and Marianne Whiting [Amazon.co.uk : Marianne Whiting](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Marianne-Whiting)), printed copies are available directly from me and I'm very happy for people to email me on mariannewhiting@btinternet.com. Book 1 and 2 are £8 each, book 3 is £7 or why not buy all three for £20.

Questions Always Questions!

I have been grateful to Beth who has supplied many of the funny and amusing jokes, photographs, and videos which I am sure cheered us all up during lockdown. Beth has shared this with me, and I think rather than a quiz this month, this is a little gentler on top of all that turkey and Christmas pudding.

1 ... Why?

Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

BECAUSE

When buttons were invented, they were expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons

on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that is where women's buttons have remained since.

2. WHY?

Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

BECAUSE

This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

3. WHY?

Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

BECAUSE

In France, where tennis became popular, the round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'the egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans (naturally), mispronounced it 'love.'

4. WHY?

Why do Xs at the end of a letter signify kisses?

BECAUSE

In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X stood for an oath to fulfil obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

5. WHY?

Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called passing the buck'?

BECAUSE

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

6. WHY?

Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

BECAUSE

In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the

glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

7. WHY?

Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

BECAUSE

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the Centre of attention

8. WHY?

Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

BECAUSE

Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they reach, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

9. WHY?

In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

BECAUSE

When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' He had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to go with her.

Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into caddie.

10 ... WHY?

Why are many coin collection jar banks shaped like pigs?

BECAUSE

Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

The Boathouse at Bosworth Country Park (near to Beau Pool)

I asked last month for help with information about the boathouse and I know a several members are conducting research. I received an email from Richard Liddington and two emails from Jeff and Fiona Frisby, with illustrations.

The first email was from Richard:

Hi Nigel

I remember some of Bosworth Scouts camping in the park one Whit holiday. The punt was there but there was water in the bottom. There was a debate about using it, but I cannot remember if we did. I also remember sir W. Dixie turning up on to the cricket pitch about lunch time in his dressing gown meeting someone about a cricket match. It would be Circa 1959. I remember it was very overgrown round the lake.

Richard

And then from Fiona Frisby

Dear Nigel,

My sisters, Libbie, Alyson, Sarah, and I, have many happy memories of Beau Pool, or the lake as we referred to it, when we lived at Park House in the 1950`s.



The Vero family with our parents, Bertram, and Josephine.

I remember playing doctors and nurses in the boat house with Biddy Kelly, the Doctor`s daughter, and Alyson remembers playing there with Biddy`s sister, Sheila, see photograph. There were steep steps down to the punt below. Libbie and I swam in the deep side of the lake with our mother and played on the punt.

Father fished for trout which we were allowed to catch and take ashore. Sarah rode her tricycle into the shallow side on one occasion and remembers falling off a yellow Li-Lo on another. There were many trees round the lake in those days, quite different today.

With best wishes,

Fiona Frisby

This was followed up by another email from Geoff with another image.

Hi Nigel,



Attached are a further photo of Beau Pool.

Kind regards,

Geoff

What a lovely time they were all having! Please continue to look for photographs and to send me your recollections.

It is my turn!

If are like me, you turn to the Ask Aspect article once Aspect is delivered you will have read about some recollections of a wall on Shenton Lane. I knew a bit about that wall and so emailed Robert about it. Robert suggested that my article was far too long for Ask Aspect, but it may be of interest to MBS members. Someone also gently pointed out that I am always asking members to add their recollections and it was time I



contributed. I had a wonderful childhood helping out on South Farm. I met so many kind and knowledgeable people and learned so much which has stood me in good stead all of my life.

South Farm (see left) as I knew it was around 240 acres on which Sam and Tertius Perry grew a variety of crops and animals. From blackcurrants to Guinea fowl eggs. There was another field in Cadeby, opposite the Hall on the Quarry side of the A447. It was Tertius who last kept cattle on the Gated Lane. Here is one story for you.

That wall on Shenton Lane

Having seen the article about the wall in Shenton Lane in Aspect I thought I might add some of my reminiscences to the general fund of knowledge. My association with South Farm began one late August day in 1966 when I was in my ninth year. I can date this with reasonable accuracy as the New Holland combine harvester had just arrived and was a 'D' registration. Number plate suffixes began in 1963 and therefore 'D' was in use three years later from August 1966 to August 1967. The combine harvester replaced a reaper which I never got to know as it was part-exchanged. I did get to know the wonderful threshing machine which stood for many years between the bays of straw and hay bales and the cattle yards. The pigs set up home beneath it and its many angles supplied homes for a variety of implements, tools, bits of wood and bags of string.

The New Holland combine harvester (referred to as '*the combine*') was undoubtedly the biggest thing I had ever seen. It seemed taller, longer, and mightier than a double-decker bus and made far more noise, or so it seemed. It had arrived and was being used to reap the front field which is now part Cemetery and part field.



The crop was barley, but I cannot be entirely sure. The machine was magnificent and ran entirely on immense rubber belts. The clutch simply widened the gap of the pulley (the disc with a 'V' in which the belt ran) until friction was lost. Belts drove every moving part of the combine. There were four hydraulic rams. Two actuated the bed on which the cutters were found. This grazed the ground and the cutters cut through the corn which was collected by the reaper. The reaper had the other two hydraulic rams which enabled them to be raised for wheat and tall corn and lowered for barley or short corn. Once set for a particular crop they

were seldom adjusted. It was policy, I learned, on South Farm not to waste anything and so the operator, Sam Perry, later Tertius, stood rather than sat and watched closely keeping the bed as close to the ground as

possible to avoid wasting straw. Straw was a valuable commodity in those days. When the driver got it wrong it allowed lumps of soil or worse, cobbles, to enter the concave (the bit between the cutting/reaping bed and the riddles) with the straw. A quick stop was needed to quell the grating sounds!

Whilst in motion the movement appeared smooth and gentle but when stationary the machine rocked forward and backwards in time to the riddles, accompanied by the rush of the fan blowing chaff away from the corn. All was powered by a 6-cylinder Fordson diesel engine, big sister to the Fordson tractor engine also on the farm. Behind the driver was the bin that collected the corn, served by a series of augers. If you did not pay attention, and the bin became too full corn would pour down the back of your neck! The bin when full and would have to be emptied into a trailer for transition to the storage bins. But I digress.

I was encouraged by John Rawson who had been working on the farm part-time since a schoolboy. Even though John was long past school age and was a Bank Manager for Midland Bank such was his love of the farm that he continued to work there on Saturdays all year round, and evenings in the Summer. In those days, 1966, South Farm was owned by both Samuel and Tertius Perry, later owned by Tertius after the tragic death of Sam.

Much of what I am about to tell you happened over 50 years ago and so my memories may not be correct. I have tried to put down here what I can remember, and I am sure that someone will be able to chip in and help if I have anything wrong.

I lived then, with mum and dad, in Warwick Lane as I do now. To reach the farm I walked along Shenton Lane and the wall was not visible then. It was hidden by two or three cottages. In the Workhouse Master's house, adjacent, lived [I think] Bert Cooling and Arthur Drackley (brother to Bill Drackley who ran the Harcourt Mill and later helped Tertius with his cows and calves). Bert was known locally as 'Yammy' due to a very unfortunate stammer. We were not so politically correct in those days. Arthur at that time was nearing retirement but worked at the Market Bosworth Sewage Farm or Filter Beds. Arthur was an exceptionally talented man and could turn his hand to anything agricultural, also an excellent gardener, but hedge laying was his speciality. I used to watch in awe as Arthur could cut through a branch of a hedge, just enough to lay it but not completely severing it. It takes a good deal of skill and a sharp axe. I tried and became proficient after several years, but Arthur was an expert. It was whilst we were cutting and laying a hedge, now gone, in the Far Grounds along Shenton Lane that Arthur was the brunt of a bit of banter due to his day job. He pointed out to us ignorant lot that the standards at the Filter Beds were extremely high, and they were only allowed to pass one part per million through the pipes to the water main. Tertius replied that it could be unfortunate, when drawing your morning glass of water, to find you were their millionth customer! How we laughed, even Arthur laughed at that one. Amazing that 50 years later I can still recall it. Arthur taught me to sharpen an axe. He kept an old scythe whetstone in his pocket to hone the axe whilst on the job. At home he would use a fine file to get an edge and then the whetstone to add a sharper edge. The secondary edge would wear quite quickly hence the need to carry the stone. The stone would be wet from a ditch, drinking bottle or saliva depending on what was available. Arthur would always materialise as I walked down the lane to the farm. I used to leave a bit earlier to allow time to chat to him. I loved talking to him about farming, wildlife, and flowers. I was often the only person he would see that day and even at a youthful age I knew I should be available for him.



In front of the cottages was a huge cooking apple tree (similar to the one pictured left). Bramley possibly but it was over thirty feet high. Every autumn Tertius would ask me to help him carry the Big Wooden Ladder, a ladder of similar length to the height of the tree, from its storage place in the Combine shed to the cottages' garden. I would stand on the end whilst Tertius walked the ladder up. He would lift it over his head and then walk towards me with his hands on the rungs until he was near enough to embrace me. Between us we would

position the now perpendicular ladder against the tree. Tertius would ascend with basket, and I would stand on the bottom as ballast. Once all apples in reach had been picked the ladder would be moved. I remember one October we were picking the apples and broke off for lunch. It was a very foggy day. I returned to the farm and as Tertius was not about decided to wait by the tree. As I neared the tree, I saw movement about six feet up the trunk. Moving carefully around I was delighted to see a common woodpecker. The poor bird seemed hopelessly lost and was seeking sanctuary in the tree. He looked at me and I looked at him. We were less than four feet apart. We remained like that for what seemed like an age until he flew to a nearby tree. I did not pursue him but was incredibly pleased to have seen one of these rare and timid creatures so close.

Rumours began to emerge that the Local Authority was planning to charge rates on empty properties. Previously only inhabited properties had been subject to this local tax. Tertius owned the cottages attached to the wall. As they were not fit for habitation Tertius decided to pull them down rather than pay rates on them. I cannot recall if there were two or three, but I do recall that not attached but close by was a row of toilets. There were three toilets (which makes me think there were three cottages). The thing I thought odd was that whilst there were three doors there were no internal walls and so entry via any door brought you into the communal earth closet. Earth closets were not connected to the sewage system but were either provided with a metal pale or they sat over a hole. The metal pale would be topped off with earth and peat as used until it was time to empty them (usually at night by the Midden Man) who would empty the contents onto his cart and replace the bucket. If a hole were employed the same system with earth and peat would be employed but once full the hole would be dug out again, the proceeds being taken away in a cart and added to the midden from where it would be scattered upon the fields.

Work started on the demolition with the slates being removed from the roofs and taken back to South Farm where they were carefully stacked just behind and to the west of the farmhouse. I cannot really remember if they were slates or tiles, but I think slates. They were incredibly hard wearing and would last for ever. The wood slats were removed and used for a variety of jobs around the farm, usually fixing a hole in a fence or hedge. I have had a look round on our walks but cannot see any now. I expect they have all rotted away. The roof beams and trusses were also harvested and were used when Tertius built his lean-to garage to the right of the green doors at the farmhouse. We could teach today's generation a thing or two about recycling. Nothing was wasted on South Farm. We even had to cut bail twine at the knot when using the hay or straw. That meant that there was a decent length of twine available for re-use. My Dad had a bagful I gave him from Tertius for many years and used it to tie up plants not trousers. We even tied the lengths together (an evening occupation in front of the TV) and wound them around a piece of wood to be reused in the bailer. They worked fine on straw as it was lighter and easier to compact but there were too many breaks when using it on hay.

Where was I? Oh yes, the wall. Once the roof was off and the materials carefully stored the walls had to



come down. Before we started, I had a look around the cottages and found a pair of old rugby boots hanging behind one of the doors. They were size eleven, too big and too old for me but it does give us a clue to the last occupants. Does anyone know? There was also a mirror on the wall which I removed and placed in a safe place, not wishing for seven years bad luck! Tertius had decided that the cottages should be pulled down not knocked down. He bought a long steel hawser, similar to the one pictured left, second hand; it came from a ship's anchor or at least it was used to tie a ship to the quay. Into each end had been made an eye like that of a

needle. One end was passed through a window of a cottage and then through a hole knocked into the wall with a sledgehammer or another opening like a window or a door. The two eyelets would then be attached to the drawbar of the tractor with a drawpin (drawpin: fancy name for a long thick bolt). That job of making holes was considered too dangerous for me, so I was given the tractor to drive. Once Tertius and John were standing clear, I would select a low gear. It was a Ford 5000. Another diversion: the Ford 5000 (shown below,) had four lower gears and four higher gears with synchromesh and foot accelerator so that gear changes could be made in an upward direction. There was no synchromesh going down the gears, so I learned how to double-de-clutch, quite quickly, a skill I have to this day. The diesel engine produced sixty-

nine horsepower or just over fifty horsepower at the drawbar, taking the rest to move itself along. It had a top speed of around twenty-two miles per hour which was fast enough as it still took ages to stop even with disc brakes, hence the urgent need to learn how to change down gears. It had a new feature built into the rear top-link. Implements were attached to the top link (centre top) and the hydraulic arms, one each side. This meant that they were attached at three points. The arms were actuated by hydraulic power which in turn



meant that implements could be raised and lowered as needed. When ploughing if the plough hit a rock or extremely hard ground the top link would automatically shorten lifting the plough. It was something to watch as it was adjusting the whole time. Some did not like it as they felt it meant that the plough did not go deep

enough whilst I was happy as it speeded up the boring process of driving up and down a field at 3 mph, entertained by the sawing action of the top link.

But I digress [again!]. Having selected the gear, I would let in the clutch and move forward to take up the slack and pause. Once the hawser was tight, I would stand on the accelerator and let out the clutch. The engine would roar, and a plume of smoke would escape from the silencer. The wheels would scramble for grip and the tractor would veer left and right as each wheel found grip in turn. Inching forward the wall would begin to crumble and then fall. Bigger walls needed a different technique. The tractor was fitted with a differential lock which meant that both driving wheels had to turn together at the same rate. This obviously meant that the wheel without grip could not just spin uselessly whilst the gripped wheel remained stationary. The pedal was on the right-hand side behind the accelerator. Only having one right foot I would swap to the hand throttle and stand on the diff-pedal making sure I shut off the hand throttle quickly at the end of the run (do you remember the apple tree? Well, done). Some parts needed a bit of a run up, but we were worried about breaking the hawser, so it was more of an amble up. It took most of the day but once the cottages were down the toilets were next. The lovely old Carlton Stone wall was left as it was the boundary wall between Tertius's land and Southfield Way. Once the cottages and the toilets were down, we set about breaking up the bricks into separate bricks and then into halves and thirds. These were loaded onto a two-wheeled trailer and used to fill in potholes in the field gateways. One load went into the home field gateway next to the two cottages just below the farmhouse, where Norman and Mrs Statham lived next to Freddie and Lil Hextall. Everything was recycled or stored ready to be recycled, absolutely nothing was wasted.

The experience of demolishing these cottages served me as good training when we demolished the old farmhouse at Tertius's farm in Wappenham, Northamptonshire. That was the result of the Poll Tax in 1974, but that is another story.

I have many happy memories of South Farm and the people who lived and worked on it and nearby. History repeated itself as my father spent his childhood working on a farm in Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, then owned by the Gilliver family. I learned some valuable life lessons and whilst on the farm the adults were in loco parentis and did a brilliant job of keeping me safe and helping to bring me up.

I do hope you enjoyed this insight into my childhood, and I hope it will encourage others to send in their reminiscences. Come along, do not be shy!

Battle of Bosworth Heraldic shields



129 John Ratte

I have been unable to discover anything about John Ratte other than he was a squire and took part in the Battle of Bosworth. He fought on the side of Richard III. He was also Attainted by the victorious Henry VII in the Parliament which followed.

LOYAL MEN WITH THE KING AT BOSWORTH

ILLEGAL ATTAINDERS BY ORDER OF HENRY TUDOR PASSED IN THE SO-CALLED PARLIAMENT OF 1485

Richard III., King of England, K.G. } *Slain at Bosworth.*
John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, K.G. }
Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, K.G. } *Prisoner at Bosworth.*
Francis Viscount Lovell, K.G. } *Slain at Stoke.*
Walter Lord Ferrers, K.G. } *Slain at Bosworth.*
John Lord Zouch. }
Sir James Harington. (Clerk of the Council.) } *At Bosworth.*
Sir Robert Harington. } *At Bosworth.*
Sir Richard Charlton. } *At Bosworth.*
Sir Richard Ratcliffe, K.G. } *Slain at Bosworth.*
Sir William Berkeley, K.B. (Knight of the Bath at the Coronation) }
Sir Robert Brackenbury. (Constable of the Tower.) } *Slain at*
Bosworth.
Sir Thomas Pilkington. (Brother-in-law of the Haringtons.) } *Slain*
at Stoke.
Sir Robert Middleton.
Walter Hopton, Esq. (Treasurer of the Household.)
William Catesby, Esq. (Chancellor of the Exchequer.) } *Murdered*
at Leicester.
Roger Wake, Esq.
William Sapcote, Esq., of Huntingdonshire.
Humphrey Stafford, Esq. } *Put to death by Henry VII.*
William Clarke, Esq., of Wenlock.
Walter St. Germain, Esq.
Walter Watkin, Esq. (Herald.)
Richard Revell, Esq., of Derbyshire.
Thomas Pulter, Esq., of Kent.
John Welch, Esq., otherwise Hastings.
John Kendall, Esq. (Secretary of State.) } *Slain at Bosworth.*
John Buck, Esq. (Comptroller of the Household.) } *Murdered at*
John Ratte, Esq.
William Brampton, Esq., of Burford.

42 Thomas Betanson, priest, to Sir Robert Plumpton, (13 December
1485) (No. 148, p. 91)

Sir, if it please your mastership,¹ on the Satterday after our Lady Day² the Parliament was prolonged vnto the xxvj day of January,³ & then it begineth again. Sir, my lord schanchler publyshed in the Parliament house the same day þat the kings gud grace shall weede my Lady Elizabeth, & so she is taken as quene, & þat [at] the marage ther shall be great iustying.⁴ Also, Sir, ther [be]⁵ divers lords & gentlemen attended by the Parliament, which be these: & first, Richard, late duke of Gloucceter, **John**, duke of Norfolk, Thomas, earle of Surrey, Francis, Lord Lovell, Watter, Lord Ferris, **John**, Lord Such; knights, Sir James Hereryngton, Sir Robt Heryngton, Sir Richard Rithiff, Sir William Barkley, Sir Robt Brakenbery, Sir Thomas Pilkynton, Sir Robt Mydleton; and squires, Walter Hopton, [p. 92] Wylliam Catisby, Roger Wake, William Sapcote, Homfray Stafferd, Wylliam Clarke, Galfryd Seryng<men>, Watter Watkin, herold of hermes, Rich: Revell of Darbyshire, Thoms Pultor of Surrey, **John** Walste, **John** Kendall, secretary, **John** Buke, **John** Ratte, William Brampton: the are attended for certayne. Howbeit ther was many gentlemen agaynst it, but it wold not be, for yt was the kings pleasure.⁶

Sir, here is much spech þat we shall have aschip agayne, & walchmen; & much spech is in the kyngs house & of his houshold men.⁷ Sir, other tydings is none here as yett. Ther is much runyng [...] amongst þe lords, but no man wett what it is. It is sayd yt is not wele amongst them. Sir, I send your mastership a letter by Roger, Mr Mydleton man. Sir, if ther be any newer things, your mastership shall have word, if I can gitt it caryed from London. *In die [Sent] Lucie Virgini.*

In another part of the book, he is referred to as “loyal to the end” but it does not say who is end. His or King Richard III’s. I shall carry on looking but for now he must remain a mystery. If he were slain in the battle, I think it would be

noted but it could account for the lack of information about him. If any member has any information, please do contact me.



130 Sir Thomas Windsor of Stanwell, Middlesex 1441 – 1485

Sir Thomas (also known as Thomas Wyndsore) was born in Stanwell, Staines, Middlesex on the 21st of January 1441. He was the son of Miles Windsor, Lord Stanwell, and Joan Windsor. He was cousin to the famous John 'Catte' Catesby made famous in the rhyme by William Colingbourne, lampooning the recently crowned Richard III. He was the Constable of Windsor Castle from 1484 to 1485. He fought for Richard at the Battle of Bosworth and died in Stanwell Middlesex on the 29th September 1485. Possibly of wounds received in the battle. He was married to Dame Elizabeth Litton. He had twelve children amongst them were Elizabeth (Fowler) Alice (Puttenham) Anne (Corbet) William

Windsor, Sir Andrews Windsor, who became the 1st Baron Windsor. I have been unable to prove the cause of death of Sir Thomas, but as he was only 44 years of age and he died so soon after the Battle of Bosworth it is impossible to rule out an injury sustained in that battle or even a death sentence conveyed by King Henry VII. He may have suffered from poor health as an adult, he made out his will in 1479 when aged thirty-eight. This could have been in preparation of a battle, but none took place until 1483 and so unlikely. The main details of his will are as follows, "My body to be buried in the north side of the quire of the Church of our Lady of Stanwell (shown left) before the image of our Lady, where



the sepulchre of our Lord standeth; whereupon I will that there be made a plain tomb of marble of a competent height, to the intent that it may bear the blessed body of our Lord and the sepulchre at the time of Easter, to stand upon the same, and with mine arms and a scripture convenient to be set about the same tomb, by the advice of mine executors and overseers under written"

Family members mentioned:

to pray for the souls of "John Andrews and of Elizabeth his wife, and of Dame Alice Wiche" his wife's parents and sister, deceased

"Elizabeth my wife, whom I constitute my executor"

""Elizabeth his wife who survives"

"Andrews my son

"William Windsor, my son"

"Anthony Windesore, my youngest son"

"to Ann, my daughter, c marks towards her marriage"

"my daughters Elizabeth and Alice be contented with such goods as I delivered to their marriages"

Another daughter, Bridget was a legatee in the 1474 of her grandmother's, Dame Elizabeth Andrews.

Another daughter, Margaret Windsor, late Prioress of the late monastery of Sion was a legatee in the 1543 will of her brother, Andrews Windsor.

Inquisitions and post-mortem for Thomas Wyndesore, esq. took place on the 30th September and secured the inheritance for Andrews Wyndesore his son and heir, aged eighteen and more.



131 Thomas poulter of Downe, Kent

Another complete mystery. I can place him at the Battle of Bosworth, he fought for King Richard III. What happened to him before and after is a mystery. He was from Downe in Kent, where no mention is made of him as a famous son. The only significant house standing was built in the 17th Century and therefore long after his death, I have searched wills, deaths, births, and knights (of all ranks) and can find no mention of Thomas Poulter or Thomas Poulter Junior. I have searched the casualty list and the executed list and the pardoned list and the Attainted list. I do know that he was Attainted after the battle. I can find no record of him being enabled or given a job after the Battle.

Parliamentary Record November 1845

DATE: November 1485. AUTHOR: *King and council*. TEXT: "*Rotuli Parliamentarium*," ed. J. Strachey, 6 vols. (London, 1767-83), VI, p. 176. (English; spelling modernized.)

The act of attainder records that 'Richard, late duke of Gloucester, calling and naming himself, by usurpation, King Richard III.' John late duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey, Francis Viscount Lovell, Walter Devereux late Lord Ferrers, John Lord Zouche, Robert Harrington, Richard Charlton, Richard Radcliffe, William Berkeley of Weobley, Robert Brackenbury, Thomas Pilkington, Robert Middleton, James Harrington, knights, Walter Hopton, William Catesby, Roger Wake, William Sapcote, Humphrey Stafford, William Clerk of Wenlock, Geoffrey St German, Richard Watkins, Herald of Arms, Richard Revel of Derbyshire, Thomas Poulter junior of Kent, John Walsh alias Hastings, John Kendal, secretary, John Buck, Andrew Ratt, and William Bramton of Burford, on 21, in 'the first year of the reign of our sovereign lord, assembled to them at Leicester ... a great host, traitorously intending, imagining and conspiring the destruction of the king's royal person, our sovereign liege lord. And they, with the same host, with banners spread, mightily armed, and defenced with all manner [of] arms, as guns, bows, arrows, spears, 'glaives', axes, and all other manner [of] articles apt or needful to give and cause mighty battle against our sovereign lord'.

Keeping the host together, they led them on 22 August to a field in Leicestershire, and 'there by great and continued deliberation, traitorously levied war against our said sovereign lord and his true subjects there being in his service and assistance under a banner of our said sovereign lord, to the subversion of this realm, and common weal of the same.'

Unless anyone can help, he will remain as obscure as John Ratte.



132 Sir Robert Harrington of Badsworth, Yorkshire (c. 1444 – 1487)

Sir Robert was an English knight and was a son of Sir Thomas Harrington and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacre. Sir Robert, like his father, was a loyal supporter of the House of York and fought for Edward IV during the Wars of the Roses at the Battles of Towton, Barnet, and Tewkesbury in 1471. Following the battle of Tewkesbury, Robert Harrington was made a Knight Bachelor on 4 May 1471.

On the return of Edward IV from exile in early 1471, Robert Harrington and his brother James were among the first followers to join Edward. Sir Robert sat in Parliament for Lancashire from 1472 and fought for Richard Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III, in 1482 in the campaign against Scotland. Richard III made Sir Robert a Knight Banneret in Scotland on 24 July 1482.

Since the death of his father and his older brother John, both of whom were killed at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460, Robert and his brother James had an ongoing battle for the inheritance of Hornby Castle (Lancashire) and the associated lands. John's two minor daughters were appointed as heirs, but due to their age they received a guardian, Geoffrey Middleton. This meant that the inheritance was lost to the Harringtons, which Robert and James did not

accept. The two brothers brought the nieces to Hornby Castle (shown left) and kept them there.



Since the Harringtons were loyal Yorkists, King Edward IV took no serious steps. They also had an influential patron in Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick. When Warwick rebelled against the king in 1469, Edward became active and gave the guardianship of the two heiresses to the Stanley's. Robert and James continued to occupy the castle, even when a conciliation in 1472 proved the Stanley's right. It is believed that Richard Duke of Gloucester may have intervened for the Harringtons. The Harrington brothers were close associates of Richard and Sir Robert is also said to have been among the men who, on 13 June 1483, on the orders of Richard, arrested William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings, for high treason and brought him to execution. When Richard ascended the throne shortly thereafter, Sir Robert was made a Knight of the Kings Body. On 22 August 1485, Sir Robert fought for his king at the Battle of Bosworth and was awarded a Bill of Attainder by the victorious new King Henry VII. As a result, Sir Robert lost all rights, possessions and lands. Sir

Robert received pardon in 1486, was rehabilitated and received his estates back, but the following year Sir Robert fought against the king at the Battle of Stoke. Where it is thought very likely that Sir Robert fell on 16 June 1487. He also received a further Bill of Attainder the second from Henry VII. Sir Robert Harrington's attainder was reversed in 1504 at the suit of his son James, dean of York, but his lands were not restored, and his family pressed unsuccessfully for them until the end of the 16th century. The family's pedigrees differ as to whether the dean of York had any children, but one of the earliest gives him two sons, Alexander, and James. Whether these were born before he took orders or were his illegitimate offspring or were the child of an untraced brother is not known (personally they were younger siblings who would have been in the care of their elder brother and would have moved to York with him). Little has become known about Alexander, who settled at Stepney where the family had long owned property and who died in 1539. Harrington was later to recall his father's poverty.

Sir Robert Harrington was married to Isabella Balderstone. The couple had five children which reached adulthood. James, Dean of York, Alexander of Stepney, John of Stepney, Hester (who married William Stubbs) and Anne (who married Robert Codrington).



133 John de la Pole, 1st Earl of Lincoln (c. 1460 – 16 June 1487)

John de la Pole (pictured left below) was the eldest son of John de la Pole, 2nd Duke of Suffolk and Elizabeth of York, Duchess of Suffolk. His father was the son of Alice Chaucer, granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer. His mother was the sixth child and third daughter born to Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville. He was thus the nephew of the Yorkist kings Edward IV of England and his successor, Richard III of England.

John's uncle Edward IV made him Earl of Lincoln on 13 March 1467.

After King Edward's death, de la Pole became a firm supporter of his uncle Richard III. He was given revenues of about 500 pounds a year and was appointed president of the Council of the North. After the death of Richard's son and heir, Edward of Middleham, he was appointed to replace him as the king's lieutenant in Ireland, though this was a nominal position as the government of Ireland was locally administered by Gerald FitzGerald, 8th Earl of Kildare.



During the last year of Richard's reign, Lincoln seems to have been appointed heir to the throne, though he was never publicly proclaimed as such. Edward, Earl of Warwick, would have had a superior claim but was attainted after his father, George, Duke of Clarence, was found guilty of treason against his brother, Edward IV, in 1478. Richard made important land grants to Lincoln and, significantly, granted him the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, traditionally given to the heir.

After King Richard III's defeat at the Battle of Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485, Lincoln was reconciled with the new king, Henry VII, but soon became impatient with the new rule. A clergyman named Symonds introduced him to his protégé, Lambert Simnel, who bore a resemblance to Edward, Earl of Warwick. The real Edward had been imprisoned in the Tower of London by King Henry. Lincoln decided to promote Edward as the "true" Yorkist heir, while using Simnel to represent him, thus allowing Lincoln to become the actual leader of the Yorkists. Lincoln travelled to Burgundy to persuade his aunt Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy to finance a military expedition to take the throne from Henry. While nominally supporting Simnel, he probably saw his own accession as the goal of his scheme. With an army of mercenaries, Lincoln sailed to Ireland, where he was supported by Gerald FitzGerald, 8th Earl of Kildare, who was keen to see a return of Yorkist rule in England. This was mainly because the Yorkist kings had allowed Irish self-government. Simnel was proclaimed king in Ireland and crowned in Dublin as "Edward VI".

With his army swelled by Irish recruits led by FitzGerald's brother Thomas FitzGerald of Laccagh, Lincoln landed at Piel Island in Lancashire and proceeded to march towards York, formerly a stronghold of Richard III's supporters. However, the town refused to surrender to Lincoln. The Yorkists secured a victory over a small Lancastrian force at Bramham Moor and Lincoln managed to avoid Henry's main northern forces, which moved away when they received news that York was under attack. This may have been a diversion planned by the Yorkists. Lincoln's army was, however, repeatedly harassed by Lancastrian cavalry under Sir Edward Woodville. The Yorkists then crossed the river Trent and set up their position at the top of a hill near the village of East Stoke. Soon the vanguard of the main Lancastrian army under John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford caught up with them. In the subsequent Battle of Stoke Field on 16 June 1487, the Yorkist army was decisively and utterly defeated. Lincoln himself was killed in the battle along with most of the other Yorkist leaders. In November 1487, he was posthumously attainted.

His death did not end the de la Pole claim to the throne. His younger brother Edmund de la Pole, 3rd Duke of Suffolk became the leading Yorkist claimant to the throne until his execution by orders of Henry VIII of England in 1513. Their younger brother Richard de la Pole continued their claim until his own death at the Battle of Pavia (24 February 1525) while a fourth brother, William, was held prisoner in the Tower of London for 37 years, dying in 1539.

Lincoln married, by the late 1470s, Margaret Fitzalan, (shown below) daughter of Thomas Fitzalan, 17th

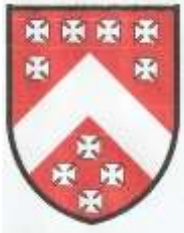


Earl of Arundel, and Margaret Woodville, sister of Elizabeth Woodville, by whom he had a son, Alan de la Pole, who died young, however, there were no children of the marriage. In October 1524 Margaret's father, Thomas Fitzalan, bequeathed her a 'great ring with a



turquoise' (similar Medieval ring shown left). She appears not to have remarried, and the date of her death is unknown.

Similarly to Sir Thomas Broughton, Lincoln was a major character in the opening episodes of the 1972 BBC 2 drama series about the reign of Henry VII, *The Shadow of the Tower*. He was played by James Laurenson.



134 Sir William Berkeley of Uley, Gloucestershire. 1426 – 1492

Sir William was on the side of King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and the death of the King released him from several burdensome debts he had built up during his lifetime, mainly by his determination to grab lands at almost any cost. The death of Richard III was not an entirely terrible thing for Sir William as it released him from many commitments made to the late king and others. Sir William was involved in his own battles, mainly trying to keep a hold of his inheritances, and feuding with his neighbours. He did not take an active part in the Wars of the Roses but was at

Bosworth. His involvement appears to be that of financier as his actions had resulted in him being required to pay several reparations to various people.

At the age of 13 William joined the household of Henry Beaufort, then Bishop of Winchester to continue his education. He attended the bishop when he travelled to Calais in 1438-9. On the 15th May 1440, then aged fourteen his father granted the manor of Portbury to him jointly with Nicolas Poyntz for a term of 40 years. William later granted the manor to his cousin John Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk, his brother-in-law, Edward Grey, a James Ormond, and others. William was close to his cousin John. In 1448 Norfolk granted to William all his lands in Ireland to hold for life at a rent of one rose per year. Norfolk later, in 1453 appointed William supervisor of Gower and Chepstow for life at a rental of £20.00 per year. This relationship with John Mowbray was fortuitous indeed as William was not on good terms with his father. Some historians refer to him as 'waste all' which suggests he was a rather spoilt flirt of those times. The ill will between the two reached a peak in 1460 when they reached an agreement, part of which said that Sir William would not henceforth grieve, vex nor trouble his father nor any of his father's servants, tenants, or councillors. This extended to his father's manors in Gloucestershire.

Sir William succeeded his father in 1463 to become 1st Marquis of Berkley. His first act was to agree with his father's widow, Joan an annuity of £100 per annum in exchange for her losing her right to a dower and jointure. Sir William carried on a feud with Margaret Countess of Shrewsbury which only ended when she died. The feud had carried on from 1451. The feud transferred to her grandson Thomas Talbot, Viscount Lisle. On the 20th March 1470 Talbot and his followers met Sir William, his brothers Maurice and Thomas plus their supporters in a skirmish at Nibley Green. This was the last private battle on English soil when two private armies met and gave battle. Thomas Talbot was killed. His widow Margaret brought an action against Sir William for the death of Viscount Lisle which was settled in Parliament on the 6th October 1472. The agreement meant that William and his future heirs should have the manors of Wootton, Symonds Hall and the other contested Berkely lands that Talbot had inherited from his grandmother. In exchange the widow was to receive £100 per annum for life. Even after marrying Henry Bodrugan, she continued to receive her allowance and lived comfortably for many years. Upon Talbot's death his sisters Margaret and Elizabeth inherited and upon Margaret's death Elizabeth's husband, Edward Grey became Lord Lisle on the 14th March 1475. Grey was the son of Sir William's half-sister and therefore his nephew. This did not prevent the feud restarting. Once again, an agreement was reached with Sir William to make payments to Elizabeth, but this agreement seems not to have been paid.

Sir William married Elizabeth, daughter of Reginald West, Lord de la Warr and his wife Margaret. Many consider that the year of the marriage generally accepted to be 1466 is incorrect. By this time Sir William would have been aged forty and his wife thirty-three. The marriage was childless and ended in divorce in 1467. It is possible that Sir William was married previously but kept that union secret for some reason. After his divorce Sir William married Joan Strangeways, daughter to Katherine Duchess of Norfolk. Joan was the widow of Sir William Willoughby whom she married in 1461. Joan had four children. Edward, Richard, Cecilia, and Anne. In making good provisions for these stepchildren and helping to secure good marriages for the daughters Sir William showed that he could be a generous and kindly man. In 1470 at the age of 44 Sir William became a father for the first time, officially at least. It is difficult that the free spending and lover of life Sir William did not have several illegitimate children. A daughter, Katherine arrived in 1474. The son was named Thomas who became a Knight of the bath in 1475. In June of that year contracts were made for him to marry Mary daughter of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. Thomas and Katherine both died shortly afterwards. Joan died in February 1484. Sir William married Anne, daughter of John Fiennes, Lord Dacre. He had no further children and Anne lived to September 1497 outliving Sir William by 5 years.

William remained close to John, Duke of Norfolk. William was named as coheir although at the time John was only aged twenty-three and was childless. When John died in 1476, he left a three-year-old daughter, Anne. The then king, Edward IV took steps to secure the inheritance for his younger son Richard born in 1473. Sir William stood aside from this inheritance in exchange the king released Sir William from his bonds with the Talbots. An Act of Parliament vested the Norfolk inheritance to Richard for life, his heirs, and the king's heirs. Sir Richard renounced any rights to inheritance, and in return it seems Sir William also became Earl of Nottingham. The Mowbray inheritance was divided between coheirs but in March 1484 Sir William settled on the new King Richard III most of that inheritance. This agreement was nullified a year later when Richard III died at Bosworth.

Following the accession of Henry VII Sir William was created Earl Marshall. Over the next few years Sir William disposed of all the lands he had inherited from Mowbray, some of which went to the king. This resulted in Sir William becoming Marquis of Berkley 3 years before he died. Following his death his brother Maurice, although fifty-six when William died, worked to restore the family lands and within seven years had recovered around fifty of the seventy Mowbray manors in England by challenging the legality of the alienations. The family fortunes and estates were once again secured.

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