



July 2021

Dear Member

After such a long time I was really looking forward to writing about an event we had not had cause to cancel. February 2020 was when we last got together to hear about the Baxterly Pit Disaster from our good friend Eddie Smallwood. We have missed out on so many great talks and visits, but don't worry we will reschedule them all, especially "Field Walking Tips and Discoveries" as I know the presenter is looking forward to coming to see us.

My hopes of a report were dashed alongside hopes of a visit to the Blaby Icehouse. Covid -19 had reared its ugly head. Not, thankfully within our group of visitors but within the group of guides. I have heard that the person who contracted the virus is safe and well as are their colleagues who were required to self-isolate meaning they could not guide us on our way.

I have not been able to secure a visit to the Bell Foundry, they have not opened fully after their experiment at half-term and so your committee have agreed to defer that visit until next Summer. Having been keen to visit the Bell Foundry since I worked in Loughborough in the early 1980's I will keep my fingers crossed and ask you to do the same. In view of that:

The Blaby Icehouse (Bouskell Park, Welford Rd, Blaby, Leicester LE8 4FT)



Thursday the 19th of August 2:30 PM. We will aim to meet in the car park for 2:15 pm ready to group up and take the tour.

The cost will be £5.00 per person payable by internet [Ice House Tour Request - Your request - Section 1 - My Account at Blaby District Council](#) (hold down the Ctrl key) **If you were not on**

the original list or were but cannot attend please send me an email to info@marketbosworthsociety.com The

visit will include a guided tour of the park with explanations of the archaeological features. It is recommended that as this is an outdoor venue overall, you wear the appropriate clothing and stout footwear. As this is still to be our first venture out, post Covid restrictions, I have not organised a cream tea afterwards. If enough members, ask for that to be included I will do my best to add it to the itinerary. Numbers may be limited and therefore attendance will be on a first come first admitted to the visit bases, obviously those who planned to attend in July have already been included and only need to notify me if they cannot attend. Please use the info@marketbosworthsociety.com email address to book your attendance and to let me know if you would like to include a cream tea. Please car share where possible. I do so hope that you will be able to come along, it would be lovely to see you.

Heritage Matters

Last month I added an article about our heritage and identified two areas for inclusion. The Gated Lane, mainly for its, now becoming almost unique, gated nature and the landing strip of Station Road. I have had some very interesting emails so please keep them coming. So far, 23 of you have answered the survey via the link <https://marketbosworthsociety.com/members-feedback/> (please remember to hold down the Ctrl key when hovering your cursor to enliven the link – blame Microsoft not me). The results so far are:

Question 1

Do you think heritage matters?

Agree 23

Neither Agree nor Disagree 0

Disagree 0

Question 2

Do you wish to see the Landing Strip Preserved?

Agree 21

Neither Agree nor Disagree 23

Disagree 0

Question 3

Do you wish to see the 'gated' aspect of Sutton Lane preserved?

Agree 23

Neither Agree nor Disagree 0

Disagree 0

So far, a unanimous support for the Gated Lane and a great majority for the Landing Strip.

I have also had some remarkably interesting responses in the comments section, some good suggestions have been made and I have put them forward to the Bosworth Vision Group for further consideration or action. Some of the suggestions already enjoy protection, some by a Grade II listing. The information was shared anonymously, and it will help with the updating of the Neighbourhood Plan. Considering the strong response to the Gated Lane I have already started the process of adding that to the Asset List. I am waiting to hear back what other evidence I will need to be successful. So, thank you to all who have taken part. I still think we can do better! If you have not responded please do so, thanks you.

The article was also in Aspect and the Graphic which sparked a lively set of emails from the owner of the



Landing Strip. It seems that he is not in favour of it being protected and claims that it did not exist in 1942. Several facts were put forward suggesting that the landing strip did not exist prior to 1991 and the impossibility of landing an aeroplane there. This was examined by Peter Loseby and I, Peter was the original author of a letter on file at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, it is accessible here:

[ViewDocument](#) The whole application is here: [14/00674/FUL | Erection of 64 dwellings and associated works including 2 no. balancing ponds, formal play area space and public open space \(revised proposal\) | Land At Station Road Market Bosworth](#)

[Leicestershire \(hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk\)](http://hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk) or reference 14/00674/FUL via the planning portal. Research has suggested to me that the Hawker Hurricane, a fighter type aircraft was designed to support an expeditionary force and therefore of rugged construction and could land in a field, such as the one opposite the new factory. The undercarriage was specifically designed for rough terrain and grass landings and was capable of quite tight turns without damage or ground loops. The landing and take-off runway distance needed was much reduced by the fitting of the Rotol constant velocity propeller which was standard by 1942. Walter Churchill DSO DFC was an exceptional pilot and would have been capable of landing on that field. We also have the testimony of his son James who recalls standing with his mother to wave goodbye to his father

from that field. There is also the used starter cartridge found in that field and now in the possession of Andrew Churchill. The research and evidence led Peter and I to conclude that Walter Churchill DSO DFC did use that landing strip. The owner has decided that we must agree to disagree. We continue to research and were hoping that Walter's logbooks would record the journey but for operational reasons that is not the case. If you have any information, or know anyone who does, please contact Peter or I, we would be delighted to speak to you.

And now some interesting research carried out by Peter which I think you will enjoy reading.

WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF SIR BEAUMONT JOSEPH DIXIE 6TH BARONET?

In March of this year Nigel received an email from a researcher who had previously been in touch to enquire about Anna, daughter of the 4th Baronet. You will recall that she had died from injuries sustained when she stepped into a mantrap laid by the 4th Baronet to catch her suitor.

On this occasion the researcher was asking about the 6th Baronet whom she had encountered difficulties in tracing his naval records.

Thankfully within the Dixie archive I had discovered a research paper commissioned by the 13th Baronet in 1973 in the hope that a potential successor to the title could be found. The researcher, John P Sayer had carried out a thorough search and included this section on the 6th Baronet.

SIR BEAUMONT JOSEPH DIXIE 6TH BARONET 1769 – 1814

This was a first cousin once removed of the previous holder of the title and was born at Newton Blossomville on 6th July 1769. Burke, Nichols and the Complete Baronetcy all state that he was in the Navy, but no confirmation of this has been found. He is not in the Navy Lists nor in 'Commissioned Officers of the Royal Navy 1660-1815' and both the Admiralty index of Passing Certificates for Lieutenants and the Pay Register of Sub-Lieutenants have been searched without results. He may, of course have been a Warrant Officer or a lower-deck seaman but not knowing the name of any ship he served on, one cannot refer to the appropriate muster book in which particulars of the whole crew of the vessel would be given. There remain the possibilities that he was employed by the Admiralty in some civilian capacity or that his sea service was not with the Royal Navy but in a merchantman.

At all events, it is a fact that Beaumont Dixie was in captivity in France from about 1803 until 1814. The GEC Complete Baronetage says that he was an officer in the RN and was "taken prisoner in France in 1802" but Professor Michael Lewis in 'Napoleon and his British Captives' makes it abundantly clear that Beaumont was a civilian de'tenn, and not a prisoner of war.

It seems then, that whatever Dixie's previous occupation may have been, he left it either before 1802 or when the Treaty of Amiens was signed in March of that year. One may perhaps suggest that he was visiting France as a private individual during those few months of peace and was trapped there on the resumption of hostilities. Miss Carola Oman in 'Ayot Rectory' tells us that when Britain reopened the war in May 1803 Napoleon in an excess of fury, decreed that all Englishmen in France between the ages of 16 and 60 should instantly be arrested and flung into captivity. From this point we may rely on Professor Lewis's narrative. To start with, Beaumont was confined at Verdun, and it was from there that he made an ingenious attempt to escape. He went down to the River Mense, ostensibly to bathe, and left his clothes on the bank having previously hidden a second outfit someway downstream. He hoped then to slip quietly away while the authorities, noting his failure to return and finding the discarded clothing, would assume that he had drowned – as indeed at first, they did. Unfortunately, however, his plan failed because, in the eyes of his fellow captives, he had violated the code that was held to apply to prisoners who had given their parole and were thus not kept under lock and key. A British naval officer chanced to witness his actions and reported them to the senior officer among the prisoners, one Brenton, who in his turn informed the Commandant. Consequently, Dixie was recaptured before he had gone very far.

It certainly appears to have been accepted by the British prisoners at Verdun that Beaumont Dixie had been in the Navy, for Professor Lewis tells us that the attempted escape caused considerable controversy among them and was complicated by the fact that Dixie, although a civilian de'tenn, "had once been a Naval Officer". Some thought that de'tenn, illegally detained ex hypothesi, should not be expected to conform to the strict officer convention. Brenton, however, maintained that a gentlemen's word was, or should be, his bond even

among de'tenus and that since Dixie had once been an officer, he was all the more culpable; the very fact that he could go out and bathe in the river showed that he was not under lock and key at the time and therefor, by virtue of his parole, was not entitled to try to escape.

As a consequence of this offence Beaumont was moved to Bitche, a prison of evil reputation. He appears, however, to have been a grade one prisoner there; that is to say, he was treated reasonably well, and his rooms were above ground-level. Only two others were equally lucky: Colonel Edward Stack, who was probably a political prisoner, and a wild but influential Irish Colonel named Whaley. From Bitche Sir Beaumont was sent to Sarre Libre and eventually was privileged to return to Verdun where he spent the rest of the war. He had apparently become reconciled to his fate and was not again tempted to break his parole, for he is heard of in the summer of 1812 making the best he can of the town amenities and even running a couple of horses in the races. He was liberated in July 1814 and returned to England. It comes as something of a shock to learn that he died only six days after his homecoming and was buried at Bosworth on the 26th of July. Neither his will nor a grant of administration has been found.

Having forwarded the extract to Nigel he then did some research of his own and shared the following with me.

I have found 5 possible ships that BEAUMONT JOSEPH DIXIE may have served on and been captured from:

Swiftsure
Incendiary
Success
Sprightly
Hannibal

All the above were captured by the French in 1800 to 1803, certainly before the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. It is always possible that he was not captured from a ship but from simply being in France at that time. If you have access to crew lists, you might get lucky. Did he use any other name? He may not have wanted his fellows to know his identity and may well have enlisted using an alias. Perhaps his mother's birth name and his father's first name or perhaps a family name, such as Bertie or Harry.

My response was to take a more romantic view of the facts!

An interesting hypothesis but if he were a serving officer then why would he want to falsify his personal details on his joining up documents which presumably would have also needed to be countersigned by his parents if he joined as a cadet.

There are no records of him in the naval lists. If he had joined as a lower decker then he would not have been able to claim the privileges of an officer.

It is possible that he was intelligence gathering when captured. If the French were aware of that, he would he have been executed?

In such a situation he could claim to have been a Naval Officer and to ensure that he was not betrayed he would not have shared the subterfuge with fellow prisoners.

It would also explain why he was prepared to break his parole to get away before his true identity was discovered. When recaptured the controversy and outrage felt by the naval officers could well have convinced his captors that he was in fact a naval officer. Having been punished for his apparent misdemeanour he returned to a more liberal prison where he probably believed that he was safe and lived the life of a privileged prisoner.

It is interesting that he left no documents or a will.

I realise he had very little time between arriving back in England and dying in Bosworth but was this the result of him not wanting to have any traceable background that could incriminate him if he was captured whilst in France?

Like most things with a fertile imagination anything is possible. Perhaps we could put our heads together and write a bestselling novel in the style of Bernard Newman or Ian Fleming!

The question is; was the 6th Baronet in the wrong place at the wrong time? Are his naval records simply missing? Was he gathering information for the British government when he was arrested.?

Nigel and I ended our exchange by discussing our roles in the potential blockbuster film about the exploits of the 6th Baronet!

If other members have a view, please share them with Nigel.

Remarkably interesting Peter, as always. It would be good to know the full truth although I expect that we shall never know the facts. Often it seems that the facts can be more curious than fiction. I am off now to practice for my blockbuster role, I shall start I think by perfecting my ability to splice the mainbrace with style and panache.

Quiz Time!

This month's quiz was compiled and delivered to me by Phil Tebbutt. It is designed to test your knowledge of Market Bosworth, so off we go.....

1. What have the following in common?
Chestnut, Moorland, Warwick, Tudor, York, Redmore, St. Peter's, Horseshoe.
But which is the odd one out?
2. Market Bosworth – The postman's nightmare!
 - a) How many roads, streets or Postal Addresses are there in Market Bosworth (Cadeby Lane excluded but small estates such as Beaumanor Court are)?
 - b) Which road has the houses with no even numbers?
 - c) Which road has a name at one end different to the name at the other end?
 - d) Which road has three names?
 - e) Six houses on the same section of road, two with numbers 29 & 30 two with numbers 33 & 35 and another two with numbers 2 & 4 Three of these have the correct Postal Addresses, where is this?
 - f) Where is the road where houses have no postal number only names?
 - g) Six houses share the same Postal Address. Four are on one road and two on another. Which roads are these?
 - h) Why is there no 72 Station Road?
 - i) Which roads have consecutive numbers, 1,2,3,4, etc.?
 - j) There are two residences numbered 9/11. Where are they?
 - k) How many avenues are there in Market Bosworth?
 - l) Which road has no houses?

Nigel, this has been an interesting exercise. I arrived in Market Bosworth in 1953 but there must be many more interesting anomalies prior to my arrival. One of these is that the 1940's and early 1950's other than The Gate House there were only 4 houses in The Park. Also, the 1963 Electoral Role had 921 electors of which 103 were residents at the Park Infirmary and 85 at Westhaven. It just shows how small Market Bosworth was, but at that time it was also the Headquarters of the Bosworth Rural District Council.

Wow! Well done, Phil, I don't know about the Postman, but my head is spinning. If you dare see how well you know Market Bosworth, the answers are at the end of this Newsletter. Why not join Phil and have a go at a creating and submitting a quiz? We all enjoy a quiz, and it is great fun making them up and checking them. Round of applause for Mr Tebbutt, methinks.

Battle of Bosworth Heraldic Shields 99 to 110



99 Lord Ralph Greystoke, 5th Baron Greystoke (9 September 1414–1 June 1487) was a member of the English nobility and a protagonist during the Wars of the Roses. By his marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of William, Lord Fitzhugh he formalized the long-standing alliance that had existed between the two families for some time. Ralph was the eldest son of John de Greystoke, 4th Baron Greystoke by his second wife, Elizabeth Ferrers, daughter of Robert Ferrers, 3rd Baron Ferrers of Wem. At age 22, he succeeded his father in the barony after the latter's death in 1436.

A resident of Greystoke Castle in Cumberland, he was frequently called upon to the king's service in matters concerning the English-Scotland border. He was summoned to parliament in 1436, 1439, 1441, and 1485.

In 1444, Greystoke escorted the king's new bride, Margaret d'Anjou back to England, as part of the duke of Suffolk's embassy

In July 1447, Greystoke sealed an indenture with Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury promising to ride with the earl "in time of peace and of war." When the Earl of Salisbury allied with Richard of York against the duke of Somerset's regime in February 1454, as a royal councillor Greystoke aided Richard, Duke of York to gain permission to open parliament, and become Protector. He again supported Salisbury that summer, being part of a commission of Oyer and Terminer which investigated Percy adherents from the previous year's feud between the Percy's and the Neville's. Later that year he was instructed by the Yorkist government to raise troops in Yorkshire to assist in crushing disorder that had broken out in neighbouring Lancashire.

However, in a political reversal not uncommon for the period, after the rout of Salisbury and York at Ludlow in October 1459, and their self-imposed exiles in Calais and Ireland respectively, he apparently swore an oath of fealty to the Lancastrians at the Parliament of Devils which in October attainted the Yorkists. He may have fought for the king at the Battle of Wakefield the next year, which resulted in the deaths of York and Salisbury, and also on the victorious Lancastrian side at the Second Battle of St Albans in early 1461. However, it has been suggested that as he was probably absent from the decisive Battle of Towton two months later, which led to the accession of York's eldest son as King Edward IV of England, this possibly demonstrates that his loyalties to the Neville's had never diminished, and that in spite of Wakefield and St Albans, "he had been playing a double game" since Ludlow. Greystoke lined up with King Richard III in 1485 but his part in the actual battle is in doubt. Whilst the ballad of Bosworth Field places him there it is likely that he did not engage with Henry's troops, preferring instead to flee when the hand to hand fighting began. It seems that he was not that dedicated to the Yorkist cause, but I could find no record of him being attainted and so it seems that following the battle he was allowed to return to his lands.



He married Elizabeth Fitzhugh, daughter of the fourth Baron Fitzhugh. They had several children, including:

Elizabeth (died 1490) who married firstly Thomas Scrope, 5th Baron Scrope of Masham, and secondly, Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton, KG (died 1517/18). Her second husband was the lord of the manor of Grafton Manor in Worcestershire.

Sir Robert Greystoke (c. 1443-1483), who married Elizabeth Grey, daughter of Edmund Grey, 1st Earl of Kent. Sir Robert had one daughter, also named Elizabeth, who succeeded her grandfather in the barony as Elizabeth, 6th Baroness Greystoke. She in turn

married Thomas Dacre, 2nd Baron Dacre, transferring the Greystoke titles and lands into the Dacre family. Margaret (or Margery) married Sir Thomas Grey of Chillingham (d. 16 August 1498). Their daughter Anne married three times: (1) Sir John Delaval of Seaton-Delaval, Sheriff of Northumberland (d. 4 February 1498); (2) Thos. Hopton; and (3) Phillip Dacre.

Lord Greystoke rests in Newminster Abbey, Northumberland his effigy is shown above.



100 William Catesby (1450 – 25 August 1485) was one of Richard III of England's principal councillors. He also served as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Speaker of the House of Commons during Richard's reign.

The son of Sir William Catesby of Ashby St Ledgers, Northamptonshire (died 1478) and Philippa, daughter and heiress of Sir William Bishopston, he was trained for the law in the Inner Temple. As an aspiring lawyer Catesby initially progressed in the service of William, 1st Lord Hastings. He married Margaret, daughter of William La Zouche, 6th Baron Zouche of Harringworth; the couple had three sons. Upon the death of his father, he inherited many estates in the English Midlands and was land-agent for many others. He was a member of the Council that ruled during the reign of Edward V. After Richard was enthroned, Catesby was one of King Richard's closest advisors. He served as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and as Speaker of the English House of Commons during the Parliament of 1484, in which he sat as knight of the shire for Northamptonshire. He also received a substantial grant of land from the king, enough to make him richer than most knights.

In July 1484, William Colingbourne, a Tudor agent, tacked up a lampooning poem to St. Paul's Cathedral, which mentions Catesby among the three aides to King Richard, whose emblem was a white boar:

The Catte, the Ratte and Lovell our dogge rulyth all Englande under a hogge.

(The dog here refers to Lovell's heraldic symbol, a wolf.) The poem was interpolated into Laurence Olivier's film *Richard III*, a screen adaptation of William Shakespeare's play. Colingbourne was hanged, drawn and quartered for this and other alleged treasonable activities.



William Catesby was one of the two councillors (the other being Richard Ratcliffe) who are reputed to have told the king that marrying Elizabeth of York would cause rebellions in the north. He fought alongside Richard at the Battle of Bosworth Field and was captured. One of those of importance, he was executed three days later at Leicester. The suggestion that he might have made a deal with the Stanley's before the battle comes from his will when he asked them "to pray for my soul as ye have not for my body, as I trusted in you."

After his death, his estates were largely confiscated by Henry VII. Catesby was succeeded by his eldest son, George, to whom the family seat of Ashby St Legers was later restored. Robert Catesby, leader of the Gunpowder Plot, was a descendant.

This William Catesby is often erroneously called Sir William and spoken of as a knight. He was only an Esquire of the Royal Body. The wife whom he left as his executrix was Margaret, first daughter of William Lord Zouche. His attainder was reversed by Henry VII in favour of his son George, and the family continued to flourish until the days

of James I, when Robert Catesby, fifth in descent from the subject of this notice, was attainted as the projector of the Gunpowder Plot.



101 Edmund Grey, 1st Earl of Kent (26 October 1416 – 22 May 1490), English administrator, nobleman and magnate, was the son of Sir John Grey, KG and Constance Holland. His main residence was at Wrest near Silsoe, Bedfordshire. Through Constance Holland, he was great-grandson of John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, the third son of King Edward III of England, by his first wife, and thus grand-nephew of King Henry IV of England and Philippa of Lancaster.

Grey succeeded his grandfather Reginald Grey, 3rd Baron Grey de Ruthin in 1440.

He married Lady Katherine Percy, who was also a great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt by his third wife, Katherine Swynford, and also a descendant of King Edward III of England through his second son, Lionel of Antwerp, 1st Duke of Clarence.

Edmund Grey was knighted following service in Aquitaine in October 1440. He attended the royal council between 1456 and 1458. Active militarily in the Wars of the Roses, he especially played a decisive role in the Battle of Northampton by switching his allegiance from the Lancastrian to the Yorkist cause. For this action he was rewarded by Edward IV with a grant of the manor of Ampthill, ownership of which had come into dispute between Grey, Ralph Lord Cromwell and Henry Holland Duke of Exeter.

Edmund Grey's appointment as treasurer of England was enacted at Westminster on 24 June 1463 but Walter Blount succeeded him in November 1464. Edmund also held other high offices under Edward IV and Richard III.

He was created Earl of Kent on 30 May 1465, shortly after the marriage of his eldest son, Anthony, to the king's sister-in-law, Joan Woodville (she is sometimes known as Eleanor Woodville) He was then appointed chief justice of the county of Meirionnydd, North Wales and constable of Harlech. After the death of their first son, the second, George, became his heir and eventually George Grey, 2nd Earl of Kent.

His children by Katherine Percy included:

Anthony Grey (died in his father's lifetime) married Eleanor Woodville's sister of Elizabeth Woodville. There were no children.

George Grey, 2nd Earl of Kent, married Anne Woodville then Katherine Herbert, daughter of William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke

Elizabeth Grey, married Sir Robert Greystoke

Anne Grey, married John Grey, 8th Baron Grey of Wilton



102 Thomas Stafford of Grafton, Worcestershire

Was the son of Sir William Stafford and his wife Dorothy. Thomas was born in around 1450 and little is known about him. Thomas appears to have lived in the shadow of his elder brother Humphrey. They both took part in the Stafford and Lovell rebellion. Both sought sanctuary but were forcibly removed, an act sanctioned later by the Pope and Humphrey was executed. Thomas was pardoned by Henry VII as he considered that as the younger, he would have been under the influence of his elder brother. It appears that Thomas lived a quiet life as I can find no record of him holding any office or position. The Grafton Possessions were handed to Sir Edward Poyning's in 1488 following the rebellion and execution but were restored to the Grafton family in 1522 which is argued as the year after Thomas's death.



103 Sir Richard Ratcliffe of Derwentwater, Cumberland Circa 1452 died 1485

Sir Richard was an adviser to King Richard III and second son of Sir Thomas Radcliffe. Richard's mother was Margaret, daughter of Sir William Parr of Kendal, grandfather of Queen Catherine Parr. His brother Edward, ultimately succeeded to the Derwentwater estates. This is odd and possibly incorrect as it was stated in parliament in 1495 that Edward had two elder brothers, both of whom were living in that year. His allegiance to King Richard III likely stemmed from his maternal grandfather who was Court Comptroller of the household of Edward IV. He and his uncle, John Parr, were knighted by the king on the field of Tewkesbury, and the future King Richard III made him a knight-banneret during the siege of Berwick in August 1482. The next year, before he seized the crown, Richard sent Radcliffe to summon his Yorkshire friends to his assistance. Leaving London shortly after 11 June 1483, he presented the Protector's letters to the magistrates of York on the 15th, and by the 24th he had reached Pontefract on his way south with a substantial force estimated of several thousand men. On the 24th three prisoners, Sir Richard Grey, son of the queen-dowager, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Haute were brought to Pontefract from their different northern prisons and executed there, without trial, on the 25th by Radcliffe, acting under Richard's orders. Richard showed his gratitude by making Ratcliffe a Knight of the Garter, Knight of the Body to the King (10 Aug. 1484), and High Sheriff of Westmoreland for life. The lucrative stewardship of Wakefield, estates an annual value of over £650 were also conferred upon him. Ratcliffe featured in the satirical couplet mentioned earlier

The catte, the ratte, and Lovell our dogge
Rulyth all Englande under a hogge.

The 'hogge' was an allusion to Richard's cognisance, the white boar.

The 'catte' and the 'ratte' did not hesitate to tell their master to his face in the spring of 1485 that he must publicly disavow his idea of marrying his niece, Elizabeth of York. Yorkshiremen, whose loyalty he owed to his late wife, Ann Neville, would think that he had removed her to make way for an incestuous marriage. The pope had no power of dispensation where the relationship was so close. Richard yielded, it was thought afterwards they were generally thought to have entertained a fear that if Elizabeth became queen she would someday take revenge upon them for the death of her uncle Rivers and her half-brother, Richard Grey.

Shortly after this (22 April), as head of a commission to treat with Scotland, Radcliffe received a safe-conduct from King James, but may have been prevented from going by the news of Henry Tudor's contemplated invasion. At any rate, Sir Richard Ratcliffe fought at Bosworth Field on 22 Aug. and was killed. There are several accounts that suggest he died whilst attempting to escape the battle. Even in death he was not beyond the victorious Henry VII as he was attainted in Henry VII's first parliament, but the attainder was removed on the petition of his son Richard in 1495.

Radcliffe married Agnes Scrope, daughter of John, Lord Scrope (d. 1498) of Bolton in Wensleydale, and widow of Christopher Boynton of Sedbury in the parish of Gilling, near Richmond. The only child, Richard who successfully petitioned for the return of the family lands appears to have died without male issue. I have read that there was also a daughter Joan, who married Henry Grubb of North Mimms, Hertfordshire.



104 Sir Ralph Assheton of Ashton Under Lyne, Lancashire (1421 – 1486)

Sir Ralph de Ashton or Assheton was an officer of state under Edward IV of England. Ashton was the half-brother of Sir Thomas de Ashton (fl. 1446) the alchemist, and the son of the Sir John de Ashton. His mother was Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron of Clayton. Aged seventeen he was one of the pages of honour to Henry VI, and at the same early age, he married Margaret, the heiress of the Bartons of Middleton, and became the founder of the family that held the lordship there until the 18th century, when it passed by the female line to the holders

of the Suffield peerage. His grandson Richard Ashton rebuilt St Leonard's church at Middleton in 1524.

Ralph married twice, firstly to Margaret, daughter of John Barton of Middleton, heiress of the Bartons of Middleton and the Ashton family held the lordship of the manor of Middleton until the 18th century. After Margaret died, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Chichele of Wimpole; widow of John Kyriel of Stockbury, Westenhanger (Kent).

Ralph Ashton was a man of influence, and in the reign of Edward IV he held various offices. He was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1472, and for his courage at the capture of Berwick upon Tweed he was made a knight banneret at Hutton Field. When his commander, the Duke of Gloucester, became Richard III, he rewarded Sir Ralph's adhesion to the Yorkist cause by extensive grants of land. In 1483 he was appointed vice-constable of England and lieutenant of the Tower of London. The date of his death is unknown, but he is traditionally said to have been shot at Ashton-under-Lyne, and the yearly ceremony known as the "Riding of the Black Lad" is regarded as a commemoration of that event. There is a very full rent-roll or custumal of the manor of Ashton in 1422, in which the various names and obligations of the tenants are set forth. There is a local legend which states that, corn marigold grew so extensively in the low wetland about Ashton as to be inimical to the crops, and the lord of the manor had an annual inspection and levied fines on those tenants on whose lands it was



The image here shows the Black Knight of Ashton, Sir Ralph Assheton.

seen. This power, delegated to Ralph Ashton and his brother Robert, is said to have been made the pretext of such tyrannical exactions that on one of these visitations the tenants rose in desperation and the "Black Knight" was slain. Others hold that it was whilst exercising in the northern parts his despotic powers as vice-constable that he excited the terror expressed in the legendary rhyme:—

Sweet Jesu, for thy mercy's sake
And for thy bitter passion,
Save us from the axe of the Tower,
And from Sir Ralph of Ashton.

The effigy of the Black Knight is still paraded through the town of Ashton on Easter Monday.



105 Sir John Neville of Liversedge, Yorkshire (born c.1486 died 1502)

Sir John came from a very influential but apparently impoverished family from Yorkshire. Sir John took part in several battles in the War of the Roses and lined up on the side of King Richard III at Bosworth. Further evidence of his magnanimity shown by Henry VII as Sir John became High Sherriff of Yorkshire in 1487-8 and again in 1494-5. He is less famous than his son and heir Richard who married well. We cannot be certain about the year of his birth, but most historians use 1436. He was the son of Sir Robert Neville and his second wife Ellen Molyneux. John himself married Maude Rither (or Ryther) of Ryther, York. She has the dubious fame of potentially being the child of three possible fathers, but we do know that her mother was Catherine Constable. They went on to have eleven surviving children six sons and five daughters.

Sir John, I believe died in January 1502, but many record his death as December 22, 1502, which was when his will, written just a year earlier in December 150, was proven. He died in Birstall, in the county of Yorkshire. There are several Sir John Neville's in Yorkshire, some contemporaneous but I believe I have teased out the information relating to our Sir John. I will end with a passage taken from his will, which shows that it is not just me with an interesting approach to spelling and grammar.

Sir John Neville of Liversedge, his son, who married Maud daughter of Sir Robert Ryther, (Tonge, 83) died in 1502, (Reg. Test. vi. 48 b.) leaving several children. On April 17th, 1472, an oratory was granted to John Neville of Liversedge and Matilda his wife. (Reg Neville, i. 144 a.)

I boght in Olton, on this condicion, that as he will answeere to God at the daye of dome, and by the othe that he hath made to me uppon a boke before recorde that he shall fulfill my will, that he trewly, whilst he lyves, gyff those ij howses in Holbek, that I bygged, to ij pore women; in his prymary gyfft to charge thame that they pray duly for me and all my goode doars. And, when on woman dyes, to put in another woman, but put in no man; and that he paye or make to be payed to thame xiiij s. iiij d. every yere in fourme folowynge; that is to saye at the fest of Allhalowes ij s. vj d.; at the fest of our Lorde Jhesu ij s. vj d.; on AskWedynnesday ij s. vj d.; on Goode Frydaye ijs. vj d.; on Seynt Anne daye xx d.; and on oure Lady Day Assumpcion xx d. And to this myn intent to be execute and fulfilled I gyff hym the howse and land in Olton, to hym and his heires. I will that William Nevile and Edward his broder have all my draght oxen, all my mylk kye, and all the cornes uppon the ground, sawen and to be sawen, equally divided betwixt them. The residew to Thomas Lasse, William Nevile, Edward Nevile, and William Herdwyk prest. They exrs.



106 Sir James Harrington of Brierly, Yorkshire.

Sir James Harrington of Hornby (c. 1430 – 22 August 1485)

Sir James was an English politician and soldier who was a prominent Yorkist supporter in Northern England during the Wars of the Roses, having been retained by Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury, who was brother-in-law to Richard of York. He was the second son of Sir Thomas Harrington, who had died with the king's father at the Battle of Wakefield in December 1460. James himself had fought with Salisbury at the Battle of Blore Heath in 1459, where he had been captured and imprisoned by the Lancastrians until the next year. He was a significant regional figure during the reign of King Edward IV, although the early years of the new king's reign were marred by a bitter feud between him and the Stanley family over a castle in Lancashire. On the accession of King Richard III in 1483, he was appointed to the new king's Household, and as such was almost certainly with him at the Battle of Bosworth Field where he was slain. The details are not known.

Sir James, family held extensive estates in both Yorkshire and Lancashire, as did one of the biggest noble families of the region, the Neville's. In the mid 1400's the Harringtons had a close relationship with them: The Harrington brothers were feed by Warwick, and their father had been feed by Salisbury. It is believed that he was a retainer and councillor to Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, and was granted the duchy of Lancaster leases by him, with his father, Sir Thomas. He was in the Earl of Salisbury's army when it was ambushed by the Lancastrian Lord Audley near Blore Heath, in Shropshire, on 23 September 1459. Although a Yorkist victory, Sir James and his father, along with Warwick's brother John Neville were captured after the battle, at Acton Bridge, and sent to Chester Castle. Harrington was pardoned on 29 March 1460, but Neville was not to be released until the Yorkist victory at the Battle of Northampton in July 1460. However, with James's elder brother John, Sir Thomas later died with Richard, Duke of York at the Battle of Wakefield on 30 December 1460. Following the victory of Edward IV at the Battle of Towton on Palm Sunday, 29 March

the next year, Sir James was made the King's escheator for Yorkshire. Following his death, Sir Thomas's feoffees transferred his estates, that his daughters were due to inherit, to James in 1463, a decision that would consume the next eleven years and ultimately have grave consequences for James and his family. The dispute with the Stanley family started when James's brother Sir John Harrington fell at Wakefield, he left as his heirs his two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, who were four and five years old at the time, which meant their wardship was automatically in the hands of the Crown to dispense. Edward duly did so, to Thomas, Lord Stanley in November 1461, but James and his brother Sir Robert, in attempt to keep the inheritance for the family, effectively disallowed the King's grant and imprisoned (or, kept in custody) the two girls. Along



with the girls, Sir James also seized Hornby castle,(shown left) Lonsdale, which was the chief residence contained in the inheritance, but which also included Brierley, and some manors originally granted him by his father's feoffees, including George Neville, in 1463. The dispute was more complicated than merely theft and kidnapping. Harrington claimed that, in law, his father's estates were held in tail male, in which case they could only be passed through the male line and the actions of Sir Thomas's feoffees would be illegal, and the inheritance remain with him; Stanley, however, claimed them to be held in fee simple, meaning through the female line as well or instead of the male line should there be no male heirs. In October 1466, Stanley obtained a grant to sue in the King's Court, but the matter was not dealt with until 1468, when a commission found against Harrington and he and his brother were committed to the Fleet Prison.

The political crisis between Edward and the earl of Warwick between 1469 and 1471 put the legal case on hold. During the redemption of Henry VI in 1470, they held Hornby against Stanley, who as yet had been unable to take

possession of it. On 5 March 1471, Warwick showed himself willing to take Stanley's side, and despatched the royal cannon Mile Ende from Bristol to help him besiege Hornby castle.

When Edward returned from exile on 14 March 1471, Harrington was one of the first (and one of the few) northern knights to openly join him, meeting him at Doncaster (or possibly Nottingham) with 600 men-at-arms and Sir William Parr. After Edward's victories at the Battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury in April and May respectively, at which Harrington may have fought, the case was reheard the next year. By April 1472, the King was involving himself personally and imposed a settlement. Harrington, in the face of a royal commission in June, was still in possession of Hornby, having "stuffed and enforced it with men and victuals and habitements of war;" claimed a contemporary chronicler; the Harringtons still occupied it in August 1473, when Edward was forced to send his Sheriff to condemn their actions as being "in contempt of his lawes," as the record said. Although they were eventually forced to surrender Hornby to Edward Stanley, they retained Farleton and Brierley. Sir James remained in the King's favour, and accompanied him on the 1475 invasion of France, to which he brought twelve men-at-arms and one hundred archers. He was appointed to a Commission of the peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire the same year; the most obvious reason for this being, the King had a reluctance to alienate his own supporters.

Stanley, having finally gained possession of the girls along with a grant of their marriageability, promptly used it, and married them off to his relatives, for example, Anne was married to his fifth son, Edward, and Elizabeth to John Stanley, his nephew.

Throughout the dispute, Harrington resided at his manors of Farleton and Brierley, and was given permission to crenelate the latter in 1480.

Following Edward's successful 1471 campaign, Sir James was retained by Gloucester and became a member of his personal council, which put him in close contact with the King. He served with Gloucester on his border campaigns of 1480 and 1482.

Sir James Harrington was not mentioned by any contemporary chroniclers as being present at Bosworth on 22 August 1485, and this has led some historians to believe he was present but survived. However, the Harrington family tradition holds that he died there, and the later Ballad of Bosworth Field claimed he, with other northern knights, brought "a mighty many" there; he was certainly excluded from the general pardon of 1486 and attainted in 1487. He then disappears from the records.

As a Knight of the Body, and a member of the King's Household, it is likely that Sir James Harrington took part in Richard's fatal charge.

Sir James Harrington had a (possibly illegitimate) son, John, whom he made his heir before departing on the Scottish campaign of 1480, and whom Richard III had made an esquire of the household. His widow Elizabeth wrote to her second husband sometime after Bosworth expressing the belief that the boy had been poisoned by her ex-brother-in-law Edward Stanley, who, having received James's estates from his attainer, wished to ensure that John would not be able to seek its reversal

Official positions and titles enjoyed by Sir James were, High Sheriff of Lancashire 1466-7 and 1475-6 Steward of Bradford 1471, MP for Blackburn 1467-8, and in 1478 (his brother Robert had held the same seat in 1472-5), Knight of the Body to Edward IV from 1475 and Richard III on his accession, Vice-constable of England, 1482



107 Sir Robert Percy of Scotton, Yorkshire (c. 1445 – 1485)

Extraordinarily little is known about Sir Robert whose father and son were also named Robert which has resulted in several historical inaccuracies. I have managed to find a little information which we can share. Sir Robert lived most of his youth in the household of Warwick, where he was educated with Richard Gloucester, later Richard III. The two formed a close friendship that would last a lifetime. Which in my view makes it odd that there is not more known about him, perhaps he followed the advice of Enobarbus and did not become “his Captain’s Captain”. On the eve of the coronation of Richard III, Sir Percy was knighted. Sir Robert, together with Francis Lovel, 1st Viscount Lovel, received the honour of serving the royal couple at the coronation ceremonies. Richard III appointed Sir Robert to his Privy Council making him Comptroller of the Royal Household in 1484, Sheriff of Essex and Herefordshire, Captain of the Guard and Keeper of the Royal manors Kennington. In addition, Robert Percy received from the king nine houses that had previously belonged to John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. Sir Robert was appointed Justice of Array in 1484 to guard the border, fearing an invasion by Henry Tudor. On 22 August 1485, Sir Robert fought for his king at the Battle of Bosworth and fell. Whilst some historians suggest that he survived and fought against Henry VII at Stoke, I think this highly unlikely and that it was his son who took part in that battle. Sir Robert was married twice. First marriage to Eleanor, a daughter of Ralph Bewley. In second marriage to Joyce, a daughter of Norman Washbourne, Sir Robert had at least one son: Robert of Knaresborough.



108 & 109 King Richard III of Middleham, Yorkshire (b 1452 d 1485)

A great deal is known about King Richard III who was King of England and Lord of Ireland from 26 June 1483 until his death in 1485. I do not intend to spend a great deal of time here, simply a brief synopsis. As you will know he was the last king of the House of York and the last of the Plantagenet dynasty. His defeat and death at the Battle of Bosworth Field, the last decisive battle of the Wars of the Roses, marked the end of the Middle Ages in England. Richard was created Duke of Gloucester in 1461 after the accession of his brother King Edward IV. In 1472 he married Anne Neville, daughter of Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick. He governed northern England during Edward's reign and played a role in the invasion of Scotland in 1482. When Edward IV died in April 1483, Richard was named Lord Protector of the realm for Edward's eldest son and successor, the 12-year-old Edward V. Arrangements were made for Edward V's coronation on 22 June 1483. Before the king could be crowned, the marriage of his parents was declared bigamous and therefore invalid. Now officially illegitimate, their children were barred from inheriting the throne. On 25 June, an assembly of lords and commoners endorsed a declaration to this effect and proclaimed Richard as the rightful king. He was crowned on 6 July 1483. Edward and his younger brother Richard of Shrewsbury, Duke of York, called the "Princes in the Tower", were not seen in public after August and accusations circulated that they had been murdered on King Richard's orders. Below is the Standard of King Richard III



There were two major rebellions against Richard during his reign. In October 1483, an unsuccessful revolt was led by staunch allies of Edward IV and Richard's former ally, Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. Then in August 1485, Henry Tudor and his uncle, Jasper Tudor, landed in southern Wales with a contingent of French troops and marched through Pembrokeshire, recruiting soldiers. Richard was slain, making him the last English king to die in battle. Henry Tudor then ascended the throne as Henry VII.

Richard's corpse was taken to Leicester and buried without ceremony. His original tomb monument is believed to have been removed during the English Reformation, and his remains were wrongly thought to have been thrown into the River Soar. In 2012, an archaeological excavation was commissioned by the Richard III Society on the site previously occupied by Grey Friars Priory. The University of Leicester identified the skeleton found in the excavation as that of Richard III as a result of radiocarbon dating, comparison with contemporary reports of his appearance, and comparison of his mitochondrial DNA with that of two matrilineal descendants of his sister Anne. He was reburied in Leicester Cathedral on 26 March 2015.



110 Sir Thomas Gower of Stittenham Yorkshire. (b 1430 d 1485)

Sir Thomas was a supporter of King Richard III and took part in the battle of Bosworth where he was killed fighting. He was aged 55 at the time of his death. He was born and buried at Sheriff Hutton in North Yorkshire. He was constable of Sheriff Hutton Castle. During his life he married Alice or Agnes Thwaites, daughter of John Thwaites of Lofthouse in Cleveland by his wife Isabella Ryther and went on to have five children, three girls, Ann, Joan and Alice and two sons Sir Thomas, his heir and John his youngest son. Following his death in battle, Administration to the effects of Sir Thomas Gower were granted to Thomas Gower, his son, 16 May who died just two years later aged 16. The youngest son, John then inherited the title and lands, but he also died early, at Flodden in 1513.

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Answers to the Phil Tebbutt Quiz

1. All are closes.

The odd one out is Tudor Close. Originally Spinney Fields consisted of Weston Drive, Lancaster Avenue and Tudor Close. The second phase included Stanley Road, Weston Drive, and Tudor Close were extended to this road and York Close was added, resulting in Tudor Close ceasing to be a close (not a dead end)

2. a) 43

b) The Park

c) Godsons Hill

d) Beckett Avenue, Southfield Way, Haven Road

e) The first section of Warwick Lane from Stanley Road to Southfield Way has four houses, previously the King William IV Public House, are addressed from left to right. 33 & 35 Station Road, 29 & 30 Southfield Way. On the other side of the road are 2 & 4 Warwick Lane. The King William IV was addressed as 35 Station Road and the others correctly addressed are 2&4 Warwick Lane. This section has never been Southfield Way. The correct road sign is still present.

f) The lane off Station Road, below the St. Peter's Academy. The three houses are Spinney Cottage, Woodlands and Godsons Hill Farm.

g) When the rear building of the Westhaven Home and the adjacent house were demolished, the front section was converted into four residence sand the current Fire Station (designed by Mr Davis of Cadeby) erected. To the rear a new estate, West Haven Court was built, which included two houses on Weston Drive. All six houses have Western Court addresses but 18,19,20 & 21 are on Station Road and numbers 1 & 2 are on Western Drive.

h) Where number 72 Station Road stands was 2 semi-detached thatched cottages at right angles to the road. These were demolished in the 1960's and the number 70 built on that plot (i.e., no number 72).

i) I cannot identify them all but most of them are cul-de-sacs which have this numbering system. One of the largest estates with this system in the area is Fox Covert at Fenny Drayton with well over 100 residences.

j) 9/11 Main Street is the Pharmacy and Elizabeth Ann Hairdressers- previously Quincy's, Tebbutt's and Bamford Grocers. 9/11 Market Place is Dressini, previously Family Tique, Tebbutts Quality Stores. I lived at both premises from 1953 to 1964.

k) Four. Beckett, Lancaster, St. Catherine's and Northumberland

l) Haven Road

Nigel, this has been an interesting exercise. I arrived in Market Bosworth in 1953 but there must be many more interesting anomalies prior to my arrival. One of these is that the 1940's and early 1950's other than The Gate House there were only 4 houses in The Park. Also, the 1963 Electoral Role had 921 electors of which 103 were residents at the Park Infirmary and 85 at Westhaven. It just shows how small Market Bosworth was, but at that time it was also the Headquarters of the Bosworth Rural District Council.