

## Sidney's War 1914 - 1918– David Humberston



We were pleased to welcome David back to our April meeting, we always look forward to his lectures. On this occasion it was even more special to David. Sidney was his own grandfather and showing remarkable foresight David recorded conversations with his grandfather and has since turned them into this lecture. Sidney was born in Farendon Street, Leicester in 1907 before moving to Oak Street shortly afterwards. Oak street was a rented terraced house of the typical three up three down variety. The house still stands but the houses across the street have all been demolished. The rent for Oak Street at that time was 12/3 per week (that's around 62 pence in new money).

Sidney talked about his family to David, always calling his father 'the old man' never dad or father. His father was a bricklayer and spent most of World War 1 away from home. He was unable to serve in the forces as he was in a reserved occupation and spent his time building factories, warehouses and hospitals. Money was sent home to pay for rent and living expenses for Sidney and his mother. Sidney recalls that his dad spent a lot of time in lodgings some more comfortable than others. At one such there was only one easy chair in the lounge so if the occupant rose for any reason there was a scramble to get it. The landlady was not impressed by this behaviour and told them all so, there is no record that she purchased another chair or chairs!

Sidney was able to recall his schooldays, he started in a boy's school. He moved up the classes each year until it was time to leave. Not far from the house was a brook and Sidney would use the railways tunnels to get to the brook to play with his friends. Not far away was a Coop laundry and the drain discharged warm water. There were some refugees living nearby and they struck up a friendship with some of the boys. One fell into the brook and was very wet. Sidney told him to sit under the warm water and it would dry him! Leicester had a tram system then and in winter the snow was piled high each side of the tracks. One day Sidney decided to make a snowball and throw it at a conductress. He was a good shot and hit her square on the chin. The next morning the local bobby told Sidney's mum he must appear before a magistrate for his deed. Luckily, the charges were dropped, and Sidney went to school as usual.

David explained that when he talked about his memories, he was a frail old man, but his eyes lit up like cinema projectors as the memories played in his head. Sidney died in 1998 aged 91.

One aspect of Sidney's memories struck David. Whilst Sidney knew that his uncles were at war, he did not know anything about that. He knew about a Zeppelin attack on Loughborough but not that 27 bombs were dropped and that 10 people were killed. He also did not know the fate of his uncles, which was subsequently researched by David. It appeared that he was shielded from much of the information about the war and was therefore able to enjoy an almost normal boyhood. It was pointed out by a member at the lecture that the absence of radio, yet to be broadcast nationally and regularly, that newspapers were the only source of news. Woe betide any urchin who messed with father's or mother's newspaper.

It was a great lecture which allowed us to see life during WW1 through the eyes of a boy growing up at that time.

## Next Meeting Arthur Benoni Evans – Walter Baynes and Nigel Palmer



Do come along to the Free Church, Barton Road on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to hear everything about this famous man.

Many will know that he was the Headmaster of the Dixie Grammar School and is buried in the churchyard of St. Peter's Parish Church. There is a lot more to know about this fascinating man and his family legacy.

The lecture will commence at 7:30 pm and all are welcome, subject to available seating. If not a member of the MBS, please consider a small donation of £3.00 to defer costs.

## THE APPREHENSION, IMPRISONMENT AND TRIAL OF THE 7TH BARONET, SIR WILLOUGHBY WOLSTAN DIXIE



Last month I included a press cutting which detailed the arrest and transfer to Leicester Prison of Sir Wolstan Dixie. He had been accused of assaulting his daughter. This was a serious matter as can be seen in the press cutting. It is interesting to note that Sir Wolstan maintained his dignity and asserted his rights as a Baronet throughout. I have been carrying out some more research as matters are often not as straightforward as they may seem. It is only right now that the rest of the story is told. I have had some help with this from Walter Baynes who set his best researcher onto the matter and as you will see more information has been discovered. Shown left is the Dixie Family's Coat of Arms and motto Quod Dixi Dixi, which translates to "I said what I said" or "what I said I said" Latin to English is often not an exact transfer.

Further cuttings were discovered:



**sentenced to six months imprisonment, for assaulting and beating two of the Gendarmes in that port.**

**The case of Sir Willoughby Dixie, Bart. for an alledged violation of his own daughter, did not come before the Court at Leicester Assizes. It is said to have been disposed of in private between the Counsel on both sides.**

**In the Justiciary Court of Glasgow, this week, Alexander Lang was tried for stealing 1200*l.* in gold and silver coin from the office of the Bank of Scotland; he was sentenced to fourteen years transportation.**

We are concerned to learn that the Glove Trade is again much depressed, in consequence of the vast quantities of French gloves which are introduced. Not only are these gloves imported to a great extent in the legal way, but it is a well-established fact that the smugglers introduce them at half the duty. The manufacturers in London are about to present a memorial to Ministers, stating the injury which is being sustained by the trade, and praying that a stop may be put to the importation after July 1828.  
—*Worcester Journal*

**The case of Sir Willoughby Dixie, Bart. did not come before the Court at Leicester Assizes. It is said to have been disposed of in a private room in the Castle, between the Counsel on both sides.**

**The East India Company's ship Thames arrived off Falmouth the 5th instant. She sailed from China the 13th of March; put into the Cape to repair damages; and left St. Helena, for England, the 8th July.**

# THE LANCASTER GAZETTE

The case of Sir Willoughby Dixie, Bart. for the alleged violation of his own daughter, did not come before the Court at our assizes. It is said to have been disposed of in a private room of the Castle, between the Counsel on both sides.—*Leicester Chronicle*.

The transcripts of these cuttings are the same and read:

Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette Boyle, Saturday October 6, 1827, Journal Unidentified and The Lancaster Gazette.

The case of Sir Willoughby Dixie, Bart., for an alleged violation of his own daughter, did not come before the Court at Leicester Assizes. It is said to have been disposed of in private between the Counsel of both sides.

Why was the case not heard? The accusations were serious, and Sir Wolstan was in jail without parole, something he must have found most uncomfortable if only due to his poor health at the time. If we look at the defence which presents a much different picture, we begin to see the truth emerging.

Next from the Nottingham and Newark Mercury.

## THE NOTTINGHAM AND NEWARK MERCURY.

### COURT OF KING'S BENCH, WEDNESDAY.

SIR W. W. DIXIE, BART.

In this case Mr. COMMON SERGEANT applied to the Court to order that Sir W. W. Dixie, who was now in confinement in Leicester gaol, should be let out on bail.

Lord TENTERDEN—What is the offence with which he is charged?

The COMMON SERGEANT—He is charged, my Lord, with an assault on his own daughter with a criminal intent, but I have affidavits from the prisoner himself, who asserts his innocence in the most solemn manner, and states that the prosecution has been brought by his brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Andrews, not for the love of justice, but because the deponent refused to put his children out to educate and to allow certain salaries for their education in a manner which had been proposed. The deponent further swears, that it had been intimated to him by the attorney for the prosecution, that if he did not comply with the wishes of his brother-in-law in these particulars, the present prosecution would be commenced. The affidavit then goes on to state, that the deponent had his children home from school in consequence of chilblains, but that they left his house on the 25th March last, since which he had not seen them; and your Lordships will perceive that the present charge was not preferred until the present month. I have also the affidavits of the servants, who state their utter disbelief that the charge against Sir Willoughby is well founded, and particularly the affidavit of the woman who had the care of Miss C. Dixie's wardrobe. There is also the affidavit of a medical man, who states, that Sir Willoughby is in a state of health, which makes it unfit that he should be removed.

Their Lordships having consulted together for some minutes,

Lord TENTERDEN said, Mr. Common Sergeant, you make take a certiorari to remove the depositions, and take a rule to serve on the prosecutor, to show cause why Sir Willoughby Dixie should not be admitted to bail before the local Magistrates.

The transcript reads as:

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The transcript reads:

The matter was also covered by the Morning Advertiser



THE KING V. SIR WILLOUGHBY WOOLLASTON DIXIE, BART.  
Mr. Common-Sergeant applied for a rule to show cause why the above-named defendant, who is charged with a rape upon his own daughter, should not be admitted to bail in the country; inasmuch as from illness he is unable to be removed up to this Court upon Habeas Corpus.

The defendant is now in Leicester Gaol, fully committed by the Magistrates to take his trial.

The present application was founded upon several affidavits. The first of these were made by Sir Willoughby Woollaston Dixie, the defendant, and he swore that the prosecution was not instituted from motives of justice, but entirely from domestic acrimony, resulting out of a family dispute, because he would not suffer the education of his children to be conducted in a particular manner. The affidavit further stated, that the supposed offence was alleged to have been committed on the 25th of March last, and the accusation was not preferred until the present month of May.

The other affidavits, made by a laundress and different domestics of the family, stated that no symptoms or complaints of the violence now attributed to the defendant had been exhibited and that, though the offence was supposed to have taken place so long ago, they never heard of it.

A supplementary affidavit, made by a medical gentleman, stated, that Sir Willoughby Dixie was in such a state of health as to render his removal to town, at present, extremely dangerous.

Lord Tenterden.—You may take a certiorari to remove the depositions into this Court, and also a rule (which you will serve upon the prosecutor) calling upon him to show cause why the defendant should not be admitted to bail before the local magistrates.

In the interim, the defendant remains in his present custody.

Lord Tenterden left the Court to attend the House of Lords at one, and Mr. Justice Littledale went to Guildhall at half-past twelve o'clock, to hold the second Nisi Prius Sittings in Term, for the Chief Justice.

The transcript reads:

COURT OF

KING'S BENCH,

Wednesday May

23rd.

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What did happen and where is the truth? I tend to favour the version of Sir Wolstan in his defence as it is backed up by servants and the dates of events. Of course it could be argued that Sir Wolstan may have threatened his servants with dismissal or worse if they did not support him, but this is unlikely. Had they remained silent Sir Willoughby would have been incarcerated for some time and unable to exact any retribution. We may never know what the truth of the situation is but if the charges were laid as claimed by Sir Wolstan what a terrible thing for a man of the cloth to allege against his own kin purely over financial matters. If anyone has any information about this case, then do please get in touch via

[info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com).

## **Dixie Family and Bosworth Hall Archivist**

Your committee have appointed Peter Loseby as the Dixie Family and Bosworth Hall Archivist. This is in recognition of the tremendous amount of research Peter has conducted in the subjects and his expert knowledge. I referred the article about Sir Willoughby to him and I am pleased that I did. Peter replied with even more information. This is what Peter had to say:

*"Hi Nigel,*

*I love it! Sensational claims one month followed by the following month's adage don't believe all that you read in the newspapers.*

*The only discrepancy I noticed, which, I hasten to add, is not your doing is the surname of the brother-in-law.*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet married the daughter of the Rev Adnutt Rector of Croft at Nailstone in 1815.*

*Although he inherited the title in 1814, he did not take his seat at Bosworth Hall until Eleanor Pochin had died. She had taken up residency in 1802 whilst her brother the 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet was in an asylum in Hackney and the 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet was being held prisoner in France.*

*Lady Eleanor died in 1823 when Sir Willoughby made a triumphant return to Bosworth. The Bull was renamed the Dixie Arms in his honour. He ordered that an ox be roasted in the Market Place which was to be served to the community along with plum pudding. A 37-gallon cask of ale was shared by all the male residents.*

*The report claims his brother-in-law was the Rev Andrews so I can only assume that it is a typo and should have read Adnutt. I have come across a document in the archive that mentions Rev Adnutt, but it was not connected to this incident.*

*Incidentally, it would seem that the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet was familiar with the Leicester Gaol as he was incarcerated there following the Rector of Bosworth, the Rev Wright, claim that the baronet had shot at him as he crossed the Park when returning to the Rectory which at that time was adjacent to St Peter's.*

*It is reported that the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet died suddenly in 1827 but again according to the report a medical representative stated that he was too ill to remain in gaol but should be released on bail. I would have thought the term 'to die suddenly' was an indication that it was unexpected.*

*Perhaps Walter's internet detective might find uncover further details.*

*Regards*

*Peter."*

## **Can you help?**

Peter Loseby the Dixie Family and Bosworth Archivist is working through a substantial number of documents related to the Dixie family. He would like some help in the form of typing support. If you can help Peter, in return he promises unlimited, tea, coffee, biscuits plus full access to his drinks cabinet for some typing up of the catalogue and notes. If you can help, please call Peter on 01455 01455 293659 and have a chat with him about it. Oh, and I lied about access to his drink's cabinet.



## Fancy a Sparkling Tea?

Our good friend Ruth has been in touch to ask me to let you know that Bosworth Hall is offering afternoon teas as part of the Coronation celebrations. Those who attended the Summer Visit at Bosworth Hall will remember how much we all enjoyed the tea, lovely sandwiches and delicious cakes. Go on, spoil yourself!



**THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III**

**SPARKLING AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION - FIT FOR A ROYAL**

**AVAILABLE: SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY | FROM 11AM**

Join us for the King's Coronation and celebrate with a relaxing Sparkling Afternoon Tea with family and friends, in our beautiful Manor House.

For those with special dietary requirements or allergies, please make us aware before ordering food.

**Children's menu available on request.**

King's Coronation Celebration Sparkling Afternoon Tea is subject to availability. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

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The Park, Market Bosworth, Warwickshire, CV13 0LP.  
**Tel:** 01455 293135 **Email:** [ruth.north@theelitevenueselection.co.uk](mailto:ruth.north@theelitevenueselection.co.uk)

**Booking Reference: MBS**

**ONLY £25.00 PER PERSON**

**PRE BOOKING & PRE PAYMENT IS ESSENTIAL**

## Quiz time – All Napoleon!

1. What government directly preceded the Consulate in France?
  - a) Empire
  - b) Hegemony
  - c) Directory
  - d) City-State
2. The Consulate was:
  - a) A front for Napoleonic dictatorship
  - b) A group of oligarchic rulers
  - c) A corrupt business cartel
  - d) A constitutional monarchy with a parliament
3. Which country did NOT join the Third Coalition?
  - a) Russia
  - b) Austria
  - c) Prussia
  - d) Britain
4. Which country did NOT join the First Coalition?
  - a) Russia
  - b) Austria
  - c) Britain
  - d) France
5. Which of the following was a French consul during the consulate?
  - a) Marat
  - b) Robespierre
  - c) Sieyes
  - d) David
6. Which of the following ended up briefly ruling the Kingdom of Naples?
  - a) Marat
  - b) Murat
  - c) Talleyrand
  - d) Sieyes
7. Which royal family did Napoleon remove from the throne of Spain, replacing them with his brother Joseph?
  - a) Tudor
  - b) Medici
  - c) Bourbon
  - d) Hapsburg
8. Francis II was Emperor of what?
  - a) Austria
  - b) France
  - c) Prussia
  - d) Franzia
9. Napoleon's Polish state was called what?
  - a) The Cisalpine Republic
  - b) The Republic of Poland

- c) The Grand Duchy of Warsaw
- d) "Congress Poland"

10. Which landmark agreement reorganized Europe after the Napoleonic Wars?

- a) The Congress of Venice
- b) The Congress of Ventnor Ave
- c) The Congress of Venetia
- d) The Congress of Vienna

11. Who of the following was a prominent Spanish artist during the Napoleonic era?

- a) Dali
- b) Picasso
- c) Goya
- d) Da Vinci

12. What style did Jacques-Louis David paint in?

- a) Neoclassical
- b) Rococo
- c) Empire Revivalist
- d) Mannerism

13. What did Napoleon call his grouping of German States?

- a) The Republic of Austerlitz
- b) The Holy Roman Empire
- c) The Confederation of the Rhine
- d) The Grand Duchy of Saxony

14. Which of the following was not a German Romantic thinker?

- a) Herder
- b) Fichte
- c) Hegel
- d) Voltaire

15. German nationalism was predicated on the existence of what special characteristic unique to each nation (according to Romanticism)?

- a) Mis-en-scene
- b) Bildungsroman
- c) Volksgeist
- d) Weltenschaung

16. What was Napoleon's legal system called?

- a) Napoleonic Codex
- b) Napoleonic Code
- c) Napoleonic Codon
- d) Napoleonic Coddle

17. Who led a slaves' rebellion in Haiti?

- a) Che Gueverra
- b) Joachim Murat
- c) Toussaint l'Ouverture
- d) Maximillian Robespierre

18. At which nation's economy was the Continental System aimed?

- a) Britain



- b) Austria
- c) Russia
- d) United States

19. Which Prussian reformer is often credited with "Freeing the Serfs"?

- a) Scharnhorst
- b) Hardenberg
- c) Baron Stein
- d) Gneisenau

20. Who was Napoleon's Chief of Police?

- a) Talleyrand
- b) Marat
- c) Murat
- d) Fouché

21. Who was Austria's representative at the Congress of Vienna?

- a) Talleyrand
- b) Hardenberg
- c) Metternich
- d) Castlereagh

22. Who was France's delegate to the Congress of Vienna?

- a) Talleyrand
- b) Hardenberg
- c) Metternich
- d) Castlereagh

23. Who was Prussia's delegate to the Congress of Vienna?

- a) Baron Stein
- b) Castlereagh
- c) Hardenberg
- d) Talleyrand

24. Who was Britain's delegate to the Congress of Vienna?

- a) Talleyrand
- b) Hardenberg
- c) Metternich
- d) Castlereagh

25. On what island was Napoleon born?

- a) Elba
- b) Saint Helena
- c) Corsica
- d) Gattaca

26. On what island did Napoleon die?

- a) Elba
- b) Saint Helena
- c) Gattaca
- d) Corsica

27. Who ruled Prussia during the Napoleonic Era?

- a) Otto von Bismarck
- b) Frederick the Great
- c) Frederick William III
- d) Francis II

28. Who was Napoleon's second wife?

- a) Marie Louise
- b) Marie Walewska
- c) Josephine
- d) Catherine the Great

29. What was Napoleon's son known as?

- a) The Dauphin
- b) The Infante
- c) The King of Rome
- d) The Prince of Europe

30. In 1802, what treaty ended formal hostilities between France and Britain for about a year?

- a) Presburg
- b) Versailles
- c) Luneville
- d) Amiens

31. What agreement did Napoleon sign with the Pope to end the religious schism between France and the Church stemming from the Revolution?

- a) Babylonian Captivity Apologia
- b) Donation of Constantine
- c) Concordat
- d) Golden Bull

32. At which battle was Napoleon's Navy decimated?

- a) Trafalgar
- b) Aboukir
- c) Midway
- d) Austerlitz

33. This 1813 battle, called the "Battle of Nations", ultimately resulted in Napoleon's exile to Elba:

- a) Marengo
- b) Waterloo
- c) Leipzig
- d) Austerlitz

34. Who led the British force at Waterloo?

- a) Nelson
- b) Pitt
- c) Blucher
- d) Wellington

35. What was Napoleon's return from Elba to make a last run for power called?

- a) The Finale
- b) The Empire Strikes Back
- c) The Hundred Days
- d) Return from Elba

36. This guerrilla war gave the French forces some of its first defeats, as well as being a costly diversion of Napoleon's resources:

- a) War of 1812
- b) Peninsular War
- c) War of Liberation
- d) War of Devolution

37. Who published Ideas on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind in 1784?

- a) Hesse
- b) Hegel
- c) Herder
- d) Hanson

38. How did Napoleon refer to Britain?

- a) "That nation of shopkeepers"
- b) "That naval hegemony"
- c) "Those fancy-pants industrialists"
- d) "That cartel of merchants"

39. What destroyed the Grand Army?

Poisoned Water

- a) A Russian-Austrian Alliance
- b) A Russian Winter
- c) Explosive Mines

40. Which exiled Napoleon to Elba?

- a) Chaumont
- b) Paris
- c) Versailles
- d) Fontainebleau

41. In which treaty did Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Britain agree to stand together against France if it should become too powerful in the next 20 years?

- a) Versailles
- b) Fontainebleau
- c) Chaumont
- d) Pressburg

42. Who was made French king after Napoleon's exile to Elba?

- a) Louis XVIII
- b) Francis II
- c) Henry IV
- d) Jacques I

43. Which former Prussian administrator served in Czar Alexander I's court?

- a) Bismarck
- b) Hardenberg
- c) Baron Stein
- d) Gneisenau

44. What proclamation announced the Continental System in 1806?

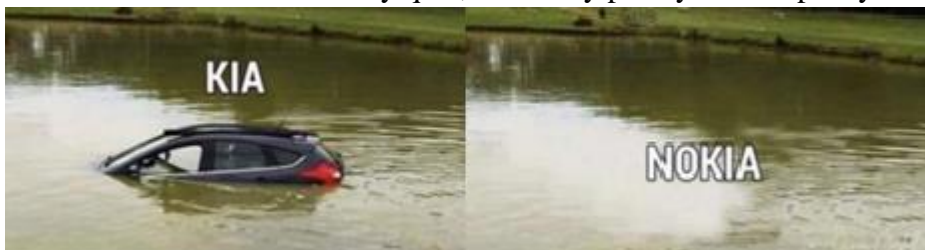
- a) Vienna Decree
- b) Venice Decree
- c) Milan Decree
- d) Berlin Decree



45. On Christmas Eve, 1800, a bomb almost killed Napoleon. Which group was blamed for the bombing?
- a) Chartists
  - b) Royalists
  - c) Jacobins
  - d) Romantics
46. Which country had the world's dominant navy in 1810?
- a) France
  - b) Britain
  - c) Austria
  - d) United States
47. What was the name of the first French-controlled state in Northern Italy that Napoleon created (by the treaty of Campo Formio)?
- a) Kingdom of Naples
  - b) Italian Republic
  - c) Cisalpine Republic
  - d) Grand Duchy of Italy
48. On December 2, 1805, Napoleon's army defeated the Russians and Austrians at what major battle?
- a) Austerlitz
  - b) Leipzig
  - c) Waterloo
  - d) Trafalgar
49. Before railroads, what was the most efficient way to move goods internationally in Europe?
- a) By horseback
  - b) By wagon
  - c) By ship
  - d) By postal service
50. Which of the following issues did the Congress of Vienna address as a side issue?
- a) Minimum wages
  - b) Maximum working hours
  - c) Gambling
  - d) Slave-trading

## Time for a smile

Goodness me that was a tricky quiz, I did very poorly but I expect you did much better. Quite fiendish in



places. Anyway I think we could all do with a smile after that. Its not only Beth who sends me amusing items (thanks Beth Keep them coming) Richard also shares a laugh or two, see left!

Just in case it was a drink you needed after the quiz not a smile how about this from Walter Baynes, taken from a letter written by Benjamin Franklin:

*"To confirm still more your piety and gratitude to Divine Providence, reflect upon the situation which it has given to **the elbow**.*

*You see in animals, who are intended to drink the waters that flow upon the earth, that if they have long*

legs, they have also a long neck, so that they can get at their drink without kneeling down. But man, who was destined to drink wine, is framed in a manner that he may raise the glass to his mouth. If the elbow had been placed nearer the hand, the part in advance would have been too short to bring the glass up to the mouth; and if it had been nearer the shoulder, that part would have been so long that when it attempted to carry the wine to the mouth it would have overshot the mark, and gone beyond the head; thus, either way, we should have been in the case of Tantalus.

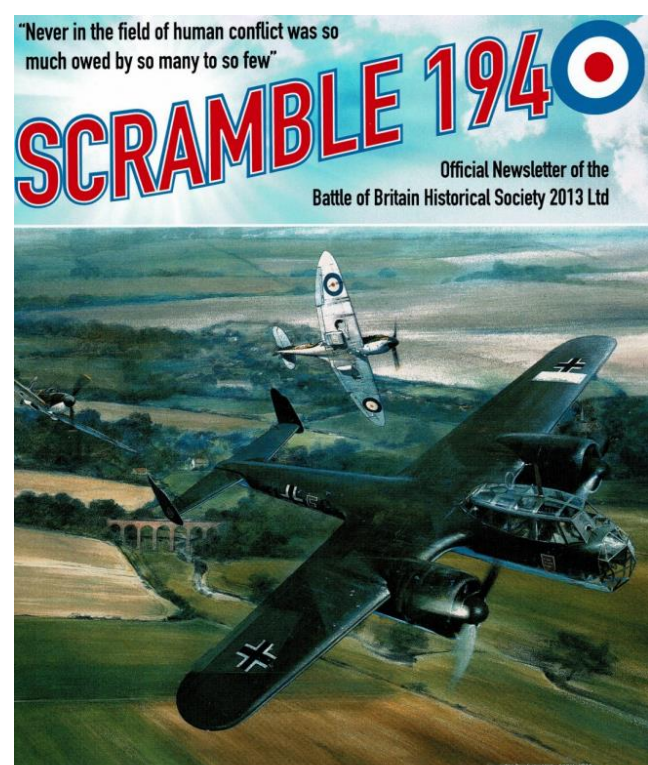
But from the actual situation of the elbow, we are enabled to drink at our ease, the glass going directly to the mouth.

Let us, then, with glass in hand, adore this benevolent wisdom; — let us adore and drink!”

Benjamin Franklin Letter to the Abbé André Morellet July 1779

## Herbert Ernest Black

Even More from Walter. You will recall that I reported on the award of a Green Plaque to Herbert Ernest Black RAFVR. A National magazine also carried the story.



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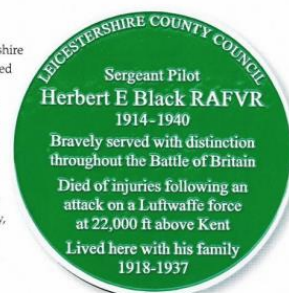
## Green Plaque presentation on 13 October 2022

Waggon & Horses, 21 Curzon Street, Ibstock, Leicestershire

On October 13 2022 a green plaque, provided by Leicestershire County Council in tribute to Sergeant Pilot Black, was unveiled on the Waggon & Horses.

Many attended the unveiling of the Green Plaque, David Lindley DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the local Mayor, Royal British Legion, two members of the family and public too. The plaque was unveiled by Cllr Dr Kevin Feltham, Chairman of Leicester County Council.

The Battle of Britain Historical Society was represented by Patrick Geary, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Coningsby, Lincolnshire.



## HERBERT ERNEST BLACK



740749 Sgt Pilot British 32, 357 and 46 Squadrons

Herbert Black was born in 1914, at Measham, Leicestershire. His parents were licensees in 1917 and became Landlords of the Waggon &

Horses pub in Curzon Street, Ibstock, after the death of his mother-in-law. The family then moved to the pub.

H E Black gained a scholarship to Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth. He was an excellent sportsman and played as a batsman for the school's cricket team. He also played for Ibstock Town Cricket Club, achieving success at hockey and was skilled at billiards. Black was a Boy Scout and became a Scout Master.

On leaving school he studied at Clark's College, Leicester and then worked as a weights and measures assistant.

He joined the RAFVR (740749) about August 1937, as an Airman u/t Pilot. He was called up on September 1 1939 and was posted to 7 FTS, Peter-

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borough on October 9, on No 12 Course.

With training completed, he joined 226 Squadron in France on March 6, 1940, to fly Fairey Battles. After the squadron was withdrawn to England on June 16, Black volunteered for Fighter Command, which he considered increased his chances of survival compared with flying Fairey Battles.

He was posted to OTU and after converting to Hurricanes, he joined 32 Squadron at Acklington on September 3.

On the 17th he went to 257 Squadron at Martesham Heath, and he made his last operational sortie with the squadron on October 15. Black probably joined 46 Squadron at Stapleford Tawney on the 22nd.

On October 29 Black was shot down in combat with Bf109s and his Hurricane is believed to have crashed in Hothfield Park, near Ashford Kent. He was wounded and badly burned, having been trapped for a time when the hood jammed. He had both legs amputated but died in Ashford Hospital on November 9.

Black was 26 and was buried in St Deny's Churchyard, Ibstock on November 14. On his family gravestone are the words



'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so Few.'

His address at the time of death was recorded as 129, Melbourne Road, Ibstock.

His name appears on the Ibstock war memorial and the Second World War memorial at Dixie Grammar School, unveiled in 1951. The school also has a plaque commemorating Black, installed by the *Battle Of Britain Historical Society* in 2007.

Since childhood Black had been friends with Gwendoline Annie "Gwen" Cuthbert. They married on June 17 1940. The new Mrs Black was a schoolteacher who later was Head of several schools. Speaking in 1999 she recalled the day of her wedding: "There was a pitter-patter [of gravel] on my bedroom window. I was a bit concerned but on peering out I saw Bert standing there with a beam on his face. He told me to get dressed quickly because he had arranged to pick up a special marriage licence from Leicester: we were married at St Denys' church that very afternoon."

When Mrs Black heard that her husband had been wounded, she travelled immediately by train to Ashford and remained at his bedside until he died.

She wrote the foreword to the book *The Battle of Britain Then and Now* (edited by Winston G Ramsey) published in 1980. She described her conversations with her husband as he lay fatally wounded, including his description of two Hurricanes circling him protectively as he descended by parachute. "They followed me down," he told her.

Gwen Black never remarried. She died in 2004 and was buried in the same grave as her husband.



Left to right: Standard Bearer and Escort, Ibstock Branch of the Royal British Legion: John Reed, nominator; two members of Herbert's family; Dr Kevin Feltham, Chairman of the LCC; Richard Lynn, Headmaster of the Dixie Grammar School; David Lindley DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire.



## **Dixie Family and Bosworth Hall Archivist report**

Peter Loseby has made several interesting and informative contributions to the Newsletter over the last few months where he has used the family diaries to give an insight into the lives of the Dixie Family. I am hoping that these reports will continue as Peter examines more documents. The Dixie Family were Lords of the Manor for a couple of hundred years and have a fascinating history. Here is Peter's latest report, this time about Sir Beaumont Dixie.

Hinckley Times & Bosworth Herald  
Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1924

### **DEATH OF SIR BEAUMONT DIXIE Celebrated Bosworthian of a Generation Ago LIFE OF THRILLING ADVENTURE**

Sir Alexander Beaumont Churchill Dixie, the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet of the famous house of Dixie who for generations owned the well-known estate at Market Bosworth, passed to his rest at Scarborough on Wednesday of last week. He left his old home at Bosworth some forty years ago when the estate passed into the hands of Mr Charles Tollemache-Scott, now of Cirencester, to reside in Scotland, afterwards to settle down at Scarborough, there to end his days. Though separated from the home of his boyhood, he retained an affectionate interest in the old place right to the last, and frequently corresponded with several of the old tenants of the days when he was in possession. He had not been in good health for some time, and he passed away at the age of seventy-two years, to the great regret of many of his former friends.

Sir Beaumont's life was an abundance of thrills, adventure and possibly indiscretions, yet he was a much-loved man, whose popularity was not merely confined to the immediate locality in which he formally resided.

### **MARRIED A QUEENSBERRY**

Born at Norton House, near Twycross, in the early days of the late Queen Victoria's reign in 1851, to be exact he succeeded his father, the late Sir Alexander Dixie, in the Baronetcy at the age of twenty-one years. His father came into the estate in somewhat unexpected fashion, the former Baronet dying without an heir, although there were two daughters who resided at Bosworth and took the greatest possible interest in the estate. When twenty-four years of age, Sir Beaumont, after finishing his education at Harrow, married Lady Florence Douglas, the daughter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Queensberry, and settled down to the life of a country gentleman. He joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry, was made a Justice of the Peace, and in 1876 was picked as a Sheriff.

The boyhood days of Sir Beaumont recall interesting memories. He would send into the Town for the lads to "Come up to the Hall and play with him" and many are living today to relate thrilling adventures in the vicinity of the historic mansion with young Beaumont as their leader. The young Dixie was, indeed, as mischievous as he was adventurous, and it was no unusual thing for him to be chased across his father's estate by a wrathful tenant. Sparrow shooting from ricks on the estate appealed to him immensely. He was, of course, the idol of the lads, who never lost the opportunity of joining him in his adventures.

### **THE FAMOUS COACH**

Sir Beaumont developed sporting characteristics as he attained manhood, with an almost intense partiality for cricket. He played regularly for the Bosworth Club, and accompanied them on their journeys to other enclosures in various parts of the county. He was particularly well known at Hinckley and Barwell, where the announcement of a visit from the Bosworth Club was sufficient to attract a large crowd, Sir Beaumont not only accompanied and played for his team; he himself drove them in a coach and four (by name "Thunder", "Lightning", "Sunbeam", and "Rainbow"), sometimes with postillions and horns. It is recorded that on one occasion he entered a pavilion after lunch and seating himself by the side of a big drum, beat it vigorously to the intense amusement of the spectators. Sir Beaumont like to joke at the expense of his own team. Once before the coach left Bosworth, he is said to have driven it into the ancient "Sludge Pool."

## ALL ENGLAND ELEVEN AT BOSWORTH

Sir Beaumont's enthusiasm for cricket knew no bounds. He was responsible for an All England Eleven twice visiting Bosworth Park, thus giving the local community the opportunity of seeing such famous players as the late Dr. WG Grace, and his brother, and other celebrities by name Pooley, Selby and Gilbert. The latter died a few weeks ago. In one match William Jackson, a member of a famous farming family, still living at 82 years at Austrey House, had the distinction of clean bowling the famous "G". Dr Grace was so impressed with the trundling of young Jackson that he offered to take him back with him and find him a place in the Gloucestershire team. He paid him the unique complement of describing him as the finest and fastest bowler in England of that day.

The Jacksons, by the way, are still in possession of the Common Farm, on the Barton side of the Estate. They have been there without a break since 1415, many years before the Battle of Bosworth was fought. The William Jackson referred to has attended Bosworth Fair for the last seventy-five years, a record in which the late Sir Beaumont was very greatly interested.

Sir Beaumont entered whole heartedly in the joys of the Bosworthians of forty or fifty years ago. He was the first to arrange sport in the Town, and there were great rejoicings in the park at the 1874 meeting when the programme included horse racing and the climbing of a greasy pole. In his younger days he was a friend of the late King Edward when he was the Prince of Wales. He loved horses and horse racing and on one occasion it is said to have won a bet for over £37,000.

## THE "DEAR OLD HOME"

Mr Tom Wothers, of Park Street, has in his possession a glass case containing a little Scottie terrier dog, which accompanied Sir Beaumont on his adventures on the Bosworth Estate. It was formerly in the possession of the late Dr. Thomas of Market Bosworth on whose death in 1908 the late Baronet wrote to Mr Wothers as follows; "I am glad you are taking the little dog, and it is a very great pleasure to me to think it is in safe keeping. It was my first dog. Its name was "Doll," and I was devoted to it. I often think of you and others I used to play with in the happy days now long since passed. Now all is changed since we were boys. With the exception of Mrs, Bradbury and William Palmer (since dead) I believe all the old Bosworth people have been called away since I left my dear old home."

Sir Beaumont was a fine horseman he was however, always more at home on the old coach, and handled the horses in such expert fashion as to cover the distance between Bosworth and Hinckley in half an hour. On one occasion he arrived in Hinckley when the market was in full swing and caused a sensation by "accidentally" driving into a ground display of pots. Like the good sport that he was he enjoyed the joke, paid the damage and departed smiling.

Sir Beaumont was the only son of a family of eight children. Mrs Astley, who used to live at Cadeby was the eldest, and the others in order of age were Mrs Dilk, Lady Norton, Mrs Parke-Yates, Miss Eleanor Dixie, Sir Beaumont, Mrs Kaye, Lady Edward Somerset.

## THE GREAT FALL

When he came into the Bosworth Estate one of the first changes, he wrought on the estate was to cut down something like £10,000 worth of trees. The Park was at this time full of fine oaks.

The Dixie family was connected with Bosworth since the days of Queen Elizabeth. The first Baronet, Sir Wolstan, received his warrant of Baronetcy from Charles I and he was a zealous supporter of the royal cause. In the confusion of the time the patent was not then taken out and only at the Restoration in 1660 was Sir Wolstan formerly enrolled as a Baronet of England. He was then High Sheriff of England.

There is a marble monument in the church at Bosworth to the Dixie who built Bosworth Hall. It was erected by his sister Margaret whose life size figure, prostrated by grief is found lying before a shield inscribed with a record of her brother's virtues.

Sir Beaumont went to reside at Scarborough shortly after the end of the war and while there offered to pay for free beer for all of the workhouse inmates at Christmas, but his offer had to be declined. He was twice married. His widow is Alice, the widow of Mr EJ Ewert, who he married in 1906. He succeeded in the Baronetcy by his son Sir G Douglas Dixie, of Cassalands Dumfries, who was born in 1876 and who has seen service both in the Army and Navy. The youngest son was drowned at sea during the late war.

The author then became side tracked by the exploits of Lady Florence Dixie and in the second part of the obituary went into some detail in describing her expedition to Patagonia, war correspondent on the Zulu War and a description of the memorial to her dog Smut.

The obituary contains at least two errors: - The memorial that now resides in the Chancel of a prostrate figure is dedicated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet's son John Dixie who was Rector of Market Bosworth for 37 years.

The youngest son of the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Lieutenant Commander Albert Edward Dixie was not drowned at sea during the war but died on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1920 aged 42 years shortly after retiring from the navy.

Peter Loseby

Elmwood, 16 Manor Road, Scarborough January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921

My dear Mr Churchill, Many thanks for yours of December 27<sup>th</sup>. It was very unfortunate I could in no way be of any assistance to your son and I am so very sorry about it as he seems so keen. I hope he will, as you say, work into the Regulars, through Cambridge and being only 22 he will be favoured in the way of age. You further say he may give up the idea of the Army and I cannot help thinking this would be the wisest and best step he could take. If there were "Fair fighting" it would be a different matter with honour and glory in a soldier's life but now-a-days there is none of this, and there is no great catch in being blown to bits by ships, miles up in the air, or from a shell started from afar off as America. The next war with the new engines of destruction is perfectly horrible to contemplate, and a million times worse than hell let loose itself. I see you have, like here, been having very unseasonable weather. Christmas was flat for us, and I believe it was the same for most places as it was so very mild and unseasonable, all so very depressing. This would account for the flatness this year. I am glad we are in the New Year for 1920 was a black one for me. I hope this may turn out a brighter one in my way. I wish you every good wish for the New Year and many more of them. I am glad you will look us up whenever you are Scarborough way, and I should be most pleased to welcome you here. Scarborough is a lovely spot in the summer months. With our kindest regards,

Ever yours sincerely,

Beaumont Dixie

## **Harris Bridge**

Some time ago I received an email from Peter Shaw who was researching his family and had a specific question about one of the canal bridges known as Harris Bridge. Aspect carried the article and John Dexter responded with this information:

*Open letter*

*Nigel*

*You asked for information about the origins of Harris Bridge. Quite simply, I don't know but do have some background information.*

*My late Aunt - Jean Dexter who lived at Harris Bridge Farm produced a university thesis in 1942 about the region. It is deposited at the County Archive thanks to the efforts of John Matthews of Congerstone.*

*The area around the Harris Bridge is and was very marshy to the extent of containing osier beds. Thus the area around the current bridge would have been largely avoided by both roads and footpaths. The old route from below Wellesborough ran around the higher ground towards Temple Mill. This is still a footpath and clearly visible on Google maps.*

*However the road as we know it was established and the current bridge (now bypassed) was built in 1938, replacing one from the 19th century. Interestingly the road was designated B584 before becoming the A444 in 1935 when a lot of road numbers were rationalised.*

*Records exist of one Richard Orton whose family lived at Lea Grange, near Orton on the Hill, in the 15th to 17th century. On his death in 1582 he left in his will the sum of 12d for the repair of various named bridges in the area, including "Harris Bridge".*

*Thus the origins of the name recede into the distant past.*

*Kind regards*

*John Dexter*



Peter and Jack Shaw recently wrote to me as The British Journal for Military History had published the article they had been writing. It can be viewed here: <https://bjmh.gold.ac.uk/issue/view/125/BJMH%209%2C1>  
Peter and Jack wish to thank everyone who helped with their research.

## HISTORY LECTURES BY MONTH AT GRESHAM COLLEGE

Here is an up-to-date list of the lectures being provided by Gresham College. For May and June. They are all free you simply have to complete a simple registration process.

### May

Thurs 04, 6pm, [A History of Barts, Britain's Oldest Hospital](#), Professor Charles Knight; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/barts-900](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/barts-900)

Tues 09, 1pm, [Women, Islam and Prophecy](#), Dr Shuruq Naguib; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/women-islam](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/women-islam)

Thurs 11, 6pm, [Dementia: A Cultural History](#), Professor Joanna Bourke; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/dementia-history](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/dementia-history)

Tues 16, 1pm, [The Mathematical Life of Florence Nightingale](#), Professor Sarah Hart; Central London to be confirmed/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/maths-nightingale](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/maths-nightingale)

Weds 17, 6pm, [Christopher Wren's Medical Discoveries: the 'Architect of Human Anatomy'](#), Professor Jaideep Pandit; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/wren-medical](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/wren-medical)

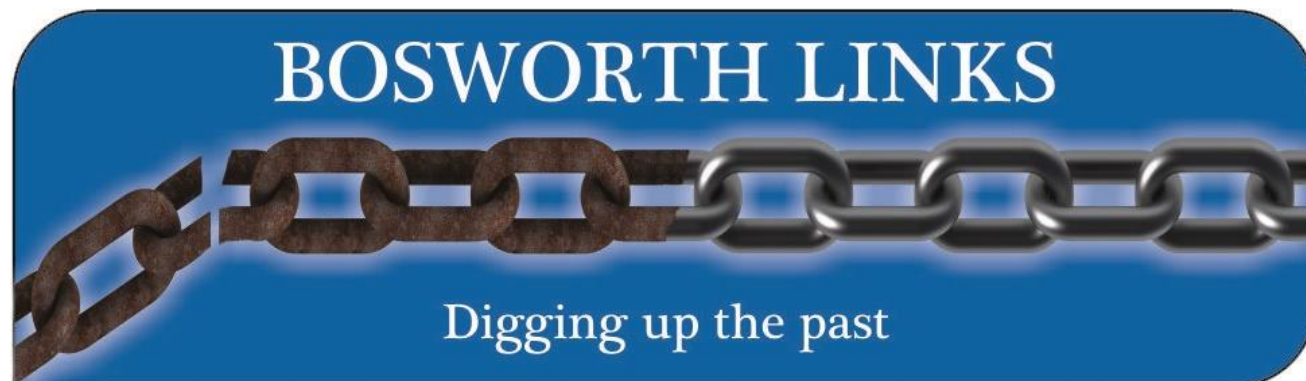
Tues 30, 6pm, [AIDS: A Cultural History](#), Professor Joanna Bourke; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/aids-history](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/aids-history)

### June

Thurs 01, 6pm, [Sickle Cell Disease: A Cultural History](#), Professor Joanna Bourke; Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/sickle-cell-history](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/sickle-cell-history)

Weds 07, 6pm, [How Pagan Was Medieval Britain?](#), Professor Ronald Hutton; Central London, to be confirmed/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/medieval-pagan](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/medieval-pagan)

Weds 14, 6pm, [Sir Christopher Wren: Architect & Courtier](#), Professor Simon Thurley; Central London, to be confirmed/ Online/ Watch Later [gres.hm/wren-courtier](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-later/gres.hm/wren-courtier)



A band of damp but cheerful volunteers and homeowners gathered in St. Peter's Parish Hall on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, to share their experiences of the Coton dig and what had been discovered. The weather behaved well overall. Saturday started with drizzle but cleared up. Overnight rain had flooded a couple of pits on Sunday morning, but they were soon bailed out and work recommenced. We managed to open 11 test pits

which was a great effort from our volunteers. Sunday afternoon found us racing to close up, and backfill as it began to rain. Hence, we were a little damp rather than soaking wet! After sharing their experiences the volunteers tucked into their tea washed down with hot and cold drinks.

The finds have been packed up ready to travel to the University of Leicester Archaeological Department for final cleaning and identification. Not that much cleaning will be required, the washing team did a great job. The dig was highly successful thanks to the generosity and support of several homeowners and landowners in Coton. It is too early to say what has been discovered overall, but a full report will follow the identification process. Whilst there were no outstanding finds there was some worked flint which has yet to be assessed but certainly Neolithic, and one piece of Roman Greyware. Most of the finds were quite small which suggests scatter (where the contents of the rubbish heap is scattered upon the fields as fertilizer) rather than dropped and broken pieces.

I was busy taking photographs which will be available shortly on the Bosworth Links page of the website [www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links) and another video capturing the entire weekend, made by Bill Newsinger will be available later in the year. We are very grateful to Richard Lynne and Steve Wright who arranged for volunteers to park in the Dixie Grammar School car park, where we were also able to hold our health and safety briefing and registration on Saturday morning. Despite the showers our volunteers set about their task with enthusiasm and care, and we look forward to some insights into the development of Coton.

We were joined this time by several new volunteers who had not previously taken part in a dig. They loved it and plan to come to Cadeby. It can become addictive in a very positive way. We had some great feedback and will be using that to help us improve our digs even further.

Thanks to everyone who took part, volunteers, hosts, landlords we could not have done it without you. Soon Coton will join Carlton and Market Bosworth in understanding how the settlement developed.

If you have missed out this time, don't panic. Our next dig will be in Cadeby and will take place on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023. If you want to take part or know anyone who does please contact our Project Officer, Gemma via [gemma@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:gemma@marketbosworthsociety.com). There are no barriers whatsoever to taking part. Age is not a barrier neither is physical condition. If you are fit enough to sit down, you can take part. We welcome everyone, whether it be your first archaeological dig or your thousandth all are welcome. Come and go time travelling with us.

**Contact Details** Please see the website [www.marketbosworthsociety.com](http://www.marketbosworthsociety.com) for information or email on [info@marketbosworthsociety.com](mailto:info@marketbosworthsociety.com) or if you would like to call MBS then 07930149408. Correspondence can be sent to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0JU.

If you have any items you would like to preserve for future generations, please contact MBS, or any Committee member. You will find a lot of information on the website and there are some very interesting videos which have been shared by members to entertain one and all, they can all be viewed here: <http://marketbosworthsociety.com/video-page/>

Membership applications may be completed on-line from the comfort of your own armchair!

© Market Bosworth Society 2023

Nigel Palmer  
Chairman

## Answers to Napoleonic Quiz

- 1 C
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 C
- 6 B
- 7 C
- 8 A
- 9 C
- 10 A
- 11 C
- 12 A
- 13 C
- 14 D
- 15 C
- 16 B
- 17 C
- 18 A
- 19 C
- 20 D
- 21 C
- 22 A
- 23 C
- 24 D
- 25 C
- 26 B
- 27 C
- 28 A
- 29 C
- 30 D
- 31 C
- 32 A
- 33 C
- 34 D
- 35 C
- 36 B
- 37 C
- 38 A
- 40 D
- 41 C
- 42 A
- 43 C
- 44 D
- 45 C
- 46 B
- 47 C
- 48 A
- 49 C
- 50 D