MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

February 2024

Dear Member

February already, and not long now until March. I always look forward to the lighter evenings and the onset of my favourite season, Summer. Although, all seasons have their charm, even winter as we can hunker down by the fire and listen to the wind and rain outside. I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter but please let me know if you would like to have anything included or if you would like to have an article included in a later edition.

Meeting Report: History of Desford – Kate Twitchin.

Kate began by explaining where her love of history began. It was not in Desford as you might expect but right here in Market Bosworth. The quincentenary of the Battle of Bosworth was the spark which has grown to glow so brightly, Kate admitted she was around four years of age at that time. Kate's lecture began with a quotation from Marcus Garvie "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots". Something that Kate keeps in mind when she is researching and it has led her to discover a tremendous amount about the history of Desford. This has evolved into a thriving community of likeminded people willing to engage with the wider community in a variety of ways. Some will be detailed later.

The name Desford is a little bit of a puzzle, as the original name Doer's Ford suggests that it crosses a watercourse but as Desford stands on a hill that is unlikely. More likely is that it refers to a space frequented by animals, we may never know but Kate explained that the first record of Desford, or Deresford was in the Domesday book 1086, although the name can be traced back to early Saxon. Following the accession of William The Conqueror Desford became one of the manors owned by Hugh De Grandmesnil. He was a French nobleman who fought with William at the battle of Hastings and as such earned his reward in battle. He was given 100 manors, 65 of them in Leicestershire and Desford was just one of them. In 1068 the City of Leicester was assailed by William who then handed over control to Hugh as sheriff of Leicester. After his death in 1098 Hugh's sone Ivo de Grandmesnil became Sheriff of Leicester, and master of Earl Shilton manor and that of Desford. During turbulent times lands changed hands several times and although Ivo remained sheriff of Leicester he was disgraced and out of favour with the latest king, Henry 1st. Desford was now held by Robert de Beaumont, who was created the first Earl of Leicester by the king. Interestingly it was believed that the Manor of Earl Shilton controlled Desford, but this is incorrect. Earl Shilton was a sister manor to Desford which changed hands from the De Grandmesnil family to that of the Beaumont's.

This brings us to around 1177 and after the disputes over the English throne peace appears to have broken out in Desford once again and Robert Beaumont ruled over Leicester as the 3rd Earl of Leicester. How much influence he had on Desford is unknown, as he spent much time with King Richard I taking part in the Crusades. After his death his lands were inherited by his two sisters as he had no issue of his own.

By 1265 finds Edmund Crouchback, pictured left, a member of the Plantagenet dynasty as 1st Earl of Leicester and owner of the manor of Desford. Second son of King Henry III. He was also Earl of Lancaster and Derby and was the most powerful Baron of England. Edmund died in 1296 and Desford was shortly to be in the hands of Henry Bolingbroke, which is why it became part of the Duchy of Lancashire. Henry Bolingbroke was better known as King Henry IV. In 1377 the population of Desford was 170 persons. Desford was faring well, presumably nestling safely in the Midlands it escaped many battles and skirmishes as the barons fought out who was rightfully king. By 1377 Desford caught the wrong eye and was considered to be sufficiently wealthy to be taxed to help pay for the war against the Scots.

In 1657 Desford suffered a catastrophic fire where a barn caught light. Kate told us about the Curfew Bell. In the medieval period, curfews came in the form of an evening bell, rung to signify that the cooking and heating fires of the day should be covered for the night. From the French couvre feu, literally to "cover the fire," these regulations were aimed at preventing unattended flames growing out of control. Sadly, for Desford the device did not work. "The fire burnt dwellings, barns, stables, corn, hay household items and other goods of great value" Desford Parish Register. Help was sought from other manors and Elstree sent ten shillings. This was reminded to the people of Desford when in 1981 Elstree sought help to repair their church roof! I wonder what the equivalent of 10s would have been 324 years later, maybe they just gave them their 50p back and left it at that.

One notable person connected to Desford was William Gadsby an English Strict Baptist pastor, hymn writer and church preacher. He is often seen as the father of the Strict and Particular Baptist movement in England. Although he was not formally educated, Gadsby (pictured below left) was regarded by his contemporaries as an excellent preacher and pastor who championed the cause of social justice and opposed the established Elizabethan Church. One of 14 children born in Attleborough he preached in Hinckley and then walked to Desford to preach there. Gadsby originally had no intention of moving to Manchester, however after learning that there was a chapel called "Back Lane Particular Baptist Chapel" that was without a pastor, he requested that he be allowed to preach there for a month as he attended to "business" He did not initially state it out of embarrassment but he did not have any business in Manchester but he had heard the people of Manchester were very charitable and so he sought to beg for money as his funds for Hinckley Chapel were dangerously low.

Eventually his sermons were admired by the congregation at Manchester and in 1805, he decided to settle there and become pastor for this chapel.

In other historical news, Desford has the 3rd oldest railway in the world, dating to 1832 which carried both freight and passengers. It had its share of railway disasters, one in 1844 and again in 1881. More information here: News-sheet-1-18.pdf (marketbosworthsociety.com). The last passenger train was on the 7th September 1964 but the railway line still carries freight.

Desford was not always poor as described by William Gadsby, in 1871 there were 911 frame knitters in Desford making it the largest community of weavers in Leicestershire. This huge number of weavers had grown from just 115 in 1851. In 1876 was opened the first board school offering compulsory but free education to the children of Desford. Desford's first car was owned by Walter Starbuck landlord of the Bluebell Inn. Walter, on acquiring his car made it immediately available to the local doctor, offering to take him quickly to emergency patients. Desford may well hold the record for the first bride delivered to church by car, another kindness of Walter. Walter went on to teach servicemen to drive in the First World War.

Desford had its first Parish Council in 1913, which was quickly followed by other improvements. Gas was available to heat, cook and light with in 1913. A bus service commenced in 1921 but it was in 1924 that electricity came to Desford.

Desford was known as a mining village (another lecture, stand by) which opened in 1902 and closed in 1984. The winding wheel (pictured below) is a permanent reminder of Desford's proud mining past. In WW1 56 men from Desford fought and sadly 15 did not return. Research is continuing into the history of Desford between 1914 and 1919, if anyone has any information please let me know and I will pass it on to Kate. The Desford Aerodrome was opened in 1935 as a RAF civilian flying school. I believe that Peter Hall of the Great Escape fame learned to fly at Desford. They boasted a flight of 120 tiger moths, many maintained by local men. My grandfather being one of them. During the Second World War over 1000 Spitfires were assembled and tested at Desford. The Aerodrome closed in 1953 having trained several thousand pilots. In 1939 the population of Desford had grown from 170 in 1377 to 1163 people. A 120 men served during World War 2 and the memorial records the loss of life of 10 who were killed. The ARPS (Air Raid Precautions) wardens numbered 18. It was considered necessary due to the Aerodrome. It must have been a well-kept secret as it was never bombed. The nearest was an aircraft jettisoning its bombs after a failed raid on Coventry.

The lecture ended here but the evening continued for quite some time as the audience enthusiastically asked questions and offered information about Desford. As usual I have omitted more than I have included and I have been unable to express the enthusiasm with which Kate gave her lecture. A great evening,

I promised more information earlier and here it is:

The dates for the Desford Guided walks this year are:

Wednesday April 10th at 10:00am
Sunday May 12th at 2pm
Tuesday June 11th at 6pm
Saturday July 6th at 2pm

All walks start at Desford Library with refreshments and an introduction. Payment is a suggested donation of £5 that will go to Desford Heritage. The walk usually last approximately 2 hours and is always at a leisurely pace. The route is suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs etc and we welcome dogs. Pre- booking for the walks is highly recommended as they are very popular. This can be done by emailing: desfordheritage@gmail.com

The talk on the Desford Railway Disaster of 1881 is at 7:30pm on Tuesday March 19th at the Free Church in Desford.

Next Meeting: Medieval Medicine – Herbs. Eddie Smallwood

Our lecture for March will be all about medieval medicine from a man who knows so much about the medieval era its almost as if he lived through it. Eddie makes a welcome return to the Society and as you know he never fails to entertain. His previous lecture about Battlefield Medicine is still talked about now. So if you want to know what they did with mandragora and egg whites, not to mention old wine (we would be in trouble, our wine does not get a chance to grow old).

Do come along and have a listen to Eddie and you won't be disappointed and the way things are going in the NHS this may well be a useful guide for the future. The lecture will follow the Annual General Meeting which will start at 18:30. Bring a friend or two, guests are always welcome.

Correspondence

It is always great to hear from members, especially if they have enjoyed the Newsletter. Peter Loseby recently emailed me with some interesting information. I am delighted that the article about Kevin Woodcock stirred up some happy memories. Cheque is in the post Peter!

Hi Nigel
Another excellent and informative newsletter.
On the matter of the Holland family residence on Station Road. Their home was one of the 'Wembley Houses' next door to where Nigel Simpson lived.
The house was about 50 yards from the school.
On another matter the earliest record of Coton in the Dixie Archive is 1289 when it was part of the Harcourt estate.
I was also in the same class as Kevin Woodcock. I well recall him drawing caricatures of the teachers on the chalk board usually making sure they were erased before any of the Staff saw them but on one occasion Mr Spencer Lewis saw one of himself and thankfully, he found it amusing.
Regards
Peter

Another email

Found this from the School magazine of July 1908...

Old Market Bosworthian Barrington Ward, FT.., at the Junior Bar is coming very rapidly to the front.
Our Daily Press have recently had in big lines :-
" Wife's Savings! Are they the husband's property ? "
We can say that Mr. Barrington Ward, as a recently married man, got the Whitehaven County Court Judge's decision reversed, and convinced a very strong Divisional Court consisting of .Justices Phillimore and Walton, married ladies must not pocket the hard-won earnings of their better halves.
Cor' blimey, mate! Fings were a bit different then, what? Suggest you discuss this at length with Lynne before publishing!
Very best wishes,
Walter

There was no need to discuss the matter with Lynne, she operates on the 'what's yours is mine and what's mine is my own' system.

Hi Nigel,
         spotted this on the BBC's local website and thought "That rings a bell! I wonder if Nigel knows about this. Didn't he visit recently?"

Work to save the last, purpose-built bell foundry in Britain has moved into its second phase.
John Taylor & Co has been at the same site in Loughborough, Leicestershire, since 1859 - but can trace its heritage back to the 14th Century.
The project, in Freehold Street, is being supported by £835,000 and will cost more than £5m in total.
The second stage of the project includes upgrades to the boardroom, historic entrance and landscaping.
The money - from the government's Towns Fund - is to protect and enhance the Grade II* listed buildings and on-site museum.
Once complete, the site will include a new bell museum, with increased and improved access, interpretation, and educational facilities, the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) said.
Following the works, the bell foundry will also be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register, ensuring the future of the industry, which is currently considered "critically endangered".
The site has cast more than 25,000 bells that are hung in more than 100 countries, including the largest church bell in Britain, Great Paul, which hangs in St Paul's Cathedral.
Its work has even entered popular culture: The bells from St Thomas's Church, on Fifth Avenue in New

York, heard on The Pogue's and Kirsty McColl's Christmas anthem Fairytale of New York, were cast at the foundry.

In June 2021, the government confirmed Loughborough had successfully secured an offer of £16.9m, to be spent on a variety of projects. In 2020, the project already secured £3.5m of National Lottery funding.

The second phase of the project started this year, which will see an upgrade to the boardroom, the original historic entrance to the site, and the Carillon Courtyard will be re-landscaped.

The existing museum is currently closed for the works, however tours that are still ongoing will include the manufacturing spaces but not the museum spaces.

Cheers,

Walter.

Yes we did visit the Bell Foundry, the photographs are here [Taylors Bell Foundry Visit August 2022 Gallery Page. « Market Bosworth Society](#) Whilst it seems only yesterday it was actually in August 2022. We were one of the last groups to be allowed to visit before the refurbishing and alteration works commenced. If you would like to read the report you will find it here: [News-Sheet-8-22.pdf (marketbosworthsociety.com)](#)

There's More

You may add one point to your quiz scores if you can name the comedian who used 'There's more' as his catch phrase.

From the December 1909 issue of the Bosworthian. Written in the visitor's book of The George Hotel, Keswick. Signed P. Loseby:-

Mine host has a cheery word for all,
The jovial old sinner!
The wines are good, his charges small,
He serves a first class dinner.

There's one that standeth at the bar,
Gay cherubim protect her.
And by her smiles her liquors are
Converted into Nectar.

'Mid Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelly and
The warbler of the district,
Host Scott –I'd have you understand –
Doth fairly "Take the Biscuit".
        P.L.

No, not our P Loseby, this one is Percy J. Loseby.
A former Old Boy of the Dixie Grammar School (yes, we may hear of him later).

Time for a quiz

This time I have chosen King Stephen, good luck!

1. King Stephen became king of England on 22nd December 1135. Who was his predecessor?

a) Edward II
b) Henry II
c) Henry I
d) William Rufus

2. Stephen married a wealthy European heiress. Who was she?

a) Matilda of Boulogne
b) Adeliza of Louvain
c) Matilda of Flanders
d) Constance of Brittany

3. There was another Matilda in Stephen's life - his cousin, the daughter of the late king Henry I. She came to England, ostensibly to visit her step-mother but her arrival sparked the period known subsequently as "The Anarchy", when barons took sides as to who had the right to rule England.

When did she arrive on English shores to claim the throne?

a) 30th August 1138
b) 1st September 1139
c) 30th September 1139
d) 1st January 1136

4. Who was Matilda's half-brother who proved to be one of her most loyal and capable commanders?

a) Ranulf of Chester
b) Brien Fitz Count
c) Robert of Gloucester
d) Reginald Fitz Roy

5. King David I of Scots (uncle of both Empress Matilda and Stephen's queen, also called Matilda) invaded England a number of times early in Stephen's reign. When and where was the Battle of the Standard, following which his raids into England were effectively stopped?

a) 20th August 1141 at Ripon
b) 22nd August 1138 at Northallerton
c) 22nd May 1138 at York
d) 22nd June 1139 at Malton

6. King Stephen's younger brother, Henry, was a powerful churchman at the time, and carried a lot of influence. What was his office?

a) Bishop of Salisbury
b) Bishop of Ely
c) Archbishop of Canterbury
d) Bishop of Winchester

7. At which battle in 1141 did Empress Matilda manage to capture King Stephen?

a) The Battle of Worcester
b) The Battle of Dover
c) The Battle of the Standard
d) The Battle of Lincoln

8. Stephen secured a very good marriage for his son, Eustace, betrothing and wedding him to a girl named Constance in 1140. Who was she?

a) A daughter of the Count of Toulouse
b) A sister of Alfonso of Navarre
c) A niece of David of Scots
d) A sister of Louis VII of France

9. Stephen and his wife founded an abbey which they had intended to also serve as a mausoleum for their royal house. What was it called?

    a) Rievaulx
    b) Faversham
    c) Fountains
    d) Dover

10. In 1153, Stephen finally gave up any hopes of passing the crown of England to his son, Eustace. By which agreement did he formally acknowledge Henry of Anjou, Empress Matilda's son, as his heir?

    a) Treaty of Winchester
    b) Truce of Wallingford
    c) Declaration of Westminster
    d) Winchester Agreement

Famous Dixie Grammar School Pupils

I am delighted to carry on with our series about famous Dixie Grammar School pupils. After last month's levity we turn to more serious matters and applied mathematics. I would like to introduce you to:

Thomas Simpson, the oracle of Nuneaton, Bosworth and the environs.

Thomas Simpson is (pictured below) believed to have been born in Market Bosworth on August 20th, 1710, but there are claims that he was born in Sutton Cheney.

He was the son of a successful weaver and so was expected to go into his father's trade. His father was more concerned that his son should learn and understood the art and skill of weaving than in any formal schooling. It is known that he did spend some time at school where he was taught English and if so this was almost certainly the Dixie Grammar School. In Mr. Hopewell's "The Book of Bosworth School" it's recorded that he started under the headship of Richard Smith, 1711 – 1722, at a time when the School was flourishing. There were around fifty pupils attending at that time and in view of the impact of Isaac Newton's publications the syllabus was extended to include Mathematics and Science for the first time. Mathematics appealed to the young Simpson and he was fascinated by the subject to such an extent that his study of weaving faltered. His father was having none of this "book learning" and took him back to the weaving shed.

This of course simply meant that Thomas would go out of his way to learn more about his favoured subject. He took to reading and studying every book he could get his hands on and talking to anyone he thought could help him with his studies. He soon taught himself to write and by all accounts he gave himself a well-rounded education. But it was science and mathematics that became his all-consuming interest. His continued interest in matters other than weaving further annoyed his father and the rift between them grew. Thomas was particularly excited by the prediction of a total eclipse of the sun (a representation is shown left) which would take place on May 11, 1724. He wanted to discover how such predictions could be made. The darkness which fell across the Earth during such a phenomenon was terrifying to

The appearance of the Total Solar eclipse from Haradon hill May 11. 1724.

those ignorant of its cause and young Simpson wanted to know more. Finally, aged around fifteen, he left the family home and took lodgings in nearby Nuneaton with the widow of a tailor named Swinfield. She had been left with two children, a daughter and a younger son who was only a couple of years older than Thomas. The two boys soon became good friends. During his time in Nuneaton he took whatever work he could find as a weaver and began teaching mathematics. In 1730, aged twenty, he married the widow Swinfield.

In around 1732 a travelling pedlar was passing through Nuneaton and took lodgings at their home as was his custom. He lent Simpson a copy of Cocker's Arithmetic and a work by John Partridge, an English astrologer, author and publisher of a number of astrological almanacs and books. As well as his profession as an itinerant merchant this pedlar had taken on the more profitable role of a fortune-teller, which he performed by means of "judicial astrology". Young Simpson made such good progress with these extra studies that he acquired a local reputation as a fortune-teller. Everyone knows what the inhabitants of country villages think of such characters. However in a larger town there were those who were intrigued by their so called "abilities" and would avail themselves of the services on offer. One such was a young girl who wanted to know more about her boyfriend who was away at sea. Thomas agreed to help in a séance at which the fortune-teller would "raise a devil" to assist in his task. Unfortunately it all went wrong when a person, presumably Thomas, appeared from a bed of straw dressed as the Devil! The poor girl was so scared that she had a series of fits and was in fear for her life. When the news of this escapade spread through the town "the Oracle of Nuneaton, Bosworth and the Environs", as Thomas had become known, was forced to flee with his family.

In 1733 they were established in Derby where Thomas was again earning a living as a weaver by day and teaching mathematics in the evening. He was also developing his skill in 'rhyming verse', producing a 'well written song' in favour of the Whig politician Lord James Cavendish, son of the Duke of Devonshire, for the 1733 Parliamentary Election. It was around this time that he had the first two of his mathematical questions published in The Ladies' Diary, a publication *"Containing New Improvements in ARTS and SCIENCES, and entertaining PARTICULARS peculiarly adapted for the USE AND DIVERSION OF THE FAIR-SEX".* These included riddles (called enigmas), rebuses, charades, scientific queries, and mathematical questions. A typical volume in the series included answers submitted by readers to problems posed the previous year and a set of new problems, nearly all proposed by readers. Both puzzle and answer (revealed the following year) were often in verse; This one, sent in 1707 by reader by Mr. John White of Rutterly, Devon, is typical of such an 'Enigma'.

If to my age there added be
One half, one third, and three times three.
Six score and ten the sum you'ld (sic) see,
Pray find out what my age may be.

(Go on, try and work it out. The answer's in the usual place after those for the Quiz.)

It was in the pages of this journal that Thomas' 'versifying' and mathematical skills first came to the public's attention.
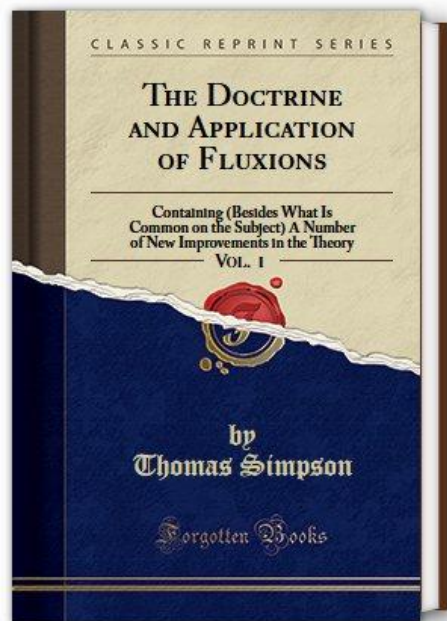
Times were hard for Thomas in Derby, there being little work for a weaver and even less for a teacher of mathematics. His wife had borne him two more children and with six mouths to feed things were getting difficult and so, in 1735, he decided to head to London. It is thought that the route he took brought him back through Market Bosworth as there is a rumour (James Throsby 1790) that he met up with his old school friend, Jeffery Tilecote, who was trading as a draper in the town. Tilecote let him have a suit for eight shillings, all he could afford, so that he could go on to London. Whether this is true or not is unclear.

Once in London in he set up in business again as a weaver in Spitalfields and taught mathematics in his spare time. He was an early member of the Spitalfields Mathematical Society, founded in 1717, being one of forty nine members in 1736. This Society operated as a working men's club and we know that it was a natural choice for a weaver who taught mathematics since of the members in 1744 about half were weavers, and the rest were typically brewers, braziers,(workers in brass) bakers, and bricklayers.

Simpson was the most distinguished of this group of itinerant lecturers who taught in the London coffee houses. At this time coffee houses were sometimes called Penny Universities because of the cheap education they provided. They charged an entrance fee of one penny and then while customers drank coffee they could listen to lectures. Different coffee houses catered to specific interests such as art, business, law and mathematics. For example the mathematician Abrahan de Moivre used Slaughter's Coffee House in St Martin's

Lane as a base and William Jones, who was a friend of Simpson, was able to make a living lecturing in coffee houses such as Child's Coffee House in St Paul's Churchyard.

Simpson was a hard worker and he was soon able to send for his wife and children. As the number of his scholars increased, and his abilities became more widely known, he issued proposals for publishing a book by public subscription. Simpson was never one for brief, snappy titles and it was to be called "A new Treatise of Fluxions, wherein the Direct and Inverse Method are demonstrated after a new, clear, and concise manner, with their application to Physics and Astronomy. Also the Doctrine of infinite Series and reverting Series universally and amply explained; fluxionary and exponential Equations solved." Writing it proved difficult for Simpson as he was so busy teaching and was constantly being distracted. It was eventually published and printed in 1737 by Thomas Gardner of London.

(Feb. 2024. A copy is currently available for sale in Switzerland priced £1,419.67 plus shipping at £18.36. This one would appear to be an original but cheaper, digital reprints are available.)

Then in 1740 he published "A Treatise on the Nature and Laws of Chance", in which he expanded on the solutions to a couple of important problems added in the second edition of Mr. Abraham de Moivre's "Book on Chances, and two new Methods for the summing of Series."

This is Simpson's second definition of Chance contained in this volume:-

"The expectation on an event is considered as the present certain value, or worth of whatever sum or thing is depending on the happening of that event, and is compounded of that sum and the probability of obtaining it."
To this he adds the Corallary (sic) "Therefore if the expectation on an event be divided by the value of the thing expected on the happening of that event, the quotient will be the probability of happening." Got that?

This was followed by the publication of "Essays on useful subjects in speculative and mixed Mathematics" and soon after this his election as a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences at Stockholm was announced.

Simpson is best remembered for his work on interpolation and numerical methods of integration. However the numerical method known today as "Simpson's rule", although it did appear in his work, was something he learned from Newton as Simpson himself acknowledged. By way of compensation, however, the Newton-Raphson method for solving the equation $f(x)=0$ is, in its present form, due to Simpson. Newton described an algebraic process for solving polynomial equations which Raphson later improved. The method of approximating the roots did not use the differential calculus. The modern iterative form, $x_{n+1}=x_n-\frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$ is due to Simpson, who published it in 1740.

In applied mathematics we can represent real life situations on a graph, often these graphs are curves. In some cases it may be useful to find the area under this curve to calculate another value. For example, we find the area under a curve relating to velocity/time to give us the displacement of the object.

When we are unable to use calculus (an algebraic method that would give us an exact area) we have to turn to numerical methods to approximate the area. There are many formulas which have been derived to estimate the area under a curve, one of which is Thomas Simpson's rule. His rule takes the area under the curve and breaks it down into equal sections. Three points on the curve (see the pink curve below) are required firstly and a quadratic curve is fitted as best it can to these three points (the blue curve). We are able to calculate the area under a quadratic graph exactly, but clearly as you can from this picture the area under the blue curve does match the area under the pink curve exactly hence the approximation.

Simpson's Rule
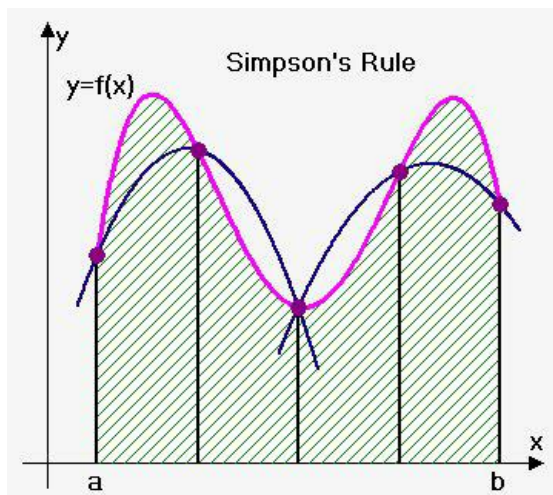
This is then repeated on the next two sections with another quadratic curve (see the second blue curve on the right) and so on until we have found the total approximated area.

I understand that an algorithm developed from this method is used today by logistic firms such as TNT, DPD, Hermes and Amazon to discover the most convenient route for the delivery of their packages.

Simpson's next work appeared in 1742, "The Doctrine of Annuities and Reversions." which was followed in 1743 by "An Appendix, containing some Remarks on a late Book on the same subject (by Mr. Abr. De Moivre, F. R. S.) with answers to some personal and malignant presentations in the Preface thereof." To this De Moivre never thought fit to reply. Also in 1743 he published "Mathematical Dissertations on a variety of Physical and Analytical subjects," This work he dedicated to Martin Folkes, esq. President of the Royal Society. Not long after this, largely through Folkes's support, he was appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. and was elected fellow of the Royal Society two years later having been proposed as a candidate by Martin Folkes, William Jones, esq. Mr. George Graham, and Mr. John Machin, the secretary, all very eminent mathematicians. The President and Council, in consideration of his very moderate circumstances, were pleased to excuse his admission fees, and likewise his giving bond for the settled future payments.

His next book was, "A Treatise of Algebra, wherein' the fundamental principles are fully and clearly demonstrated, and applied to the solution of a variety of problems." To which he added, "The Construction of a great number of geometrical Problems, with the method of resolving them numerically." This work was designed for the use of young beginners; inscribed to William Jones, esq. F. R. S., and printed in 1745. A new edition appeared in 1755, with additions and improvements. This one was dedicated to James, Earl of Morton, F. R. S., Mr. Jones having died; and then there was a sixth edition in 1790.

His next work was "Elements of Geometry, with their application to Mensuration of Superficies and Solids, to the determination of Maxima and Minima, and to the construction of a great variety of Geometrical Problems," which was published in 1747 and reprinted in 1760, "with large alterations and additions, designed for young beginners; particularly for the gentlemen at the king's academy at Woolwich, and dedicated to Charles Frederick esq. surveyor-general of the ordnance". Other editions have appeared since.

In 1748 he published his "Trigonometry, Plane and Spherical, with the construction and application of Logarithms," This little book contained "several things new and useful." In 1750 "The doctrine and application of Fluxions" appeared in two volumes. In the preface he states that "the author offers this to the world as a new book rather than a second edition of that published in 1737; in which he acknowledges, that,

besides errors of the press, there are several obscurities and defects, for want of experience, in his first attempt. This work is dedicated to George, Earl of Macclesfield."

In 1752 "Select Exercises for young proficients in Mathematics," dedicated to John Bacon, esq. F. R. S. went into print and his "Miscellaneous Tracts." printed in 1757 was his last publication. His work has been described as "a most valuable bequest, whether we consider the dignity and importance of the subjects, or his sublime and accurate manner of treating them".

Simpson (shown left as an older man) wrote several papers which were read at the meetings of the Royal Society, and printed in their "Transactions", but most, if not all of them, were afterwards inserted, with alterations or additions, in his printed

volumes. He also proposed, and resolved many questions in the "Ladies Diaries," sometimes under his own name, as in 1735 and 1736; and sometimes under feigned or fictitious names, such as, it is thought, Hurlothrumbo, Kubernetes, Patrick O'Cavenah, Marmaduke Hodgson, Anthony Shallow and probably several others. Simpson was the editor or compiler of the Ladies' Diary from 1754 until 1760, during which time he raised the standard of the publication to the highest degree of respect.

In 1754 there was much discussion in the press concerning London's slow progress in its regeneration after the Great Fire in 1666. Joseph Massie, a writer on economic issues, published a pamphlet pointing out the City's inertia and the progress being made elsewhere. Amongst other schemes he proposed the building of a new bridge linking the City with Southwark. Massie's solution as to where to situate the new bridge without purchasing and demolishing expensive waterfront buildings was to site it over the outflow of the River Fleet, known as the Fleet Ditch. The City took advice from the eminent engineer John Smeaton regarding the cost and then petitioned Parliament to be able to create the new bridge. A House of Commons committee was formed to consider the matter and the result was an Act. to raise funds for the new bridge. A committee of 36 aldermen and councillors was formed to oversee the new bridge project, although none with any specialist engineering knowledge. It was then delayed by several years due to its high cost. The initial budget was set at £144,000. By July 1759 this sum had been raised and a competition was then held for a design and several eminent architects and engineers tendered entries, including George Dance the Elder and John Smeaton. The initial front-runners were Smeaton, who was then building the Eddystone lighthouse and had already been involved in the bridge project, and John Gwynn, who went on to design bridges elsewhere in England. Of the 69 entries submitted, one from an unknown young Scotsman by the name of Robert Mylne unusually consisted of elliptical arches. Unlike others such as Smeaton and Gwynn, who had probably been preparing plans over a long period, Mylne had only two months from the announcement of the competition until the closing date. The submissions were then whittled down to a short-list of fourteen.

Throughout this time Thomas Simpson had been on the fringes of the discussions regarding the structure of such a bridge. His contribution would appear to be the only mathematical appraisal of the designs as the panel of "experts" included a clergyman, the Astronomer Royal, a teacher of medicine, a lawyer, and two professors. Simpson's calculations showed that Mylne's arch was thicker than necessary, and that the size of pier needed to resist the horizontal thrust was virtually identical for both elliptical and semi-circular designs. Simpson was working on extending these studies into a treatise on arches, but after his early death one year later his papers were given by his widow to a military officer, who refused to let them be seen again.

There was a great debate regarding the various designs, with a certain amount of propaganda spread around in the form of anonymous letters to newspapers, including one from Dr. Samuel Johnson, a friend of Gwynn and someone known for his dislike of Scotsmen such as Mylne. Eventually a lengthy and anonymous pamphlet went into circulation debating the issue. The detailed criticism of each of the main submissions, and its praise for that of Mylne, suggests that this was written by the young Scot himself. To the surprise of almost everyone, in February 1760 the committee announced the winning entry to be that of Mylne. Furthermore, he was appointed surveyor of the bridge and its surrounding areas on each bank, on a very generous salary.

All of this extra work and stress had put Simpson's life in danger, exercise and a proper regimen were prescribed him, but to little purpose; "for he sank gradually into such a lowness of spirits as seemed to impair his mental faculties, even reading the letters of his friends confused him. He became clumsy and unsteady when walking which caused him great anxiety." The physicians advised him to seek the fresh, country air of his home-town to help in his recovery. In Feb. 1761, be set out reluctantly with some relations for Bosworth, believing he would never return. The journey tired him so much, that upon his arrival, he took to his bed, where he died on May 14th. He was just fifty one years old. He left a widow, a son, and a daughter, the former an officer in the royal regiment of artillery.

The king, at the suggestion of Field Marshal John Ligonier, 1st Earl Ligonier, KB, PC, in consideration of Thomas Simpson's great works, granted a pension to his widow, together with handsome apartments adjoining the academy at Woolwich, a favour never conferred on anyone before. His widow died at Woolwich, December 19th, 1782, aged one hundred and two.

In 1834 the Headmaster of the Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth, Rev, Dr, Arthur Benoni Evans erected a marble tablet to his memory in St. James's Church in Sutton Cheney where it is thought he is buried. The inscription reads:-

Nearby rest the mortal remains of Thomas Simpson of Bosworth

Born in a humble station on 20th August 1710 AD his love of knowledge and his industry raised him to the heights of philosophy to such an extent that, though taken away by an untimely death on 14th May 1761 AD, he left behind both great fame and a longing for him.
You must look elsewhere for the many troubles of his life, but what a great and fine mathematician he was can be most readily judged by those who have read his writings.

So that the tomb of our philosopher may not escape the notice of posterity entirely,
A.B. Evans took care of setting up this marble plaque in 1834 AD.

The following description of Simpson by his fellow mathematician Charles Hutton (made 35 years after Simpson's death) is interesting:-
It has been said that Mr Simpson frequented low company, with whom he used to guzzle porter and gin: but it must be observed that the misconduct of his family put it out of his power to keep the company of gentlemen, as well as to procure better liquor.
It would be fair to note that others described Simpson's conduct as irreproachable.

Interview with Stan Crane

The Transcript has now been typed out by Marion (who is to be congratulated on an excellent job) thew up a couple of questions. Stan could remember two incidents during the Second World War. Both air crashes. We managed to track down the details thanks to Marion Lambourne and Graham Rawlings.

The first was the sad loss of a son of a local Odstone farmer, Mr & Mrs W Richardson. Their son Keith was

Mr. and Mrs. W. Richardson, of Barn Farm, Odstone, Ibstock, have received news that their only son, Lieut. Keith Richardson, aged 22, has been killed on active service in East Africa.

on active service with the Fleet Air Arm in East Africa where he was killed.

Left is the cutting taken from a local newspaper at that time.

In memory of their son, the parents bestowed a stained glass window in St. Peter's Church – Shackerstone.

The details are below. Including details of Keiths grave.

St Peter's Church - Shackerstone
World War II
IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY --- JOHN KEITH RICHARDSON
RNVR KILLED IN AFRICA --- ERECTED BY HIS PARENTS

Three light stained glass window showing St George, St Michael and religious figure holding boat.
Dedication at base. Includes badge of Royal Navy at base

Photograph copyright: L Smedley-Hampson at "CameraChic"

In Memory Of
Sub-Lieutenant (A)
JOHN KEITH RICHARDSON
H.M.S. Kilele., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 10 August 1943 Age 21
Son of William Graham Richardson and Beatrice Muriel Richardson, of Odstone, Leicestershire.
HIS BODY IS BURIED IN PEACE BUT HIS NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE
Remembered with Honour
TANGA EUROPEAN CEMETERY
Plot 11. Row A. Grave 3.
COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The second crash was a De Havilland Tiger Moth (flown from Desford Aerodrome – see above).

Friday 15 March 1946

Date:

Time: day

Type: De Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moth
Owner/operator: 7 EFTS RAF
Registration: N9304
MSN: 82385
Fatalities: Fatalities: 0 / Occupants: 2
Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)
Location: Odstone, Shackerstone, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicestershire -
Phase: En route
Nature: Training
Departure airport: RAF Desford, Leicestershire
Destination airport:
Confidence Rating: Information is only available from news, social media or unofficial sources
Narrative:
De Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moth MSN 82385 (Gipsy Major #82122): Taken on charge as N9304 at 5 MU RAF Kemble, Gloucestershire 7.10.39. To Farnborough Station Flight 7.7.40. To 2 Squadron, Hatfield 16.7.40; to Sawbridgeworth 10.40. To 29 MU RAF High Ercall, Shropshire 12.10.42. To 7 EFTS Desford, Leicestershire 23.4.43.

Written off (damaged beyond repair) when dived into ground at Odstone, Shackerstone, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicestershire, 15.3.46. Struck off charge as Cat.E(FA) 8.4.46.

The reported crash location of Odstone is a hamlet forming part of the Shackerstone civil parish in the Hinckley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire, England. It stands on a marked promontory of high ground between two river valleys, at approximate coordinates 52°39′ 0″ N, 1°25′ 12″ W
Sources:
1. Halley, James (1999). Broken Wings – Post-War Royal Air Force Accidents. Tunbridge Wells: Air-Britain (Historians) Ltd. p.33. ISBN 0-85130-290-4.
2. Royal Air Force Aircraft N1000-N9999 (James J Halley, Air Britain, 1978)
3. Final Landings: A Summary of RAF Aircraft and Combat Losses 1946 to 1949 by Colin Cummings p.84
4. http://www.airhistory.org.uk/dh/p823.html
5. https://air-britain.com/pdfs/production-lists/DH82.pdf
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odstone

Quiz: Our final quiz is about Anglo Saxon Kings

Let's see what you know about these kings, no cheating!

1. Which king made peace with the Vikings and made laws to keep his people safe?
   a) Athelstan
   b) Edward the Elder
   c) Alfred the Great
   d) Edgar the Peaceful

2. Who triumphed at the Battle of Brunanburh and was the first king to rule all of England?
   a) Alfred the Great

b) Athelstan
c) Edward the Confessor
d) Ethelred the Unready

3. Who clashed with the Danes and fled to France?
a) Alfred the Great
b) Edward the Confessor
c) Ethelred the Unready
d) Althelstan

4. Who defeated the Vikings with his warrior sister?
a) Alfred the Great
b) Edward the Confessor
c) Athelstan
d) Edward the Elder

5. Who devoted himself to religion?
a) Alfred the Great
b) Edgar the Peaceful
c) Edward the Confessor
d) Ethelred the Unready

6. Who built monasteries and did not fight during his reign?
a) Alfred the Great
b) Edgar the Peaceful
c) Edward the Confessor
d) Athelstan

7. Who defeated the Vikings in the battle of Edington in the year 878?
a) Athelstan
b) Alfred the Great
c) Edward the Elder
d) Ethelred the Unready

8. Alfred made a deal with the Viking Leader Guthrum, which created ....
a) instant death
b) danegeld
c) a unified England
d) the Danelaw

9. Which of the Saxon kings died in 1066 without leaving an heir?
a) Edgar the Peaceful
b) Athelstan
c) Edward the Confessor
d) Edward the Elder

10. At the Battle of Brunanburh, Athelstan defeated an army comprising of ....
a) Scots, Irish and Danish warriors.
b) Scots, Welsh and Swedish warriors.
c) Scots, Welsh and Danish warriors.
d) Irish, Welsh and Danish warriors.

Snowball

No, not the energetic winter pastime, which has escaped us this year but a fast growing app and community for the disabled. It enables people to leave reviews of venues (restaurants, hotels, pubs, shops) that are accessible to the disabled. If you know anyone who may benefit from it more information can be found here: company.snowball.community. It started in Markfield so it is a local venture which is spreading across the country. Please pass this on to your friends and family and anyone who you think would be interested. Thank you.

Pay attention Quizzers!

Battle of Bosworth Quiz Night

Friday 19th April 2024

in the Parish Hall

Limited to a maximum of 6 people per team

Entry fee £5 per person

7.30pm start (doors open 7.00pm) Bar and Raffle

To book a place or table email:

marketbosworthfreechurch@gmail.com

or contact:

Nicola Ridout 07501 150082 Marion Lambourne 07779 929096

Fundraising event in aid of Market Bosworth Free Church, Chapel House Restoration and Preservation Fund

Contact Details Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email on info@marketbosworthsociety.com or if you would like to call the Market Bosworth Society (MBS), then

07930149408. Correspondence can be sent to MBS, 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.

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

© Market Bosworth Society 2024

Nigel Palmer

Chairman

Answers to the King Stephen Quiz

1. a
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. b
6. d
7. d
8. d
9. b
10. a

Answers to the Saxon Kings Quiz

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. d
9. c
10. c

Thomas Simpson's Enigma

Answer to the "Enigma" puzzle taken from the Ladies' Diary as submitted by Dr. Charles Hutton: -

" The meaning of the problem is, that the number 9 added to once his age, together with one half and one third of his age, the sum shall be 130; or since the sum of the parts 1 and 1/2 and 1/3 is 11/6, that 11/6 of his age is (130 – 9) = 121; consequently 11 : 6 : : 121 : 66 = his age.

H.

Algebraic solution.

Let 6x equal the required age; then, by the question, 6x + 3x + 2x + 9 that is 11x + 9 = 130; therefore x = 11; consequently 6x = 66 as before.

Or how I solved the enigma

+y1/2+y1/3+9=130

Y +y1/2+y1/3=121

6y +3y+2y=726
6+3+2=11y=726
726/11=66

If you prefer the published answer is below.

Answer. 66 years.

Solution.

The meaning of the problem is, that the number 9 added to once his age, together with one half and one third of his age, the sum shall be 130; or since the sum of the parts 1, and $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{11}{6}$, that $\frac{11}{6}$ of his age is $(130 - 9 =)$ 121; consequently $11 : 6 :: 121 : 66 =$ his age.   H.

Algebraic Solution.

Let $6x$ represent the required age; then, by the question, $6x + 3x + 2x + 9$, that is $11x + 9 = 130$; therefore $x = 11$; consequently $6x = 66$, as before.   L.