

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

January 2024

Dear Member,

Here is your January Newsletter, Happy New Year!

Meeting Report – ‘Those TV Times’ by Robert Leake

Robert’s lectures are always full of information, entertainment, fun and a romp down memory lane - or perhaps



I should call it nostalgia? No matter, it was enjoyed by every member of the audience, many of whom joined in with their own recollections and personal favourites. The lecture could have been called ‘memories galore’ and I will struggle to paint a picture of the evening but will do my best. You really needed to be there! At the beginning was Test Card C, with a link to Market Bosworth. I was interested to learn that the C card (yes, there were several Test Cards and each one had several variations) was designed in 1948 by Arthur Newell who came to live in Market Bosworth upon his retirement. Can anyone provide any information about Arthur? I have carried out a few quick searches without success but I bet someone out there knew him..

Robert explained to us that the BBC Television Service began on the 2nd November 1936. The Cathode Ray Tube had been invented by Karl Ferdinand Braun in 1897 but we had to wait until John Logie Baird demonstrated the world’s first live working television system on 26 January 1926, the birth of the goggle box. This system was based on a 30 line system that was soon to be abandoned in favour of the EMI Marconi system using 405 lines. The first programmes were run in the afternoons between 3pm and 4 pm and then performed again in the evening. Even then it was considered that too much television was bad for the eyes and so intervals were built into the programme to give people time to recover. These ‘Interludes’ were well remembered by the audience, like the potter’s wheel or the kitten playing with a ball of wool. There were actual time limits placed on broadcasting, I suspect with the same intention as the licensing laws.

Broadcasting ceased during the Second World War as it was thought that the Alexander Palace transmitter [the only transmitter at that time] would offer a landmark to German bombers and so was dismantled. The last programme to be shown was a Disney film, ‘Mickey Mouse.’ Showing a great sense of humour the very first programme to be shown when broadcasting restarted in 1946 was the very same film. They did run it from the beginning, I think it would have been funnier if they had run it from the point it stopped!



We all remembered ‘Watch With Mother’ but can you remember the days of the week the programmes were broadcast? Monday was ‘Picture Book,’ Tuesday was ‘Andy Pandy,’ then ‘The Flowerpot Men,’ ‘Rag, Tag and Bobtail’ and finally on Fridays ‘The Woodentops.’ This led to other memories, of Muffin the Mule, Sooty & Sweep, Camberwick Green, Trumpton, Bagpuss - all enthusiastically called out by the audience.

There was an emphasis on children’s programmes in the talk. Getting mentions and pictures on the screen were ‘Mr Pastry,’ ‘Billy Bunter,’ ‘Captain Pugwash,’ ‘Blue Peter’ and ‘Crackerjack’ with Leslie Crowther and Peter Glaze. Then evening programmes were described

and personalities remembered like Eamonn Andrews with ‘This is your Life’ and ‘What’s My Line,’ oh and the Westerns! ‘The Cisco Kid,’ ‘The Lone Ranger’ [with Tonto of course], ‘The High Chaparral,’ ‘Bonanza,’ ‘The Rifle Man,’ and even more recollections like ‘Lassie’ and ‘Champion the Wonder Horse’

Robert explained the different approaches to entertainment by the BBC and ITV, and that ITV had so much more money to make more lavish programmes. The viewing ratings war on Saturday nights was described

with the BBC usually coming out on top with audiences of more than 20 million. The opening of ATV in the Midlands [1956] was described and later the arrival of BBC 2 on 625 lines. When this channel was launched in 1964, 'Play School' was the very first programme because the previous evening's opening night celebrations had to be abandoned because of a power cut! 'Play School' at 11:00 each day, had up to 4 million viewers. I remember that it would have been 4,000,001 but we did not have a set able to receive BBC 2 at that time! Saturday mornings became dominated by 'Tiswas' [ITV, 1974-82] with Chris Tarrant and was rather more anarchic than Noel Edmunds' 'Multi Coloured Swap Shop' on the BBC [1976 -82], So many programmes to remember – 'Dixon of Dock Green', 'Sale of the Century', 'The Generation Game', 'The Golden Shot', the list went on and on!. After Robert concluded his talk we didn't have questions but recollections. One recollection sparking off another. It was a great night thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Thank you for joining us on a very cold night. It was lovely to see so many present and we all had a good time. I understand that Robert's fee for the evening will be divided between 'Aim for Change' (<https://www.aimforchange.org.uk/>) and the 'Hinckley Parkinson's Group' (<https://localsupport.parkinsons.org.uk/provider/hinckley-and-district-branch>).

Thank you to Robert for another brilliant evening of nostalgia and fun.

Next Meeting: History of Desford – Kate Twitchin 15th February 2024



The topic for our lecture meeting will be the History of Desford, Kate Twitchin. Desford has an interesting history and as a near neighbour you probably know less about Desford than you think. Desford is mentioned in the Domesday Book and the name was originally Deor's Ford which is early Anglo Saxon. There is also evidence of Roman occupation, and many interesting houses. Come and join us for the evening. As usual we will be in the Free Church, Barton Road and the lecture will commence at 7:30 pm. Please feel free to bring a friend along, I know a few people who have asked as their friends previously lived in Desford. All are

most welcome, subject to enough seats! We will ask for a small donation of £3.00 to help defray the costs of the evening. Many who come along decide to join as full members so do think about inviting friends and neighbours. See you there?

BBC Television Quiz – Now to see who has been paying attention!

1. What does the abbreviation BBC stand for?
2. What's the name of the international broadcaster operated by the BBC in more than 40 language which is the world's largest of any kind?
3. Other than "The Beeb", the BBC is known affectionately by what nickname?
4. The Archers is a British radio soap opera on which BBC channel?
5. Which BBC 2 finance and business affairs programme ran between April 1966 and November 2010?
6. What sort of toy was sitting next to Carole Hersee on the television Test Card which aired on BBC Television from 1967 to 1998?
7. On 10 September 1982, after 32 years on air, which programme was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 for the final time?
8. Which Scottish inventor demonstrated the world's first working television system in 1926?
9. On 29 January 1942, the first edition of which programme was broadcast on the BBC Forces Programme?
10. Which London entertainment and sports venue became the home of the BBC in 1936?
11. In 2012 the BBC relocated a number of its departments to which northern city?
12. What was the name of the world's first teletext information service and a forerunner to the current BBC Red Button service?
13. On 25 December 1977, whose Christmas show on BBC 1 attracted an audience of more than 28 million.
14. In which year was Eastenders first broadcast?
15. Which television sport programme was broadcast between 1958 and 2007?
16. In which year was BBC 2 launched?

17. Which sitcom created and written by Roy Clarke was first broadcast by the BBC in 1973?
18. After nearly 78 years on air, which programme was broadcast on BBC Radio 2 for the final time in January 2018?
19. CBeebies is a children's television network targeted at children aged 2 to 6, can you name its sister channel aimed at viewers aged 6 to 16?
20. Which BBC programme is the longest-running programme in television history to have the same presenter?
21. Which programme was relaunched in 2005 after a sixteen year absence?
22. First broadcast in 1953, name the world's longest-running news television programme?
23. Launched in 1999, which channel broadcasting documentary and educational programmes was shut down in 2002 and replaced by BBC Four?
24. Which BBC programme is now the longest-running children's TV show in the world?
25. Question Time, first broadcast in September 1979, was based on which BBC Radio 4 programme?

A MISSING DIXIE LINK? – Peter Loseby Bosworth Hall and Dixie Family Archivist.

Caroline Dixie telephoned me to say that a friend of her's who enjoys visiting cemeteries had just visited Brompton Cemetery which contains some 200,000 burials. Yes! Not a typo actually 200,000 burials. Amongst the gravestones she had come across the substantial memorial to Richard Dixie photographed below. As far as I can make out the inscription reads as follows: -

THIS WAS
 ERECTED IN SORROW ? WIDOW
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 RICHARD WOLSTAN DIXIE
 DIED AT WINDSOR ? MAY 188?
 AGED 60 YEARS
 THE SECOND SON OF THE LATE
 SIR ALEX^D DIXIE BART
 CAPTAIN RN OF BOSWORTH PARK
 LEICESTERSHIRE
 ALSO THEIR BELOVED SON
 WILLOUGHBY WOLSTAN ALEXANDER
 WHO DIED IN LONDON ? MARCH 18?
 IN HIS 39TH YEAR
 ALSO OF ELIZA DIXIE
 WIDOW OF RICHARD DIXIE
 WHO DIED 30TH APRIL 1903
 ALSO ? EMILY JULIANA LLOYD
 DAUGHTER OF SIR ALEX^D DIXIE BART
 WHO DIED 18TH APRIL 1896
 ALSO IN MEMORY OF
 WOLSTAN FLEETWOOD DIXIE
 SON OF THE ABOVE NAMED
 WHO DIED 12TH JUNE 18?
 AGED 57 YEARS
 ALSO OF EMILY ALICIA LLOYD
 BELOVED DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
 EMILY JULIANA LLOYD

WHO DIED 27TH MAY ?

Caroline asked if this could possibly be an unknown line of Dixies that might lead to the whereabouts of the 14th Bart?

Unfortunately, not. John Sayer, who was commissioned by the 13th Bart to research his ancestry gives the following extract when examining the 9th Bart.

In December 1818 Alexander Dixie, then of Orton House nr. Market Bosworth married his cousin Rosamund Churchill. She died in 1831 and in 1840 while he was living in Chertsey, Surrey Dixie married Rebecca Barnham at St James Westminster. Lady Rebecca, after 30 years of widowhood died at Hounslow in June 1887 at the age of 94. She had had no children but by Sir Alexander's first marriage there were five sons – one of whom, Nelson died young in 1829 – and three daughters.

The eldest son was christened Alexander Beaumont Churchill and in due course succeeded to the title. The second son, Richard Wolstan, married Eliza Gould in 1838 and was the father of Willoughby Wolstan Dixie. Beaumont Joseph, the third son, died in Calcutta aged 24 in 1846. By his wife Sara Ann he had an only child, Mary Ann Rosamund and in the grant of administration a stepdaughter, Charlotte Ann, is also mentioned. The youngest surviving son, Wolstan Fleetwood Dixie, was born in 1827. The name Fleetwood can be traced to the marriage of Joseph Churchill and Penelope the daughter of Charles Fleetwood in 1702 and recurred at intervals among the Churchills. Wolstan Dixie was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) in 1850, a Doctor of Medicine (MD) of St Andrews in 1855 and also a Licensed Society of Apothecary (LSA) in the same year. He practiced subsequently in London. On the 12th of June 1884 he was found dead in his house at 42, Great Castle Street; he had suffered from angina pectoris and died of heart failure. It seems that he had no children, for there is no record of this.

In Sir Alexander's diaries there is no mention of the death of his uncle who lived in Windsor which is where the 11th Bart's property 'Fishery' was.

In some ways it is ironic that in Brompton Cemetery not only Richard Dixie lies it is also the last resting place of Emily Pankhurst whose work as a Suffragette coincided with that of Lady Florence Dixie. What a small world we live in!

Peter Loseby (Bosworth Hall and Dixie Family Archivist)

Church Walk set to undergo major improvements

Works to improve Hinckley town centre's Church Walk will begin early in the New Year.

The works, which are part of the ongoing £1.8 million Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme, aim to make the area more welcoming to shoppers and visitors. They are expected to be finished by spring 2024.

As part of the improvement works to the Church Walk access road, there will be some temporary changes to Church Walk car park and vehicle access. Church Walk car park will be open for disabled parking only from 2 January until late February 2024. The nearest alternative car parks are on St Mary's Road, Castle car park (to the rear of Jaspers store off Hill Street) and Stockwell Head.

Church Walk will be closed to vehicles (except for access to the Church) and there will be no access to the vehicle turning circle at the top of Church Walk. For more information see www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/hshazchurchwalk. Officers are making contact with businesses who will be affected to make alternative arrangements for servicing and access to their premises during the works.

Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the works, however there may be some minor diversions for pedestrians moving between Argents Mead and Castle Street while works are ongoing over the Church Walk access road and car park.

The plans for the proposed public realm improvements, which are earmarked for the upper area of Church Walk to where the road and pavements joins Castle Street, follow consultation with visitors, residents and local businesses and meet the strict requirements set down by Historic England.

They aim to make the most of the character features and to improve walking and movement around the town, particularly between Castle Street and Argents Mead.

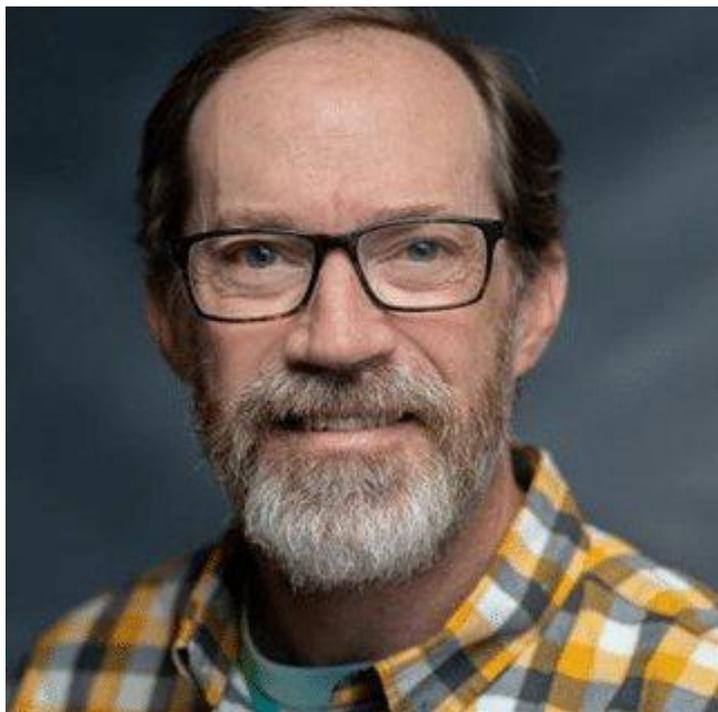
Leader of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Stuart Bray said: "This is a key area of the town centre for shoppers and visitors to the town and this scheme, along with the renovation of shop fronts and restoration of jitties in the town centre, will help to make the area more attractive to residents, businesses, tourists and investors. I would like thank residents, businesses, and visitors in advance for their patience and apologise for

any short-term inconvenience as we undertake these important improvements to the town centre's public spaces. We intend to fully re open this popular town centre carpark when the works are completed retaining all current spaces."

Another in our series about former pupils of the Dixie Grammar School, this time it's the turn of the cartoonists. First we have:

Kevin Woodcock

Kevin Woodcock was born at Leicester General Hospital. After attending Holmfield Avenue Junior School in Leicester and in 1954 he entered the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth.



It was here that he met a good friend of the M. B. S., Graham Rawlings. Graham still has an "original Woodcock" cartoon in an autograph book from their time at School.

Kevin then went on to study at the Leicester College of Art from 1961 to 1964. At first he tried to make a living by painting people's pets, but advertisements placed in a local newspaper yielded no clients. He then took on a variety of jobs, working variously as a farm labourer, van driver, petrol-station attendant and bus driver before becoming a full-time freelance cartoonist in 1970.

Kevin was perhaps best known for his caption-less and rather surreal drawings, which appeared in *Private Eye* and *The Spectator* from the 1970s to the 1990s. Influenced by the work of Rowland Emett, André François and Ronald Searle, his drawings - usually single-frame but sometimes in

two or more panels - rarely had captions and were always signed with his full name in capitals and written over two lines.

His boxy vehicles and angular figures were instantly recognisable and his imaginative ideas once led Richard Ingrams, former editor of *Private Eye*, to describe him as an artist who "specialises in architectural fantasies and surreal effects". He usually worked in pen and ink, drawing straight onto A4 art or thick typing paper without sketching first; for colour he used watercolour and gouache. He occasionally also used collage.

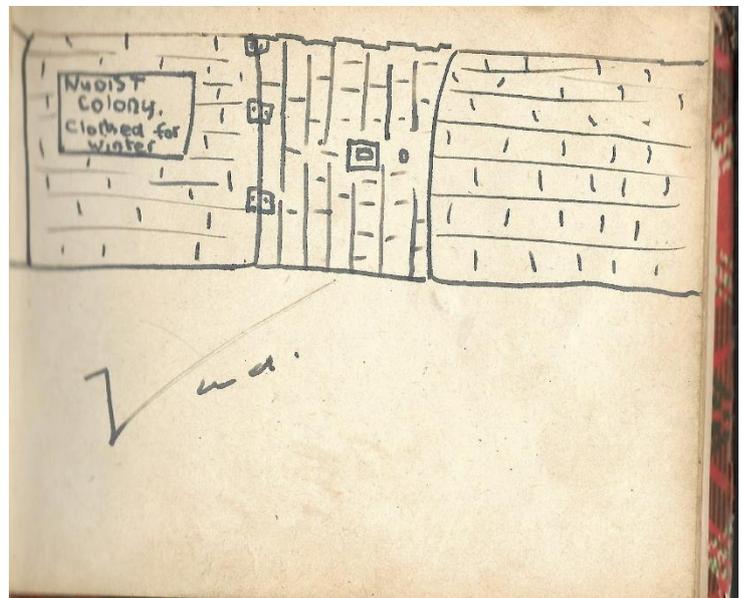
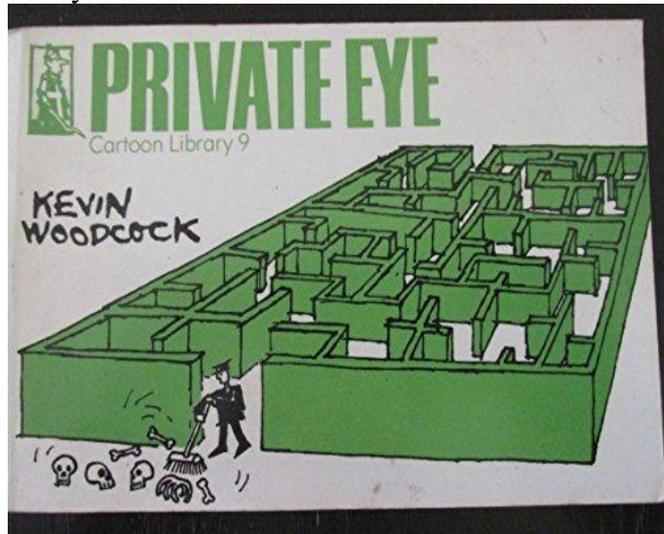
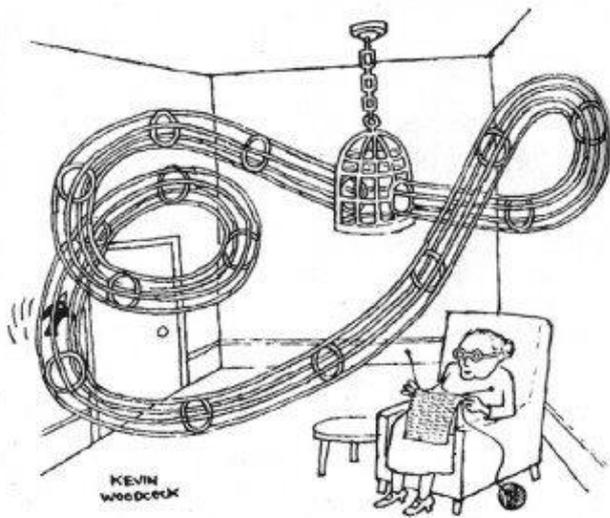
He contributed cartoons to *Private Eye*, the *Daily Sketch*, *The Spectator*, *Knave*, *Fiesta*, *Brain Damage*, *Punch* and *The Oldie*, among others. In addition, he published three collections of his work: *Private Eye Kevin Woodcock* (1978), *City Rules OK* (1983) and *You Are Here: the best of Kevin Woodcock* (1987). More than 40 of his drawings were reproduced in *The Penguin Book of Private Eye Cartoons*.

His drawings were exhibited in London at the Cartoon Gallery, founded by Mel Calman, and (with those of Ken Pyne) at the Jack Duncan gallery. A number of his cartoons were also included in "Eye Times", an exhibition to mark the 35th anniversary of *Private Eye* held at the National Portrait Gallery in London in 1997, and in "Private Eye at 45" held at the Cartoon Museum (2006-07). Examples of his work can be found in the collection of the British Cartoon Archive (formerly the Centre for the Study of Cartoons and Caricature) at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

By nature reclusive, Woodcock was rarely seen among the journalistic community and very few of his editors or fellow cartoonists ever met him. This is borne out by the fact Graham Rawlings tried to contact him in 2004 to invite him to a reunion of former Dixie pupils to celebrate 50 years since joining the School. In spite of several attempts he received no reply.

Though he was a member of the British Cartoonists' Association for many years, he seldom attended their events and his only known public appearance was in 1981 when he was interviewed in his Leicester studio for a BBC 2 Arena programme about *Private Eye* cartoonists. Sadly, Kevin died in July 2007.

Some examples of Kevin's work are set out below for you to see. Our second cartoonist follows this work.



Tony Holland.

John Anthony "Tony" Holland at Dixie 1943 – 50.



He was born in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, on 7th August 1932, the son of a schoolmaster. His family moved to Market Bosworth, living on Station Road about three hundred yards from the School. He started in Form 1, the Preparatory Department at Easter 1943. Tony had already passed the entrance exam and so moved into Form 2 in the September. He worked hard and was top of his form in most subjects for nearly all of his time at school. He was popular and a good all-rounder. He was the opening batsman for the school cricket team and his great love of cricket remained with him for the rest of his life. Nicknamed 'JOSH', because he was always "joshing around" (engaging in playful, harmless fun). He acted in form plays, and took the lead in the school production of

'Abraham Lincoln'.

In the sixth form, one day Josh bounced into the room between lessons and saw three girls apparently sharing small, coloured sweets. As expected, he grabbed some and gobbled them up, to the delight of the girls, for they were Bob Martins' Conditioning Tablets for dogs. The girls were more than satisfied with the success of

their trick, although the ringleader was severely reprimanded by her mother, fearing for Josh's life. He, however, was none the worse for being reconditioned.

He studied French, History, and English in the sixth form, and was subsequently entered for the Dixie Scholarship to Emmanuel College. However on the first day of the exam he was hospitalised in Cambridge with blood poisoning. So ended his chance there, but he subsequently took his degree at Sheffield University in History and French. Two years of National Service followed his time at University. He elected to go into the RAF, and was posted to Cardington, where in company with other graduates, he spent his two years testing new recruits. Whilst there he and his friends started a light-hearted magazine for the base entitled 'Goon Shine' and this is when he first started cartooning.

He taught English and History for a while at Hinckley, and then briefly in London, until he became established as a professional freelance cartoonist and illustrator. A self-taught artist, Tony sold his first cartoon to the Daily Sketch in the 1950s, and later drew a series of long thin cartoons for the paper, called "Tall Story". These were printed vertically along the gutter and ran for eighteen months. He worked in felt-tip pen using Pantone colours on cartridge paper.

Tony also drew regularly for other editions, including the New Scientist, The Economist, The Spectator, Punch, Accountancy, Daily Mirror, Time and tide, Statist, News of the World, New Elizabethan, Oldie together with various financial journals and other newspapers. In 1963 Tony became City cartoonist on the Sunday Telegraph, producing a series of pocket cartoons entitled "Nine to Five." In 1966 he began another series in the Daily Telegraph, under the title "Day by Day" and he also provided cartoons for the paper's "Peterborough" column working alongside Basil Hone. Each cartoonist submitted three roughs a day, one of which would be selected for the next day's paper. Tony drew for the Daily Telegraph for more than 30 years, and held the record for the most years of service as a freelance cartoonist in the newspaper industry. He finally retired from the Sunday Telegraph in 1996.

In later life he became in demand as an After Dinner speaker, and was a popular member of the Cartoonists Club of Great Britain. He was always a creature of habit, working long hours into the night and early in the morning to get his topical cartoons ready for the dailies and journals. He only took a few days off occasionally to visit family in Dawlish and even then sending his work in. He also loved to walk the Kennet and Avon Canal with his friends.

Tony continued to work until he was hospitalised with cancer. A month later he died at his home in Hampstead in November 2014. He is remembered very fondly by all who knew him, for he was well known for his kindness, encouragement, quick one-liners, warmth of character, self-deprecating nature, and perhaps most of all, for his humour.



"Do you mind! This is a non-smoking bench."

This cartoon was contributed by Tony Holland (1943-50) who now works for 'Punch'.



Please, sir, I've lost my stream!

Quiz Time!

I've gone a little easy on you this time after last month's marathon. Here we are finishing the set of King Georges, for now at least, we must wait a few years for questions about George VII



1. Where was George VI born?
 - a) Palace Of Placentia
 - b) York Cottage
 - c) Adelaide
 - d) Mayfair
2. When was George VI born?
 - a) Jul 24, 1895
 - b) Nov 9, 1841
 - c) May 14, 1737
 - d) Dec 14, 1895
3. Which sport is George VI famous for?
 - a) Tennis
 - b) Ice Stock Sport
 - c) Fistball
 - d) Olympic Sport
4. Which award did George VI receive in 1917?
 - a) Albert Medal
 - b) Royal Victorian Chain
 - c) Knight Grand Cross Of The Military Order Of William
 - d) Orden Des Heiligen Wladimir 4. Klasse Mit Schwertern
5. The Albert Medal was awarded to George VI in what year?
 - a) 1950
 - b) 1951
 - c) 1949
 - d) 1955
6. What significant events are related to George VI?
(Select 2 answers)
 - a) Death And Funeral Of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother
 - b) Infant Death
 - c) Coronation Of George VI And Elizabeth
 - d) Death And State Funeral Of George VI
7. Where George VI live?
 - a) Giant's Causeway
 - b) Kensington Palace
 - c) Ben Nevis
 - d) Buckingham Palace
8. What is the first name that George VI was given at birth?
 - a) Richard Averill Lloyd
 - b) Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George Of York
 - c) Andrew Barron Murray
 - d) Albert Edward
9. When did George VI die?
 - a) Feb 6, 1952

- b) May 31, 1806
- c) Mar 28, 1965
- d) Jun 10, 1974

10. What is a popular moniker for George VI?

- a) Bobs
- b) Len Puttnam
- c) Rollo
- d) Bertie

WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*,
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*,
Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*;
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.
The plural of *man* is always *men*,
But the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,
And I give you a *book*, would a pair be a *beek*?
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,
Why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*,
Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*,
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.
Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;
But imagine the feminine . . . *she*, *shis*, and *shim*!

- ANONYMOUS

HBBC VCS network friend

The Chief Executive Department at Leicestershire County Council - Communities department have asked for our support in helping spread awareness of the Communities Network:

The Communities Network aims to connect local communities, residents and businesses etc.

Please help us to raise awareness of this network and encourage people to become a member- this is free and requires a short form to be completed.

To sign up to the network, please fill in the short form [Communities Network Sign up form](#). (You can also sign up to this as you'll get more of an insight into what communities around you are doing)

Once you are a member of the network, you will be asked to subscribe separately to the quarterly Communities Newsletters which are designed to give Communities a platform to access, share information and make connections towards community solutions.

February Weather Forecast



**Two feet of Snow expected – blame Walter Baynes for that one
Dame Carol Black – an update**

I was delighted to see that after reading the Newsletter, King Charles III has awarded Dame Carol Black a GBE! A Knight/Dame Grand Cross is the Highest Rank in The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire. It is a great honour and very rarely awarded. Anyone awarded this rank has usually previously been awarded a Knighthood or Damehood at a lower rank and only just over 100 people have ever been awarded this honour. Some well-known individuals who have been awarded the Knight Grand Cross include Sir David Attenborough and Daniel Craig.

At Last! Some Good News about Public Transport in Market Bosworth

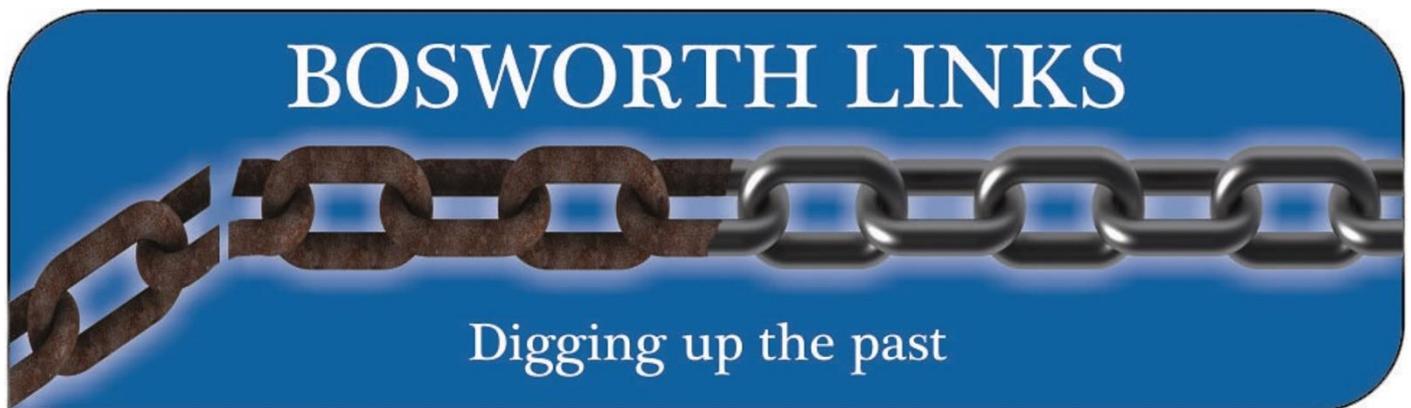


Following the withdrawal of the 159 service and the cessation of the 153 stops along Station Road, Senior Residents of Market Bosworth may apply to Leicestershire County Council -LCC (boo, hiss – well ‘tis the season) for a specially converted mobility aid in times of snowy weather. A spokesman for LCC said “We at County Hall are not immune to the difficulties of having no public transport and despite severe cuts to the budget we are proud to support residents in rural towns. I can guarantee that all you will need is a written application signed by all four grandparents and the aid will be delivered to you the following day.” After the snow has thawed the aid must be returned to County Hall at your own expense. I hope some members of LCC had three visitors over Christmas but am not overly optimistic.

Digitisation of the Archive

The programme has been tested at beta level and is now installed on the website for live testing. So far the programme is working exactly as planned. Several items already stored on PCs digitally have been loaded to test the system. The next stage is for more training and then we will be calling for volunteers. We should be ready to train and start work on the Archive by the end of February or early March. It is all very exciting at the moment, once completed the Market Bosworth archive will be completely searchable and visible on-line (unless any items are to be kept private) in which case only an acknowledgement that they are held in the Archive will be made, and some items not even listed, in respect of requested embargoes.

The interface is extremely intuitive and easy to use and the links (which provide the text for searches and descriptions of the items) are simple to add. The links can be amended or altered as we move along. I expect we will get a few things wrong as we get underway but that does not matter. Corrections are easily made as are additions should we think that an extra word or two will help researchers find the item they are searching for. Steve Barrett has done an excellent job in creating the programme, which is not only easy to use, robust and quick to respond it is safe too. It is really exciting that a project which started in December 2018 is finally getting going and without the costs previously anticipated. When we are ready we will post a link to the Digital Archive when we will also be asking for feedback. Afterall feedback is the breakfast of champions!



In April 2023, the Market Bosworth Society and University of Leicester Archaeological Services partnered to run another successful Bosworth Links community dig, this time at Far Coton and Coton Priory. Over two days, over 40 volunteers (aged 8-80+) dug and sieved 8 tonnes of soil from eleven test pits and recovered over 1,500 artefacts ranging in date from the Bronze Age (4,000 years ago) to the present day.

Historically, Coton was first mentioned in the early 13th century as a small settlement of cottages with a chapel and a windmill. Archaeologically, the distribution of pottery from the test pits supports this and suggests that much of the area of the modern settlement was under arable cultivation in the medieval period, with land given over to pasture from the 15th or 16th century onwards. At Far Coton, settlement was probably to the north of the study area in the vicinity of Upper and Lower Farm. At 'Middle Coton', the earthworks listed on the Historic Environment Record as deserted medieval settlement were more likely to be a combination of post-medieval field boundaries and modern quarrying, whilst at Coton Priory medieval occupation did not appear to pre-date the 15th century. However, 15th century activity at Coton Priory does show that settlement there was much earlier than previously known, and 50-200 years earlier than the current 17th-century farmhouse. The dispersed nature of the activity in the test pits fits with a pattern of scattered farmsteads devoted to arable and pastoral farming and proves that Coton was always a small settlement, most likely dependant on nearby Market Bosworth, and not a larger medieval village which has shrunk or been abandoned in the past. The dig also found tantalising hints of earlier Bronze Age and Roman use of the landscape.

The recent feedback meeting for the Coton Dig in the Parish Hall, Main Street was well attended. Mathew walked us through the information we had discovered through the dig. I won't document the whole lecture here as the reports can be found on the website



www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links

[content/uploads/2024/01/Coton-Dig-Report-April-2023.pdf](https://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/content/uploads/2024/01/Coton-Dig-Report-April-2023.pdf)

The excellent video made by the brilliant Bill Newsinger had its very first screening. I took the opportunity to update our YouTube account and the videos are all available on our channel page here, <https://www.youtube.com/@MarketBosworthSociety> already the Coton dig has had 46 views! I will be adding more videos as we go along. Some of the Bosworth Links Committee are meeting

shortly to look at launching the Bosworth Links website where all the information and links to other items such as videos will be available to everyone. It will be quite a task as the plan is to reach as broad an audience as possible from interested schoolchildren to professional archaeologists. That is a challenge!

The plans for Shenton on the 20th and 21st April, are moving ahead and another meeting is scheduled to plan for that dig. Then to do the door knocking, to gather volunteers to host pits, take part and offer facilities. If

you live in Shenton look out for us in early February. For now, it's time to polish those trowels, wash your wellies and sharpen your spades and mattocks. Not long now! Thanks to Mathew Morris for helping with this article.

Contact Details Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email on 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. Membership subscriptions can be paid by BACS/Bank Transfer using the following Details. Market Bosworth Society, Virgin Money Sorting Code 82-11-07 account number 00452350. Please place your surname (and the last three characters from your postal code – if permitted) in the reference section. For example mine would be palmer0ju. If you have any items you would like to preserve for future generations, please contact MBS, or any Committee member.

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Nigel Palmer

Quiz Answers

Answers to George VI quiz

1. b York Cottage
2. d December 14, 1885
3. a tennis
4. d Orden Des Heiligen Wladimir 4. Klasse Mit Schwertern
5. b 1951
6. c & d
7. d Buckingham Palace
8. c
9. a Feb 6th, 1952
10. d Bertie

BBC TV Quiz answers

1. The British Broadcasting Corporation
2. The BBC World Service
3. Auntie
4. BBC Radio 4
5. The Money Programme
6. A clown
7. Listen with Mother
8. John Logie Baird
9. Desert Island Discs
10. Alexandra Palace
11. Salford
12. Ceefax
13. Morecambe & Wise
14. 1985
15. Grandstand
16. 1964
17. Last of the Summer Wine
18. The Sunday Hour
19. CBBC
20. The Sky at Night (the presenter was Patrick Moore)
21. Doctor Who

22. Panorama
23. BBC Knowledge
24. Blue Peter
25. Any Questions?