MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

April 2025

Dear member,

Petition Update

I am delighted that so far there have been 373 signatures added to the ePetition about the Bull in the Oak junction. But that is not enough, I was aiming for 500 plus to get some action taken about this junction. There was yet another accident there on Saturday 10th April, luckily no-one was hurt (which means there will be no official counting of the collision). I would like to ask if you would send the following (or an amended version) to the Bosworth Vision contacts. This is highly relevant to the community as many travel through this junction daily. You could even consider adding it to the website as a news item.

The Market Bosworth Society has launched a petition on Leicestershire County Council's petition page. It is about the Bull in the Oak (A447/B585) junction. ***The junction is dangerous. There have been previous fatalities and injuries to persons. There are regularly less serious but still significant incidents. Those using the junction are subject to long delays which serves only to inflate the danger. The design of the slip road to turn onto the B585 from the A447 when travelling west is poor. Drivers emerging from the junction from the west have a poor view of vehicles travelling from the south. The installation of traffic lights will remove these dangers completely and is a cost-effective solution.***

Please support the petition by adding your name. The links are Current ePetitions - Leicestershire County Council or https://tinyurl.com/rhr4489t * See below

Please sign this petition and share this email with your contacts.

Bosworth Pharmacy is hosting a paper version should anyone wish to sign who is not able to go online. So far over 151 people have signed!

***If the links do not work, please go to https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/ enter "Petitions" in the search box and scroll down to and click Petitions 3rd result, then scroll down to "Current ePetitions" which opens in a new page. Simply choose the one detailed above and either register first or simply sign.**

I hope you will feel able to support this petition, so far 524 people have signed in support!

Meeting Report: Genealogy – Fact & Fiction Graham Rawlings

I have mentioned before that Graham is very much a back room boy. Graham took up researching when he retired to give him an interest and to keep him out of Valerie's way. Not used to giving lectures he was a little nervous which wasn't helped by a technical fault discovered upon his arrival* Shown left is Graham nervously anticipating his turn at the lectern.

Graham gave us a detailed account of his research. The seed may have been set when as an apprentice, after his education at the Dixie Grammar School, he worked in a department for Associated Electrical Industries (AEI) led by John Briggs. Graham didn't know it then but John was also an ex Dixie Grammar School pupil. As an apprentice Graham had to test equipment but after

literally having his fingers burned he moved to the drawing office where he completed his apprenticeship and remained for his career. John Briggs designed Radar equipment and wrote a book on marine radar. He is the subject of the Newsletter in May 2024 (https://marketbosworthsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/News-Sheet-5-24.pdf) Incidentally he is not the subject of the statue on Welford Road in Leicester, which is another Briggs entirely. One of Graham's first jobs in retirement was to research the pupils who were at the Dixie Grammar School with him in 1954. Graham worked with Peter Loseby and Pam Beazley and he successfully found 56 out of 69 pupils. This ensured a successful reunion in 2003. The Dixie Grammar School continued to have reunions until the last reunion, which I attended in October 2021.

Graham turned his attention to his own family and has unearthed a huge amount of information about all sides of his family. Graham has also turned his attention to requests from Walter Baynes, Archivist of the Dixie Grammar School Association (http://www.thedgsa.co.uk/). Walter has been providing details of famous Old Boys and Girls of the Dixie Grammar School, of which there are many.

Thank you Graham for giving a very detailed and complex lecture and also for all the work you do in support of the many articles and items supplied by Walter and others for the enjoyment of members and Newsletter readers. Graham and Valerie were about to celebrate their 60th or Diamond Anniversary the following Saturday. They had received a card signed by King Charles III. I thought it lovely for our King to care enough to send a card on such an occasion. Graham and Valerie were off to Brighton where they honeymooned 60 years ago. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a lovely time and congratulating them on their special anniversary.

*the technical issue was partly resolved by the use of Microsoft Lens. If you do not possess a smartphone the next paragraph will be of no interest so have a cuppa and rejoin when we get to the Great Dictator. Microsoft Lens is a free application (app) which can be used to turn your phone into a scanner. You may have purchased a handheld scanner to capture images of documents. It is not always easy or desirable to use a flat bed scanner as it damaged books and cannot cope with framed images. Not only can you copy images and text you can translate foreign language images too. The resolution can be set from a huge 8.3 MP (3840 X 2160) right down to 0.2 MP (640 X 360). I use the largest setting should I want to print or adjust an image. The smaller setting is ideal for websites as they render perfectly and are stamp sized if downloaded. Once scanned the images can be cropped or adjusted before they are saved. Mine are saved to my gallery but you can specify a separate file. We use Microsoft Lens to image documents to upload to the Digital Archive (https://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/archives/index.php) on the website. Files can be transferred to a PC (via Bluetooth or a cable) or even uploaded direct from the phone to the archive. It is a very useful tool. I was able to capture the pictures Graham planned to use on my phone and then connected my phone to the laptop which in turn was connected to the projector. It was not ideal but it meant we were able to enjoy some of Graham's photographs and images.

The Great Dictator!

No not the Charlie Chaplin film but Peter's description of Sheila. Don't be alarmed, emancipation has not broken out in the Crescent but this is what Peter is now calling Sheila. After several years of searching a complete (until proven otherwise) copy of the J. P. Sayer History of the Dixie Family has been compiled by Peter and Sheila. It took several visits to the MBS archive, The Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland Records Office and a little confirmation from the History of Bosworth by Peter Foss. As the Dixie Family and Bosworth Hall Archivist Peter has worked tirelessly to combine several different versions into one. Sheila was responsible for reading out the words and peter typed them. A true partnership and labour of love? The document runs to 63,000 words and 111 pages. I could not let that pass unnoticed so I arranged with Dean at The Graphic Print to prepare a bound copy which I presented to Peter and Sheila at our last meeting. Peter was surprised and claims to have been lost for words. He soon recovered as you may see. Seriously, well done to you both. The document is available in the Digital Archive Archives

THE WALLED GARDEN TOUR

A reminder that following the well-received talk on the 'Walled Garden of Bosworth Hall' and several tours for members last year, we are planning two further guided walks around the remains of the garden. Rod Proudman, the former Head Gardener until the closure of the Bosworth Park Infirmary, and his daughter Louise, who lived in the family bungalow within the walls of the garden, will again be joining us for some personal memories. The guided walk is based on much research by Ingrid Davison, Glynis Oakley, Rod Proudman and me. We have planned to run the tour on two dates – Thursday May 29 and Thursday September 11 both at 2.00 pm, so check your diaries and if you wish to join the May 29th walk please ring me on 01455 290020 to reserve a place. Please do not just turn up for the walks but book a place to keep group sizes reasonable.

Robert A. Leake

Local Event – Market Bosworth Country Park

I have received an invitation and notification of an event on behalf of the Society from David Luther, Head Ranger at Market Bosworth Country Park:

Dear Nigel

We are hosting a VE day celebration at Bosworth Battlefield on Thursday May 8th. The Chairman of Leicestershire County Council Cllr Jo Orson will be lighting a Beacon at 9.30pm.

Entry is free and there will be free car parking.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and members of the Market Bosworth society along to the event.

Kind regards

David

Not sure if there will be any venders so along with a folding chair and a blanket bring along your drinks and snacks for a picnic.

Lecture and Summer Visit Programme 2025/2026

2025		
March 20th	It's Your Funeral	Eddy Smallwood
April 17th	Genealogy - Fact & Fiction	Graham Rawlings
May 15th	History of St. Peter's Parish Church	Peter Foss
May 29th	Walled Garden Tour	
June 19th	From slates to tablets-150 years of primary education	Michael Dix
July 17th	Sharpes Pottery Museum and The Magic Attic	Summer Visit
Aug 21st	Guided Tour of Market Bosworth Country Park & Tea	Summer Visit
September 11th	Walled Garden Tour	
Sept 18th	The Battle of Bosworth	Peter Foss (Provisional)
October 16th	The Story of Market Bosworth Shops	Several Contributors
November 20th	Why are the Pebbles in your Garden Round?	John Colby
2026		
January 15th	The Warring Dixies	Peter Loseby
February 19th	Memories of Market Bosworth	Panel of 4
March 19th	Bosworth Links - A tale of Seven Settlements	Mathew Morris
April 16th	Myths of the Battle of Bosworth	Michael Dix
May 15th	Rev. Henry Small and the missing £20	Jon Mein

Your committee have been working hard to put together a series of varied and interesting lectures and Summer Visits. Where possible with a close link to Market Bosworth. I hope to see you at the lectures and enjoy the visits with you too.

May 15th History of St. Peter's Parish Church – Peter Foss

We are both delighted and excited to announce that the next Society lecture will be held in St. Peter's Parish Church. Peter Foss (seen left on an earlier visit to the Market Bosworth society Archive, and author of the History of Bosworth will be giving a lecture in the church to commence at 7:30 PM (doors open from 7:00 PM. All are welcome as our guests. Please comae along and suppoort the lecture anjd the 700th Anniversary Celebrations. Peter has promised to reveal some previously unkown information about St. Peter's so I know you will not want to miss that. I hope to see you there.

Your Neighbourhood Beat Team – Bosworth police

Neighbourhood Link

Leicestershire Police
Protecting our communities

YOU SAID WE DID

Listening to community concerns is at the very core of what we do in Neighbourhood Policing. We rely on members of the public telling us what's happening so as that we can take action!

you said – Vehicles causing anti-social behaviour in the area of **Bagworth** was a concern. 🏍️

we did – We have developed specific and targeted proactive patrol plans to ensure that the locations given, are regularly patrolled by both marked vehicles, and officers on foot. Today we have been able to work with the ranger to build gather further information in relation to involved vehicles.

you said – Speeding across the beat area was an issue. 🚗

we did – Working collaboratively with the Road Safety Unit from the safety partnership team, they have today been on the A447 and will be present in various other areas in the locality throughout the coming weeks.

you said – Concerns have been raised in relation to members of the public, attending the Hill Hole Quarry, **Markfield**. This is a vast open water space which presents dangers to those who opt to climb the fencing. This is NOT permitted and can be extremely dangerous, particularly as water temperatures are much lower than expected along with unanticipated dangers beneath the water. 💧

we did – We have conducted foot patrols at the location, to ensure that fence lines are secure and there were no persons present. Continued attendance along with LFRS, where demand allows, will be continuing throughout the coming months.

you said – Youths have been setting fires in the **Groby** Pool area, causing residents concern for safety. 🔥

we did – Patrols at the location throughout the day, to ensure that person's present were enjoying the area as intended.

ENGAGEMENT

As well as relying on your reporting to us for information gathering, we seek all opportunities to engage with members of the public at locally advertised events. Today we have been able to visit the **Bagworth** spring fayre and the **Newbold Verdon** table top sale.

Supporting community events in this way, enables relationship and rapport building, and provides an opportunity to establish any community concerns at a local level. 🤝

Mallory Park held their Huggys Auto jumble where over 100 motorcyclists and classic car enthusiasts were in attendance, ensuring village disruption is kept to a minimum, attending and engaging with visitors was a priority today.

During this afternoon there was a reported two vehicle RTC in **Nailstone**. Officers' quick attendance along with LFRS 🚒& EMAS 🚑ensured vehicle occupants were swiftly moved to a place of safety and their medical needs tended to. We apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst dealing with this.

We at Bosworth hope you enjoy the rest of the Saturday sunshine safely 🌞

Can You Help

Afternoon,
I hope you are managing to enjoy this wonderful sunshine, although the rain will be a welcome sight for the parched fields when it arrives.
I was wondering if you could help me… I am trying to conduct research into life in Market Bosworth and its surrounding villages during 1485. I have the beginnings of a novel that I would like to write, but I need to understand what life would have been like for a peasant in a place like Congerstone. Plus, because of the ties to the battle, I also need to know what Bosworth would have been like too.
Do you have any suggestions for any reading I could do? I have read several accounts of the battle now and am scouring libraries for information about life in rural England during that time (most historians seemed to have covered the early 15th century and then everything post 1500). Any help would be appreciated.
Thanks and with best wishes,
Rebecca

I responded with:

Dear Rebecca

What an interesting question, I will try to help you. We do not hold any documents from that period, they are held in the British Library in London (96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, UK; phone: +44 20 7412 7000, email: Customer-Services@bl.uk). They may be able to help you with some specific documents. Interestingly Congerstone is the next planned dig (and final dig) for Bosworth Links and will take place over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of September.

Through our Community Led Archaeology Project, Bosworth Links we have discovered a large amount of information about Market Bosworth and the surrounding villages. The information is here www.marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links. The information is not specifically about the individuals populating the settlements as regrettably they are all long gone. It will give you an insight into population change, plague and the pottery used at that time.

I would refer you to a very useful book by Janet Backhouse entitled Medieval Rural Life, in the Luttrell Psalter, ISBN 0-8020-8399-4. This may have much of the information you are seeking. There are also a large number of books about the Battle of Bosworth, some of which may give an overview of the domestic situation of the participants.

I will ask the Society's members for help in the April Newsletter (due out at the end of this month) and will send to you any information received. I will also ask my Committee and others in volved in the Bosworth Links Project if they have any information or suggestions.

Good luck on your research, and your novel, do please keep in touch and let me know how you are getting on. Sorry that I cannot provide more specific information but should that change, I will contact you again.

Best wishes.

Nigel

Ingrid Davison then contacted me and suggested that she may be able to help:

Hello Rebeccah,

I am a member of the Market Bosworth Society and have recently done some research for the 700th Anniversary of St. Peter’s Church. I can recommend 'Going to Church in Medieval England ' by Nicholas Orme. It gives a clear idea of what churches looked like inside. Church going was such an important part of life at that time with all the feasts and festivals. Peasants were expected to go to church, had to work on church lands and pay a tithe.

It's also worth following Nigel's advice and look at the results of the Market Bosworth archaeological dig. The Church was often situated between the Manor House on one side and the main village/ town area on the other. That's how it was in Market Bosworth.

Good luck with your research.

Can you add to the information shared with Rebecca? If so please email info@marketbosworthsociety.com.

Time for a quiz The Role Of The Church In Medieval Times

1. According to Thomas Aquinas, knowledge should be based on

   A. Faith
   B. Logic
   C. Both
   D. Neither

2. Medieval clergy who wanted to work among the people, depending on them for food and support, would be called a

   A. Monk
   B. Nun
   C. Mendicant
   D. Archbishop

3. In the early middle ages, St. Benedict started

   A. Communities of monks
   B. The Crusades
   C. Communities of mendicants
   D. Pilgrimages to Rome

4. The head of the Roman Catholic church is the

   A. Archbishop
   B. Pope
   C. Cardinal
   D. Bishop

5. Which of the items below **is not** representative of gothic architecture?

   A. Flying buttresses
   B. Vaulted ceilings
   C. Friezes
   D. Height and light
   E. Gargoyles

6. Which of the following happened first?

   A. St. Benedict founded a monastery in Italy.
   B. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
   C. The Crusades led many Christians to fight in the Holy Land.
   D. The Roman Empire fell, losing its power and unity.

7. Topics in medieval art tended to be

   A. Images from mythology
   B. Stories from the bible
   C. Heroes and chivalry
   D. Images of the king

8. The power to separate a person from the church is known as

   A. Clergy
   B. Transubstantiation
   C. Excommunication
   D. Sanctification

9. A person on a journey to a holy site in order to show penance or receive a special blessing would be known as a

   A. Pilgrim

B. Mendicant
C. Crusader
D. Monk

10. Which is not something the church might provide to its people?

A. Hostel for travellers
B. Jobs
C. Care for the sick
D. Teaching people to read

Ferrand Spence 1657 to 1698 – An Exceptional Man

Steve and Rosemary Sargent sent me the photograph shown above that had caught their attention. As you can see Ferrand Spence was at one time living in Market Bosworth. I decided to learn more about Ferrand and his immediate family. I recall a lecture given in January 2016 by Derek Jarrold and David Reid about the Spence Pension Charity. I even bought a book about the charity at the meeting. Here is what the Committee at the time had to say about the lecture.

The Spence's Pension Charity for the Ancient Parish of Market Bosworth (Newsletter January 2016)
On the 21st of January David Reid, Chairman of the Charity and Derek Jerram , Clerk to the Charity, gave a very interesting talk on the little known Spence's Charity and its benefactor Ferrand Spence.
David opened the presentation by explaining that during Ferrand's lifetime there was a climate of political intrigue between the French and Jacobite's as they plotted to restore Catholicism in England. He went on to explain that in Ferrand's will of 1698 he instructed that an Alms-house or Hospital be established in Carlton - in- Craven Yorkshire (actually spelt Carleton) for the use of six poor widows of Carlton-in-Craven. He also

decreed that six widows from the ancient parish of Market Bosworth should also be selected in recognition of the care and education he received during his time in Market Bosworth. In 1901 the two arms of the Charity separated and the Bosworth Charity now supports 20 needy residents in the local area.

Derek then took over to explain that by chance he came across a footnote in an Arden copy of Antony & Cleopatra (a reference book I used in 1976 whilst studying for an A level in English literature) referring to Ferrand Spence. This started him on a quest that took him to Lambeth Palace, The British Library, Post Office Archive, The National Archive and the Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. The research carried out by Derek is remarkable and is a credit to his diligence. From knowing little about Ferrand Spence we now know that he was prolific translator of books from the French language into English. His fluency in French led him to the Foreign Office section of the Post Office where letters passing between known Jacobite's and the French were intercepted, carefully opened and a transcription taken including the breaking of various codes before being resealed and delivered to the intended recipient. The information gathered by Ferrand was passed to amongst others Archbishop Tenison who, being very concerned about the resurgence of Catholicism in England, was very grateful to Ferrand for his services which amounted to spying on behalf of the Church of England.

David and Derek have written a book on Ferrand Spence which they launched at the Society's meeting. The book contains the results of their research and provides an intriguing insight into the life and times of Ferrand Spence. If sales on the night are anything to go by you will need to purchase your copy quickly before supplies run out!

The lecture was advertised in the Leicester Mercury -

A former Market Bosworth schoolboy and rector's son has been discovered to have been a spy.

The undercover exploits of Ferrand Spence, whose father Abraham was priest in charge at St Peter's Church, have been documented in a new book to be launched in the market town tomorrow.

His remarkable story has been researched by Derek Jerram and David Reid, who are clerk and chairman of the Spence's Pension Charity for the Ancient Parish of Market Bosworth.

The fund was set up by Mr Spence in his will of 1698 in recognition of the upbringing and education he received in the town during his father's term as Rector from 1660 until the clergyman's death in 1671.

Only when present day clerk Mr Jerram spotted a footnote referring to Ferrand Spence in an edition of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra, did the benefactor's full story begin to emerge.

Research showed Mr Spence to have been a prolific translator of books from French into English, with 19 of his versions currently catalogued in the British Library.

More intriguingly, it appears that he also operated as a spy, intercepting mail between the Jacobite's in Scotland and France while plots were being hatched to restore Catholicism in England.

An employee of the General Letters Office, he had direct lines to Government and the Archbishop of Canterbury to whom he reported any findings.

The fascinating research has been compiled into a book, for the benefit of fellow trustees of Spence's Pension Charity and the general interest of Market Bosworth history buffs.

It will be officially launched at a meeting of the Market Bosworth Society in Market Bosworth Free Church tomorrow at 7:30pm when copies will be available for £5.

I purchased one of the books (the book) but I could not find my copy. Luckily Margaret Jerram came to the rescue and most kindly gifted me a copy of the book. The following information about The Spence's Pension Charity and Ferrand Spence is taken from the book and some on-line information. Links at the end of the article.

Ferrand Spence left a bequest in his will when he died in 1698. The request was intended to support certain residents in Market Bosworth and Carleton-in-Craven, Skipton. Ferrand received his education in these two places which enabled him to have such a successful career. As an aside I have asked Walter Baynes, Archivist of the Dixie Grammar School Association (The Dixie Grammar School Association) to see if Ferrand was a pupil at the Dixie Grammar School, it seems highly likely, any news will follow next month – these famous Old Boys and Girls just keep cropping up. Originally The Spence Pension was a single charity but subsequently the charities were separated with each place having its own charity. But before that let us understand how the charity came into being.

Let us begin with Ferrand's father, Abraham Spence

Abraham Spence (1635 – 1671) or more appropriately Reverand Abraham Spence came to Market Bosworth on the 4th August 1662 as the Rector of St. Peter's Parish Church a post he held until his death on the 5th July 1671. Initially the Patron was Sir Wolston Dixie Bart and after 1668 the Patron was The Crown, King Charles II. Rev. Abraham was also the preacher for Carlton Chapel, Shenton Chapel and Sutton Cheney Chapel and was under the diocese of Lincoln, he had been ordained by bishop Thomas Fulmar on the 14th November 1654. The Bosworth living was considered to be the most lucrative in Leicestershire, possibly the country. Abraham had married a French woman, Valerie Ferrand in Carleton-in-Craven (she was actually recorded as living in Barkby, Leicestershire but her parents lived in Carleton-in-Craven) in 1654 which perhaps led to Ferrand being such a distinguished and competent translator of books from the French language to English. Ferrand would have learned French from his mother, a native speaker of the language which is a great advantage for an interpreter or translator. We also know that Abraham attended St. Johns College Cambridge where he wrote at least one published poem;

Hou Sophister of Fate, that canst deny
A faire dispute by an Amphiboly;
Reade Hebrew-wise thy Neck-verse, make to be
In thine own doom an Infra-pollency:
Insertst no Negative, and yet canst state
An affirm'd sentence Illegitimate.
Sure Minos Jury was for these too Grand,
That did thy Doom re-eccho, did withstand
Thy Epilogue, and made it for to be
But a new Prologue to Virginity.
Thy Mate shall be no Proteus, yet in thee,
Although but one, will be Polygamy.
Thou canst intombe a Wife-hood, and yet rise
A Virgin out of th'ashes, Phœnix-wise.
Cease would the Romans th'wonder to extoll
Of th Head found fresh; Thine had been Capitoll.
Caligula his bloudy wish would check
To cut off Rome, had thine but been the neck.

A Spence of St. Joh. Coll.

Following his school education, most likely at the Dixie Grammar School, disrupted by the death of his father when he was aged around 13, Ferrand was admitted to Jesus College Cambridge on the 16th April 1669, and matriculated that year. French was not on the syllabus and so he could not have studied French at university, making his mother an even more likely source.. By then he and his mother Valerie were thought to be living back in Carleton-in-Craven with Ferrand's four younger siblings (younger brother Edward was also a Cambridge student). Edward joined Jesus College on 1st September 1675 where it is recorded his Matric was in 1675, Rustat Scholar also in 1675, achieved his BA in 1679/80 and became a fellow in 1681 until he became insane and dying in 1735. Ferrand's father's premature death must have left an indelible mark. Ferrand would have experienced, at first hand the difficulties of a young widow, in this case with at least five children to support. Perhaps it was this experience which prompted him to leave a provision in his will to support widows under the age of 60. Shown below are the original Almes Houses, now converted to modern apartments, known as Spence's Court. The fact they still stand is testament to the 17th Century builders.

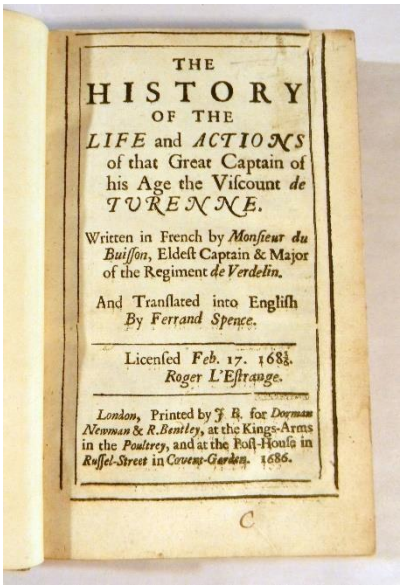
There was a strong political and religious background to the times of Ferrand Spence. There was to be a conspiracy between Scotland and France to return to the Catholic faith and the Jacobite uprising. This led to Ferrand's unusual role in the Post Office. By 1688 Ferrand, aged about 33, was working at the Foreign Letters Office of the General Post Office on a salary of £12.10s.0d per quarter (about £10,612 per annum in April 2025). Part of his work was to intercept letters from Jacobites, identifying the writers and explaining coded references. In 1690 Ferrand was negotiating in the Spanish Netherlands postal routes with the Imperial Reichpost. By the mid-1690's Ferrand had joined the Secret Office of the Post Office where he became a senior officer intercepting mail from exiled James II supporters in France and the Jacobites in Scotland. One of the beneficiaries of Ferrand's reports was the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Tenison. A testament in Lambeth Place Archives reads "*....and through the diligence of one Spence "employed in the secret affaires of the Post Office", letters passing between Catholics both in England and abroad were intercepted and forwarded to him for inspection and report. The Archbishop seems to have been particularly interested in "secret Service" work of this rather unsavoury nature, and the Earl of Shrewsbury, writing to the Earl of Portland on the 21st August 1696 (in connection with two intercepted letters) reported that he found the Archbishop "stored with tools for that business and well skilled in it; but neither he nor I having very fine fingers, he has promised to engage one whose fidelity he can be answerable for...."* One Ferrand Spence. In June 1696 Ferrand was awarded a pension of £400 per year (worth £84,900 in April 2025) backdated to June 1693, payable out of the profits of the General Letter Office. His work had obviously been highly valued. That year Ferrand speculated that a Jacobite plot was being hatched. Ferrand sent a letter to the Archbishop dated July 5th, 1697, in which he said:

My Lord

These several Pacquets I humbly conceive, My Lord, need no Descant? Either as to the places they come from or goe to. They have several sprinklings of the mighty expectations of that party. My Lady Strickland tells her son in that to Frensham under cover to Sugart? Viz Mrs Gifford I have very great hopes to contrive this as to tr meeting me halfway will affect all we desire of .....? in her next London is her halfway for thee is....? In the north of England under the name of Riddle, as I remember. The enclosed Blank mentioned is [is?] that to Worthington. I have taken out and am going to putt it into another hand, who possibly may think it fit to be laid before yr Excellency. I am afraid I trespasse? too much upon your Graces Patience, for which humbly craving pardon, I re...Signed ff Spence.

As it turns out there was not a rebellion for 18 years until 1715 and so it is possible that Ferrand's work was of huge value to the country and the Archbishop in particular, hence the hefty pension and lump sum.
Quite apart from his undercover work Ferrand was a writer of significance, mainly around the 1680's when he produced many translations from French to English, some label him as prolific but the evidence is not available. Many of the books had previously been translated into French by others from the original Greek or Latin. Plenty of opportunity for a slip in the classics it would seem. Ferrand had mostly gone unnoticed in his

translation endeavours but a footnote found in an Arden edition of Anthony and Cleopatra (a book I owned during my studies for A level in English literature). Learned editors as late as 1906 were still referring to his translation suggests he was an important figure indeed. Hardin Craig of the University of Iowa wrote a paper in 1921 which said: "*We have next to record the first translation into English of the complete works of Lucian. It is the work of a clever and impertinent coxcomb who in spite of his pretences, worked straight from the French version of Perrot D'Ablancourt, first published in 1634 and reissued in Paris in 1654. His name was Ferrand Spence….He is unknown except for the Lucian and other translations from the French….*
Although Craig thought Ferrand a plagiarist and pretender throughout his work he appears to overlook the fact that Ferrand was translating from French that others had translated from Greek or Latin which means that the earlier translations may have contained the simplification of the text. Type any sentence into Google translate and you will see that there is a comparable difference between the literal and the whimsical. Ferrand could achieve no better result for his translation from French to English than had been previously achieved by those translating Greek or Latin to French.


THE
HISTORY
OF THE
LIFE and ACTIONS
of that Great Captain of
his Age the Viſcount de
TURENNE.

Written in French by *Monſieur du Buiſſon*, Eldeſt Captain & Major of the Regiment *de Verdelin*.

And Tranſlated into Engliſh
By *Ferrand Spence*.

Licenſed *Feb.* 17. 168⅘.
Roger L'Eſtrange.

London, Printed by *J. B.* for *Dorman Newman* & *R. Bentley*, at the Kings-Arms in the *Poultrey*, and at the Poſt-Houſe in *Ruſſel-Street* in *Covent-Garden*. 1686.

C

There is little know about his translations although it is thought the number was not insignificant for the 1680's. The British Library counts 19 books translated by Ferrand.
Ferrand Spence did translate "Pierre Duval's Geographia Universalis: The Present State of the Whole World" the aforementioned Lucian works. The internet has thrown up a few more translations, namely "The history of the life and actions of the Viscount de Turenne", "Anendota Eterouiana or, the Secret History of the House of Medicis", "Les anecdotes de Florence, ou l'histoire secrète de la maison de Medicis", "The present state of Denmark"
Ferrand Spence rose to success and patronage through his own hard work and applying his intelligence and abilities. In his will he left ample provision for the pensions. Six widows under 60 years of age from Market Bosworth and six from Carleton-in-Craven were to receive free coal and £20 per year paid quarterly. When writing his will Ferrand clearly recalled his own mothers struggle when she was widowed early with six children to support.
Should you wish to research further the links I found are listed here. My thanks to Margaret Jerram for her generosity without which I could not have written this article.

Brief History of Bosworth « Market Bosworth Society

venn.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search-2018.pl?sur=spence&suro=w&fir=&firo=c&cit=&cito=c&c=all&z=all&tex=&sye=&eye=&col=all&maxcount=50

University of Sussex Library Special Collections: Travers Collection

Redeeming the Truth

31151015596442.pdf

Provenance index: M-S | Cambridge University Library

https://www.barlestoneparishcouncil.gov.uk/old-local-charities

Ferrand spence 1657 1908 - Google Search

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=39512.
CCED: Browse Persons
https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001966/18760408/141/0008

https://benbeck.co.uk/fh/collaterals/8NaaaSpencesiblings.html

Vacancy Evidence Record, ID 47988

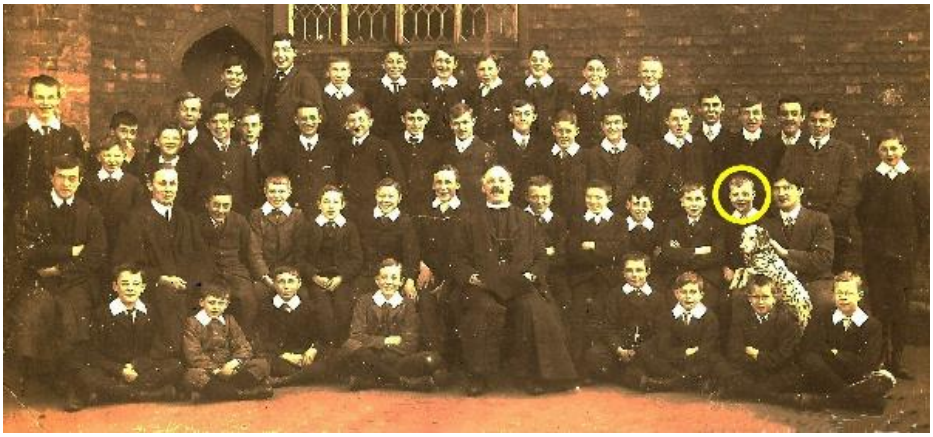
Abraham Spence (1635–1670)

A. Spence

Arthur Dawkins 1897 – 1983

Senior Civil Servant

Arthur was born on 25th January 1897 at High Street, Barwell to Alfred and Lucy (nee Arguile) Dawkins, the eldest of four children. Arthur had three younger sisters, two of whom died in childhood and Stella, 1901 – 1977, who never married. The family later moved to Shilton Road. He attended the local primary School and the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School. He passed the entrance exam to the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth and joined in September 1909 alongside Bernard Newman, who was to become a lifelong friend. Both Arthur and Bernard did extremely well in mathematics, thanks to the excellent tuition of the Maths teacher, George Nicholls. Nicholls wanted them both to specialise in the subjects that he taught in order that he could prepare them for the exams needed for the Cambridge Maths Scholarships. There were only two of those awarded each year and Nicholls was usually successful in getting one awarded to his pupils. However, the headmaster, Rev. L. H. Pearson, refused to give his permission to such a specialisation and as a result Nicholls promptly left in the middle of the school year. This prevented the school from finding a suitable replacement. The one who was found, a Mr. Scott, was unable to cope with the needs of Bernard and Arthur and the boys were left to their own devices.



In the summer of 1913 they decided to enter for the Second Division Civil Service examination that was to be held in the summer of the next year. As the Dixie Grammar School had no experience of entering pupils for these examinations they arranged with their teachers, without the headmaster's knowledge, to let them off any homework in order that they could take a correspondence course with a tutorial college. By the time the examination was held in August 1914 the First World War had begun. The exam results were published a few weeks later. Some 2,500 candidates had entered for only 100 positions. Both Arthur and Bernard passed and left school at Christmas 1914. Arthur entered the Civil Service as a Second Division Clerk in 1915 and served in the War Office working in London. He was posted to HM Forces in September 1916 and served until January 1919. In 1921 he moved to London as Assistant Accountant Grade 2 working in the War Office again in Park Building, St. James Park, London. In 1922 he married Valerie Eva Twyman, from Tilbury, Essex, in the Parish Church, Mickleover. Their only child, Audrey Yvette, was born in October 1927 and the birth was registered in Hendon. The family was living in Harlesden at the time.

1933 he was posted to Hong Kong as Assistant Accountant Grade 1, still in the War Office. The family sailed from Southampton on the SS Neuralia, a five week voyage calling at Malta, Port Said, Colombo and Singapore. For the first month they lived in an hotel on the Peak before moving into a flat in the Luna Buildings, Kowloon. Arthur regularly attended the Methodist Church there. At this time his main hobby was photography and he was known to be a well-respected, talented amateur. He had a sort of beach hut on stilts called a 'Mat Shed' on 'Fourteen Mile Beach' where he spent much of his leisure time. The family moved back to England in 1936 on the P & O ship 'Carthage' which had sailed from Kobe, Japan, calling at Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Malta and Marseilles. They moved into No. 36 Kenton Lane, Kenton, their home for the next sixteen years. His friend from Dixie, Bernard Newman, was living at Gerrard Road, Harrow.

In February 1937 he was promoted to Accountant, a position he held for the next four years until in 1941 he was posted to Cairo, Egypt,. as the Assistant Financial Advisor and Assistant Command Secretary GHQ Middle East Forces with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. It was whilst he was in Egypt that Arthur began painting again. He had always had an interest in this pastime but many more opportunities presented themselves whilst he was in Egypt. It is thought that the Earl Shilton Heritage Group have several copies of his postcard sized figurative portraits of local Egyptian personalities. He held this post until the end of the war when he was recalled to London and made Deputy Assistant Director of Army Contracts. In 1949, as Chief Executive Officer, he was awarded the MBE shown left..

Sadly, on 15th October in 1950, following an illness his wife, Valerie, died. Arthur and Audrey remained at Kenton Lane until 1952 when Arthur was promoted to Command Secretary, Middle East Land Forces, East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. His diaries tell us that he and Audrey set sail in June on board the Union Castle liner the SS Dunbar Castle calling at Gibraltar, Marseilles, and Genoa, where they disembarked and took an all-day coach trip along the Italian Riviera. Once back on board it was off to Port Said, through the Suez Canal and across the Red Sea to Port Sudan. Here they visited the well-known submarine Coral Gardens before travelling on to Aden.

Having just arrived in Kenya, Arthur would have been confronted with the Mau Mau rebellion, which was just beginning. This was a war in the Colony between the Kenya Land and Freedom Army (KLFA), also known as the Mau Mau, and the British authorities. Dominated by Kikuyu, Meru and Embu fighters, the KLFA also comprised units of Kamba and Maasai who fought against the European colonists in Kenya — the British Army, and the local Kenya Regiment (British colonists, local auxiliary militia, and pro-British Kikuyu). There is evidence that War Crimes were committed by both sides of the conflict. One that is frequently spoken of is the mistreatment of Hussein Onyango Obama, the grandfather of former U.S. President Barack Obama.

In 1951 a new organization, the Kikuyu Central Association, emerged with Jomo Kenyatta as its general secretary. Kenyatta, who advocated a peaceful transition to African majority rule, had travelled widely in Europe and returned in 1946 to become the president of the Kenya African Union, which attempted to gain a mass African following. There were, however, Africans in the colony who felt that Kenyatta's tactics were not producing enough concrete results. One such group, which advocated a violent approach, was the Mau Mau. The actions attributed to the Mau Mau caused the colonial government to proclaim a state of emergency from October 1952 until 1960 and also resulted in a massive relocation of Africans, particularly Kikuyu. Kenyatta and other Africans were charged with directing the Mau Mau movement and sentenced in 1953 to seven years' imprisonment; Kenyatta was released from prison in 1959 but was then confined to his home. Kenya finally gained its independence and became the Republic of Kenya on 12th December 1963, with independence conferred on all of Kenya. Jomo Kenyatta became the first President.

In 1955 Arthur was awarded an OBE for his work in the Civil Service. The citation, signed by HM Queen Elizabeth II, along with the one for his MBE, signed by HM King George VI, were presented to the School in 2010. Arthur retired in 1956 and moved with Audrey back to the UK, where they lived briefly with his parents in Barwell before moving to Brixham, Devon. Whilst living there Arthur set up a printing press for Audrey in the front room. She regularly printed the programme for the annual Sidmouth Regatta, one of the most important rowing and sailing events on the south coast. Audrey retired from business in 1980 and they moved to Goodrington, Paignton, as they had connections with the Methodist Chapel there.

Arthur Dawkins OBE passed away in Brixham Hospital on September 6th, 1983, aged 86. The DGSA has copies of letters from Audrey to Graham Rawlings concerning the presentation of Arthur's OBE medal and Citations along with fourteen copies of Bernard Newman's books, eleven signed by the author, to the Dixie Grammar School. These were given to his old school friend between 1946 and 1960. There is also a bible which was presented to Arthur by Rev. E. Bayley at the Wesleyan Sunday School Barwell in September 1915.

Quiz about Edward III

The quiz about the Role of the Church in Medieval Times was far too easy. This is a better test. No Cheating!

1. Edward, son of the weak Edward II, was one of the greatest kings England ever had. This splendid warrior was crowned in 1327 after his father's abdication (and subsequent murder). How old was the teen prince when he became king?

A. 15
B. 16
C. 12
D. 18

2. The first years of Edward's reign were placed under the control of a council of barons and of the court dominated by the proud Mortimer. Who led the barons?

A. John of Gaunt
B. Thomas of Woodstock
C. Edmund of Langley
D. Henry of Lancaster

3. Once Edward seized the power for good, what happened to the Lord Protector Roger Mortimer?

A. He was exiled
B. He was hanged

C. He married the queen mother Isabelle and the couple left the court
D. He was jailed in the tower of London where he died many years later

4. In 1348, Edward decided to promote and glorify knighthood by establishing a famous order of chivalry. What was it?

A. Knights of the Garter
B. Knights of the Red Rose
C. Knights of St. George
D. Knights of St. David

5. In 1333, Edward and his well-disciplined army won an important battle at Halidon Hill. Which adversary did they defeat?

A. The Welsh
B. The French
C. The Irish
D. The Scots

6. The death of Charles IV of France (1328) - who had no heir - gave Edward a very respectable claim to the Kingdom of France through his mother Isabelle, Charles's sister. Who replaced Charles on the throne?

A. Philippe VI
B. Louis X
C. Philippe V
D. Louis XI

7. After a series of unsuccessful and expensive attempts to seize the French crown, the wind finally turned for Edward when in 1345 one of his greatest soldiers retook most of Gascony and gave Edward the encouragement he needed to prepare his army for the invasion of France. Who was this hero soldier? +

A. Henry of Derby
B. Edward the Black Prince
C. Henry of Monmouth
D. John de Montfort

8. In 1346 the English, though heavily outnumbered by the French, won the battle of Crecy. What was the decisive element in this battle, the one that tilted the scales in favour of the English?

A. Only the French knights had horses while all the English soldiers were mounted
B. The English were convinced that 'God was fighting with them'
C. The English used gunpowder to make small but very destructive bombs
D. The Welsh archers

9. The truce made after Crecy lasted till the death of Philippe VI and the accession of his ambitious and naive son Jean II. In 1356, after a fierce battle, King Jean was taken prisoner. What was the name of this battle?

A. Bouvines
B. Agincourt
C. Poitiers
D. Barnet

10. Edward the Black Prince, heir to the English throne, died in 1376, one year before his father. Richard II was the next in line to be king. What was his link with Edward?

A. Second son
B. Grandson
C. Brother
D. Nephew

11. Why was Edward III chosen for this quiz?

A. He had not been featured in a quiz before
B. He was a very good king
C. He ruled between 1327 and 1377
D He ruled around 700 years ago

Time to smile

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 (single £14.00 joint £21.00) 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.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman

Answers to the Role of the Church Quiz

1. Correct Answer

C. Both

Explanation

At first the church taught that faith was more important than knowledge; Thomas Aquinas explained that logic and faith were compatible.

2. Correct Answer

C. Mendicant

3. Correct Answer

A. Communities of monks

4 Correct Answer

B. Pope

5. Correct Answer

C. Friezes

6. Correct Answer

B. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

7. Correct Answer

B. Stories from the bible

8. Correct Answer

C. Excommunication

9. Correct Answer

A. Pilgrim

10. Correct Answer

B. Jobs

https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/quizshow.php?title=practice-quiz-role--church-in-medieval-times&q=9

Answers to Edward III Quiz

1. 15
   He already knew what he wanted and how to get it and he was, above all, patient.
2. Henry of Lancaster
   Henry of Lancaster was the brother of Thomas of Lancaster decapitated sooner by Edward II. Gaunt, Langley and Woodstock were all sons of Edward III.
3. He was hanged
   Edward could not forgive Mortimer his arrogance and his desire to be king.
4. Knights of the Garter
   The order counted 26 members chosen from the king's most faithful supporters.
5. The Scots
   After the Treaty of Northampton in 1328 by which Scotland asserted its independence, the Scots kept quiet for a while. Unfortunately, their leader Robert the Bruce, died the following year leaving Scotland to his young son David. Edward saw the occasion to play the Baillol against the Bruce (like his grand-father did).
   As the Scots had continued their raids into the North, this matter had to be settled on the battlefield, hence this battle.
6. Philippe VI
   Philippe VI was the son of Charles de Valois, the brother of King Philippe IV le Bel (the Fair). When Philippe IV died, his three sons succeeded him (Louis X, Philippe V and Charles IV) but none of them produced an heir.
7. Henry of Derby
   Henry of Monmouth was in fact the future Henry V, the Black Prince was Edward's eldest son also a great warrior. John de Montfort was the son-in-law of Edward, he had married his daughter Mary.
8. The Welsh archers
   The English archers used long bows which allowed them to kill the enemy while staying far from him. A chronicle of the time describes this event: 'but then, the English archers stepped forth one pace and let fly their arrows so wholly together and so thick that it seemed snow'. A most impressive sight, don't you think? At least the French seem to have thought so .
9. Poitiers
   Henry V defeated the French army in Agincourt in 1415. The battle of Barnet in 1471 saw the death of one of England's most intriguing characters, Warwick the Kingmaker. The battle of Bouvines in 1214 opposed Philippe Auguste of France and King John of England, this time, the French won.
10. Grandson
    Richard was the son of the Black Prince and of Joan of Kent.
11. All of the above.
    Possibly on the throne when St. Peter’s Parish Church was built

https://www.funtrivia.com/trivia-quiz/People/Edward-III-King-of-England-53076.html