

MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

April 2026

Dear Member

I hope you had a good Easter and are managing to avoid most of April's showers. My mother used to quote (misquote apparently – read on) "March winds and April's showers bring forth May flowers," a traditional English proverb. The evolution of the proverb can be traced through several famous literary



Figures. Chaucer is possibly the earliest source of the idea, which appears in the General Prologue of "The Canterbury Tales. He wrote: "*Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote/ The droghte of March hath perced to the roote*" (Translation: *When April with its sweet showers has pierced the drought of March to the root*) I suppose March is a dry month and more so due to the traditional winds. Next, we have Thomas Tusser who wrote in his book, sometime around 1557, *A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*, (published around 1557) the couplet: "*Sweet April showers/ Do Spring May flowers*" The specific, longer version involving "March winds" was first recorded as an official English proverb in 1886. Since then, it has been shortened in common parlance to the popular "April showers bring May flowers." It was

probably 'weather-lore' and used by farmers to remind themselves that turbulent weather in early Spring was necessary for a successful harvest. At least we have May's flowers to look forward to, especially when Bosworth in Bloom decorate our town with splendid and lovely floral displays.

Spring is a time for renewal and birth, we usually think about lambs, but other animals are busy too, as can be seen above, as Mr or Mrs Swan incubates their eggs.



Many will have seen the Highland cattle in the first field along Sutton Lane (when I was a boy it was rented by Mr Zuger of Carlton – Occupation Road I seem to recall). Now it is rented by Adam Tarver who owns the barn further along the lane. Adam sent me a photograph of Wallace, born in the early hours of the 29th March 2026. He seems to be thriving, and when we went past the other day, we saw him happily galloping about, chasing jackdaws feeding in his field - the very cheek. When I was a boy Tertius and Sam Perry, who owned the verges off Sutton Lane kept cattle along the lane. Several cattle kept the nettles, briars and blackthorn at bay and the grass was a good source of

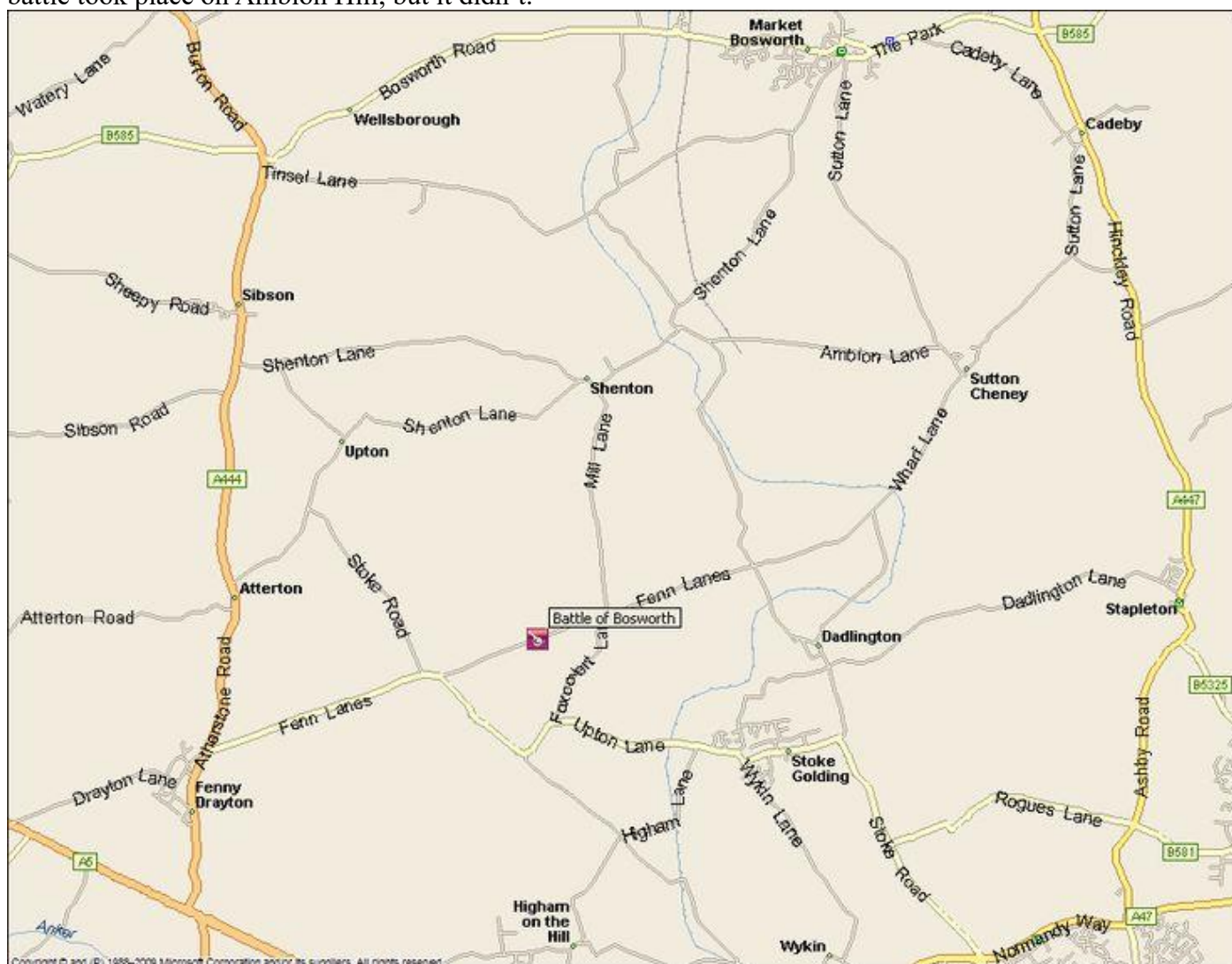
nourishment for them. I do remember highland cattle with long pointed horns. He was extremely docile and many people stopped to have a photograph taken with him. Some even posed their children on his back. He took all this in his stride before wandering off to find more grass. If you happen to have a picture of him, I would love to see it. We can see cattle on the lane in a video shot by Peter Bailiss featuring his son and John Rawson. Have a look at it here: [Cattle on Sutton Lane TrimThis One](#). (Market Bosworth Community Library will help if you do not have access to the internet). As can be seen, cattle are not roadworthy, but they do recognise lunch when it arrives!

I hope you enjoy your April Newsletter and do share any thoughts or memories with me. We are always looking out for interesting images and recollections of Market Bosworth and surrounding villages. As you do your Spring cleaning have a look at your photo albums and let me know.

Meeting Report “Myths of the Battle of Bosworth” Michael Dix

Making his second appearance on our lecture programme Michael kept up his high standard set with his first lecture “From Slates to Tablets – 150 years of Primary Education”. The controversy began almost immediately. The Battle of Bosworth has also been known as the Battle of Coventry, The Battle of Redemore, The Battle of Merevale, The Battle of Leicester, the Battle of Dadlington are some examples. Although Polydore Vergil's *Historiae Anglicae* (written 1503–1513) referred to Bosworth Field but it was not until the sixteenth century that the Battle of Bosworth name became more fixed as the Tudor history was written. The Battle of Bosworth is often referred to as the last battle of the Wars of the Roses, but even though the Yorkist King Richard III was slain it was not the last battle and so it did not end 30 years of conflict either. The last battle was of course the Battle of Stoke Field which took place on the 16th June 1487 some 22 months later. At the time it was not even called the Wars of the Roses! The popularization of this label was heavily influenced by a scene in Shakespeare's play Henry VI, Part 1 (Act 2, Scene 4), which dramatized the selection of red and white roses, though this scene is likely fictional.

The term gained traction later to distinguish these 15th-century battles from the English Civil War of the 1640s. The red rose of Lancaster was not widely used until after Henry Tudor's victory at Bosworth in 1485, where he combined the two symbols into the "Tudor Rose" to symbolize unity. Many contemporary accounts saw the conflict as a family dispute rather than a battle of roses. For many years we were led to believe the battle took place on Ambion Hill, but it didn't.



It took place in the Fenn Lanes, near to the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park but not there. I have been informed by an expert that King Richard III died very close to where the railway station at Shenton now stands. No jokes about his horse being startled by steam whistle.

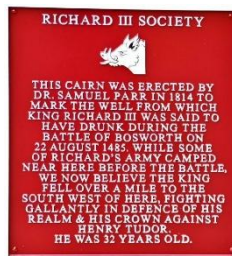
Michael explored the reputation of King Richard III and much of his ‘bad press’ was due to his portrayal by William Shakespeare who maligned him badly. As a king Richard III did some very good work. Richard III implemented "bail" for people accused of crimes, which helped protect citizens from wrongful imprisonment and the premature seizure of their goods. Known for being a hands-on administrator, he insisted on fair trials,

reduced corruption in courts, and worked to ensure that property buyers were protected from fraudulent titles. Richard and his wife, Anne Neville, were significant patrons of education, providing funding that helped start King's College and Queen's College at Cambridge University. Before becoming king, he ran the north of England efficiently and was widely loved there, often referred to as "Good King Dick" by the locals for his strong management and justice. Richard was a highly regarded warrior during the Wars of the Roses and remained intensely loyal to his brother, Edward IV, serving him loyally until his death. So, not quite the nephew-murdering "hunchback" as was claimed.

Neither was he a grotesque hunchback as has been claimed. Although he did suffer from a significant spinal deformity. Archaeological findings from 2012 indicate he had severe scoliosis (a sideways, spiral-shaped curve), not a "hunchback" (kyphosis). His right shoulder was likely higher than the left, but this was likely hidden by clothing or armour and did not prevent him from being a warrior. In fact, he was a formidable knight incredibly strong and capable. To digress a little, once unhorsed his future was not bright but the major factor was the loss of his helmet. Once his helmet was gone, he would have had great difficulty in protecting his head from all directions and it was this which accelerated his end. Had he kept his helmet he may have been saved, although that is highly speculative.



King Richard's Well - it did not come as a surprise to hear that too was a myth. There was not a well but there may have been a spring from where King Richard drank. The current cairn was added above the well in 1822 (and not 1814 as the plaque claims News Sheet July 2023 refers).



And then we come to the Kings bed. It has been claimed that before the battle King Richard stopped off at the Blue Boar (or the White Boar, another myth) which is considered unlikely as there is no evidence written or otherwise to support this. There was a perfectly good castle in Leicester and under the circumstances a king would have felt a lot safer in a castle than he would an inn. But the story of the bed remains. Michael had researched carefully and concluded that there was no truth to the story. We visited the 1620 House and Donington Le Heath as a Society a couple of years ago (we went in

October and enjoyed a spooky candle lit tour) where we were shown King Richard III's bed. Except it wasn't. As usual I have left out many of the myths busted by Michael in what was an interesting, entertaining and amusing lecture. It was a new slant on an old theme as the Battle of Bosworth has featured more than once on our lecture tours and will do again. Thank you Michael for a great evening and I crave your forgiveness in mangling your lecture in this report. I may be printing several corrections next month.

Next Month: Rev. Henry Small and the Missing £20,000 - Jon Mein 21st May 2026 7:30 (doors open 7:00)

Following an email exchange in January 2025 with Jon I thought you would enjoy hearing about this. Revd



Henry Small, rector of the Abbey parish in St Albans from 1815, stands at the centre of one of the city's most striking early-19th-century scandals. In 1834 he fled to France, leaving debts far beyond his clerical income and a serious deficit at the St Albans Savings Bank, where he was treasurer. The affair prompted questions in Parliament and drew the attention of the Prime Minister.

The lecture traces how this crisis unfolded and how it fits into a wider pattern of political and financial controversy in St Albans between 1820 and 1850.

Market Bosworth plays a significant part in the story. Before coming to St Albans, Henry Small was headmaster of Market Bosworth School (shown above, left) and married

Dorothy Dixie of the Bosworth Hall family. Their son, Nathaniel Pomfret Small, later became rector of Market Bosworth and is buried at St Peter's there—so the repercussions of Henry Small's life and choices link the

two towns in unexpected ways. I must make a small confession here: initially I misread the amount as £20.00 not £20,000. I did think it rather a fuss over just £20 (although a sizeable amount in 1834 about £3200 and £20,000 would be worth around £3.3M). Now I recognise the full amount I can see the cause of the furore. Jon is travelling all the way from St. Albans and Peter Loseby has offered him a guided walk of Market Bosworth. I do hope Peter gets him to the Free Church on time....

Time for a Quiz

This quiz is all about Roman Britain! Good luck!

Roman Occupation of Britain – 20-Question Multiple-Choice Quiz (Copy-Friendly)

- 1. In what year did Emperor Claudius launch the successful Roman invasion of Britain?** a. AD 53 b. AD 63 c. AD 33 d. AD 43
- 2. Who first attempted to invade Britain before Claudius?** a. Julius Caesar b. Augustus c. Hadrian d. Nero
- 3. What was the main reason Claudius invaded Britain?** a. To conquer Gaul b. To find gold c. To gain prestige and restore a client king d. To escape rebellion in Rome
- 4. Which tribe led resistance against the Romans during the initial invasion?** a. Catuvellauni b. Trinovantes c. Atrebates d. Iceni
- 5. What was the first Roman capital in Britain?** a. Verulamium b. Camulodunum c. Eboracum d. Londinium
- 6. Which famous queen led a revolt against Roman rule in AD 60–61?** a. Cleopatra b. Boudica c. Agrippina d. Cartimandua
- 7. What was the name of the defensive wall built across northern Britain?** a. Antonine Wall b. Claudius Wall c. Caesar's Wall d. Hadrian's Wall
- 8. Which Roman governor expanded control into Scotland?** a. Vespasian b. Constantine c. Trajan d. Agricola
- 9. What was the Latin name for Roman Britain?** a. Gallia b. Hispania c. Britannia d. Germania
- 10. Which Roman town became the main administrative centre after Camulodunum?** a. York b. Winchester c. Londinium d. Bath
- 11. What type of building was central to Roman social life and hygiene?** a. Amphitheatre b. Forum c. Bathhouse d. Villa
- 12. Which Roman road linked London to York?** a. Watling Street b. Fosse Way c. Ermine Street d. Stane Street
- 13. What was the main language used in Roman Britain?** a. Gaelic b. Latin c. Celtic d. Greek
- 14. What was the purpose of Roman villas in Britain?** a. Temples b. Farms and country estates c. Military bases d. Public baths
- 15. Which Roman emperor ordered the construction of Hadrian's Wall?** a. Trajan b. Nero c. Claudius d. Hadrian
- 16. What religion gradually spread through Roman Britain before Christianity?** a. Druidism b. Mithraism c. Islam d. Judaism
- 17. What was the main material used for Roman roads?** a. Clay b. Wood c. Stone d. Sand
- 18. Which Roman fort near the Scottish border is famous for preserved tablets showing daily life?** a. Silchester b. Vindolanda c. Bath d. Colchester
- 19. When did Roman rule in Britain officially end?** a. AD 350 b. AD 450 c. AD 400 d. AD 410
- 20. What lasting legacy did the Romans leave in Britain?** a. Art and poetry b. Roads, towns, and law c. Language and religion d. Weapons and fortresses

No cheating and nothing less than 20 correct answers will do!

For a treat!

I hear that some have enjoyed the brain teasers where words are constructed from other words. See how many you can make from **Roman Occupation**. Ignore words with fewer than 4 letters, slang, abbreviations and old unused words. You should aim for between 40 and 60. Any above 60 is genius. Below 40 and you will be ideal to write the Newsletters!

Spring Newsletter 2026



Spring at Loughborough Dalkundy

Springtime at Loughborough Dalkundy, where our historic workshop is replete with many wonderful steam engines as you'll see. Leave less.

Participate in a generous springtime - and meet the leasing of our apriding as avavorking steam, for safety, exhibitions approve a folify of a ramger.

[Learn more](#)

Casting Tours – and Why They're Rare

Meet a few with the host of casting tours, we've an limited availability for forvreason of pe flormance – safety reasons for unique experiences to casting demonstrations all over the casting process on this sagment.

[Learn more](#)



Welcoming the ART Conference

Loughborough Dalkundy will host the ART Association of Researching Technologists (ART) Conference. We sees will provide opportunities for attendees, to tour the wholesing, historical engineering exhibits, and network.

[Learn more](#)

Stories from the Foundry

Hegrer sharing historical anecdotes and interviewse with the pioneering engineers and craftsmen. Mark with eases of interesting anilstry and we've wnt, and a bo ad selfid-the-scentes glimpses of the Foundry.

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Roman Life in Britain: A Window into an Ancient Province

When the Romans settled in Britain after AD 43, they didn't just bring soldiers and governors — they brought an entire way of life. Over nearly four centuries, Roman Britain became a blend of Mediterranean habits and

native traditions, producing a society that was both familiar and distinctly local. What follows is a tour through everyday life in the province, from food and farming to law, health, and the business of simply getting along. Roman Britons ate far better than many imagine. The basics were simple: bread, porridge, vegetables, eggs, and local meats such as pork, beef, and mutton. But the empire added flair. Olive oil, wine, figs, dates, pepper, and garum (a fermented fish sauce beloved by Romans and feared by everyone else) arrived through bustling ports like Londinium.

Wealthier households enjoyed multi-course meals with oysters from the Thames estuary, honey cakes, and imported delicacies. Ordinary people ate more modestly — barley stews, cabbage, onions, and whatever the farm or market could provide. Beer remained popular among locals, while wine was the Roman drink of choice, though often watered down wine for cultural reasons as drinking wine neat was considered uncivilised. Education in Roman Britain depended heavily on status. Wealthy families hired tutors or sent their sons to schools where they learned reading, writing, arithmetic, and Latin grammar. Lessons were copied onto wax tablets with a stylus — the ancient equivalent of a reusable notebook.

Girls were less likely to receive formal schooling, but many learned to read and write at home, especially in Romanised towns. For the elite, the pinnacle of education was rhetoric — the art of persuasive speech — essential for anyone hoping to enter government or law.

Roman Britain had no police force in the modern sense. Instead, order was maintained through a mixture of local magistrates, military presence, and community responsibility.

- Magistrates in towns handled civil disputes, property issues, and minor crimes.
- Soldiers acted as a deterrent and occasionally enforced the law, especially near forts.
- Victims were expected to bring accusations themselves — justice was something you pursued, not something delivered to you.

Roman law was sophisticated, covering contracts, inheritance, citizenship, and property rights. For many Britons, it offered more stability than tribal systems, though punishments could be harsh: fines, exile, forced labour, or in severe cases, execution.

Housing varied dramatically across the province.

In rural areas, many Britons continued living in roundhouses — warm, practical, and perfectly suited to the climate. Over time, some adopted Roman features such as tiled roofs or rectangular layouts.

In towns, Roman-style houses appeared:

- stone or timber walls
- tiled floors
- glass windows (a luxury)
- painted plaster
- small courtyards

The elite lived in villas, which ranged from modest farmhouses to sprawling estates with mosaic floors, bath suites, underfloor heating (hypocausts), and landscaped gardens. These villas were not just homes but centres of agricultural production and local power.

Most people in Roman Britain worked the land. Farms produced grain, vegetables, wool, and livestock, supplying both local markets and the army. Roman innovations — such as improved ploughs, crop rotation, and organised estates — boosted productivity.

Other common occupations included:

- potters, whose kilns supplied towns with tableware
- smiths and metalworkers
- builders, constantly in demand for roads, baths, and public buildings
- merchants, trading goods across the empire
- soldiers, who enjoyed steady pay, pensions, and social status

If there was one institution that defined Roman social life, it was the public bathhouse.

Baths were not just for washing — they were places to exercise, gossip, conduct business, and relax. A typical visit involved moving through a sequence of rooms:

- frigidarium (cold)
- tepidarium (warm)
- caldarium (hot)

Taverns, theatres, amphitheatres, and markets also offered entertainment. Festivals such as Saturnalia brought feasting, gift-giving, and a temporary reversal of social roles — masters served slaves, and everyone enjoyed a rare moment of mischief.

Roman medicine was a mixture of practical knowledge and superstition. Doctors used herbs, poultices, surgery, and diet to treat illness, but they also invoked gods such as Asclepius for healing.

Common treatments included:

- honey for wounds
- willow bark for pain (a natural source of salicylates)
- herbal teas for digestion
- cauterisation for serious injuries

Public health improved with aqueducts, sewers, and bathhouses, though sanitation varied widely. Soldiers enjoyed the best medical care, with dedicated medics and well-equipped hospitals in forts.

By the time Roman rule ended in AD 410, Britain had become a patchwork of cultures. Some communities embraced Roman customs wholeheartedly; others blended them with native traditions. Latin mingled with Celtic languages, roundhouses stood beside villas, and local gods were worshipped alongside Jupiter and Mars.

Roman Britain was never fully Roman — but it was never the same again.

For those who enjoy entertaining, why not invite your friends to a Roman themed evening? Here are three simple recipes for a three-course Roman dinner:

Roman Recipes to Try at Home

Three Popular Dishes from the Roman Occupation of Britain

Moretum (Roman Herb & Cheese Spread)

A punchy, pesto-like spread enjoyed with bread. **Ingredients:** Fresh cheese (ricotta or soft goat's cheese), garlic, mixed herbs (parsley, coriander, celery leaf, mint), olive oil, salt, optional nuts. **Method:** Crush garlic and salt. Add herbs and pound to a paste. Mix in cheese. Loosen with olive oil. Serve with warm bread.

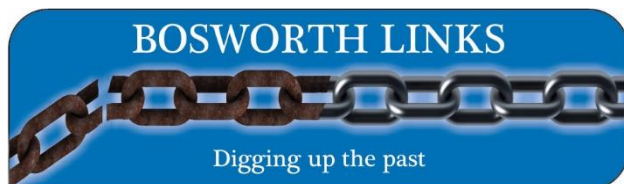
Pullum Numidicum (Spiced Roman Chicken Stew)

A warming provincial favourite. **Ingredients:** Chicken pieces, olive oil, onion, carrots, cumin, coriander, black pepper, white wine or cider, chicken stock, fish sauce (or salt), fresh herbs. **Method:** Brown chicken. Add onion and carrots. Stir in spices. Add wine, stock, and fish sauce. Simmer 45 minutes. Finish with herbs.

Libum (Roman Honey Cheesecake)

A simple ceremonial cake turned everyday treat. **Ingredients:** Ricotta or soft cheese, egg, flour, honey, optional bay leaves. **Method:** Mix cheese, egg, flour, and honey. Shape into small rounds. Bake at 180°C for 30–35 minutes. Drizzle with honey.

The nature of the after dinner entertainment I shall leave to your discretion.



After almost 10 years and a lot of fun, the Bosworth Links project has come to an end, or has it? On the 19th April we gathered one last time for a feedback session. This time we were guests of Congerstone Village Hall. Appropriately the feedback was about the dig in Congerstone in September last year. The report is missing its flint section as the University of Leicester Archaeology Services are between flint experts. If you know of a Fred Flintstone or Barney Rubble let me know and I will forward the details.



Figure 6: Excavation of Test Pit 1, looking west

Congerstone gave up its secrets from all ages. Once the flint is confirmed, we may travel back further than the Bronze Age (c. 2200-800 BC) pottery found in Test Pit 11. Whilst we did find some Roman pottery, it is thought that it was spread in manure and not from direct habitation. There were Roman villas in the surrounding area, Barton in the Beans, Mancetter, and of course Market Bosworth. So, it's not surprising to find some evidence of the Romans about. There was no known Anglo-Saxon activity in the area and that was confirmed by a complete lack of evidence. Nor was there any evidence of Early Medieval activity in Congerstone. In several pits we found

Late Medieval pottery and the number of finds increased as we moved from post-medieval to modern pottery shards. We also found examples of glass, metal, coins, buttons and of course clay pipes. Overall, the test pits

gave a good understanding of the development of the village and how it had fared over 2,000 years. The full report can be read here: [ULAS Report template](#).

I cannot finish without saying something about our wonderful videographer, Bill Newsinger. Bill has been part of Bosworth Links from the first dig in 2017. I have not seen Bill without a smile on his face and his warm and charming personality has been a great asset to the project. Bill has managed to encourage archaeologists of all ages to talk to his camera. Even the shyest of people have been happy to give Bill an interview. Even I am in this one. Bill has told me that he plans to retire in June this year. Thank goodness we managed to complete the project before he retired. It would not have been the same without him. The video can be viewed (as can all other videos via the Society's YouTube page right here: [Bosworth Links digs Congerstone 2025](#) (do remember that the Market Bosworth Community Library is happy to get you online if you don't already have access). Is this the end of Bosworth Links? Actually, no-one knows for sure but there is an answer in the video, so you had better go and have a look. My thanks to everyone involved in any way, shape or form with this wonderful project which turned back time for seven settlements and introduced over 1,000 children and 500 adults to active archaeology. Quite an achievement. As for me, I just went time travelling...

Contact Details

Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email us on info@marketbosworthsociety.com or if you would like to call MBS then 07930 149408. 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 Sort 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

Chairman

Answers to the Roman Quiz

Answer 1. d

Answer 2. a

Answer 3. c

Answer 4. a

Answer 5. b

Answer 6. b

Answer 7. d

Answer 8. d

Answer 9. c

Answer 10. c

Answer 11. c

Answer 12. c

Answer 13. b

Answer 14. b

Answer 15. d

Answer 16. b

Answer 17. c

Answer 18. b

Answer 19. d

Answer 20. b

Answers to Roman Occupation words

ACORN ACTOR ACTION AORTA AROMA ATOM ATOMIC AUTO AUNT CAIRN CAN'T
CANTO CAPON CART CARTOON CARTON CATION CAUTION COAT COIN CORN COUNT

COURT ICON MACRO MAIN MANOR MICRO MINOR MOAT MORN NANO NATION
NOON NOTION OCCUR ONION ONTO OPTION ORATION ORCA OUTRO PACT PAIN PAIR
PAINT PANIC PANTO PIANO PINT PINTO POINT PORT POUT PRION PROTON RAIN
RANT RATIO RATION RIOT ROOM ROOT ROUT RUNT TACO TARP TARMAC TOUR
TORN TRAIN TRAM TRIM TUNA TUNIC TURN UNIT UNION UNPIN