MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

Newsletter October 2026

Dear member

I decided that someone more famous and better equipped than I should do the introduction this month. John Keats with his most famous first line. I have added a few images of how nature lessens the blow from warm Summer through Autumn to cold Winter with some splendid displays.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.
Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.
Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Special thanks to Market Bosworth Country Park for the beautiful and vibrant colours.






Meeting Report – Public Houses of Market Bosworth – Researched from the MBS Archive and Narrated by Robert Leake.

Members were treated to a fascinating and entertaining talk on the history of Market Bosworth's public houses, exploring not only the buildings themselves but also the families, communities and social changes that shaped them over several centuries.

Robert began by reflecting on the changing fortunes of Britain's pubs. Once numbering around 75,000 in 1960, there are now fewer than 50,000 remaining, with closures continuing nationwide. Rising costs, changing

lifestyles, improved home comforts and shifts in social habits have all contributed to their decline. Yet, as Robert emphasised, pubs have long played a central role in British life.

Their origins stretch back to Roman times when roadside inns provided food, drink and shelter for travellers. Over the centuries, alehouses evolved from private homes where surplus ale was sold to neighbours. By the medieval period, coaching inns, taverns and alehouses had become established features of community life. In Market Bosworth, the earliest recorded establishments included the Bull's Head, the Unicorn, the Wheatsheaf and the George, while later centuries would see the emergence of familiar names such as the Red Lion, King William IV, and the Black Horse.



The oldest surviving pub in the town is the Old Red Lion, (pictured left) which may have originated as early as the fifteenth century. Robert described how it probably developed from one of a row of cottages where ale was brewed and sold locally. The pub's name is often linked to King James I's promotion of the Scottish Red Lion emblem following the Union of the Crowns. Over many generations the Trivett family became closely associated with the establishment, managing it for more than a century. The Red Lion developed its own brewery, operated one of Market Bosworth's first petrol stations and became a focal point for local sports clubs and community events. It even gained national recognition when it appeared in a Daily Telegraph guide to Britain's best pubs.

Attention then turned to the building now known as the Dixie Arms, (pictured below left) which began life as the Bear Inn before becoming the Bull's Head. This was one of Market Bosworth's principal coaching inns and served travellers, mail coaches and local residents alike. The inn expanded considerably over time, acquiring function rooms, accommodation and facilities that allowed it to serve many purposes. During the nineteenth century it housed a magistrates' court, schoolrooms and later even a venue for silent films. Robert recounted a variety of colourful stories connected with the inn, including its role as a coaching stop and its association with renowned Canadian-born heavyweight boxer Larry Gains, who trained there while visiting relatives in the area. The Dixie Arms became a true hub of community life and remained one of the town's most important establishments.



The now-vanished George Inn was another significant early hostelry. First recorded in the sixteenth century, it stood close to the present Free Church area and was regarded as the second most important inn after the Bull's Head. Robert highlighted an infamous incident from 1825 when supporters of Sir Willoughby Dixie clashed with police attempting to arrest him. The resulting riot became part of local folklore and even spawned tales of a secret tunnel linking Bosworth Hall to the George Inn. Although the inn closed in





the early nineteenth century, it occupied an important place in the town's history.

The story of the King William IV (pictured above left before rebuilding, and the right as most people will remember it. An important note is that the holly tree in the photograph still stands on the corner of Warwick Lane and Station Road outside what is now a dental practice) affectionately known locally as the King Bill, illustrated how pubs served working communities. Built as part of a complex associated with a lace factory and workers' housing, it became a lively social centre. Following rebuilding in 1938, it contained separate bars, an off-licence hatch and a popular skittle alley. Robert described its role as a gathering place for darts teams, cribbage players, domino enthusiasts and members of local social clubs. Regulars could expect their Sunday lunchtime pints waiting for them on the bar. The King Bill remained a cherished meeting place until its closure in 2011.

The Black Horse provided another example of a pub closely tied to the economic life of the town. Situated near the cattle market, it prospered through its links with livestock trading. Farmers and dealers gathered there on market days, while visiting cattle traders might stay overnight. The pub contained stockyards, stables and numerous public rooms. As market activities declined during the twentieth century, the Black Horse adapted. Under Gordon and Rosemary Ronchetti, it became Market Bosworth's pioneer of pub dining, initially offering chicken in a basket, before introducing restaurant-style meals and helping transform expectations of what a local pub could offer. Eventually it evolved into a dedicated restaurant.

Another fascinating story concerned the Wheat Sheaf, formerly known as the Unicorn. Evidence of its sixteenth-century origins still survives within the marketplace yard that bears its name. For an extraordinary 118 years the pub was operated by successive generations of the Kimberlin family. Robert recounted the dramatic tale of landlord Thomas Kimberlin, who died after being imprisoned following an alleged attack on his wife. The Wheat Sheaf later ceased trading as a pub and subsequently became a confectionery business, café, tobacconist and antiques shop before taking on its present uses.

The final establishment discussed was the Inn on the Park, a comparatively modern addition to the town's public house history. Developed from Park House on the edge of Bosworth Park, it evolved from the Bosworth Park Sporting Club and later the Bosworth Field Restaurant before becoming a public house in the 1980s. It hosted markets and social events and remained a familiar landmark until its closure and demolition, after which housing was built on the site.

Drawing the talk to a close, Robert reflected on the importance of pubs within local communities. Beyond serving food and drink, they provided employment, meeting places, entertainment and a sense of belonging. The histories of the Bear Inn, Bull's Head, Dixie Arms, George Inn, Old Red Lion, King William IV (King Bill), Black Horse, Unicorn, Wheat Sheaf and Inn on the Park collectively chart the social history of Market Bosworth itself. Their stories reveal changing patterns of work, travel, leisure and community life across more than four centuries.

As Robert concluded, the loss of a pub is often more than the loss of a building. It can mean the disappearance of a piece of local identity and heritage. The surviving public houses of Market Bosworth therefore remain not merely businesses, but living links to the town's remarkable past.

In closing, Robert thanked Peter Loseby for, although he may not have realised it, for providing the basis of this talk through his research and articles for Aspect in 2012. Further research came from Glynis Oakley, Ingrid Davison and me. The PowerPoint photographs were all put together tonight by Marion Lamborn, who's also been controlling the photographs you've seen above my head. Thanks to all those involved in this massive pub crawl.

Enclosures and the Sutton Cheney Estate.

During our Summer Visit to the Hinckley Museum, I took the opportunity to acquire a copy of The Hinckley Historian and encountered a fascinating article about Sutton Cheney by Dr. Peter Foss. Peter has agreed that an abridged version may be published in your Newsletter.

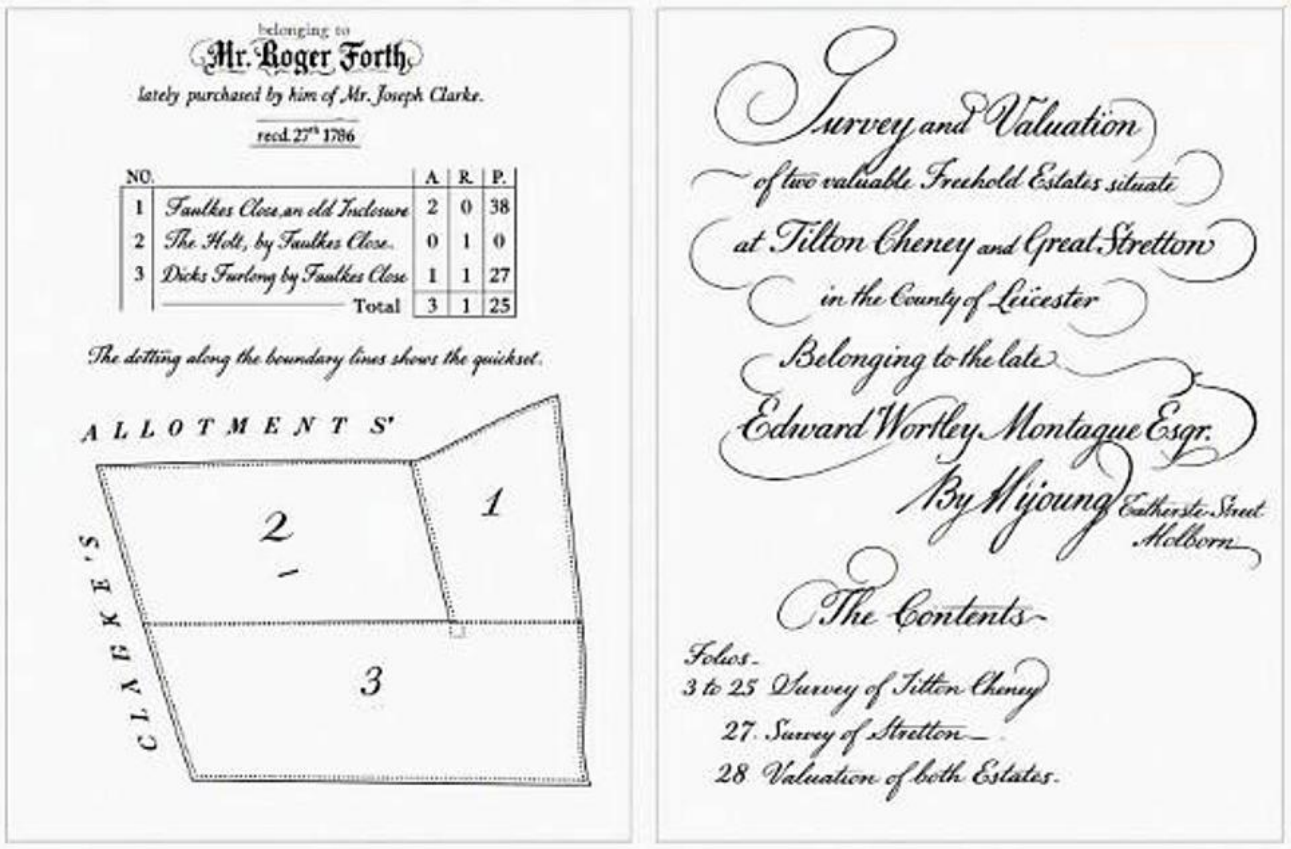
Before Sutton Cheney was reshaped by the great enclosure of 1797, the parish belonged to the old open-field world that had defined English farming for centuries. Much of the land was shared — commons for grazing, rough “waste” used by the poorest, and great open fields divided into narrow strips worked cooperatively by tenants and the manor. It was a landscape of scattered holdings, ancient trackways and communal routines that had changed little since medieval times.

By the eighteenth century, however, England was changing fast. The population was rising, food prices were climbing, and the early Industrial Revolution was drawing workers into towns. Feeding those towns — and

supplying the new urban markets — demanded more efficient farming. Landowners began adopting improved crop rotations, better drainage, selective breeding and the first wave of mechanised tools. These innovations worked best in compact, hedged fields, not in the old patchwork of strips.

Enclosure offered a solution: reorganising the parish into modern fields, increasing yields and giving landowners tighter control. But it also swept away traditional rights and displaced many rural families, some of whom moved into the very factories whose growth had helped drive the change. It was, in many ways, a moment of technological upheaval. Villagers who had farmed the same strips for generations suddenly faced a new system that felt both promising and unsettling — not unlike today, when rapid advances in technology (even AI) can leave people wondering how their working world might change.

Peter Foss's study looks back at Sutton Cheney *before* this transformation: at the fields, meadows, commons and old lanes that shaped the parish for generations, and whose traces still survive in names, boundaries and earthworks across the landscape.


belonging to
Mr. Roger Forth,
lately purchased by him of Mr. Joseph Clarke.
recd. 27th 1786

NO.		A.	R.	P.
1	Faulkes Close an old Inclosure	2	0	38
2	The Holt, by Faulkes Close.	0	1	0
3	Dicks Furlong by Faulkes Close	1	1	27
	Total	3	1	25

The dotting along the boundary lines shews the quickset.

ALLOTMENTS

CLAKE'S

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2

3

Survey and Valuation
of two valuable Freehold Estates situate
at Tilton Cheney and Great Stretton
in the County of Leicester
Belonging to the late
Edward Wortley Montague Esqr.
By Wijoung Eatherste Street Holborn

The Contents

Folios.
3 to 25 Survey of Tilton Cheney
27. Survey of Stretton
28 Valuation of both Estates.

The Sutton Cheney Estates Part One: The Pre-Enclosure Landscape – Dr. Peter Foss

Before the great enclosure of 1797, Sutton Cheney was a very different place from the village we know today. The hedged fields, straight roads and tidy farmsteads that now define the parish are products of the late eighteenth century, when the chief landowners, with the agreement of a handful of freeholders, reorganised the entire agricultural landscape. The Enclosure Act of 1794 set this transformation in motion, but the world it swept away had been shaped over centuries. This article explores that older landscape — the medieval and early modern farming world of Sutton Cheney — using the surviving records of the Stuart estate. These documents allow us to glimpse the parish as it was before the hedges went up.

A Survey and Valuation of Edward Wortley Montague's estate, made on 18 November 1784, names the three great open fields that dominated the parish: Little Field to the south, Ambion Field to the west, and Mill Field to the east. These were classic Midland open fields, divided into narrow strips or selions farmed by different tenants. The Montague estate held strips in all three fields, as well as several closes around Sutton Hall, then occupied by Thomas Copson. Behind Copson's farmhouse stretched eight closes, including the large Dicken's Close in two parts, and a small croft containing the village pinfold. Southeast of Dicken's Close lay Long Meadow, bordering a tributary of the River Sence, and beyond it Hovel Close, Nether High Close and two Upper High Closes. Another close, Little Meadow, was farmed by George Abell and seems to correspond to the Pick Meadow Close mentioned frequently in earlier records. In total the Montague estate held just over sixty-two acres of enclosed land and a further one hundred and fifty-five acres of strips scattered across the open fields and pastures — about sixteen per cent of the entire lordship.

The 1784 Survey lists dozens of named furlongs — flats or shoots — each representing a cluster of strips. These names preserve the medieval geography of Sutton Cheney: Dickin Shoot, Wheatcroft Furlong, Great Sandhill, Crabtree Shoot, Goose Slade, Rice Slade, Bastardly Furlong, Fernhill, White Leys and many more. Some names are purely topographical; others hint at ancient usage. Many survive today only in field boundaries or in the faint curves of ridge-and-furrow visible in winter sunlight. The Survey also names features in the commons and wood-pastures of Ambion: Underhangings, Homes Leys, Cordley Firs, Short Shoot, Windshearse and The Ashes. Other features — Bull Balks, Salter's Lane (as it looked in 1987, below) Long Hades and



Heath Slade Gutter — describe the rough grass headlands and ancient trackways that once structured the open fields.

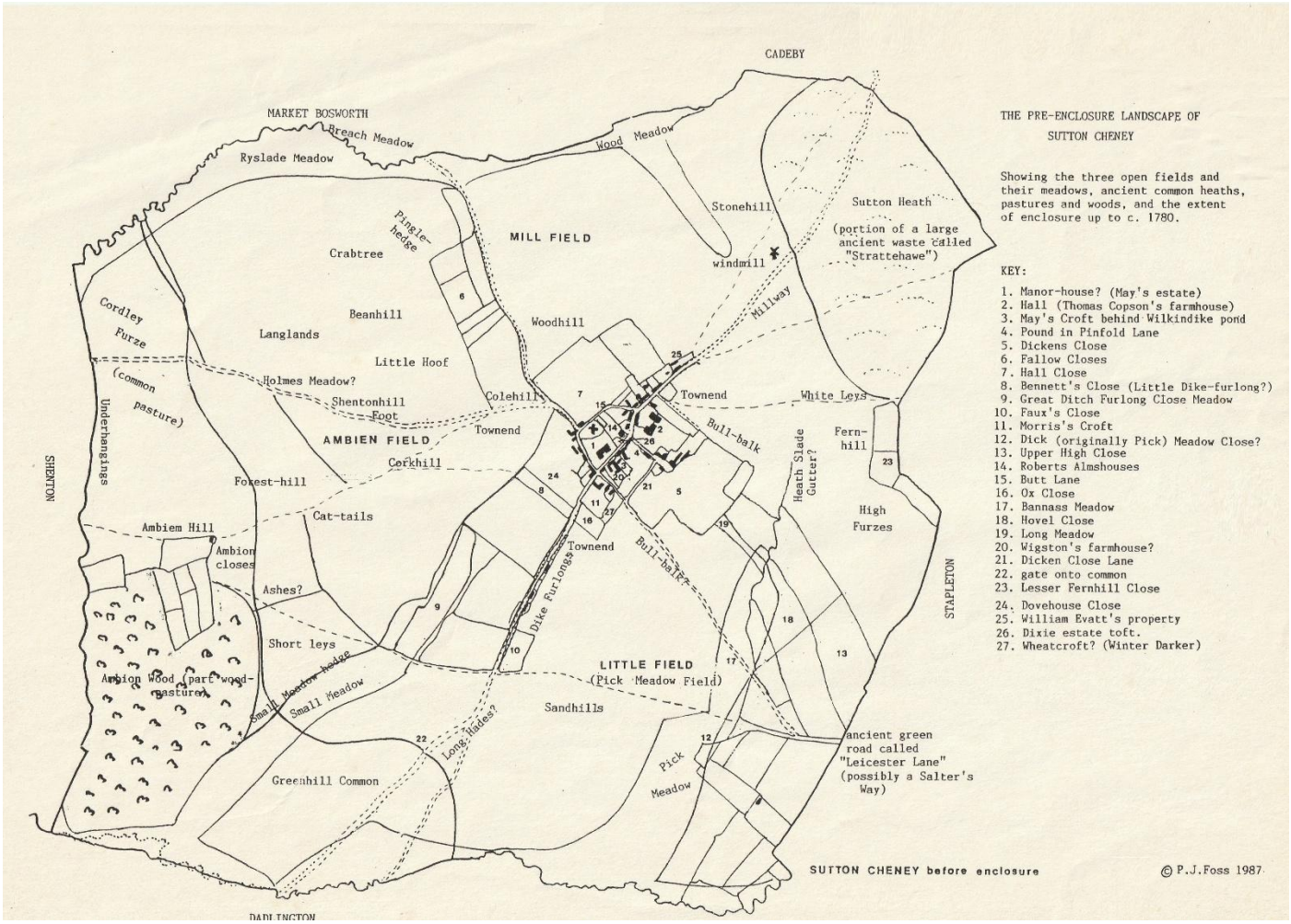
Although the exact location of many strips cannot now be pinpointed, some furlongs can be identified by comparing the Survey with later field names. Sutton Cheney has no Victorian tithe map, but an estate map of about 1842 in Bedford Record Office, together with a reference book of around 1902, allows some reconstruction. Using these sources, a map of the pre-enclosure landscape can be drawn, showing the broad arrangement of the three fields, the closes around Sutton Hall, and the large areas of meadowland in the south of the lordship where tributary streams drained into the Sence brook. These meadows are mentioned in the 1784 Survey: the Small Meadow dividing Ambion Field from Little Field, and Pit Meadow to the east of Little Field, almost certainly synonymous with the earlier Pick Meadow. Indeed, Little Field was sometimes called the Pick or Pickmeadow Field and appears as Pit Field in a Dixie Survey of 1788.

To the west lay the herd pasture on Ambion Hill and the Greenhill, and to the northeast vestiges of a much larger heathland referred to in 1428 as the Strattehawe. The earliest specific reference to Sutton Heath appears in the Market Bosworth Glebe Terrier of 1638, and its extent in the late eighteenth century is clearly shown on John Prior's county map of 1777. Prior also marks the village windmill, described as "old" and valued at only three pounds per year, though let higher in 1784. It appears as a post mill on the Victorian estate map, and its mound can still be seen today just east of Lawns House, built in 1842. References to a mill at Sutton go back to 1279, and to a windmill specifically from 1315 onwards, suggesting that the site has been used continuously for over seven centuries.

The boundaries of the great fields are always difficult to determine, but the Enclosure Award suggests that Mill Field was divided from Ambion Field not by the Bosworth gated road but by a hedgerow called Pingle Hedge on the west side of the old enclosures along the Bosworth road. Mill Field extended up to the Heath on the northeast and down to the hillside on the southeast boundary with Stapleton, called Fernhill. It was divided from Little Field by a band of old closes behind Sutton Hall, where Long Meadow corresponds to an unusual geological feature marked on the 1982 geological map as "Head". These closes lay between baulks — strips

of rough grass dividing the furlongs — and in this case dividing the fields. They were called the Bull Balks, and their rights were preserved in the Enclosure Act, since cattle rearing was of prime importance in the eighteenth century. Little Field in turn was divided from Ambion Field by the Small Meadow, part of which was enclosed by this time. The routes east, west, north and south passed through each of the great fields, giving access to the furlongs and pastures along the baulks and headlands. The western route almost certainly led originally to the abandoned village of Ambion.

Ambion deserted medieval village is now a Scheduled Monument. Archaeological research shows that it was occupied between the late thirteenth and mid-fourteenth centuries and probably abandoned after the plague. Its earthworks — house platforms, hollow ways and boundary ditches — survive today immediately west of the Bosworth Battlefield Centre,



formerly Ambion Hill Farm. When Nichols visited the area during the passage of the Enclosure Act, he described the decayed aspect of the landscape, and Hutton, writing in 1813, recalled how in 1807 he revisited what he believed to be the battlefield but found the landscape so altered by fences and drainage that he was "totally lost". Timber had been felled indiscriminately prior to enclosure, and the neglect of the late eighteenth century seems to have resulted in the decline of Ambion as both a managed woodland and wood-pasture. Nichols's colleague John Robinson wrote in 1785 that the wood was "but small". On the southern slope of Ambion were grassed enclosures surviving possibly from the time of the deserted village. The last mention of Ambion village in 1346 records the granting of free warren to Anketin de Houby in his demesne lands in Sutton and Ambion, and this warren status may mark the final stage of its desertion. Nichols describes an abandoned mud-walled herdsman's house formerly occupied by Thomas Bickley surviving on the hill, possibly the last vestige of the former village. Ambion Hill Farm replaced it shortly after enclosure and was let to Samuel Abell, tenant of William Stuart's estate.

Along the northern boundary of Sutton Cheney ran a brook with adjacent water meadows, the eastern side preserved from encroachment by the woodland forming part of Market Bosworth's medieval Southwood Park. The western boundary of the park was skirted by the lane from Sutton to Bosworth once it crossed the stream. Surviving field names in Bosworth parish such as Breach Meadow and The Stockings indicate sixteenth- and seventeenth-century assarting in this woodland, and Nichols also mentions the grubbing-out of parts of the

wood in Sutton's Wood Meadow in 1748. The meadows to the west — Ryslade — were always wet and seem to have been named after the valuable pasture grass Lolium perenne, ryegrass, which was cultivated as cattle fodder and sown on poorly drained land. One of these fields was later called Trencher Meadow, derived from the draining activity prior to letting for provender. The Rice and Rice Slade Meadows in the 1784 Survey are specifically cited as sown meadows.

The road across Mill Field was the Millway in 1784. It would have diverted at the windmill slightly northward of the present Cadeby road to cross the Heath to Cadeby parish at Three Ashes House. The present alignment of the road up to the T-junction between Cadeby and Hinckley appears to be a compromise devised by the Parliamentary commissioners in 1797 to allow the most economic route for a carriage-way to the Ashby to Hinckley turnpike. The original route from Kirkby Mallory would have been a continuation of Ireland Lane across the southern edge of the Heath, entering the village just below The Greyhound Inn, now The Royal Arms. The route was designated a footway to Hinckley by the commissioners in 1797 and remained so until recent times.

To the east of Mill Field were Fernhill and the High Furzes, names indicating the rough state of these marginal areas, although some early enclosures here may relate to ancient connections with the manor of Stapleton. The areas of earlier enclosures around Hangman's Hall may also reflect exclusive ownership going back to medieval times. This farm lay adjacent to an ancient green road called Leicester Lane in the Award and synonymous with Salter's Lane in both the 1784 and 1788 Surveys — a name suggesting an antiquity well before recorded history. The route of this green road seems to have run northwest over Ambion Hill, traceable along the Shenton parish boundary and the shire boundary into Staffordshire. In Sutton it is marked by old hedgerows to the south of the village, particularly at Faux's Close, where the diagonal southern boundary of the close is explained by the line of the ancient track. Little Field itself seems originally to have been called Pick Meadow Field, deriving its name from the meadow skirting its southeast side. This meadow also gave its name to a small ancient close of about one and a half acres, with records going back to 1678. The earliest form of its name was Pick Meadow Close, developing into Dicke Meadow Close by scriptorial error. Dicken's Close attached to Sutton Hall may also derive its name from Pickmeadow Field rather than from Richard III, since it is doubtful that the close is older than the eighteenth century and "Dicken" may derive from a local personal name. No records for the name Dicken's Close appear before 1784, and the small square field carved out of it called Dicken's Nook was a new enclosure in 1784.

The antiquity of enclosures is difficult to determine. Of the closes existing by the time of the Enclosure Award of 1797, only a few can be dated with certainty to before the beginning of the eighteenth century. These include the closes around Ambion deserted village, Pick/Pike Meadow Close, Great Ditch Furlong Close Meadow and Little Ditch Furlong or Bennett's Close. Others no doubt existed as crofts and tofts around the village, and archaeological mapping shows that Dicken's Close covers much of the area of the shrunken village, atrophying the humps and hollows of former tenements and back lanes. Much of the older enclosure preserves the pattern of ridge-and-furrow, indicating that the open field system spread out from the perimeter of the village before the closes were formed. Some may have been hedged off around strips consolidated from the communal system by individual farmers, as in the case of Bennett's Close, named after Henry Bennett in the late seventeenth century. Most of the closes along Wharf Lane fossilise strips and furlongs, as their names indicate — Ditch Furlong Close and the later Dike Furlong next to Ox Close and Dike Furlong next to Faux's Close. Faux's Close is another consolidated flat fenced off probably by the mid-eighteenth century by its farmer, William Faux, tenant to the Ravenstone Hospital estate.

Before enclosure the village itself was more extensive than at present, with a population estimated by Nichols in 1800 as 316 inhabiting sixty-four houses. Both Dicken's Close Lane and Pinfold Lane, right at the centre of the village, have long disappeared, though vestiges of their hollow ways remain. The Manor House, former property of the May family, stood in the main street but was derelict and disappeared before the end of the eighteenth century. The village was largely built of mud, timber and thatch, most cottages probably already over a hundred years old, kept habitable by periodic repairs. Nichols described Sutton Hall as "speedily hastening to decay", giving a vivid poetic description of its appearance in his antiquarian letter to David Wells of Burbage in 1790: "the mantling ivy on the mouldering gateway …". Sixty pounds was deducted from the annual value of the estate in 1784 to allow for repairs to Copson's farmhouse. Eventually half the Hall was demolished in the nineteenth century, as shown in Pridden's lithograph in Nichols's book. Yet the progress of enclosure, though disruptive, brought brick and lime to Sutton and led to the rebuilding of the entire village after 1797. Together with the advent of canal traffic and the consolidation of the Stuart estate, this ensured the fortunes of Sutton Cheney in the nineteenth century. The great change to come was foreshadowed in a

recommendation at the end of the 1784 Survey: “The Open lands in this Lordship lie at present in the most inconvenient manner & would admit of a very considerable Improvement by a general Inclosure.”

Produced with kind permission from *The Sutton Cheney Estates Part One: The Pre-Enclosure Landscape* by Peter Foss, first published in an earlier form in the *Hinckley Historian* (Hinckley & District Museum) in 1987, and reprinted in Issue 97, Summer 2026, copies available from The Hinckley Museum.

Untangling Bosworth’s Earliest History: Fact, Folklore, and Victorian Imagination

Local tradition often speaks of a Saxon named Bose, said to have founded the settlement that became Market Bosworth. It’s a story with charm — but when we turn to the historical record, the picture becomes clearer and rather different.

What the Domesday record tells us is a different version of history. When William the Conqueror’s surveyors compiled the Domesday Book in 1086, Bosworth (recorded as *Boseworde*) was held by the Count of Meulan, with earlier ownership attributed to Saxi of Aylestone and Alwin. There is no mention of a landowner named Bose.

So Where Does “Bose” Come From? Modern place-name scholarship suggests that *Bosworth* derives from an Old English personal name — **Bosa/Bose** — meaning “Bosa’s enclosure”. This tells us that someone named Bosa once lived here, but it does not prove or deny that he was a lord, nor that his family line can be traced. The Victorians had an unbridled enthusiasm for romance and myth, often filling in missing parts with little historical accuracy. The Conservators of the House on Bradgate Park have been presented with quite a headache as they are having to very carefully and meticulously unpick the Victorian repairs.

The idea of “Bose, founder of Bosworth” appears to have grown in the 19th century, when antiquarians often tried to match place-names to heroic Saxon figures. It’s a romantic interpretation, but not one supported by documentary evidence. There are also stories that the area was owned by Leofric, Lady Godiva, and one of their offspring, their son Ælfgar. The truth is somewhat different once fully researched. The powerful Mercian earls — Leofric, Godiva, and their son Ælfgar — certainly ruled the wider region. However, no surviving record connects them to Bosworth, nor to any supposed descendants of Bose. Domesday shows Ælfgar held lands elsewhere, but Bosworth was not among them. It could be that a corruption has occurred due to Wellesborough and the name Temple.

Some later traditions attempt to link nearby Wellesborough and the surname Temple to the Mercian earls. Modern manorial research, including the Manorial Documents Register, shows no evidence for this connection. The Temple name in the area is instead associated with medieval Knights Templar holdings, long after the Anglo-Saxon period.

Will we ever know from where Bosworth got its name, probably not with any degree of certainty. What we can say with confidence is this:

- Bosworth’s name preserves the memory of an early Saxon settler.
- The Domesday Book records the real landholders in 1086 — and Bose is not among them.
- Attempts to link Bosworth’s earliest history to Leofric’s family or to later surnames like Temple belong to the realm of local legend, not documented history.

And yet, these stories — even when unproven — form part of the rich tapestry of how communities understand their past. They remind us that history is not only what is written in records, but also what is carried in tradition, imagination, and pride of place. Then a coincidence occurred, read on!

Shield research in 2021

During COVID 19 lockdowns there were few news items to share with members. What news there was centred upon the pandemic and therefore neither uplifting nor entertaining. I took the opportunity to look at a poster in the Archive Room which was produced by Leicestershire County Council and claimed to display the shield of every knight (and some not quite knights) who took part in the Battle of Bosworth. I included blocks of 12 of the 160 in a series of Newsletters. I have been revising much of the research and adding additional information but also correcting errors. So far, I have not found too many errors or indeed that much more information so my time was well spent, or so it would seem. Once completed, and it may take a while as I am on shield 56 and there are 104 to go, I intend to load them into the digital archive for all to see and read. We have been looking at the history of Market Bosworth, prompted by research about St. Peter’s

Parish Church and I have been trying to pin down where the name Bosworth came from. We believe it is from Boseworde, but I have my doubts. Please feel free to challenge that assertion if you disagree. I was also most interested in the ownership of Bosworth beyond the Dixie and Harcourt families. This may be the genesis of an article in which I might be able to offer a timeline of ownership from Richard III. But then another owner of lands in Bosworth popped up.

What the "lands in Bosworth" almost certainly were

Sir William Tyler was one such participant in the battle. He was, of course, batting on the winning side. I found extracts from his will referring to "my lands and tenements" here in Market Bosworth. Tudor wills rarely list property in detail, as the executors already knew the holdings and the legal descriptions were kept in manorial rolls. However, the most likely identification is here.

After Bosworth, Henry VII confiscated the estates of Sir Gilbert Debenham, a supporter of Richard III. Most of these lands were later restored to Debenham's sister, Elizabeth Brews — *except* for those granted to Sir William Tyler. The Brews family held property in Market Bosworth, and Tyler's will mentions Bosworth lands, strongly suggesting that his holdings were part of this confiscated Debenham estate.

Given Tyler's status, the Bosworth property was almost certainly a small freehold or rent-producing tenement, possibly a burgage plot, cottage with land, or meadow rights along the River Sence. These were exactly the kinds of modest but valuable holdings Henry VII redistributed to reward loyal supporters. Tyler did not hold the manor or any large estate, but rather a typical Bosworth freehold granted for service to the king.

It is a shame that we cannot pinpoint the exact pieces of land Sir William Tyler held in Market Bosworth, but the reasons are understandable. Medieval land was not described by fixed boundaries as it is today. Instead, property was identified by *who owned the land next door*. A typical entry in a manorial roll might read: "One messuage in Bosworth between the land of John Atwell and the land of Thomas Carter."

Once John and Thomas disappear from the record, the description becomes meaningless. This is why many medieval landholdings cannot be matched to modern maps.

Market Bosworth's manorial rolls for the late 15th and early 16th centuries are incomplete, and HM Land Registry only holds records from 1925 onwards, so they cannot help us trace land ownership back 500 years. Yet field names can be astonishingly ancient. In 1976, when I copied the large map of Market Bosworth and its surrounding fields for my 'O'level Geography Exam (the map is now in the Market Bosworth Society archive), several field names were already centuries old. When I worked at South Farm, one field name "Skelton's "could be traced back at least 300 years. These names show continuity, but they rarely identify individual medieval freeholds with certainty.

Although we cannot identify the exact parcel, we can say with confidence that Tyler's Bosworth land was modest, valuable, and typical of the small freeholds Henry VII redistributed to reward loyal supporters after the battle.

You can still read the shields research by looking up the Newsletters written around 2021/22 or you can wait until I have completed the task and placed them all in the digital archive. They do make interesting reading, and it amazes me that we can read about the lives of people from five centuries ago.

Leicestershire Police as a Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO).

Some of you will remember Nikos (Nikolaos Sidiropoulos**)** who was a PCSO and part of the Hinckley Police Bosworth Beat. Nikos worked extremely hard for Bosworth, as all his colleagues do. Nikos fully understood the wider implications of poor parking and blocked pavements and the effects they can have upon people ,especially those who cannot get about easily. He is now in a new role which glorifies in the title of Designing Out Crime Officer at Police Headquarters in Leicester. Our loss is very much their gain.

Nikos wrote to me recently:

I hope you are well.

It has been some time since we were last in contact. Since then, I have taken up a new role within Leicestershire Police as a Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO).

I am writing to make you aware of the Neighbourhood Crime Funding Programme, which provides an excellent opportunity for parish councils and other community organisations to access funding for local crime prevention initiatives.

Eligible organisations include:

- Parish Councils
- Registered Charities

- Constituted Groups
- Voluntary Organisations
- Schools
- Other formally constituted organisations, including youth groups such as Scouts and Guides

The application process is straightforward and can be completed directly through the PCC website. Successful applicants can receive grants of up to £10,000. This funding can be used to purchase a range of crime prevention and community safety measures, including:

- Security cameras and CCTV systems
- Doorbell cameras
- Intruder alarms
- Security lighting
- Property marking kits
- Other target-hardening and crime prevention equipment

For example, a parish council awarded £10,000 could potentially purchase around 200 security cameras and distribute them free of charge to residents. Such measures can help reduce opportunities for crime, increase residents' confidence, and improve community safety.

This funding presents a valuable opportunity to support local residents, strengthen community resilience, and address crime concerns within your area. It may be particularly beneficial for projects aimed at tackling burglary, vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour, and improving community reassurance.

Further information, including eligibility criteria and application details, can be found via the link below:

Round 5 - Neighbourhood Crime

Should you wish to discuss any potential crime prevention projects or require advice regarding an application, please feel free to contact me.

I would encourage you to consider this opportunity, as it has the potential to make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of your local community.

Kind regards,

Nikos Sidiropoulos
Designing Out Crime Officer
Leicestershire Police
Force Headquarters
Tel:07815721972

If you know of or belong to an organisation which may benefit from this fund, please do share this item with them. If you have any ideas how the Market Bosworth Society could use a grant to benefit members or the wider community, please get in contact with us.

Can You Help?

The Society has received a most interesting enquiry:

Dear Mrs Palmer,

I am researching the history of my family and wondered if the Market Bosworth Society might be able to help me with one particular source concerning my great-great-uncle, Dr Hugh Nevill Keeling.

I have been delighted to discover the material on your website about Hugh, who practised as a doctor in Market Bosworth from 1907 until 1937 and later became a Church of England clergyman.

I was particularly interested to read that in 1953 Hugh wrote his “recollections and reflections of a doctor and parson”, and that the chapters concerning Market Bosworth were subsequently made available through his son, Wing Commander Peter Keeling.

I am actually researching Hugh principally because of his elder brother, my great-grandfather Dr George Sydney Keeling (1872–1958). George followed a remarkably similar path, becoming a country GP in Attleborough, Norfolk, in 1908 and serving there for more than thirty years. Both brothers were also Poor Law medical officers and workhouse doctors.

I am writing George’s story for our family, and Hugh’s recollections of country practice—and particularly his vivid account of the 1918 influenza epidemic—provide a fascinating contemporary family parallel to what George was experiencing in Norfolk.

I wondered whether the Society still holds a copy of Hugh's complete 1953 memoir or typescript, rather than only the extracts reproduced on the website.
If so, would it be possible either to consult it or to obtain a scan or copy? I would of course be very happy to cover any reasonable copying or administrative costs.
I would also be very interested to know whether you know where the original manuscript came from, where it is now held, or whether there is any other Hugh Keeling material in the Society's archive—photographs, correspondence, newspaper material or reminiscences.
I am not looking to embark on a major separate biography of Hugh, but I would very much like to understand him sufficiently well for him to appear properly within his brother George's story. In particular, I am interested in anything Hugh himself wrote about his upbringing, his decision to become a country doctor, his family, the First World War and influenza, or his brother George.
Many thanks for any help you can offer. The material the Society has already made available has been extremely useful and has brought Hugh's years in Market Bosworth to life for me.
Best wishes,
Guy Keeling

The unpublished memoirs written by Dr Keeling were indeed given to old, now closed Aspect in 1982. The memoirs were serialised from November 1982 to March 1983. Margaret Howard and Ingrid Davison found them for me. We did use them in 2018 when we were working with the Bosworth Tommies, you may recall that group created Bosworth Street a fictional setting based on fact to commemorate the end of World War One. We have supplied a copy to Guy, with our compliments. I have also placed a copy in the digital archive which you may view by clicking on this link - https://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/archives/index.php or go to https://www.marketbosworthsociety.com/archives/index.php and enter 1014 in the ID Search Box. If you do not have access to the internet at home, please visit the Market Bosworth Community Library and the helpful staff there will be happy to connect you to the archive. Whilst there, you will be able to browse the many items already added to that archive.

Should anyone have any information to help Guy with his research, please contact the Society via info@marketbosworthsociety.com. I am sure Guy would be delighted to receive any information you may be able to share with him.

Leicestershire Police Share Practical Tips to Help Residents Keep Their Homes Safe

Our usual look at crime prevention comes this month directly from Leicestershire Police. You may recognise the author!
Residents are being encouraged to take a few simple steps to improve home security and help prevent opportunistic crime.
Leicestershire Police Designing Out Crime Officers regularly work with communities, developers, and local partners to promote safer environments and reduce opportunities for crime. One of the key messages is that small security improvements can make a significant difference in protecting homes and giving residents greater peace of mind.
Many offenders will often look for properties that appear easy to access. By ensuring doors, windows, and garden boundaries are secure, homeowners can make their property a less attractive target.
Patio and rear doors are important areas to review as they are often less visible than the front of a property. Residents may wish to consider upgrading door locks to modern security-rated products, fitting anti-snap handles, and ensuring doors are properly secured when the property is unattended.
Good lighting can also play an important role. Motion-activated lights around entrances and gardens can improve visibility and deter unwanted visitors. Keeping bushes and shrubs well maintained, removing potential hiding places, and securing garden gates can further enhance security.

Modern technology can provide additional reassurance. Home security alarms, video doorbells, CCTV systems, and smart lighting are becoming increasingly popular and can help residents monitor and protect their homes.

Simple everyday habits remain just as important. Keeping doors and windows locked, storing ladders and tools securely, and using timers on lights when away from home can all help create the impression that a property is occupied and cared for.

A spokesperson from Leicestershire Police's Designing Out Crime Team said:

"Home security does not have to be complicated or expensive. Often, a combination of simple measures and good habits can significantly improve security. Our advice is to take a few moments to check your property, make any improvements where necessary, and continue looking out for your neighbours and local community."

Residents seeking further crime prevention advice can speak with their local policing team or visit the Leicestershire Police crime prevention pages for practical guidance on keeping homes, vehicles, and personal property safe.

By working together and adopting sensible security measures, communities can continue to make neighbourhoods safer, stronger, and more resilient places to live.

For further home security advice and practical burglary prevention measures, please scan the QR code featured on the accompanying leaflet. The leaflet contains additional information on improving door and window security, external lighting, alarms, and other measures that can help keep your home safe.



Nikolaos Sidiropoulos
Designing Out Crime Officer
Crime Prevention Directorate
Leicestershire Police

Medieval Freight Transport: How St Peter's Was Really Built

John Colby has been researching the building of St Peter's Parish Church and has written a full, detailed article on the subject. What follows is an edited version, prepared with John's agreement, for inclusion in the Newsletter. If you'd like to read the full article, you'll find it on John's blog at https://colby.me.uk/guide/oxenomics.html



When we admire the great medieval churches of England, we tend to picture the masons at work: chisels ringing, scaffolds rising, tracery taking shape. But before any of that could happen, the most basic question had to be solved — how do you move tons of stone across the countryside in an age without engines, good roads, or anything resembling modern transport?

For St Peter's, Market Bosworth, that question shaped everything.

Where the stone came from

Bosworth sits on Triassic sandstone and mudstone. In the 1200s there was no local limestone quarrying, and certainly nothing within five miles that could supply ashlar. The builders instead relied on sandstone and freestone, the materials visible in the church today.

The likely sources were:

- Cadeby – glacial cobbles and boulders used as rubble
- Shackerstone – local sandstone
- Nuneaton – good-quality freestone
- Attleborough – widely used freestone in the diocese, including at Stoke Golding

Much of the stone would have been shaped at the quarry itself. Skilled freestone masons carved the finer ashlar blocks, while rubble — including the rounded glacial cobbles from Cadeby — was used in the interior fabric of the chancel, a feature still visible today. This mix of ashlar and rubble was typical of medieval construction, balancing strength, cost, and availability.

Packhorses: the medieval delivery vans

For smaller pieces, medieval builders relied on packhorses. Each could carry around 150–250 pounds in wicker panniers, travelling in long, nose-to-tail trains. A dozen horses could move a surprising amount of material in a day, and they were nimble enough to cope with narrow tracks and muddy lanes.

But packhorses had limits. They couldn't carry the large ashlar blocks needed for the main walls of St Peter's. For that, you needed something slower, sturdier, and far more demanding.

Ox carts: the heavy hauliers

The real workhorses of medieval construction weren't horses at all — they were oxen. A team of two or four could pull a heavy cart loaded with half a ton or more, plodding along at a steady two miles an hour. They were reliable, patient, and strong, but they needed regular stops for rest and feeding, and medieval roads were often little more than rutted tracks.

A round trip from Attleborough to Bosworth might take two or three days, depending on weather and road conditions. Longer hauls — such as the suggestion of stone from Staffordshire — would have been a serious undertaking, stretching into a fortnight.

Every journey required planning. Feed had to be carried with the cart, because grazing on someone else's land was not an option. Drivers and carters walked with the team, guiding the animals and managing the load. These were skilled workers, and their knowledge of routes, seasons, and terrain was essential to keeping a building project supplied.

The hidden cost of building a church

When you add up the distances, the weight of stone, the slow pace of oxen, and the need for repeated journeys, you begin to see why medieval building took time. The masons could only work as fast as the carts arrived. Weather, mud, broken wheels, lame animals — all could halt progress.

It's easy to imagine St Peter's rising stone by stone, each block representing a journey across the Leicestershire countryside. The construction site would have looked surprisingly familiar: noise, mud, shouted instructions, piles of material, and workers of every age and skill. Only the transport was different — slower, quieter, and utterly dependent on the rhythm of animals.

Why this matters

Understanding the haulage behind St Peter's reminds us that medieval building was not just craftsmanship but logistics. The church we see today is the result of hundreds of journeys, thousands of hours of labour, and a network of people whose names were never recorded — the drivers, carters, quarrymen, and labourers who kept the stone moving.

Further research is underway into the practicalities of yokes, harnesses, lime production, and the exact quantities of stone used. As we learn more, we gain a clearer picture of how long the build may have taken — and how much effort lay behind the beauty we now take for granted. Please don't forget that if you wish to learn more John's full article can be found here. https://colby.me.uk/guide/oxenomics.html. It is excellently researched and full of unusual and interesting facts about transportation methods in the Dark Ages.

Time for a quiz!

This month, let us discover what you know about Enclosure. No cheating, and I must accept your first answer!

The Enclosure Acts Quiz

1) What was the main purpose of many Enclosure Acts?

a) To create royal forests
b) To reorganise common and open-field land into privately owned plots
c) To abolish farming
d) To increase church land

2) Before enclosure, much farmland in England was often organised as:

a) Industrial estates
b) Open fields with shared rights
c) National parks
d) Military districts

3) Which group was most likely to lose traditional grazing rights after enclosure?

a) Commoners
b) Members of Parliament
c) Naval officers
d) Foreign merchants

4) Most Parliamentary Enclosures took place during which centuries?

a) 11th-12th centuries
b) 14th-15th centuries
c) 18th-19th centuries
d) 20th-21st centuries

5) Which institution passed Parliamentary Enclosure Acts?
a) The monarchy alone
b) Local manors
c) Parliament
d) The Church

6) One argument in favour of enclosure was that it:
a) Reduced agricultural efficiency
b) Improved agricultural productivity
c) Ended all rural employment
d) Prevented crop rotation

7) What often happened to the hedges after enclosure?
a) They were removed everywhere
b) New hedges were planted to mark boundaries
c) They became illegal
d) They were replaced by canals

8) Which document often accompanied enclosure?
a) An enclosure award and map
b) A ship's log
c) A census return only
d) A parish baptism register

9) Why did some smallholders oppose enclosure?
a) It increased their common rights
b) It could leave them with fewer resources and opportunities
c) It abolished taxes
d) It created larger commons

10) What is meant by "common land"?
a) Land owned by Parliament
b) Land available for traditional shared rights
c) Land owned by towns only
d) Unused wasteland

11) Which agricultural change was often encouraged by enclosure?
a) Strip farming only
b) Improved crop rotation
c) Abandonment of livestock
d) Permanent fallow fields

12) Who typically paid for obtaining an enclosure act and implementing it?
a) Local landowners and beneficiaries
b) Foreign governments
c) The army
d) Universities

13) A major long-term effect of enclosure was:
a) The disappearance of farming
b) Changes in rural society and employment
c) The end of private property
d) The closure of all villages

14) In many areas, enclosure replaced scattered strips with:

a) Underground farms
b) Large consolidated fields
c) Urban housing estates
d) Harbour docks

15) Why is enclosure still visible today?
a) Because many field boundaries created then survive
b) Because all common land vanished
c) Because villages were removed
d) Because Parliament maintains the fields

As usual the answers will be at the end of the Newsletter (unless I forget, in which case they will be in next month's).

Market Bosworth Rural District Council Emblem

I received a disappointing letter last week; we have been unlucky in our first bid to secure funding from the



Lottery Heritage Fund to refurbish the MBRDC Emblem. The letter explained that they are currently receiving a high volume of applications and unfortunately ours was not chosen. They identified three areas where they wished to see improvements, all of a practical nature. Crucially they did not question the emblem's significance to the heritage of Market Bosworth or the community. They did not question the Society's ability to deliver a project of this type. They did not question the community support, evidenced by several letters of support and the involvement of St. Peter's Primary Academy and the Dixie Grammar School. They did not question the project concept or say that it did not meet their requirements. What they wanted was a much more practical checklist. They want a condition report. Having looked at other examples submitted to the HLF in support of other projects, it appears that the condition report is less technical and more informational in nature and is normally produced by a conservator. Such reports typically examine five key areas:
1) The item to be restored has been properly examined.
2) Its condition is understood clearly by the project owners and their choice of restorers.
3) The proposed treatment is appropriate to the restoration in terms of being sympathetic to the item and considerate of the future use or location of the item.
4) The costs are evidence-based and supported by a quotation or quotations.
5) The risks are known and manageable.
Work has already commenced on this and, if anyone has experience of writing condition reports or is a conservator of emblems, please contact me. The second thing they were looking for was permission from the owners of the sites where the emblem is to be located after refurbishment. Your Committee has identified six locations, three of which are preferred options, with one emerging as a clear favourite. Work will shortly commence on securing permission from the owners of the site to locate the emblem there. I will update you fully next month. It would be unreasonable to say now where the preferred relocation will be as the owners have not had an opportunity to consider the application. The emblem will also be placed into a H-shaped frame, preferably made of oak or similar wood. It has been decided not to return it to above-head height due to insurance and safety considerations. It will be behind a Perspex/glass cover which will protect it from the weather and vandalism. An information board telling the emblem's story will be incorporated into the lower section of the frame, and may be positioned on the rear or, if practical, the front. The final area the HLF identified for improvement was evaluation. This concerns demonstrating how the project will meet the HLF's requirements. I initially thought this would be much simpler, but on reflection, the HLF are dealing with public money, and it is therefore unsurprising that they regard this as particularly important. Again, work has already started on this. In summary, a condition report, site permissions and evaluation were the weak points. All reasonable and resolvable. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, ideas or would like to become more involved in the project, get in touch. We are no longer aiming for May 2027 but more likely November 2027. It would

be good to arrange the unveiling of the newly refurbished emblem in its new location on Remembrance Sunday, when much of the community will be in the Marketplace. Watch this space, as they say.

…and Finally

Now you are nearing the end of this newsletter, fear not, as there is another Newsletter to read. It is available here Hinckley-and-Bosworth-Heritage-Newsletter-July-2026-edition.pdf or if you plan to view it via the Market Bosworth Community Library, here: https://marketbosworthsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Hinckley-and-Bosworth-Heritage-Newsletter-July-2026-edition.pdf. It is an excellent read, and I could not resist adding a snippet from it here:

"Market Bosworth Society With roots stretching back to the early 1970s and re-established in its current form in 2005, the Market Bosworth Society has become one of the borough's leading heritage organisations. The Society exists not only to celebrate the town's rich history but also to promote the conservation of its distinctive character while helping to shape its future. Over the past two decades the Society has delivered an impressive programme of publications, research projects, exhibitions, events and environmental initiatives. Much of this work is documented through its comprehensive website, which provides a valuable resource for anyone interested in the heritage of Market Bosworth. Particularly noteworthy is the Society's ex tensive programme of newsletters, which are published regularly and contain a wealth of well-researched articles covering local history, archaeology, architecture, conservation and community heritage. Together they form an important archive of the town's evolving story and demonstrate how regular communication can help sustain community interest in local heritage. The Society's success illustrates the important role that voluntary organisations play in preserving the identity and character of the borough's historic communities."

Do forgive me and look forward to next month's newsletter.

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

Answer Sheet for Enclosures Quiz

1. b
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. b
11. b
12. a
13. b
14. b
15. a