

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 27 April 2021

Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting, April 2021

It's hard to believe that our last Annual Parish Meeting, held in the Dixie Grammar School's Sports Pavilion, was almost exactly 2 years ago and what a lot has happened since then. The coronavirus pandemic put paid to last year's Annual Parish Meeting which was due to be held after the first lockdown which commenced in March 2020. After initial confusion as to whether, and how, local authorities could continue to meet in public, central Government introduced an Act of Parliament permitting council business meetings to be held remotely until 7 May 2021. Such business meetings include Parish Council Meetings which must be held in public for transparency reasons. We are pleased to have successfully waded through the volumes of guidance published, adapted to new technology, learnt all about Zoom, and continued to meet monthly despite the many difficulties encountered along the way. I would especially like to give my thanks to Cathy, our clerk, for her efficiency and dedication in ploughing through the plethora of advisory and guidance documents in respect of Covid which were coming from all levels of government as well as many other advisory bodies and local council associations. Managing risk assessments, producing notices for play areas and toilets at short notice, amending them as guidance changed and ensuring we as councillors were well briefed and able to meet as and when required. I would also like to thank Maureen Cook as Borough Councillor for her help and support and Ivan Ould our County Councillor who is retiring next month from a role he has held for many years. Ivan has attended virtually all our Parish Council meetings and has supported us on many issues over the years.

As referred to in the Parish Council's April 2019 report, 4 councillors stepped down at the 2019 local election. A 5th councillor, Susan Ward, stepped down after many years of service in 2020. Their replacements, Nigel Palmer, John Manley, Frank Kay, Phil Hayes and Kevin Hughes have certainly been thrown in the deep end of Parish Council business taking on more than they ever imagined when they volunteered their services. John is now Chair of the Bosworth Vision Planning Group, an advisory sub group of the Parish Council leading review of the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan; Frank has led a project to create a new website for the Bosworth Vision Planning Group to meet website accessibility regulations; Nigel is actively involved in several working parties and led efforts to ensure the public toilet block could be reopened safely after the first lockdown; Phil has taken on responsibility for the Speed Indicator Device; and Kevin inputs in to cemetery site meetings and sits on the finance working party.

Priorities have remained the same for the Parish Council despite coronavirus, although practical progress on capital projects has understandably been hindered. Progress on priority projects is as follows:

- Initial surveys were undertaken to progress the Market Place Redevelopment Project before lockdown but completion was put on hold in 2020. However, background desk top exercises are still taking place to assess alternative design options and establish interdependency of the project elements. Leicestershire County Council's Highways department has agreed an updated schedule of works allowing for coronavirus restrictions.
- The Bosworth Vision Planning Group has produced excellent new documents to support the existing Plan and to be incorporated into the upcoming reviewed Plan. These are a Housing Needs Assessment, a Design Code and a Tree Preservation Order document. The Group has also input into the consultation comments on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Masterplan for Market Bosworth which aims to bring forward development of the Station Field development site identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Planning permission was granted for a new layout at the cemetery since when new radial paths have been constructed for future ashes interment plots.

- Proposals for landscaping an unused corner of the Memorial Garden have been continually reviewed to arrive at a scheme which it is hoped will invite more wildlife whilst also making the area accessible. 3 trees have been planted and stepping-stones laid accordingly.
- A portable speed indicator device has been purchased for rotation between Barton Road, The Park and Shenton Lane to act as a deterrent to speeding drivers and enable the Parish Council to compile an evidence base to demonstrate the need for enforcement, potentially through fixed cameras which are operated by the County Council.
- A full review and revaluation of Parish Council assets was completed early in 2020 and the cemetery, car park, Memorial Garden, Parish Field, play areas and open space maintenance contracts were all reviewed and renewed in 2020.
- New disclaimer signage has been installed in the Market Place and information signage has been installed at the Parish Field and Memorial Garden.

The Parish Council has continued to respond to various consultations and projects affecting this parish. These have included numerous Borough and County consultations on topics such as the Rural Strategy Review; Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations; Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange; National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Surveys; footpath diversions; and no fewer than 64 planning applications in 2019, 52 planning applications in 2020 and 14 to date in 2021. The planning applications have ranged from single storey extensions and tree works through to large scale developments for 90 – 100 new dwellings. Despite lockdown, the Parish Council produced flyers for distribution to every household to raise awareness of potential overdevelopment of the town and has been pleased at the responses the flyers have generated, with many parishioners consequently contacting the Borough Council to express their concerns. The Parish Council also continues to contact the planning enforcement officers where planning regulations or planning conditions appear to have been breached.

Another ongoing consultation has been in respect of the Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail which proposes an art trail through the parishes related to the King Richard III cortege procession of 2015. The latest situation is that, rather than commission a new artwork for Market Bosworth as for the other parishes, the Project Steering Group proposes to incorporate the existing Richard III plaque in the Market Place within the trail.

The Parish Council continues to meet its obligations and health and safety responsibilities in terms of its legal duties and managing its assets. The budget is carefully monitored month by month to avoid excess expenditure and enable long term sustainability. The auditors' reports have been unqualified meaning they have not identified any areas of concern or requiring improvement, and the Parish Council has been pleased to continue to support local groups requesting grants towards activities. Assets continue to be maintained through regular inspections with remedial action being undertaken where necessary. A spring rocker has been replaced at the Waterside Mede Play Area; new chains have been fitted to some of the swings; benches are repaired and revarnished on a rolling programme; new finials were fitted to the gate posts between the Memorial Garden and Parish Field part funded by an Environmental Improvement Grant from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council; and risk assessments are regularly reviewed. The Parish Council is also moving forward with the times, looking with the Borough Council in to installing electric vehicle charging points at Rectory Lane car park.

During lockdown, the Parish Council was inundated with advice, guidance and lists of what to do or not to do issued by other local authorities and various advisory bodies. Updates were issued on a seemingly daily basis and as soon as something was implemented it needed to be changed again. There was much to learn and implement in terms of new risk assessments and responsibilities especially to re-open the public toilet block and playgrounds after the initial lockdown in March 2020. We designed our own signs and ordered some ready-made signs to promote social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing; we were exasperated by the shenanigans associated with the Borough Council's implementation of a Highways approved social distancing scheme for traffic and pedestrians in the town centre; we agreed emergency

delegation in the event of the Clerk and / or councillors falling ill; we adapted our working habits; and we continued to meet each month.

As we emerge in to a new normal it will be good to start meeting with each other again. We expect Parish, Community and Tourism Forums to recommence, and our own Parish Council Meetings will resume in the Parish Hall from June 2021 subject to further instruction from central Government. Events have been planned by the Market Bosworth Festival to take place on the Parish Field in June and the Christmas Lights Switch On is scheduled for Sunday 5 December 2021. We sincerely hope these events can take place and join others in the Parish in looking forward to them.

Reports from local groups, clubs and societies

1 Arts Society Sparkenhoe

As with many other local organisations, the past year has presented a variety of challenges associated with COVID-19. The imposition of Lockdown #1 in March 2020 necessitated a hiatus in our programme of lectures. However, with the cooperation and understanding of the lecturers we had already booked from April 2020 onwards, we were able to re-schedule their talks to take place via Zoom with effect from September 2020. The opportunity was also taken to adjust the start to our programme year so that it now runs from September to July, again with a full programme of ten lectures (none held in January and August).

Zoom lectures take place at the regular date and time for our normal meetings: 7.30pm on the first Monday in the month. We have been delighted at the level of attendance on these occasions – averaging around 65-70% of our membership. We have also attracted a significant number of visitors who pay a modest fee to receive the link to the Zoom lecture, and this has resulted in several asking to join as full members. Nonetheless, we are all eagerly anticipating the time when we can resume meeting in the Dixie Grammar School Hall. We are also exploring the feasibility of live-streaming lectures from the hall to those who may sometimes prefer to join in from the comfort of home.

The programme that began in September 2020 has included lectures on *Punch* magazine, *The Glasgow Girls*, *A Brief Story of Wine* and *When Arts Become Crafty* (the resurgence of crafts and artisanship in recent years). We look forward to the forthcoming lectures this year on Cecil Beaton; 19th century Russian painters; children's portraiture; and an exploration of the romance and adventure of Great Railway Stations. Sparkenhoe's programme secretary, with the assistance of committee members, is currently compiling what we hope will be a stimulating programme to start in September 2021. Our speakers are selected from the Directory of The Arts Society, by whom they are vigorously vetted before they are approved for the Directory. We aim to provide a varied selection of arts topics and to ensure all lecturers, as well as being at the top of their particular field in terms of their reputation, are engaging and entertaining.

Anyone can join The Arts Society Sparkenhoe, and individuals under the age of 18 or in full-time education can attend our lectures free of charge. Guests are welcomed at a maximum of two lectures a year for a £7 fee per lecture. We welcome *anyone* with an interest in the arts; no expertise is necessary.

In common with other local organisations, no doubt, we have great difficulty in recruiting committee members, and we are now a committee of just five: Chair; Vice-chair/Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Programme Secretary; and one without portfolio. Partly for this reason, but also because of COVID, we have had to focus over the past year wholly on our core activity of providing a stimulating lecture programme. This means we have unfortunately been unable undertake any Young Arts activities, nor to organise study days and visits.

We liaise with The Market Bosworth Festival committee and try to ensure in particular that our June lecture fits into their Festival programme. (This year's June lecture is: *Centuries of Childhood: Portraits of Children from Holbein to Freud*. The lecturer is a curator at Compton Verney.) We feature on the Market Bosworth website, but our **own website address has changed** and now operates via The Arts Society HQ (see: www.theartssociety.org/sparkenhoe).

John Hawkes – Chairman. March 2021

2 Aspect

Aspect magazine has served the community of Market Bosworth and its surrounding villages for 48 years. As such we believe it may be one of the longest surviving such publications.

When the first lockdown started in March 2020 the Aspect Committee held an extraordinary, socially distanced meeting (our first and last to date) to discuss whether we could carry on publishing or whether to abandon Aspect for the foreseeable future. With our founding idea at the forefront, of keeping the community together and knowing that not all of our readership is on social media or living their lives on facebook or twitter, we decided to try and keep going. We were mindful that many of our readers were on their own at home and possibly even isolated and at the beginning of the pandemic the whole idea of the community helping each other out was prominent. We soon realised that most of our usual articles, notices and reports of events were no longer available to us and we needed to find content and writers who would continue to dig deep for Aspect's readers. And the community of Market Bosworth and the surrounding villages did just that. Throughout the past year many contributors have found subjects to write about that informed, entertained and kept our readers connected with the local scene that they could no longer be part of.

As many non-subscribers did not venture out to the newsagents to pick up their monthly copy Clive at the Newsagents offered to deliver Aspect to anyone who already had a newspaper delivery. Sales of all publications inevitable dropped off and so did the Aspect's. There were no large-scale events, festival, talks, fireworks etc to be advertised which normally brought us much needed income. Many of our advertisers were unable to continue working and we fear some are lost for ever as businesses have ceased to trade. These losses were reflected in our dwindling bank balance.

Aspect has always been a non-profit making enterprise and as such we have ploughed our resources back into the development of the magazine which we believe has improved its quality and interest. We have watched our funds dwindle throughout the time of the pandemic with no hope of recouping our losses. This was where both our loyal readers and those bodies who saw the need to support local infrastructure supported us, recognising the effect of the pandemic on such community groups as Aspect. Sadly, not all local bodies with extra resources at their disposal supported their local magazine. If Aspect had had a building or premises the Borough Council would no doubt have donated £10,000 to Aspect as they did to other community groups who did have premises, whether they were in need of funds or not.

As we all know we are not out of the woods yet as far as Covid is concerned but the Aspect production team is determined to see our 50th anniversary in two years' time and the support of our community will be vital in this respect. We sincerely hope you, our readers, will be with us to celebrate.

The Aspect Editorial Team.

3 Bosworth in Bloom

Clearly the last 12 months have been dominated by social restrictions consequent on the Covid-19 pandemic, which have impacted on all aspects of our lives.

In March 2020 we were still actively planning for the coming season and preparation for judging, but in early April we heard that all competition both regional and national were suspended. It was agreed that, having already ordered the plants and materials, we would continue with planting out as far as possible within the Government guidelines.

Through the summer of 2020, on the principle of 'Locked Down, but Not Out', we carried out what activities we could manage around the social distancing restrictions:-

- A project entitled Small Space Veg. promoted via village social media and Aspect magazine where we handed out starter packs of seeds and compost, with contacts points for advice, to help get beginners into gardening.
- A Biggest Sunflower Competition, aimed mainly at locked-down school children, but enthusiastically taken up by some adults.
- Supported the founders of NextGen, an initiative to encourage people to bring along their own plastic container to refill with eco-friendly products.
- Our friends in Rotary carried out the annual clean-up of road signs.
- As well as planting the floral displays in the village centre, we adapted our plans for the Park Street displays bed to a floral tribute to the NHS.
- Despite the economic impact of the pandemic, the village responded magnificently to our annual appeal for funds.
- Separately, funds raised by the village business community and one large individual donation enabled us to replace our ancient petrol-driven watering machine with a new eco-friendly (and silent) electric model.

In July we had our last face-to-face committee meeting – socially distanced in Peter Baillis's back garden – basically to agree the end of season clear up/winter planting arrangements. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions, most of this work fell on Peter and Gill.

2021 started with our inaugural Zoom meeting (since repeated), which sketched out our plans for the year, given the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty over Bloom competitions.

- Cast-Iron Heritage Lamp-posts

This has been an-ongoing issue since last year when the County authority said that they were not suitable for hanging baskets. After months of discussion and offers to have them officially tested, there appears to be no way forward and we have decided to remove the fittings altogether.

- Park Street Beds

Despite great efforts to keep them going, the beds are in a poor state, and we are planning to effectively replace them. This will cost over £500 but will give us the chance to re-balance the beds and make the whole area more attractive.

This time last year, we had an ambitious planting scheme planned, but Covid put paid to that, so it was held over to 2021. With the on-going uncertainty, we shall probably hold over again until next year, but in the meantime will still make an impressive show of our refurbished display area.

- Community Involvement

We shall continue with last year's projects of encouraging people to take up small space gardening, particularly vegetable growing, and the popular Sunflower Competition.

A major project this year will be to get the village back to looking its best, and we believe that a lot of residents will be keen to get outside and help. This will be very much a joint effort with our friends in Rotary. Early plans are to have an audit of areas in particular need, and then enrol volunteers from across the village to help with the work.

- Floral Displays

Despite the issue with the heritage lamp-posts, we are still planning to make the village centre as colourful as possible, and are looking forward to co-ordinating where possible with the Festival's artworks. Tony Gardner has one of his inimitable constructions in progress, and we have commissioned an eye-catching piece for the Park Street beds.

- Finances

Last year's lockdown meant that we were unable to a lot of our usual activities, so that currently our situation is comfortable. Brian Cox, our Treasurer, has done a lot of work over winter on applying for charitable status for Bosworth in Bloom, which should maximize the value of the donations we receive. Regarding this year's Appeal, we are very aware of the enormous impact Covid has had on people and business' incomes, and this is currently under discussion.

- Environmental Issues

As well as the Village Clean-Up initiative, we shall look at ways to further improve green environment and are hoping to work with Bosworth Vision and the local authorities to have more wildflower areas in and around the village.

Chris Hooker, Chairman

[4 Market Bosworth Community Interest Company](#)

The Market Bosworth Community Interest Company (CIC) has continued to explore the possibility of a more permanent post office facility in the town with local retailers. Unfortunately, this has not come to any positive feedback at this stage. The Post Office makes it extremely difficult and demanding to establish a desperately needed resource within our local community. In the meantime, we are grateful for what is offered twice a week in the Church Hall.

We have also been considering and updating the website for local businesses. Clearly, such has not been easy at the present time with the limitations presented by the covid crisis. We are hopeful that when things might return to something like normal, we may be able to progress this facility for our community. Our meetings to discuss this and other matters have had to be conducted via zoom.

The other matter that has been under discussion has been local housing development and issues relating to the same. The CIC would wish to support others in the community who might have concerns about current and future proposals.

Canon David Jennings, Secretary, Market Bosworth CIC

5 Market Bosworth and District Bridge Club

It has for all clubs in the area been a very strange year, and for the Bridge Club in particular, given the proximity in which we play, we have not had any face-to-face live sessions since the before the official lockdown in March 2020.

During the year we have gradually been playing online, but that has not suited everyone. However, a recent Bridge site called RealBridge has taken the bridge community by storm and allowed us to begin face to face live sessions over the internet.

Many of our members are now back playing with us, so we are now able to see our partner and opposition, as we bid and play.

This has brought some of the fun back, as we can now, not only hear comments on our play live, but see the expression on our partners face when something goes wrong!!

We have now restarted our regular Wednesday night online Bridge session and linked up with our bridge friends in Bagworth to ensure numbers are good.

Our plan for return to sessions at the Parish Hall, is still a little uncertain until we have clear guidance on the Government Road Map. It might be, we continue with a mix of live sessions at the Hall and online in the near future.

Whatever happens the Bridge Club is alive and kicking!!

Nigel Brewster, President

6 Market Bosworth Business Group

The Business Group didn't meet in 2020 but did put a message out at the start of the first lockdown to offer support, if needed.

Phil Bowman, Chairman

7 Market Bosworth Christmas Festivities Committee

The Christmas Lights event was planned but as the year unfolded it became increasingly obvious that we would not be able to proceed. Unlike the Farmers' Markets or similar, as we have non-essential stalls (rides, the stage etc) we would have had to keep a log of every attendee so that "track and trace" could be enabled. This would have been impossible, so the event was cancelled. However, the response from the public was completely favourable and understanding.

Phil Bowman, Chairman

8 Market Bosworth Community Library

Report for the Market Bosworth Parish Council Annual Meeting April 2021.

This report covers the period from 1st April 2020 until 31st March 2021.

Due to the covid emergency the library has been closed whenever there have been restrictions on non-essential shops being open. The first closure of the library was on the 17th March 2020 and we reopened on

the 8th July 2020. To prepare for reopening under the Covid Secure Guidelines it was necessary to completely change the layout of the library to introduce a one-way flow, entering by the previous fire exit and leaving by the main entrance. This work included moving all the shelving, replacing all the loan books in their new alphabetical order and installing solid partitions in the centre of each mobile shelving unit. It was also necessary to install all the required signage, screens, hand sanitising stations and policies.

Due to the need to quarantine all returned loan books and any books looked at in the library for 72 hours we reopened under restricted hours of Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Unfortunately, it was also necessary to suspend the usage of our internet accessibility computers. As there have been continuous restrictions on any social activities the library has been unable to welcome any of our regular groups or community meetings during the year.

The library closed again due national restrictions for four weeks on the 7th November and we reopened on the 2nd December. Having closed for Christmas on the 23rd December 2020 we were unable to re-open as planned, but we are looking forward to welcoming our library users on the 14th April.

MBCL has been fortunate that the last year has not severely impacted our financial viability and we will be able to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The number of books loaned during the year has reduced from over 8,000 in 2019/20 to just under 2,000 in 2020/21 although we consider this is a significant achievement given the restrictions imposed. We are fortunate that our volunteers have maintained their commitment to ensuring the continued provision of a library service in Market Bosworth.

Brian Granger

9 Market Bosworth Festival

By March 2020, everything was set up and confirmed for our summer festival. It seemed that as soon as it was all ready to go, we had to close it down!

So we had our first ever Zoom meeting to discuss all liabilities, deposits, fees and sponsorships, customer ticket refunds and cancellation of all visiting events. We took the decision to roll over as much of the festival as we could to 2021. Everyone understood this and however frustrating it was accepted with good grace.

We had introduced a Festival raffle in 2020 that we continued with and awarded the prizes to the winners on a very cold and windy day on the parish field. That day would have been the second day of the big weekend had the Festival been running!

Our Zoom meetings did not start again until October when we started making plans for 2021. The majority of acts were to be re-booked. We look forward to them all going ahead. They will include the Art exhibition/trail, Mikron theatre, Heartbreak theatre with The Great Gatsby, the music weekend on the park, the Bach choir, the big weekend on the parish field, with a Boules evening followed by a French supper.....Fingers crossed.

We hope we can count on your support in 2021.

Tim Richardson, Chairman.

10 Market Bosworth Free Church

Although our church buildings have been closed for much of the time since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, our mission and ministry have definitely not stopped! We have found alternative ways to

gather for worship, online using Whatsapp and Zoom live, with recordings shared on Youtube and Facebook, which has enabled much wider access to our church services. We have also found new ways to reach out to serve the community of Market Bosworth and the local area.

At the start of the first lockdown, our Pastor, Rev. Jim Mullin, quickly took on the role of joint co-ordinator for the Bosworth Volunteer Group, to help match those in need of help, with willing volunteers. It has been a blessing to form good working relationships with kind people around the town.

Unable to hold activities and meetings in person in our church, we connected with our Parent & Toddler Group (Jollytots) families via Whatsapp and then Zoom, holding weekly sessions online. We have delivered goody bags of craft resources and gifts to Jollytots and Messy Church families for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter. Plans to hold our annual summer Holiday Club for Primary-age children were modified and we held our first ever online Holiday Club, 'Razzamatazz Robots', in August. We also held an online Family Pancake Party in February. Rev. Jim has continued to serve as a Governor at St. Peter's Primary Academy and has led online assemblies. With St Peter's Church, and churches in Desford, we purchased a professional production, "Hark! A Nativity Story" by Saltmine Theatre Company, on DVD, for schools to share with the children at Christmas. In total, over 1000 primary school children in the local area were able to watch the show and hear the Christmas message.

With Churches Together in Bosworth, our Good Friday Walk of Witness through the town, in both 2020 and 2021, was not possible, although in 2020, Rev. Jim recorded a Walk of Witness as part of his daily exercise and this was shared on Facebook. For Remembrance Sunday, a short service was recorded by the churches together and was viewed by many online. We were unable to hold BBC Radio Leicester's 'Sing Christmas' event in the Red Lion but we held it on Zoom and again it was viewed by many on Youtube.

'More than clapping' has been our way of showing our appreciation and support for many people in our community who have worked so hard during the past year, serving and caring for us all. 'Smellies' (toiletries, relaxing bath/shower gel etc) were given to the staff of Newbold Verdon and Market Bosworth Surgeries, whilst staff at Bosworth Pharmacy, Bosworth Branch of HSBC Bank, the Co-Op and the Newsagents received plants. Sweet treats were given to workers at Rose and Radish, Bosworth Court Nursing Home and Orchard House. For Easter, members and friends of the Free Church knitted crosses which were given to all the residents of the 2 care homes with Easter greetings.

Unfortunately, the community groups that use our building have not been able to do that this year, but we look forward to welcoming them back once government regulations allow.

We are excited about being able to meet together again in person, when it is safe to do so and we look forward to the 'new normal' as we retain some of the practices from this past year, particularly our online presence, and as we begin new things moving forwards.

Nicola Ridout.

[11 Market Bosworth Gardening Club](#)

In common with most groups, clubs and societies over the last 12 months, Gardening Club has been unable to hold many of the customary activities. Our last meeting was just before the March 2020 lockdown.

We have not been able to meet again since then indoors, but several members enjoyed a 'bring your own' picnic lunch in a member's garden in September.

3 newsletters have been circulated in an attempt by the chairperson to maintain momentum and interest, and we can only hope that once restrictions are lifted, we will be able to re-start this club successfully.

Judy Buckell, Chairperson, 10.02.21.

12 Market Bosworth Rotary Club

During the past 12 months the usual activities of our Rotary Club have very much been curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Rotary year runs from 1st July to 30th June so we have spent most of the past 12 months in some degree of lockdown.

Our first event of the year should have been our annual President's Garden Party in August and although arrangements were on-going it had to be cancelled because of the Covid measures that were in place.

Five of our fitter members did manage to complete a cycling challenge of 300Km each during the month of August. This was done as individuals and in total they raised approx. £4000 which was donated to Women's Aid for their Hinckley refuge. We have also been collecting non-perishable foods and some items of clothing for the same cause.

We did manage two lunch time meetings at Bosworth hall but again Covid measures put an end to face to face meetings. This has meant that all our meetings whether social, business or sub-committees have all taken place via Zoom. This has allowed us to continue to operate but it is by no means a satisfactory replacement for live meetings.

Our normal Christmas activities with Santa's Sleigh had to be cancelled because of Covid. This decision wasn't taken lightly but was made in the interests of our members and the general public's safety. We did, however, manage to set up and run several weeks of 'Zoom with Santa' before Christmas so that children could have a pre-booked conversation with Santa – properly supervised, of course, by Santa's Helper. Each conversation lasted approx. 10 mins. Santa also read a Christmas story to the infants and some juniors at St Peters Academy in Market Bosworth and The Dixie Infant and Junior School, Wellsborough. We already have advanced bookings for this event for Christmas 2021 to take place again.

Our usual Santa Fun Run had to be cancelled but potential competitors were offered the chance to do the run virtually.

The normal Easter Egg Hunt also had to be cancelled but we did manage to put a painting competition and writing competition in place for different age groups. Prizes were awarded for each group.

The small amount of money we did manage to raise was awarded to 6 chosen charities at a Zoom Cheque Presentation Evening. The amount we awarded was approx. £2000 in total.

We are currently starting fortnightly walking groups and coffee morning for our members. Current guidelines are, of course, being followed.

Finally, the last big event of this current Rotary year will be our Charter Evening to be held on 22nd June as we come out of lockdown on 21st June, all being well. (We had a gentle word in Boris' ear to make this happen!!)

I'm sure this past year has been exceptionally difficult for all clubs and societies in our area and we all look forward to better times ahead.

Chris Kitson

President 2020-2021

13 Market Bosworth Branch Royal British Legion

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions our last Branch meeting was held on 3rd March 2020. We are still unable to hold live meetings or to take part in any activities. We keep in touch on a regular basis with the Leicestershire and Rutland RBT County Committee, RBL London HQ, and Poppy Appeal HQ in Kent. Unfortunately, throughout the whole of 2020 all our usual activities have been cancelled or severely limited. We had planned and been asked to take part in the following Services, Ceremonies and Celebrations as we have done every year for a very long time. Some other activities, e.g. ad-hoc Services, various training courses and taking part in competitions are omitted here to save space.

Anzac Day: Parade and Service, 7am on 25th April 2020 at Victoria Park War Memorial in Leicester. Cancelled.

VE Day: May 8th 2020. Cancelled.

D Day: Early June 2020. Parade and Services at Loughborough and Quorn. Cancelled. Normandy Vets Parade and Wreath Laying Service, Packington. Cancelled.

County Hall, Glenfield: June 20th 2020. Flag Raising Ceremony. Cancelled.

Armed Forces Day: June 27th 2020. Service at Leicester Cathedral followed by Parade through Leicester. Cancelled.

Battle of Britain Memorial Day: Service and short parade in Leicester. Cancelled.

Festival of Remembrance: De Montfort Hall, Octo 24th 2020. Cancelled.

Leics. City F.C.: Poppy Appeal "Home" match. Late Oct/early Nov. Veterans and Regimental Associations Parade and Wreath Laying service on the pitch. Cancelled.

Poppy appeal Collections in Market Bosworth and surrounding areas: Oct/Nov 2020. No house to house, street collections or public sales of Poppy merchandise permitted. In spite of the challenges, we did raise £7,004.40, a bit less than half the sum we raised in recent years. This has been described as "outstanding in the circumstances.

Remembrance Sunday: Nov 8th 2020. No Parade or Church Service. At 11 am we held a small socially distanced Service at the War Memorial in the Square assisted by the Rector, Rev Mark Poskitt. We laid the RBL Poppy Wreath in Remembrance of those on our Roll of Honour and all who gave their lives in both World Wars and other conflicts since.

I had to make a decision in July 2020 whether to order all the different types of Poppy Wreaths we require in normal years. There was much uncertainty in July about how we would be affected by Covid-19 in November. However, it turned out that all those organisations and individuals in Market Bosworth and surrounding areas were able to lay their Poppy Wreaths privately and safely at the War Memorial or in their own local area as appropriate at a time to suit themselves.

Armistice Day: Wed. Nov.11th, 11 am. We held a brief service at the War Memorial. Being market day, we had a socially distanced audience.

Annual RBL Standard Bearers Christmas Carol Service, Dec 6th 2020. Cancelled.

Unfortunately a number of members and veterans from across the County have died during the year. We have not been able to attend their funerals and pay our respects or carry the Standard in line with their or their families' wishes as we would have done in normal circumstances. There are plans with the RBL

County Committee to hold a Service to remember all of them which their families and friends can attend whenever the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Like everyone, we are looking forward with hope to the remaining nine months of 2021. Widespread vaccinations and gradual reduction in Covid-19 cases are bringing us closer to when we can live normal and safe lives again. We are a small and so far active Branch. However, our Branch members are getting fewer year on year. It is now difficult for less members to do the same amount of work. The RBL and its work must continue. Service and ex-Service men and women from late teens and upwards and their families need our help today as much as ever. It is not an "old men's club" as I have heard it described. Look at Invictus Games, "Battle back" and "Combat Stress" etc to see the age groups affected. Take a look at the RBL website to see a coverage of all its commitments.

May 15th 2021 is the centenary of the foundation of the Royal British Legion. If you want the RBL and what it stands for to remain in Market Bosworth please consider joining our Branch sooner rather than later. Anyone 18 and over, men and women can join. Having been in any of the military services is no longer a requirement. You can join online on the RBL official Website. It is very easy and takes approx. five minutes.

Once our Branch closes, the Annual Remembrance Parade, the Poppy Wreaths, Poppy Appeal and fundraising as well as representing our community across the County will no longer happen. Our RBL Branch Standard will be de-commissioned and laid up. If you would like to help before it is too late, please take action now.

Pat Durnin, Hon Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser, Market Bosworth Branch, RBL.

14 Market Bosworth Society

There is little to comment upon this year. We have been unable to hold any meetings or Summer Visits our last meeting being in February. Despite that we have managed to provide information, education and entertainment as our Constitution requires. We have increased the size of our Newsletter to an average of 18 A4 pages. Our Newsletter now includes articles written by local historians, quizzes and items of interest. We also send out bulletins which include information from Leicestershire County Council about Covid-19 provisions, the Police on a variety of subjects and to maintain a sense of the British Bull Dog attitude a number of jokes and cartoons shared by members.

We suspended membership fees in March 2020, it seemed unreasonable to charge a fee to support guest speaker expenses and room hire when no meetings are taking place. Happily, our finances are robust and we are in a good position to restart our programme as soon as deemed safe to do so. Existing members have continued to receive Newsletters and bulletins. New members have not been charged to join. Fees will restart once we can begin again our entertainment programme.

I eagerly anticipate the 21st of June where it is hoped that we will be able once again to resume our activities. I have asked the MBS committee to consider a Summer Visit in July, venue to be confirmed, but will not be making any arrangements until we are allowed to resume meetings and that members are happy to meet.

We have a number of guest speakers and events held over and so once we are allowed to resume it will be a job of fitting speakers in. I expect that it will not be without complications as other groups will be embarking upon the same process. We will be alike that coiled spring that we are hearing about.

We look forward to a bright future and are always willing to welcome new members. Whilst membership is free at the moment our usual fees are £12.00 for a single membership and £18.00 for a joint membership. What a bargain! For full details please visit www.marketbosworthsociety.com you don't even have to get up from your armchair to join.

Similarly, to the events programme our desire to make the Archive available worldwide by digitalisation has also been delayed. This project will be restarted as soon as it is safe for people to meet again in the Archive room. If anyone would like to become involved, then please email info@marketbosworthsociety.com or telephone me on 07930149408.

2020 was not the year we hoped for but 2021 will be a very good year for the Market Bosworth Society.

Nigel Palmer, Chairman.

15 Market Bosworth Sports Club

The past year has obviously been a difficult one for everyone around the world, not just in the UK or here in Market Bosworth, with the unprecedented effects of a global pandemic. The Sports Club and its member clubs have tried to be there for the local community, whenever government guidelines and restrictions have allowed, giving access to both sporting and recreational activities to relieve the stress and boredom of multiple lockdowns.

As a registered Community Amateur Sports Club, but not a registered charity, the Club has had to rely entirely on the continuing goodwill and support of its membership throughout the pandemic, together with much-appreciated advice and backing from the local Parish and Borough Councils – thus enabling it to meet the ongoing costs of running and maintaining a valuable community asset, as the grass and weeds never seem to stop growing! For its part, the Sports Club has continued to seek and secure funding for future improvements and enhancements to all aspects of the facility – i.e. the Grounds and Clubhouse or even the Car Park. Proposals for the future rely on community support so it is sad to report occasional vandalism and abuse of our facilities by a small minority of trespassers (who were obviously not observing the government guidelines). Would-be perpetrators should in future note that the onsite CCTV (both inside and outside our premises) is now real-time recording and not a dummy system. Naturally the cost of repair or replacement of damaged or defaced items has to be met by the Club – likewise the unfortunate but regular effect of high winds on the security fence-line and Clubhouse cladding.

Comments from each of our member clubs below tell their own story of the past and ongoing effects of coronavirus – affecting our various sports and social activities in different ways:

15A 1485 Triathlon Club Report

The Triathlon Club has struggled to put any of its usual events on this last 12 months with the Covid situation. We did manage to continue with some of our Saturday morning rides through the summer in various groups of six riders, which included a group for cycling beginners, but another lockdown came and the rules put a stop to all group rides. We managed to hold 2 of our 8 planned 10-mile cycle time trials – we were hopeful of doing 4 of the proposed 8 but Covid stopped a couple and road works put paid to another 2 of them! We managed to go swimming throughout the Summer at Mallory Park Lake for Open Water Swim Training, as our usual venue at Bosworth Water Trust was unavailable last year. The Tri Club usually swims at Bosworth College through the Winter for swim training and teaching newbies to swim, but again Covid restrictions didn't allow this.

The Tri-Club was hoping to host their annual Bosworth 10k Run in August, from the Sports Club, but this was again cancelled due to Covid restrictions, along with a Planned 60-Mile Cycle Audax Event. We also got permission from the local Council to hold a running event at Bosworth Country Park but yet again that was a non-starter due to Covid. Plans were also made by the Tri Club to hold a Run-Walk Event last December (a 15-mile event you could either run or walk, called the Bosworth Challenge) – obviously not possible in the circumstances.

Naturally all this has had an impact on the Tri-Clubs finances and funding etc. but we're hoping that 2021 will be better and hopefully we can put on some of the mentioned events/activities again. We will be hoping to get the group rides going once again when things change, as the beginners cycle rides have been popular and have helped encourage new members. Hopefully the Parish Council will help support the continuation of the 1485 Tri-Club, which is a multi-sports club for all – whether Runners, Swimmers, Cyclists or all three – and in the future we're hoping to start a Children's section. We have now commenced outdoor activities, training sessions etc. that have been missed over the past 12 months, in accordance with respective guidelines of course, and can soon start to use the Bosworth Sports Club for our after-ride Teas and Coffees as it is great to meet up there and chat with members from all the sports there.

15B Market Bosworth Football Club Report

As everyone will probably know the 2020/21 football season was abandoned for all but the very top echelons of the sport but, whenever possible and allowed by guidelines, Market Bosworth Football Club held regular practice and training sessions for all age groups. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, it was not possible to host our Annual Football Tournament last June – a significant loss as this event is a primary source of the club's annual income.

However, with the recent re-introduction of outdoor sporting activities – and all local lower football league teams due to be hosting matches in April, May and June – there will hopefully be a lot more football played in the coming months, although access to indoor facilities will of course be restricted for the time being.

15C Market Bosworth Cricket Club Report

Last summer we did prepare the ground and the square for cricket, but unfortunately no cricket was played in Bosworth in 2020 – although some cricket did take place around the county but as friendly matches only.

We're now aiming to spend some time at the ground to get the cricket square in good shape for this year's league season, subject to the anticipated relaxation of lockdowns. Funding wise, repair or replacement of equipment that has now been unused for over a year might identify 'hidden' costs to be met in the short term but we sincerely hope to be playing cricket again in the summer of 2021.

15D Market Bosworth Table Tennis Club Report

Sadly it has been very much a stop-start year for table tennis activities – with more stop than start, and still continuing at the present time until current restrictions on indoor gatherings are lifted. All league matches in 2020 were cancelled but thankfully our members of all age groups have kept in touch through WhatsApp. Fingers crossed for the summer!

15E Social & Community Activities and Functions

Hopefully those social and community activities that have, of necessity, either ceased or turned to online methods over the past year will eventually return to the personal face-to-face gatherings and meetings we all once took for granted – likewise the numerous functions that the Sports Club has been proud to host on behalf of the local community. So, whether your interests be either sporting or purely social, the Sports Club looks forward to welcoming you all back in due course as the gradual relaxation of lockdown measures hopefully continues – please stay safe and well, and behave responsibly.

16 The Dixie Grammar School

Live teaching was an increasingly prominent feature of remote education for both Junior and Senior School Dixie pupils in the last year and whilst an incredible opportunity, it brought its own challenges. Through considerable investment, the Dixie has been able to offer full teaching days to all students from ages 4-18 and even had three students 'join' the school in the Sixth Form from a different continent! We are

immensely proud of the adaptability and enthusiasm of teachers in learning new skills and incorporation this learning into their remote lessons to the benefit of students at the Dixie. There is no harm in teachers being reminded what it is like to be a learner – in preparing for the challenges of multi-screen presentations and live demonstrations, if we are honest, at times we have felt the real challenge in learning new skills. We have all needed to adopt a growth mindset – the same mindset we regularly ask students to embrace!

During the first period of lockdown in 2020, our emphasis at the Dixie was on achieving balance for students – we were steadfast in our belief that a day in front of screens should be avoided; that it would be counterproductive for learning and well-being – for both students and staff. In the latest period of lockdown, there was a greater element of live teaching, but again, whether it was Reception Class learning the 'igh' sound for the first time or Sixth Form mathematicians tackling binomial probability, we were careful to provide a balance in our offering. Our aim was to ensure that our live lessons were carefully balanced with screen time and individual working time, with a mix of tasks on screen, tasks at a desk as well as outdoors.

Our request and recommendation that pupils wore uniform whilst working remotely was, typically, fully embraced. An enduring memory will be a visit to a form period during registration one January morning. Students all stood up (from home) as I entered the room and they were all wearing their school uniform. During lockdown, when physical contact was so reduced, our values, discipline, standards and sense of routine were more important than ever. So was our sense of belonging – maybe that is why students were so quick to wear their school uniform?

Unlike 2020, in the senior section Design and Technology, Art, Music, Home Economics and PE lessons all took place throughout the 2021 lockdown – these practical and creative subjects also helped ensure a balance to the working day for students. Offering 'live' practical subjects has been made possible by increased investment in technology within school.

Just as the success of online learning has required the professionalism and enthusiasm of teaching staff it has also relied upon the commitment and enthusiasm of pupils and cooperation of parents. I am hugely impressed by the ability of Dixie pupils to rise to the many challenges put before them, both in school and whilst working from home and very grateful to our parents for supporting their children and us in their learning. None of us would have chosen this last year, but this generation of Dixie pupils are developing a whole new set of skills, both technical and personal, that will serve them well in their futures.

Richard Lynn 15/4/21

17 1st Market Bosworth Scout Group

A message from our Chair: Nicola Morgan @ 1st Market Bosworth Scout Group

16th March 2020 will forever be a date that we will remember in our Scouting World. As the Government were preparing to lock down every aspect of our lives in an attempt to control a pandemic, the GSL and myself (the Chair) had to physically go into our Scout Hut and call time on a meeting that saw everyone slightly bewildered and confused.

The Scout motto is 'be prepared' and it is this tenacity and resilience to overcome many a challenge that has kept our Scout group not only surviving this strange time but also thriving.

This year we have taken all aspects of Scouting online. We have weekly Zoom meetings for all our young people - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. All of them are working towards badges and learning new life skills. The camaraderie of the young people is especially wonderful to see because throughout this pandemic, when they are not attending school in the traditional manner, this is sometimes the only time they 'see' their friends.

Scouting goes further than just setting young people up with valuable life skills, this has also been a wonderful support for anyone struggling. To be involved each week in an informative, lively (and often noisy!) Zoom session lifts the spirits of all those who attend and is always something to look forward to in the week. The leaders have been exceptional with their programmes throughout this and have delivered some fabulous meetings.

The Executive have been meeting regularly and we also hosted our AGM via Zoom last July which was very well attended. We also have made lots of decisions about our Scout hut that hasn't had the attention it needs in the last ten or so years and thanks to great efforts from our fundraising and grants team we have grant application in with a hope by June 2021 to secure £24K in total in order to work on the exterior of the Scout hut. Thanks in part to grants from The Dixie Foundation, the Parish Council, Leslie Sell charitable trust, and Asda token drop who have already contributed towards this project.

We hope we can welcome our groups back to face-to-face scouting very soon, but if this does not happen, we have our wonderful team and Zoom to help us through.

I am so proud of how everyone in our group, (from the young people, parents, leaders and the Executive) have coped with the enormous changes to Scouting that this pandemic has thrown our way. We hope that everyone involved feels proud of their achievements and continues to flourish.