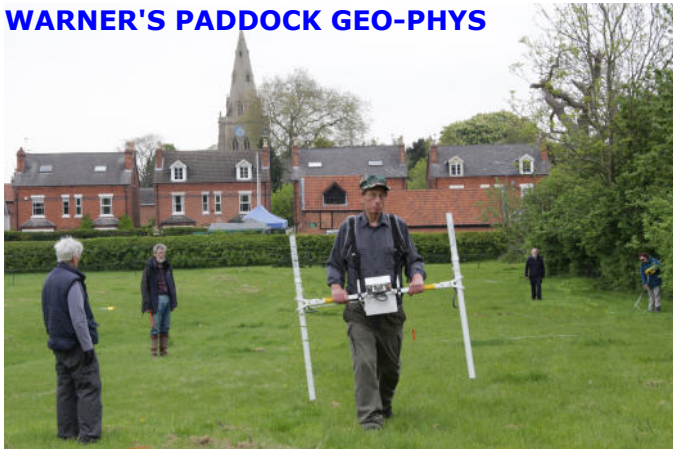


DISCOVERING BINGHAM

Quarterly NEWSLETTER of the **Bingham Heritage Trails Association**
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BHTA: Increasing public awareness of our heritage in Architecture, Folk & Natural History, Archaeology & Geology

WARNER'S PADDOCK GEO-PHYS



In the first week of May, teams of BHTA volunteers assisted Allen Morris in conducting a geophysical survey of Warner's Paddock. This picture shows the magnetic survey being done. We had dug five test pits in the field nearest Jebb's Lane and found a lot of Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery and Smithy slag. The geophysics was meant to tell us if there were any signs of a settlement there. The results did show some very interesting features, but it will be some time before we can offer an explanation for them.

SNIPPETS FROM THE MINUTES

The Town Council has recently passed to BHTA some volumes of Parish Council meetings going back to the early 1900s. The volumes are eventually destined for the Nottinghamshire Archives. Here are some extracts, exactly as they appear, involving themes that are still with us today.

April 26th 1936

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint from Mr Cartwright that he had been

annoyed by boys making a urinal of his shop doorway after closing time, and on the motion of Mr White and Mr Philpott he was instructed to write to the Inspector of Police on the matter and also the conduct generally of those who stand about the street corners inconveniencing passers by.

January 19th 1943

Government Pie Scheme. After being fully discussed, it was proposed by Mr Wilkinson, and seconded by Mr J Shepperson that the scheme should be adopted, subject to

satisfactory arrangements being made, and that Mrs Sharpe and Mr Wood make enquiries, and report to the Chairman and Clerk of the Council, who will form an Executive Committee to carry out the scheme on behalf of the Council

Note: the Pie Scheme was a Government led initiative to provide the general public with cheap food during and after the war. Thousands of pies were made locally throughout the country and sold to the public as cheap and nutritious food. At the April meeting- Mrs Sharpe reported that no one locally would agree to make the pies.....it was resolved that the scheme be left in abeyance.

April 17th 1956

MARKET STREET – Parking of vehicles.

Mr Philpotts reported that there was serious congestion occurring in this Street, particularly on Saturdays, through the parking of vehicles on both sides of the road. It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Local Road Safety Committee on this and make suggestions as follow:

One-way Street, Unilateral parking, No Parking (for Saturdays only) and asking that this Committee look into the matter and report to the Highways Authority on what they thought necessary to relieve the congestion.

September 1st 1959

Bus Stop – Nottingham Road. It was reported that a Shelter had been erected on this road but the 'Bus Stop' sign had remained in its original position which was some distance from the new Shelter. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Bus Company concerned and ask for an adjustment to correspond with the Shelter.

May 29th 1962

Bingham RDC – re allocation of bus shelters.

It was decided that the following sites be submitted:

1. On Grantham road almost opposite Dark Lane.

2. In the Market Place.

Alderman Warner spoke on the necessity of car and bus parking facilities in the Parish. It was decided that the County Surveyor and the Bingham RDC should be asked to look into this matter.

January 15th 1963

Light – Entrance to Carnarvon Place.

A complaint was made that a lamp situated near Kirkhill Cottages was faulty and causing interference to television sets. It was decided to bring this to the notice of the EMEB.

October 15th 1963

Parking Facilities

A lengthy discussion took place on this subject, and it was decided that the following points should be brought to the notice of the Notts County Council and the Bingham Rural District Council.

1. To request that parking spaces for at least six more

cars be made in front of the Bank.

2. To request that alterations be made to the West side of the Market Place to allow for buses to park. The existing arrangements of parking outside the 'Tip-Top' bakery (now Carpet shop) cause danger to motorists and are a source of annoyance to shopkeepers.

3. To ask what proposals are in mind for future parking facilities, and if alterations cannot be carried out to existing square what steps have been taken to acquire other suitable sites.

4. To suggest that if the slabs were so laid as to allow cars to be parked on them, that a portion of the Square should be marked off and used as a parking area.

We are looking for volunteers to do some research work on the minutes and write up the most interesting stories for the web site. Please let us know by email to the web site (See Page 4) if you would like to help.

SUNSHINE FOR JUNE FAIR GUARANTEED?



After last year's deluge, we've bought a new gazebo. See you there on 10th June!

CHESTERFIELD ARMS PITS



In July 2016 during the temporary closure of the Chesterfield Arms BHTA asked the owners for permission to dig in the lawn at the back. The result was three test pits; two were conventional one-metre square pits dug down to the geological base and the other was a half pit (one metre long and 50 cm wide) dug to explore a buried wall that the owners thought was Roman. It turned out to be built of stone and Victorian brick, so nothing of interest there.

In fact, there were only three Roman sherds, all Grey Ware, in these pits yet during the pre-build archaeological investigation before the flats were put up on the old bowling green at the back of the pub a Roman cemetery and a number of ditches, interpreted as field boundaries, were found. They revealed Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery, butchered bones and slag indicative of industrial activity, but no sign of habitation. When we dug the pits nearby along Cherry Street however, we found 2.8 kilograms of Roman pottery in one and bits of Roman brick and limestone roofing slate in a pit next door. There was enough here to suggest that there was a house here in Roman times. Another pit in

Warner's Paddock was nearly as rich, so we concluded that there had been people living in the area between Warner's Paddock and the south end of Cherry Street in Roman times. The Chesterfield Arms is quite clearly just beyond the inhabited area.

The Chesterfield Arms pits yielded a rich collection of medieval finds, all identified by Jane Young, an expert in the period. The Anglo-Saxons, who came after the Roman Army left England in 410 AD, did not use much pottery, so even one or two sherds can be significant. We know from other pits that there was an Anglo-Saxon presence south of the Church and it was no surprise to find Anglo-Saxon pottery in the Chesterfield Arms pits. The period is divided into early, middle and late Anglo-Saxon. Usually it is difficult to distinguish between early and middle Anglo-Saxon, but one of the pieces we collected was identified as middle Anglo-Saxon made between 670 and 850 AD. This is quite an important find. In Bingham, as in most of the East Midlands, the Anglo-Saxons lived in small isolated settlements scattered over the countryside, but in the 9th century, which is late in the middle Anglo-Saxon period, the inhabitants of the scattered settlements came to live together at a single site deserting their scattered settlements. In our case the site selected was Bingham, which became the village.

In the Late Anglo-Saxon period (850-1050 AD) Bingham was a well-established village, and we found several pieces of pot

from this period in the Chesterfield Arms pits.

Stamford Ware made between 1050 and about 1230 is the commonest Norman pottery in these pits. There was no Nottingham Splashed Ware, a type from the 12th century that is fairly common in Bingham. Instead, there was poorer quality type of pot from the same period possibly indicating the low status of the people living here.

From the early 13th century to the Black Death in 1348-49 Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze Ware, which dates from 1220-1320, was widely used in Bingham and several pieces were found in the pits. Some of them were from one vessel made of a special type of light-bodied green glaze that was used between 1200 and 1230.

Throughout Bingham we see a sharp drop in the quantity of pottery made after the Black Death. Calculations of the relative difference in weight of pre- and post-Black Death pots shows a reduction of about 40%, which may indicate a similar drop in population size. In some parts of Bingham the Black Death actually marks the end of occupation of that site, but here we have a few



Typical Green Glaze and Nottingham Purple pots.

Nottingham Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1380-1480) sherds, showing that at the Chesterfield Arms site people who lived here survived the plague. Their continued occupation of the area is indicated by the presence of many pieces of Midland Purple Ware, which has a long date range of 1380 to about 1600. One large piece was clearly from the rim of a lidded large jar or a cistern.

The pottery in these pits tells a fairly neat story. From the Anglo-Saxon period right through the Middle Ages there do not seem to be any significant breaks in the continuity. The earliest proved date for any pottery found here is middle Anglo-Saxon. The only other place where middle Anglo-Saxon pottery is found in Bingham is in a pit north of the Market Place. This is the time when new people arrived here from the dispersed settlements and they appear to have chosen to live in the area west of the church. Up until the Norman Conquest the area south of the church including Cherry Street and Warner's Paddock was the centre of Bingham. After the conquest the focus shifted to the area west of the church. In the middle of the 13th century Sir Richard de Bingham came to live in the village, the first Lord of the Manor to do so, and he built his Manor House to the northwest of where the Market Place now is. It is possible that before him, the steward of the Norman Lord of the Manor who owned Bingham lived in this same place. Thus, after the Conquest old Bingham, that is the area around Warner's Paddock and Cherry Street, became side-

lined, possibly for political reasons. The new Bingham developed around what is now the Market Place.



QUARTER PEAL HONOURS WW1 HEROS

Based on the Church records and the BHTA research into the Fallen of World War One, the bell ringers have been ringing a "quarter peal " of 1260 changes in the month 100 years on from the death of those who fell in the war. This takes about 45 minutes, but success is not guaranteed as a significant mistake by any of the ringers can cause the ringing to come to a premature end. On 9th April the peal was successfully rung in remembrance of Charles Hacket, Alfred Buggins, Herbert Cowdell and Charles Robert Penson who all died in April 1917. Relatives of the latter were present during the peal and sent us the photo, above, of the ringers.

Andrew Peters after the ceremony said, "... we are not only keeping the promise to remember them – but that we are also doing something that requires some effort and commitment, which for me, makes it more meaningful."



The team from L to R: Robert Priest, Owen Peters, Andrew Peters (conductor), Kay Green, Alan Morris, Steven Green, Neville Davis. [Photo: Sheila Barton]

CIVIC AWARDS GO TO BHTA MEMBERS

Congratulations are due to three of our members who received Civic Awards at the Annual Town Meeting on 8th April:

Peter Allen for initiating and Chairing the Community Lead Plan and his 15 years leading the Bingham Heritage Trails Association.

Pam Richmond for her voluntary work for N.S.P.C.A., Neighbourhood Watch, Audio Magazine and BHTA.

Pauline Hollands for her involvement over many years with the Mother & Toddler Group, Playgroup, Brownies and BHTA.

Well done to all three for this recognition of their contributions to life in the Town!

LIBRARY FAMILY ROMAN DAY

On Saturday 20th May Bingham Library held a Family Heritage 'Drop-in' day in conjunction with the University of Nottingham pop-up exhibition of Roman finds from locations in and around Bingham.



BHTA was also invited to mount their display boards and show objects from the period that we have found over the parish. Pupils from Carnarvon School attended a craft day on the Friday, with a talk on the Romans in Bingham, by our Chairman, Geoff Ashton. They then made and decorated Roman shields which they formed into a Testudo; a formation used to attack their enemy's defences.



Tuesday 27th June 7.30pm W I Hall ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

None members are welcome to attend to hear presentations on our recent work followed by wine, nibbles and chat.

BHTA CONTACTS

General e-mail: bhta@binghamheritage.org.uk

www.facebook.com/binghamheritage

CHAIRMAN: Geoff Ashton - 01949 875177

SECRETARY: David Mason - 01949 876635

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Robin Aldworth - 01949 839991

VICE CHAIRMAN:

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