

# DISCOVERING BINGHAM

Quarterly NEWSLETTER of the **Bingham Heritage Trails Association**  
[www.binghamheritage.org.uk](http://www.binghamheritage.org.uk) Registered Charity No: 1090475 Issue No. 46 - December 2014

BHTA: Increasing public awareness of our heritage in Architecture, Folk & Natural History, Archaeology & Geology

## IT IS DONE! AT LAST!

Our regular readers will have followed the progress of our lottery funded field walking project from 2004 to 2008 which produced over 50,000 finds forming the basis of our 'History of Settlement' research that proved to be a very productive project. We published a 140 page, full-colour illustrated book, 'Bingham Back in Time' that was launched in mid-2010 and by the end of 2012 the last of 400 copies was sold and is now out of print. Hundreds of pages have been added to our website, DVDs with the full details of the project, including the Access database of all the finds, have been sent to various places like the County Archaeologist, three academic papers have been published, one topical article in British Archaeologist, all of which has added to our reputation in the wider archaeological community.

For some years before the end of the project in 2010, Nottingham University had agreed to house the complete collection in their museum store. Then they began a series of reorganisations and we were beginning to despair that the upheaval would ever end so that we could move the finds which had been boxed up in Peter Allen, BHTA Chairman's garage for two years. An added problem was, with the garage full of the old finds, there was little room for



*September 24th - Peter Allen, Bob Terry, Patrick Hanmer (our driver) and Robin Aldworth load the van, loaned to BHTA by Water at Work, with 50,000 field walking finds in 164 boxes to be delivered to the Nottingham University Museum store at the King's Meadow campus.*

the finds coming from our current pits project. Then, out of the blue we got a message from Mark Laurie, the collections curator at the University museum, that he was ready now to take the finds. First he would send 170 of their standard 32 x 42 x 12cm storage cardboard boxes for us to repack the whole collection. With the boxes came sheets of acid free cardboard to be cut to size to fit into the boxes to act as separators. While this was being done we turned our minds to the problem of transporting the load to the King's Meadow campus. Earlier in the year when we were organising the

celebrations for the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bingham Market Charter, Tanya Cornford, the Managing Director of Water at Work & Home on the Moorbridge Industrial Estate, offered us the use of one of her Transit vans. To our relief she agreed to again loan us a van to transport the finds if we could supply the driver. We immediately accepted her generous offer.

On the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> September four members met at Peter's garage, collected the Water at Work van and loaded the 650 Kilos of 50,000 finds in 164 numbered museum boxes. Loading had

to be done in such a way that the first box out at the other end was Box No 1. As the boxes were already stacked in numerical order and the method for packing the van was pre-planned, this turned out to be a fairly straight forward process at both ends. It took one load, six boxes high. So we set off for the old Carlton TV studio, which is now being used as a storage centre by the University. When everything was transferred Peter Allen signed them over. The Crown Estate had already relinquished ownership, all we had to do was hand over copyright and the supporting documentation. We have an agreement with the museum, however, for continued access should we need it and for them to lend us finds should we want to use them for exhibitions etc. This will shortly be turned into a formal agreement.

As far as BHTA is concerned, this project, which started in November 2004, is now finished with a properly curated collection deposited for the foreseeable future in a museum. Ten years ago the Heritage Lottery Fund showed confidence in us by funding

the project, so it is good to be able to repay that confidence with a successful conclusion. But, it is not **all** done; what we have to do now is finish the pits/house histories project and justify their grant for the WW1 project!

## WORLD WAR ONE

Seeing all the exhibitions and events happening in the surrounding villages, you may be wondering why BHTA seems to be falling down on the job of commemorating the "Great War". Those who visited our stall at the summer fair will know we are indeed undertaking a project to research and record how the war affected Bingham.

We now have a considerable grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and we are well on with our research. We decided early on to concentrate on producing a comprehensive web site (part of our existing one) where all our material will eventually constitute a major learning and teaching resource for many years to come.

We are documenting as far as possible the military and family histories of all those servicemen who were killed in the war and also those who served and survived. We are also researching the effect the war had on the village through school log books, council records and other sources. As important,



*Corporal George Harry Footbiter (Notts & Derby Regt) survived the war.*



*A coloured postcard published in G... painting of their High Command intended to inspire their troops or in... enemy. It is not known whether it s... either count!*

we would like to be able to include family stories about Bingham people involved in the war. Personal memories are so valuable in telling the human story. These might be through family photographs, letters, trench art brought back etc. (Above are two examples of the type of image that have been loaned to us for copying and we are hoping to find more.) If you can help, please get in touch with us - contact details are on the back page and these are also included in our monthly entries in the Butter Cross magazine.



*Finds reach their final resting place at the University Museum store.*





*Sherwood  
(iment) who*



*Germany of a  
presumably  
timidate the  
succeeded on*

We already have some touching tales. Charles Penson, from Lincoln, lived with his family in Chapel Lane. His skill as a carpenter was well suited to the needs of the Royal Engineers, but he was killed in April 1917. His widow received a weekly pension of 20s-8d (about £50.00 today) for herself and four children. His commanding officer's war diary poignantly records his death: "a shell fell right into the little group of them. It burst close to [Lieutenant] Chaplin's head and killed him instantly, together with eight sappers. One of them was Sapper Penson, who had been wounded by the same shell as

I was in Sanctuary Wood [some months earlier]. At 6 p.m I ran up to Neuville-Vitasse to look for a padre and after much enquiring, I found one, who came with me and buried all our men. I felt miserable and could not keep back my tears when he read [the burial service]..."

We also know about Bernard Wright, who because he was illegitimate was raised by his mother in Bingham workhouse. Then he worked for Walker's butchers in Union Street and when the War started joined the Sherwood Foresters. He survived the war

and was befriended by two brothers from Melton who took him back there after the war. Bernard married their sister and went on to manage the largest butcher's shop in Melton.

At the end of the project we shall mount an exhibition, but the web site will be permanent.

## **CHRISTMAS IN BINGHAM**

*From the newspaper archives*

**Nottingham Journal 27th December 1864**

A custom has prevailed in Bingham from time immemorial, for a choir of singers to parade the streets at an early hour on Christmas morning. We have no objection to the custom when the party conduct themselves with propriety, but we are sorry to state that of late the custom has been conducted by a band of uncultivated persons, accompanied by a detachment of roughs and consequently people are aroused from their slumbers by the most discordant sounds, mingled with noises of a riotous description. We are sorry to state that a repetition of this disreputable behaviour occurred on Wednesday, when, in addition, one person had his chamber window assailed with missiles. One of the iron guards which encircle the ornamental trees in the Market Place was torn up and other petty depredations were committed. We hope in future the police will be on the alert and put a stop to these disgraceful practices.

**It had not always been so. Christmas 1775 saw a different band of singers.**

Tuesday last, being the annual feast of Singers in Bingham at 11-0-dock they proceeded to Church to hear Divine Service and in the proper places of the service sung a Psalm and an excellent anthem, composed by Mr. Pearson, a teacher of the Charity School in Nottingham. As soon as the service was over, one of the society was placed in a Chair handsomely decorated and being preceded by flags flying (on which was the following Motto 'May Discord cease and Amity abound) and a Band of Musick, was carried to the White Horse Inn (location unknown), where an elegant Entertainment was provided. After Dinner, the Company was entertained with an excellent Band of Musick and the evening was concluded with the greatest Harmony and Decorum.

## **HAVE YOU SEEN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?**

In an effort to reach a wider audience and to provide a means of communicating with Members, friends and others, BHTA has launched a Facebook page. The address can be found in the contact box, over page.

We have had some good reaction to recent posts; for example, about the Market Charter anniversary. However, we would like to reach even more people. This is where you can help.

You do not have to be a Facebook user to view the page but, if you are, please 'Like' the page to 'Follow' us and you will be automatically notified when new posts are added. Please also invite your friends to follow us. Facebook works by building networks of people who follow particular



*Our annual fundraising evening was held in the W.I Hall on 22nd November when over 70 members and friends sat down to a Quiz Supper with good food and wine interspersed with a few rounds of light-hearted brain-teasers.*

pages. Your friends may not live in Bingham but they may, none the less, be interested in our work. If they, in turn, share the link with their friends, our audience will build. We have recently had contact with an American visitor who was hoping to trace family connections in Bingham. She is now following us and, as a result,

we may well benefit from new contacts with distant connections to the Town.

If you don't use Facebook, you may want to consider starting a page. You do not need to become an avid user, nor even populate your page with information about you, to benefit from the opportunity to follow us.

## A MESSAGE FOR BHTA MEMBERS

### Are you receiving emails from the Secretary?

Recent communications have included information about our First World War project and copies of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association newsletter.

If you have not received these, it may be that we have an out-of-date or inaccurate email address for you. Please contact the Secretary at: [david.mason407@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.mason407@ntlworld.com) to update your details.

## BHTA CONTACTS

General e-mail: [bhta@binghamheritage.org.uk](mailto:bhta@binghamheritage.org.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/binghamheritage](http://www.facebook.com/binghamheritage)

**CHAIRMAN:** Peter Allen - 01949 831575

**VICE CHAIRMAN:** Geoff Ashton - 01949 875177

**SECRETARY:** David Mason - 01949 876635

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Robin Aldworth - 01949 839991

Thanks to **Hammond Property Services** for their support by printing this issue of *Discovering Bingham*

**2015 LECTURES**  
To be held at 7.30pm.  
in the W.I Hall,  
Station Street  
Admission FREE

Thursday  
5th February  
Entertainment in  
18/19th Century  
Bingham  
Joyce Allen

Thursday  
26th March  
Social Effects of WW1  
David Mason

Thursday 4th June  
Crow Close  
Adrian Henstock &  
Peter Allen

**GET YOUR COPY**  
**from Eaton Place**  
**Newsagent**  
**OR Geoff Ashton**

