

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



WATCH OUT FOR BHTA's BOOK

The title - Bingham, Back in Time... History of Settlement in the Parish of Bingham. Copies are on sale at the Library, the Newsagents or direct from BHTA; put your orders in to any committee member.

Have you ever wondered what sorts of people have lived in Bingham and the surrounding area over the centuries? What sort of lives they lived, and what kind of utensils and tools

they used to make their lives easier?

With the knowledge garnered from all those in BHTA who worked so hard field walking, data entering, deciphering ancient writing, researching old newspapers and so much more, a small team have put together a book that will tell you all you've ever wanted to know about the town we are privileged to call home.

It was always our intention to produce a book of maps, but as more of the fascinating history of the town and

surrounding area was unearthed, the decision was made to write a book that would allow you, the people of Bingham, to share in the wealth of information that has come out of the five-year 'Settlement' project.

As can be seen from the photomontage the book is a riot of colour and with the help of many illustrations, maps and photographs, tells the story of life in the parish from long before recorded history right up until the Bingham that we know today.



A



B



C

Should that whet your appetite for more of the same but with an academic flavour, the complete archive of finds will eventually be put on the website.

In the book, field walking is well documented, with many photographs showing field walkers looking relaxed and happy in spite of the often appalling weather conditions they worked through.

The section on farms and field systems gives some old place names. For instance: 'Saltersick furlong' - meaning

alongside a stream, 'Coneygrey' - near a rabbit warren, 'Wylde Willoughs' - a well-watered area with willow trees, and most intriguing, Three Man Thorn Wong.

In modern times, it records the introduction of a steam mill in a large building near the railway, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the coming of the telegraph; buildings and events that only a relatively few years ago may have been remembered by older Bingham residents. It is all history now, but serves to

remind us that each day we too are making history.

The Victorian age has already been fairly comprehensively covered by Val Hemstock in her book, 'Victorian Bingham', but even so you may find something new and surprising, both in that and every section of the book. It is something that can be dipped into from time to time, shared with the family, kept nearby and treasured.

The Members of BHTA have worked hard over the past six years putting this story of

Bingham's history together. The initial gathering of information from a wide variety of sources, the collating, writing, illustrating, editing and proof reading has been an enormous undertaking which has produced a book the Association can be justly proud of and which will be an asset to scholars and ordinary readers for years to come.

WELL, WELL, WELL

"There's a Roman well in my garage" is a good conversation opener. "Why" and "How" are the usual responses?

Many readers will know we secured agreement with the contractors, the Highways Agency, English Heritage and the County Archaeologist late last year to recover a Roman Well that was revealed during the A46 archaeological excavations. We did not (and still do not) know where we were going to put it but we felt it was a rare opportunity to secure and preserve at least a small physical piece of Bingham's heritage. The discovery made on the only plot within the parish boundary that is part of the A46 project, did not come as a complete surprise. Our own, and other's, field walking has indicated that there was extensive Roman settlement along the Fosse Way south of Margidunum.

The contractors, Balfour Beatty, kindly paid for a team of two professional archaeologists to dismantle the well stone by stone. They also agreed BHTA could send three 'observers', but cautioned we would have to undergo the standard Health and Safety induction course.

In the spirit of their "Zero Harm" initiative, this turned out to be a three hour lecture and test paper. We were then issued with the full kit of safety gear - hard hat suitably marked to show we were allowed on site, safety glasses, heavy yellow reflective coat, gloves and safety wellies, all of which had to be worn at all times.

The three of us duly turned up on site on a damp Monday morning to meet the archaeologists and to discover the well was full of water - not surprising perhaps, this was December in the rain! At first we tried bailing out with buckets [A] but soon opted for a pump, seen in [B], that had to run frequently for the whole week of the job. The site was a quagmire and we were reduced to pretending we were five years old playing in the mud! It turned out that because we were fully inducted we could actually help rather than just observe, so we arranged a rota so one of us was always there. We actually got to use our trowels and we all got thoroughly muddy!

Marking each wet and muddy stone with a yellow wax crayon to show top and front was tricky enough. [C] Tying on a label with its number was like wrapping a slippery Christmas present. But slowly, stone by stone, the well was lifted, numbered, bagged and transported back to the garage.

The well had to be drawn in plan [B] after each course of stones had been removed and we took photographs of the vertical face to use as an index to the position of the stones. The archaeologists and us must have taken over 200

photographs to help with the reconstruction in Bingham.

We were allowed to excavate only the top metre of the well, which we hope to erect above ground so it can be seen easily wherever we end up putting it. We have support from Bingham Town Council and County Councillor Martin Suthers, so the prospects are good!

MORE CUTTINGS FROM THE ARCHIVES

January 11th 1833

BY MR. HUCKERBY

SALE AT BINGHAM

To be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr HUCKERBY

On the premises of Mr Wm. Chettle, junr., at Bingham on Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th Days of January 1833, A part of the modern and valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE; comprising Mahogany and Rosewood Chairs, Mahogany Dining and Pembroke Tables, handsome Mahogany Four-post Bedsteads, with Chints and Moreen Hangings, and Window Curtains to match, capital Goose-coat Feather beds, Mattresses, &c, handsome Floor carpets, Dinner and Tea Services, Table and Dessert Ivory Balance-hafted Knives and Forks, Pier and Swing Glasses, and various other valuable Articles.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale; and of the Auctioneer, in Bingham.

(All the spellings are as in the newspaper.) Moreen hangings were hangings around the bed - to keep you warm - and matched the curtains. Moreen is a thick woollen fabric with embossed figures. Pier glasses are ornate wall mirrors, with either gilt or wood, usually

mahogany, frames. Swing glasses are mirrors on a wooden frame that you can adjust by swinging them backwards or forwards. They stood on a piece of furniture - often in a bedroom.

July 7th 1832

**MIDSUMMER SESSIONS
SHIRE HALL NOTTINGHAM
TUESDAY JULY 3rd.**

GEORGE RAYNOR, aged 27, was found guilty of stealing a quantity of spirits and eatables from the house of John Brown, at Bingham. - It appears that Joseph Raynor, constable, apprehended the prisoner, and found in his possession, on the morning after the robbery, a bundle, containing bread, cheese, pork pies &c and he had two bottles in his pockets, one of which was identified by the prosecutor and his wife. - The prisoner called two women to swear to the bottle having been in his possession at Hucknall, but neither of them could be positive that it was the same bottle. - Having been before convicted of felony at the Summer Sessions in 1826, the Court sentenced him to fourteen years' transportation.

(Today he probably would have ended up with an ASBO!)

May 10th 1833

COACH ACCIDENT

On Wednesday evening last, an accident occurred to the Imperial coach, which runs

from this town (*Nottingham*) to Lincoln, by way of Newark, on its return, which caused a severe injury to the coachman (Mr Eavers) and several of the passengers. One of the wheels, on leaving Bingham, gave way, when the coach upset, although the driver used every exertion to save himself and passengers. A chaise was obtained at Bingham, and the passengers forwarded to this town (*Nottingham*), when, on turning the corner at the bottom of Pelham Street, one of the horses, (the one the post boy was riding) slipped, and in falling, broke the pole, but fortunately no other mischief was done. Poor Eavers, who is a remarkably steady and careful driver, was brought home in a gig, and after being bled, was put to bed. He was seriously bruised, but escaped without broken limbs.

MONETEUM HORRENDUM -

We have received from a correspondent, a curious case of monstrosity in a young chick. It was discovered by breaking open an egg, which remained after the brood was hatched, on the premises of Stephen Horsepool, at Bingham, in this county. There are two bodies, united at the chest and abdomen, four legs, four wings, but only one head, the beak of which is directed towards the side between the two bodies. The two vertebral columns are

quite distinct up to the articulations with the head, this last being the only single member. The chick appears about half advanced to the state when it should have escaped from its confinement.

DEATH

On Saturday morning last, at Aslockton, Mr Oliver Miller, advanced in years: he was formerly an excellent ringer, and had in his time raised the tenor bell at Bingham church, using one hand only. The bell weighs about one ton.

**EXHIBITION -
A HISTORY
OF BINGHAM
IN 100
OBJECTS**

(with NO apologies to BBC Radio 4!)

This is the theme of the free BHTA exhibition that can be viewed during the usual opening hours at the Bingham Library over the next six months.

Come and see 400,000 year-old flint tools, Civil War cannon balls, ancient coins, Victorian toys and much more all found in the fields of the parish. The display also includes maps and photographs telling the fascinating story of life in Bingham over many past centuries.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

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