

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This year has seen much upheaval and activity in the affairs of the Historical Society and the Museum and I refer you to Zara's report in this edition of the Historian and the information on our website [www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org)

In July we had a stunning sell out talk from Mathew Morris of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the Richard III excavation. Here he reprises much of the lecture in our opening article in this edition of the Historian.

In preparing for the commemoration of the beginning of the 1st World War next year (2014) we publish the first of a two part diary kept by a sapper who served in the front lines. The diary was kept by George Charles Wooldridge, the father of our very own President of the Historical Society, Douglas Wooldridge. The account shows a rather modest man who underwent some appalling conditions which he records with objective clarity.

David Johnson has put pen to paper to record his fascinating lecture on Jane West which he gave at last year's History Day. It is difficult to believe that this local woman was a famous author of her day influencing no less a personage than Jane Austen.

Mike Stroud concludes his two part history of industry in Desborough concentrating on the Cooperative Industrial and Provident Society which came to dominate the town. Perhaps one the most intriguing businesses in Market Harborough is Frank Hall Limited, tailor to the hunting fraternity. Bob Hakewill gives a fascinating account of the origins and development of this durable concern on St Mary's Road.

The next two articles are concerned with gravestones and what they can tell us. Neil Harvey Williams shows how the change in calendar in the 1750s when 10 days were lost in the change over from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, was reflected in the gravestones of the time. Rod Cave, on the other hand, examines the work and skill of the craftsmen who carved the engravings on stone and slate which marked the graves.

The three articles following are concerned with tracing the fortunes of several local families. Janice Morris relates the life of the Shuttleworth Family of the Bowdens and Harborough, and Paul Bennett recounts the lives of a further three in Great Bowden namely the Chater, Hay and Stokes families. Leslie Hughes takes up a theme from the last edition of the Historian (No. 29) concerning the Roberts family of Thorpe Langton.

Alan Langley, a regular contributor to the Historian on subjects relating to East Farndon, has once more come up with something of relevance to that small village, namely the Swing Riots and how it affected farms around the locality.

Finally, one of our committee members and also a regular contributor, Rosalind Willatts, has revealed how Harborough Railway Station was refurbished in the 1990s after years of neglect even when becoming a grade II listed building in 1977.



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Editor of the  
Harborough Historian