

# Inspiring Bosworth

A rural, Heritage Lottery  
Funded project.



How community engagement through heritage makes a contribution to skills and has wider social impacts.

- ▶ Current role: Project officer at Blaby District Council on a fixed term contract to manage the Buried Bouskell Projec. This involves the renovation of a grade II listed Ice House and associated landscaping works and community archaeology of the medieval earthworks in the park.
- ▶ Past work: Bosworth Links community archaeology and Inspiring Bosworth.



# Why the project?

- ▶ In 2012 the mortal remains of Richard III's body were exhumed from under a car park in Leicester and in 2015 reinterred in the cathedral. This took the form of a funeral cortège beginning at the newly identified core battlefield site, then weaving its way through the wider battle landscape before arriving at Leicester Cathedral.
- ▶ The cortège put a spotlight on this piece of countryside and its villages for one day. But that media attention plus the new archaeology suggested the possibility of raising the profile of the area more permanently. During a tourism planning session managed by Leicestershire Promotions during 2016, the desire for those communities to have their stories told on a more permanent basis was set as a challenge and it was then that the idea of an historically themed art trail was put forward.



The funeral cortège of Richard III.  
Digital Image.  
<https://www.hinckleytimes.net/news/local-news/richard-iii-hero-last-2015-10664959>



## The Inspiring Bosworth Programme

- ▶ Inspiring Bosworth was the precursor to the development of a major sculpture trail commemorating the Battle of Bosworth. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and helped to influence and shape the heritage interpretation of the planned sculptures and of the overall trail. The project comprised of a series of activities designed to enable local schools and communities to investigate the archaeological and landscape heritage relating to the Battle of Bosworth and produce creative works for local display.
- ▶ The project gave local people an opportunity to collaborate with professional curators and artists. Some of the outcomes will be considered for inclusion in aspects of the Sculpture Trail interpretation.

# Who took part?

- ▶ **Target of 450 actually reached 798 including both adults and children.**
- ▶ **Why take part?**
- ▶ Increase in general interest in archaeology and heritage in society from the birth of Time Team.
- ▶ An interest in stories and heritage that relate to them personally or relate to their sense of place and identity.
- ▶ An opportunity to learn and gain knowledge which is enhanced by the link to a sense of place.

# Lecture series: Finds handling

- ▶ Each event unique but a linkage across them.
- ▶ Finds handling: Learning about finds associated with the site.
- ▶ Sculpture location.
- ▶ ‘I feel a closer link to national history and a desire to learn more.’
- ▶ ‘It encourages one to reflect on the past of where one walks.’
- ▶ ‘We are surrounded by history but it often needs well researched messages and exhibits to put it into perspective.’
- ▶ ‘Object handling gives a different perspective on history and makes it more real.’



## Lecture series: medieval Leicestershire, Dr Katie Bridger.

- ▶ The Leicestershire landscape as people might have known it during the time of the Battle of Bosworth interjected with stories of those of who lived there.
- ▶ Church associated with local legend.
- ▶ Strong sense of place.
- ▶ Sculpture location.
  
- ▶ ‘Very proud of our local heritage.’
- ▶ ‘I’m very proud to live in this area.’
- ▶ ‘Makes you think more about where you live.’





# Richard III: The man behind the myth.

- ▶ Lecture by local tour guide and historian, Eddie Smallwood.
- ▶ The ever debated topic of Richard III from the man so memorably portrayed by Shakespeare to the ‘Good King’.
- ▶ A topic for debate, learning and sharing of knowledge. Fact and Fiction. Sense of place derived from the factors that drove KRIII to the fateful battle on that day in August 1485.

Image: Portrayal of Richard III.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/elizabethan/why-did-shakespeare-revile-richard-iii/>



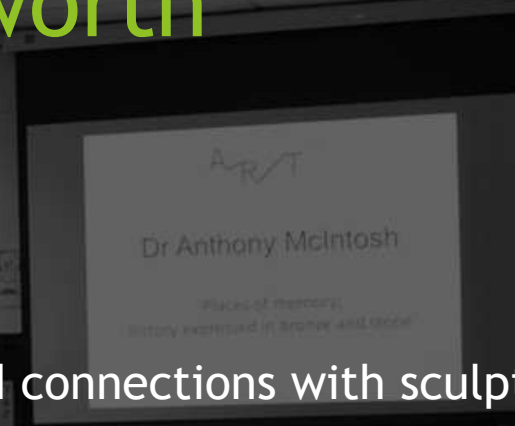
# Henry VII lecture at Stoke Golding

- ▶ Lecture by Professor Steven Gunn from Oxford University.
- ▶ For some communities there was an affirmation and building on a sense of place and identity around the event or KR111. For other communities, like Stoke Golding, this cemented their place in the story where they had been previously left out. Strong sense of place.
- ▶ Learning linked to a sense of place is very powerful and creates a feeling of pride and ownership.
- ▶ ‘I find it incredible that such pivotal events happened in our tiny village.’
- ▶ ‘I think history does help me to reflect on my surroundings.’
- ▶ ‘I feel a closer link to national history and a desire to learn more.’



# Sculpture lecture at Market Bosworth

- ▶ Dr Anthony McIntosh from Art UK.
- ▶ A thought provoking lecture relating to our sense of place and connections with sculpture and other forms in our daily living landscape.
- ▶ Unusual subject matter which attracted a good audience.
- ▶ Importance of memory associated with place.





## Richard III lecture with Dr Michael Jones

- ▶ A known historian and author who has written books on the topic of the Battle of Bosworth.
- ▶ ‘It has increased my sense of the significance of the landscape in history.’
- ▶ ‘It was interesting to hear the speaker’s views on what might have happened had the outcome of the battle been different.’

# Guided landscape walk with Eddie Smallwood

Local historian who offers guided tours and historic re-enactment.

- ▶ 'It encourages one to reflect on the past of where one walks.'
- ▶ 'It has helped me to understand the importance of landscape on history.'
- ▶ 'I think history does help me to reflect on my surroundings.'
- ▶ 'I feel very proud of the volunteers bringing history and archaeology to us in an interesting and understandable way.'

**- A sense of pride of the project as a whole.**





# Community textile activity with Jacqui Gallon

A large community textile piece designed and made by members of the community.



- ▶ The opportunity to learn new skills, be part of a group or using a skill to access a new opportunity.
- ▶ 'I feel I am part of local history.'
- ▶ 'I know I live in such an historically significant area of the UK.'

## Involvement from 6 local schools

(210 of 333 visited the Battlefield centre)

- ▶ Barriers to involvement.
  - ▶ Needs to be an easy, turn-key offering.
  - ▶ Providing a hands-on learning experience where alternative methods of learning provide stimulus.
  - ▶ Resulted in some excellent creative writing where children had an opportunity to connect with their sense of place.
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- ▶ ‘They dipped arrows in poo.’
  - ▶ ‘Dadlington is important because that is actually where the battle happened.’
  - ▶ ‘Stoke Golding because its where Lord Stanley’s army camped and it where we live and we are so lucky that there could have been someone standing next to us while we write this over 500 years ago!’



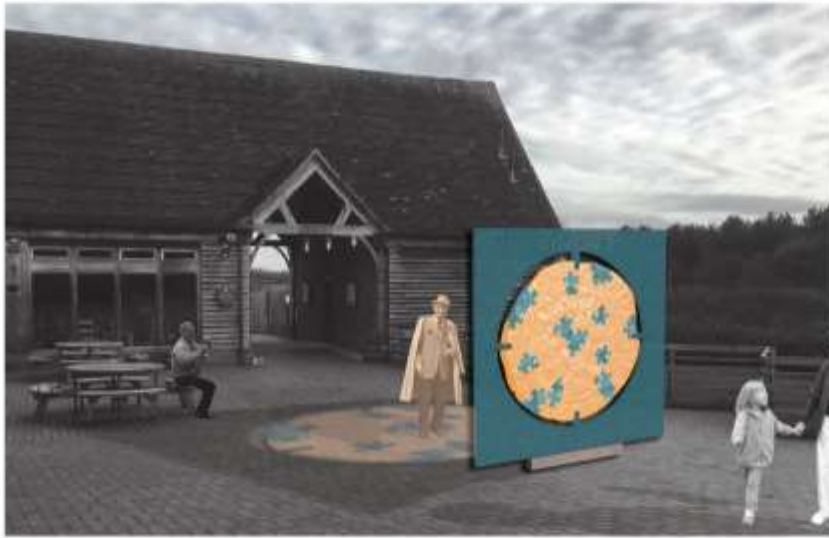


Illuminated manuscripts:  
Linked to the Sutton Cheney sculpture.



Printing press:  
Linked to the Market  
Bosworth Sculpture.





**Glass work:**  
Inspired by the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage  
Centre sculpture.



**Mosaic work:  
Inspired by the Stoke Golding sculpture.**



Story telling  
chandelier:  
Inspired by the landscape  
and sculpture trail.



**BOSWORTH 1485**  
The Healing - Dadlington

**THE SCULPTURE**  
After the battle has been fought, the blood has been shed, the ground has been won - only then does the real work begin. On the 22nd of August 1485 the dead were buried where they fell, but in the years that followed a long, gradual process of healing began. Remains of the dead from both sides were brought together in the churchyard of St James the Greater, Dadlington, and Henry VII granted a licence for a church to be raised for their souls.



**THE ARTWORK**



Medieval tiles:  
Inspired by the Dadlington  
sculpture.



Creative writing and video work:  
Inspired by the Fenn Lanes sculpture.

## What were the outcomes?

- ▶ The material heritage in store will be more accessible
- ▶ A better understanding of Bosworth by local and visitors
- ▶ A body of creative material and tangible record was developed. The transfer of the sensory experience of the place into tangible objects.





# What were the impacts?

- ▶ **Community** - A sense of belonging to a community or group. Using community resources and relationships that are already in place to facilitate things. This can be very strong in rural communities and can be an in-road to participation.
- ▶ **Learning** - Through active participation in events and activities (encouraging those who wouldn't normally participate and how do we reach them?)
- ▶ **Achievement** - Working towards a common goal as a group / project or completing your own element of the project.
- ▶ **Skill** - Working with professionals to try, learn or develop a skill. Or using an existing skill to tap into a project e.g. people who sew.
- ▶ **Place** - Identification of a sense of place or the cementing of it through local history. Importance of the landscape around you. Local pride.
- ▶ **Inclusivity** - removing barriers to participate.
- ▶ Some of these impacts are also drivers to take part.

# Current project: Buried Bouskell

- ▶ Restoration of Grade II listed Ice House.
- ▶ Local memory, sense of place and pride associated with it.
- ▶ Community archaeology: Tried and tested method.
- ▶ New challenge: How we currently overcome this. Had success with online learning and events where a sense of group identity has already been achieved. Building this from scratch is more difficult.
- ▶ Building relationships between the group can be key. The core of the beginning of this will be from a sense of place and identity. Being on site has shown that this is strong.

- ▶ Image: Bouskell Park Ice House, Blaby:  
<https://www.openboxpromotions.co.uk/lottery-funding-success-for-blaby-ice-house>





# Further Links

- ▶ Pits, Pots and Pipes and More Pits Pots and Pipes!
- ▶ <https://marketbosworthsociety.com/bosworth-links/>
- ▶ Inspiring Bosworth report.
- ▶ <http://roseregeneration.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Inspiring-Bosworth-LOW-RES.pdf>