

Ask Aspect

This is the column which responds to your queries and concerns about life in and around Market Bosworth. We either attempt to track down answers for you or hope that other readers can provide us with solutions.

Post Boxes in Bosworth Area.

Earlier in the year the *Letter Box Study Group* survey of post boxes throughout the country triggered a flurry of interest about our own local boxes. Chris Peat of Carlton let us have a page from the very first issue of *The Carlton News* from February 1990 which reported on the resiting of the Victorian post box in Main Street, Carlton.



This box was made between 1871 and 1881 by Smith & Hawkes of Birmingham. Apparently the design was the first to have an upward-pointing aperture to protect against thieves and rain and the first to have a collection plate in the door.

These features both became normal. Slots for the collection tablet were not originally fitted and



were added later in various positions – the Carlton one near the handle at the bottom of the door.

The box is located near the church and by the side of the old telephone kiosk.

Oh and before anyone contacts us we are aware of another postal box in Carlton on the main Bosworth Road – a post 1953 one.

Derek Meller in Barton has been in touch about a post box site in Barton in the Beans. He sent *Ask Aspect* a picture of a wall showing where the original letter box was sited in Main Street around 1885. It is not known when it was actually moved.



The brickwork reveals repair after a post box was removed. A challenge to Barton readers – can you locate where precisely this is in Barton?

The Post Office in Barton used to be in the west end of the village before moving close to Barton Chapel where Mrs Farmer ran the postal services within her village shop.



The picture, from the collection of Glynis Oakley, shows Mrs Farmer outside her shop. Notice the post box to the right of the window.

The old shop looks a bit different today as a private house adjacent to Barton Chapel.



The post office moved again after the 1970s to a bungalow on Main Street which explains why the current post box is located where it is today.



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