

Alf Shields' note of John and Sarah Walker grave stones in Marton church yard

If 1953, Alf did a world tour of speedway and racing circuits. A UK newspaper article of the time about his visit noted that "[i]n England he has bought himself a second-hand car and has visited seven speedways in 10 days".

As is apparent from the card below, he had a complimentary pass to go to the Oxford Speedway on 16th July 1953.

There are notes in his handwriting on the reverse of the card (see below). (The three lines at the bottom are in his wife Dorothy's handwriting, and the line at the top is in K Palyga's handwriting, as is (probably) the words "GRAVE STONES").

This indicates that Alf decided to visit Marton, which is 47 miles north of Oxford via the A34, M40 and the A423. And that he located the gravestones of John and Sarah Walker in the "church yard".

He noted them down as "John Walker. 1879. 62 yrs" and "Sarah. 1890. 68 yrs".

On 23rd January 2023, I emailed the Marton Local History Group (admin@martonvillage.com) to request that a volunteer check to see if the headstone (or headstones) are still standing, and supply a picture if so.

