

# *Rowell Heritage*

*The Newsletter of Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre*



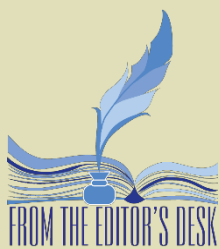
**The Market House, Rothwell**

*No 4*

*Jan-Feb 2015*

*£1.00*

*Free to Friends of the Heritage Centre.*



Welcome to the latest edition of  
**Rowell Heritage**.

The management and volunteers of the Heritage Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

We are dependent on advertisers because their financial support is vital to the funding of this newsletter. Your contribution however, is equally important so if you have anything you wish to submit for inclusion in future issues, please send it to either the manager or the editor at the address below.

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**Centre Manager**

Ray Davis

**Editor of Rowell Heritage**

Geoff Davis

[gjdavis@live.co.uk](mailto:gjdavis@live.co.uk)

I hope you enjoy this New Year edition of **Rowell Heritage** and I would like to thank all our sponsors and contributors for their support. *Editor.*

## A few words from Ray Davis

The Heritage Centre Manager.

As 2014 drew to a close, I looked back over a year during which the Arts and Heritage Centre held a variety of successful events. We held art and craft fairs, table-top sales, coffee mornings and afternoon teas. We established a vintage tea room and a community newsletter. Our latest venture is to open a shop selling Rothwell souvenirs, handmade cards for all occasions, bags, cushions and art and craft items. There is also a book swap facility available. We have developed strong links with the local schools, for example Rothwell Junior School was involved in working with the Heritage Centre and played a large part in staging an exhibition to mark the Centenary of the First World War. Pupils produced poems, artwork and poppies, all of which enhanced the exhibition and contributed to its popularity.

The Arts and Heritage Centre has also developed a Rothwell Heritage website and a new Facebook page which is full of interesting items, photographs and a programme of events. Following the success of 2014, the new year will have a full and exciting programme of events such as exhibitions and talks, art and craft fairs and displays by local artists. The Centre is also looking forward to continuing its work with local schools and supporting the community of Rothwell. The introduction of new ventures will include a film club, art groups, sewing and craft clubs and historical walks with lunch available in our vintage tea room. We have also established links with Kettering Museum which will be holding an Open Exhibition in the Heritage Centre Art Gallery in September. We will continue to offer refreshments in the vintage tea room which it is planned to open every Saturday morning.

2014 would not have been such a success without the volunteers and friends of the Heritage Centre who gave their spare time and support to keep the history of Rothwell alive. They all deserve great thanks. A special thank you must be given to Jonathan Cook of the Well and Bridge Centre for his help and enthusiasm in editing the initial editions of the 'Rowell Heritage' newsletter.

If you would like to be involved in the Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre, do call in for a chat over a coffee. With your help we can continue to grow and build on the great achievements of last year.

*Ray Davis.*





**Congratulations  
to Robert Denton who has  
been awarded the  
British Empire Medal  
(BEM)  
in the New Year Honours  
list.  
The award was bestowed  
in recognition of his  
services to the community  
in Rothwell.**

### **AN INTERESTING CHARACTER....**

The scene is Crispin Street, Rothwell in the 1950's. This is the place where we used to play - marbles, hop scotch, two ball, French cricket, just to mention a few games. In Stanley Street, just a short distance away lived an old lady, nearly always dressed in black complete with bonnet and always carried a basket. This lady had a whiskery pinched face and spoke in a squeaky voice, and to say she used to scare us was putting it mildly.

There were two shops in Crispin Street - one on the corner of Crispin Street and Rushton Road and the other on the corner of Crispin Street and Stanley Street. The latter was an outdoor beer house and going into this shop the area reeked of beers and other drink. Practically every Sunday (at lunchtime) the lady in question was seen hovering close to the door and to any person going in to the shop she would give them a copy of religious tracts. It was considered sinful to go into a shop on Sunday, especially to buy beer or minerals.

*How things have changed.*

Dorothy Knibbs (Chapman)

# Rothwell Town Council

Market House | Market Hill | Rothwell | NN14 6BW

**Tel:** (01536) 713252 **Email:** rothwell.council@gmail.com

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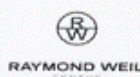


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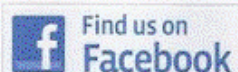
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## Snow stories from past centuries

**SNOW STORMS.**—Very heavy falls of snow in this neighbourhood have blocked the roads to several of the villages around Rothwell. Gangs of men have been employed for the past week in making passages through. Some parts are ten feet deep in snow, and distances from one to three miles have had to be cut through. The snow plough has been used on some of the roads with good effect. Bread and meat were getting scarce, and had to be conveyed in sacks on the backs of horses to the beleaguered villagers. Carts and other vehicles have been left to their fate in heavy snow drifts, and the owners thought themselves fortunate in getting home at all. Driving tandem ceased to be a novelty, and the carriers have been almost unable to carry out their engagements. The celebrated Kettering Black Lilies were announced to give a concert in aid of the Market House Completion Fund, but owing to the severe weather it had to be postponed.

*NORTHAMPTON MERCURY March 10<sup>th</sup> 1888*

**THE THAW.**—During the thaw, as Mr. Bagshaw's servant was proceeding along the street, a mass of snow fell from the roof of a house and laid her prostrate on the ground. On being raised she seemed to be much frightened by her misadventure, but it was ascertained that she had suffered no serious injury.

*NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1875*

additional imprisonment, with hard labour.—Thomas Otto Guildford, butcher, of Rothwell, was charged with assaulting an elderly man, named George Clements, Desborough, on the 23rd inst.—The Complainant stated that he was walking along the streets of Rothwell on the day in question, when the defendant came out and threw two snow balls at him. Complainant requested him to desist, saying that if he did not leave off he would be summoned before the magistrates. Defendant therefore said he would make a job of it, and he threw a lot of mingled snow and mud at complainant, and also further assaulted him.—The defendant pleaded guilty to the assault, but tried to excuse himself by saying that hundreds of others were snowballing in the street at the same time.—Defendant was fined £2 and 14s. 6d. expenses.—Henry

*NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1886*

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## **Memories from a winter past. By Stan White.**

### **'The Door with Seven Locks'**

This was a British film made in 1940, based on the story by Edgar Wallace about a mad doctor who abducts an heiress in the hope of gaining her wealth. It was an 'H' (horror) classified film and was shown at the Rothwell Cinema in the winter of 1940/41. In the film there was a tomb, with a door on which there were seven locks.

The late Dougie Bridgeman and myself, we were both only nine years old, went to see it and it really frightened us because it contained other matter which children should not see. In any event children of that age ought not to have been admitted to an 'H' film, but this was Rothwell in wartime, and no-one said anything to stop us.

There was deep snow in Rothwell that night, and it was the blackout. Fred Johnson the carpenter had just died in his bungalow home at the top of Stanley Street; he had built the bungalow himself, mainly from wood. Fred also had a corrugated iron workshop in Ragsdale Street on the right hand side just below the then gardens of what used to be the police houses in Crispin Street. In his younger days Fred had lived and worked in Canada, and he helped the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright to build their first powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in America in 1903.

The film ended, we were very frightened and cold in the snow. Dougie had to go past Fred's bungalow to get to his home in Littlewood Street. I decided to go with him as, with the thought of Fred lying dead in his bungalow, and with memories of that horror film, we were scared. I then had to pass the bungalow again, by myself, to get to my home in Stanley Street, and I recall having run home in panic through the snow past that bungalow.

The memory of a couple of scenes from that film have stuck with me over the years. I did write to the British Film Institute about it, only to be told no copy of the film existed.

I mentioned the film to a friend in Nottingham, Barry Whittingham, he looked it up for me and found that it had been released in America under the title of "Chamber of Horrors". He traced a German made film of the 1960's but that was not much help. Then in the January of 2006, Barry phoned to say he had obtained a copy of the Leslie Banks film from America. (Leslie Banks played the "Mad Doctor") and he sent me a copy on DVD. So after 65 years, the memory of that film had become reality. Viewing it now is not so much of a fright, but I can see what caused the problems for a nine year old given the above circumstances.



This story does link with the Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre because, in the late 1940's I became projectionist in the Rothwell Picture House working with the very same American Simplex projectors that had been in use when "The Door With Seven Locks" was screened. Then in about 1949 two Kalee 8 projectors were installed to replace the old Simplex models which were built to a 1916 patent (with sound added later), and I was able to obtain a lens from one of the scrapped Simplex projectors. This is now in the Arts and Heritage collection along with a photograph of the projection room taken while the Simplex projectors were still in use.

Do any of your readers remember those Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce "Sherlock Holmes Films" shown in the Rothwell Cinema? The late Percy Woolston, a school teacher, once told me that Sherlock Holmes has a direct link to Rothwell. This was because Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories had a house keeper who once lived in Rothwell and probably lived in or around Gordon or Jubilee Street. The name of the lady is not to hand and Sir Arthur died on July 7th 1930 aged 71.

*Re-printed from a 2006 Heritage Centre Newsletter with the kind permission of Stan White.*

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## **MEMORIES OF TAYLORS' FACTORY**

My mother worked at Taylors' Boot and Shoe factory which was situated opposite Madams Hill. She went to work there part-time when I was 10 years old. Her hours were from 9.00 to 12.00 and from 1.30 to 4.30. I attended Gladstone Street School which finished at 4.00pm, so on my way home I had to go into the factory to collect the key from my mum.

I loved going into the factory! Everyone greeted me – even the owners - I think it was owned by three brothers - Frank, Derek and Fred Taylor and there was a Manager – Mr. Groome. Mum worked on the top floor, so I could either go up in the clattery lift or run up the two flights of stairs. I liked messing about in the rattly, old lift, making it go up and down! Mum worked at the end of a long room, so I had to walk past all of the 'girls' on their machines to reach her. The noise of the machines, as I pushed open the door and entered the room, was deafening, and in order to have a conversation the 'girls' would have to shout to make their voices heard above the din. Sometimes the 'girls' would all be singing and I felt there was very happy, vibrant atmosphere in that room. Even the names of the 'girls' conjure up a bygone era - Flo, Madge, Doris, Eva, Win, Ethel etc. The smell of leather was unforgettable – I still love the smell of new, fresh leather....it always reminds me of Rowell and Taylors.

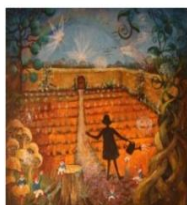
My mother was a marker. She marked the freshly cut leather, using a stencil and a pen filled with special white ink. The machinists had to follow these white markings with their stitches. The markers worked at incredible speed and at the end of the day my mum would have tiny splatterings of white ink all over her face! I was fascinated by the machinists who were extremely deft as they moved the leather about in order to place their stitches so precisely on the lines my mum had marked – they were very fast, skilful and dexterous. The 'girls' had pictures of their pin up stars next to their machines – Frankie Vaughan, Johnnie Ray and Pat Boone were very popular. They all stopped their work to talk to me when I walked through the room and they gave me sweets!

Sometimes as I walked in the factory I would find a globule of rubber solution on the floor. I would pick up these globules and squash them together to make a small ball. These balls would bounce exceptionally high and would crazily shoot off at any angle. I loved the smell of these balls and would sniff them!!! I think this could be called solvent abuse in today's language! But it certainly didn't do me any harm and in those days we knew nothing about solvent abuse.

At lunchtime my mum would cook a full hot dinner and make a pudding for me and my dad. She only had ninety minutes to do this as she had to be back at work at 1.30pm. I also had to be at Gladstone Street School at 1.30. Occasionally my mum knew that she would be late getting back to work so she would ask me to clock her in at work on my way to school. This would ensure that she didn't lose 15 minutes pay. I felt very grown up, strolling into Taylor's factory, punching in my mum's clocking in number – 181 – so that it looked as if she had arrived early; then I would run to school. How good that there were no Health and Safety regulations in those days to prevent a ten year old girl visiting her mum in the shoe factory.

Helen Cox (nee Chapman)

# the GALLERIES



Work on this page from Our Recent Exhibition

Exhibitions planned for 2015

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## **Re: Trinity Centre / Sunday School Building.**

Further to the article in the last newsletter on the use of the Sunday School building, I would like to add the following reminiscence.

During the 1940's and 1950's it was the venue for the Nursing Cadets of The St John Ambulance Brigade. We used to meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the Misses Gladys and Alice Smith being our Officers and teachers. From the age of seven, a small group of us had met weekly in their home in Desborough Road, but as soon as we were eligible to become proper cadets we met in the Sunday School building. We were divided into age groups for our instruction, and the adult nursing division also met there after our classes.

As well as being taught First Aid and Home Nursing, for which we had exams every year to keep us up to date, we were encouraged to take instructions and exams in various other subjects, the aim of which I believe was to make us better citizens. For these we were awarded badges which went towards the earning of The Grand Priors badge, the highest achievable to a cadet. The subjects I remember were Fire Fighting, Care of Animals and Citizenship, taught and examined by suitable persons. Also we had to plan a walk, walk it and produce a map and description of it, and similarly a cycle ride. These activities took second place to the primary aims of first aid and home nursing.

As we became teenagers we undertook competition work, leading to competing at local, county, district and national level. The latter we didn't reach, but one year the junior team was second in the county whilst the senior team won through to the district level. The competitions consisted of an incident (i.e. road or home accident), for the whole team to tackle. At the higher levels these were acted out by volunteers, I was fortunate enough to attend the national level one year as an observer in London. As well as the team of four's incident, there were individual questions and bandaging, and in pairs caring for a sick person in bed. For the team's incident we were coached by another officer whose favourite saying was "Take it from me it is in the book", meaning of course the first aid manual. All this for a penny each evening, (to help pay for the room).

After our class many of us would go up the steps in the Market House to change our books in the library, where we would be met by Miss Warren, shushing us as we entered. Then it was along to Munton's fish shop for three penny worth of chips and some batterbits.

Memories of a happy childhood!

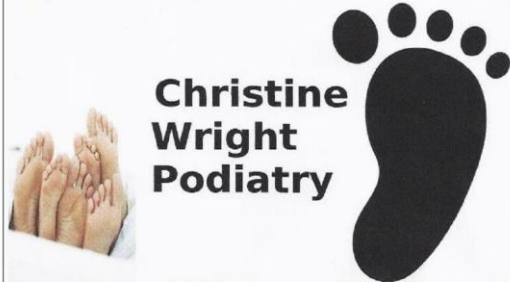
Ann Rowlett 2014.

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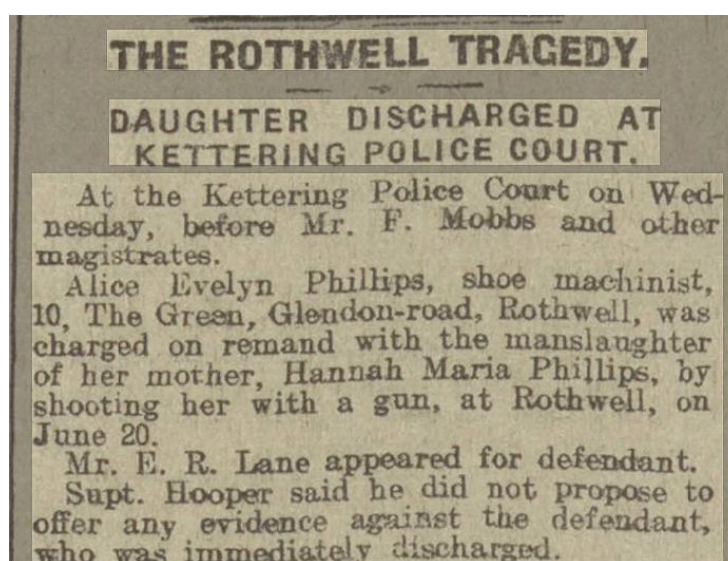
### **Tragedy of 100 years ago.**    *By Sylvia Davis*

At the time of the 1911 Census, shoe factory worker Harry Phillips and his wife Hannah Maria (nee Coe) had already faced the heartbreak of losing 3 of their 4 children. Their surviving daughter Alice Evelyn was at that time working in the corset factory. She later became an employee of Sarjeants, the boot and shoe manufacturers in Rothwell.

Then in 1915 a shocking event occurred which hit the headlines all over the country. On the morning of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Harry had been out early shooting rabbits. He placed his gun against the wall in the front room and left the house for a while. Unfortunately, 17 year old Alice picked it up and it went off in her hands. The door of the pantry was partly open and the shot passed through into the living room where it hit her mother, killing her almost instantly. PC Robinson heard the commotion and rushed to the scene. Alice had already run outside to summon help and neighbours had gathered around. She collapsed when she went back into the house and was carried away from the scene. On the Monday, Alice was taken to Kettering Police Station and was charged with the manslaughter of her mother. She appeared before Mr F. Mobbs and Mr F. Barlow. Superintendent Hooper outlined the sequence of events and PC Robinson gave a witness statement. Bail was agreed, the case was set for the following week and Frederick Barlow stood surety.

The inquest was held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Bell Inn in the presence of Mr J.C. Parker (Deputy Coroner). Dr Pitcairn confirmed that Hannah Maria had been killed by a shot to the chest and PC Robinson said that it would have been impossible for Alice to have seen where her mother was standing at the time. Harry Phillips stated that his daughter had sometimes helped him clean his gun but he couldn't remember ever having left a loaded cartridge in it before. Alice herself elected to give evidence and said that she had looked at the gun out of curiosity but didn't think she had touched the trigger. The verdict returned was that the death of Hannah Maria Phillips was as a result of wounds accidentally received from the discharge of a gun.

When the case was heard at Kettering Court, Alice was discharged.



**Northampton Mercury 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1915**

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## **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TOWNS AND VILLAGES QUIZ**

1. Single place of worship.....
2. Value of the building material.....
3. A pain in the neck.....
4. Keep working beneath the trees.....
5. After dinner tippie for the young animal.....
6. Continue to lose your feathers.....
7. Made from recycled glass perhaps?.....
8. Ancient.....
9. Five weigh 2240 lbs.....
10. Small bog.....
11. Carried on rambling.....
12. Any of these could be the way home.....
13. A small fish that weighs a lot.....
14. Ancient shellfish.....
15. Carry on with the housework.....
16. Every seven days.....
17. Encircles little Edward.....
18. Make the rockery bigger.....
19. Carried on making haste.....
20. Something to put the Churchman's coat on.....

Entries to be submitted to the Heritage Centre by  
**Saturday 21st February.**

The winner will receive  
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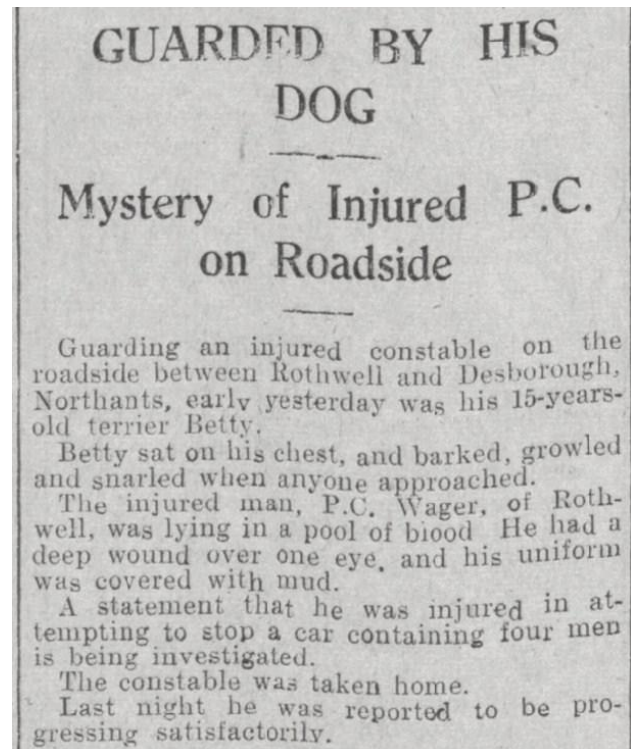
Answers to Allan's November—December quiz **CRYPTIC FLOWERS** are:  
1, Dandelion. 2, Anemone. 3, Carnation. 4, Bluebell. 5, Lily. 6, Sweet Pea.  
7, Marigold. 8, Sweet William. 9, Rose. 10, Freesia. 11, Thistle. 12, Cowslip.  
13, Hyacinth. 14, Poppy. 15, Forget me not. 16, Foxglove. 17, Crocus.  
18, Daisy. 19, Buttercup. 20, Tulip.



78 years ago, at the beginning of January, a local policeman was in the news. He was lying injured yet when anyone approached to help him, his little dog barked, snarled and growled because she was guarding him. This story was picked up by many regional papers since it had echoes of the relationship between the famous Greyfriars Bobby and his police officer master.

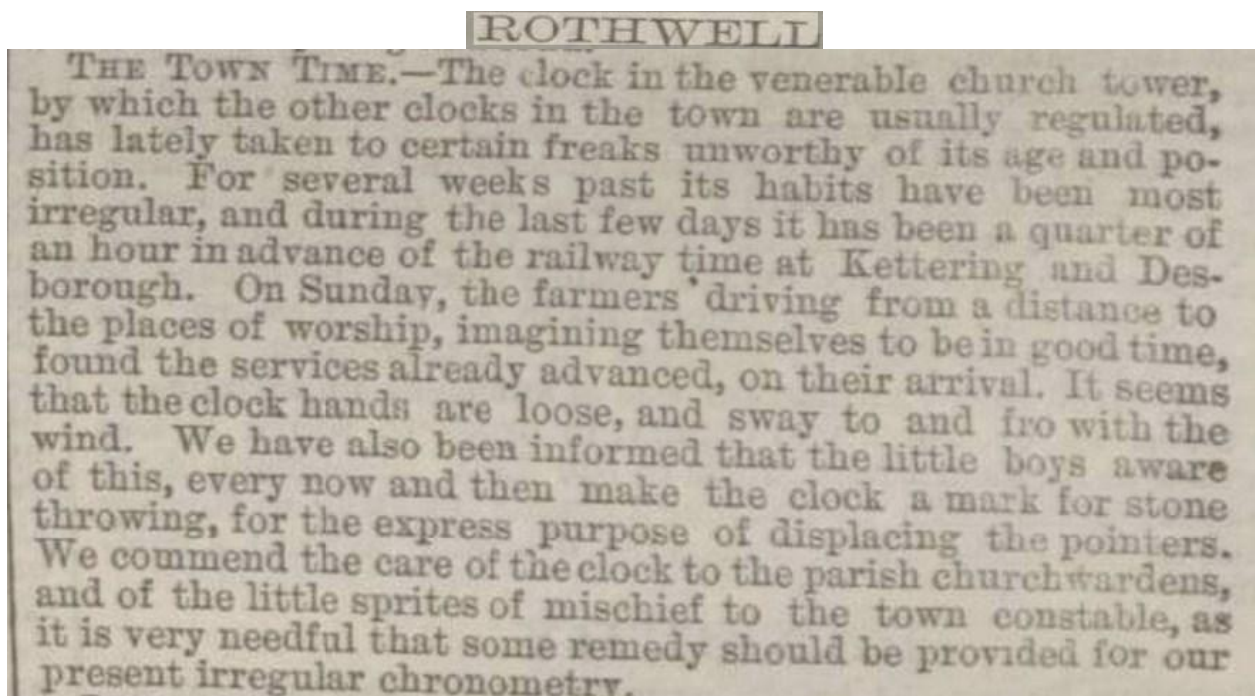


*NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1937*



*WESTERN DAILY PRESS, BRISTOL, 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1937*

140 years ago there were considerable problems caused by the irregularity of the church clock



*NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1875*

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# ROTHWELL CONSERVATIVE CLUB

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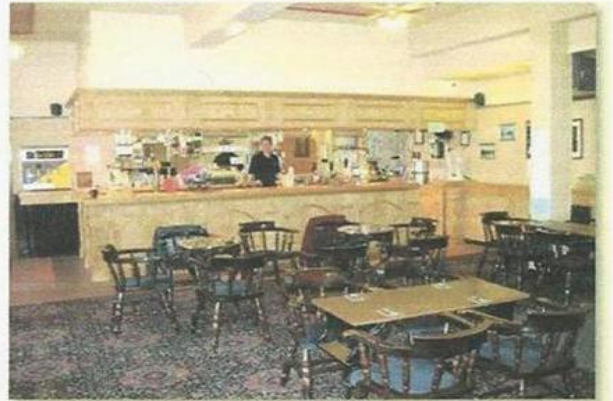
New members are most welcome. Please contact us for details.

## Entertainment in the Club:-

31st January: Ricky Swan

28th February: Jacqueline Faye

28th March: Phil Allen



## TRESHAM HALL

On the first floor of the Club is the renowned Tresham Hall which boasts one of the finest dance floors in the district.

This is for hire at a very reasonable price which includes a licensed bar and a well fitted kitchen.

For the less able bodied there is a stairlift & toilet facilities.

Why not look at our website for available dates in 2015.





## EVER THOUGHT OF VOLUNTEERING?

We welcome volunteers.

Without them the Heritage Centre could not operate.

Perhaps you could bring a particular skill to the team, or just help by making up the numbers.

If so we would love to hear from you.

If you can spare just a couple of hours a week (or more) and would like to join our friendly group, please contact the centre Manager

Ray Davis.

on

01536 711550

Or use the contact page on our website.

[www.rothwellheritage.org.uk](http://www.rothwellheritage.org.uk)

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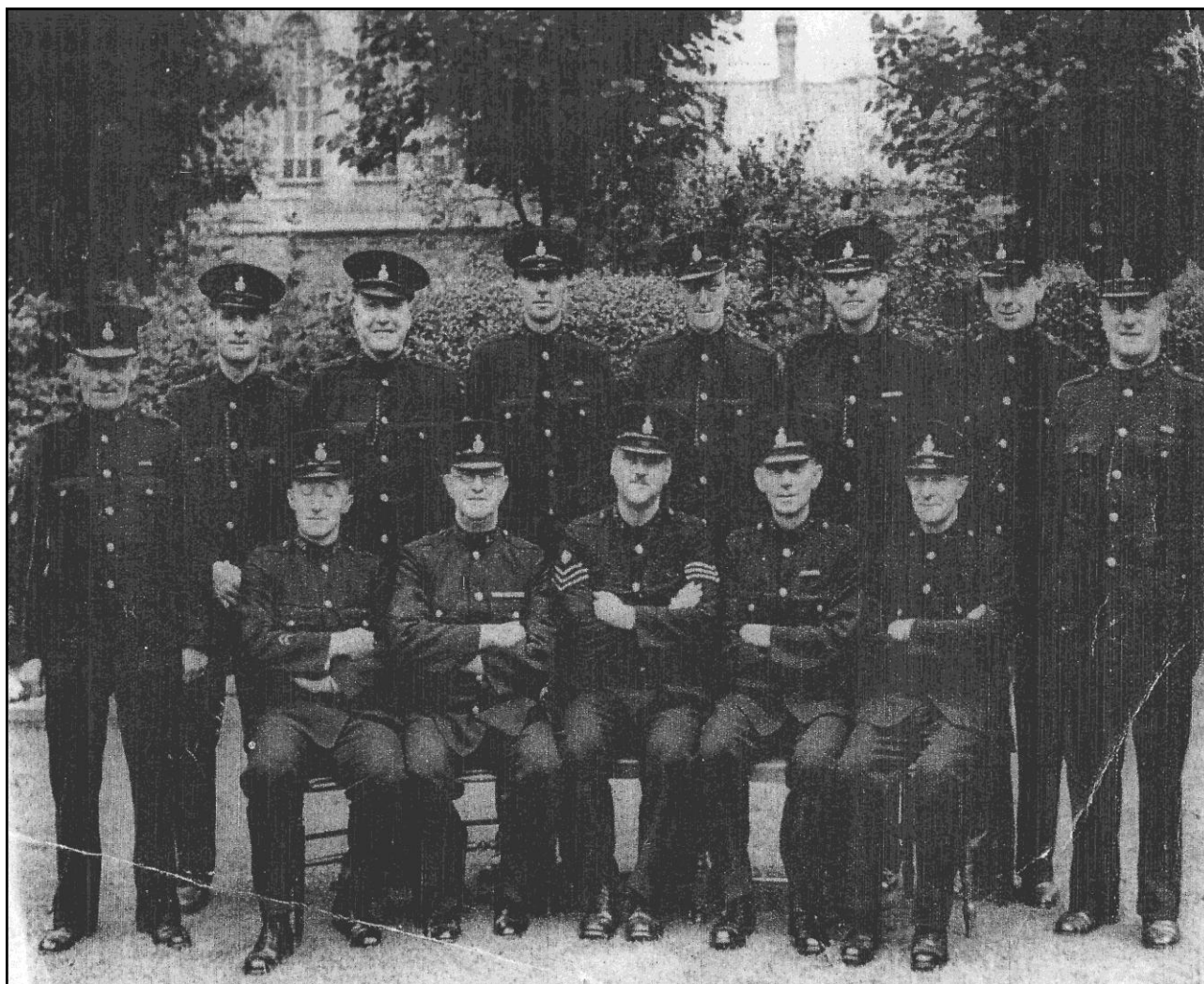
Postcode: Tel no:

Email:

**Use of your data:** Both Golden Charter and the funeral director may use your details including your email address to keep you informed about other products and services. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick here: ☐ Golden Charter and the funeral director respect your privacy and will not share your personal data with any third parties.

GC-LFT 9639





Our cover picture from the last issue was in fact  
**Rothwell Special Constables c.1942**  
 and not Rothwell Fire Brigade as reported.

Our thanks to those of you who came in to tell us of the mistake  
 and also who provided the names of the men in the picture.  
 They are: Back Row L to R: Fred Buckby, Jim Southern, ?? Mears, Harry  
 Dines, Norman Howes, Unknown, John Hodge, Ernie Gamble.  
 Front Row L to R: George Tarry, Unknown, Sgt. Bill Norton,  
 Chris Stone, ?? Buckby.

The deadline for the next issue of **ROWELL HERITAGE** will be  
 Saturday 21st February, 2015.

Please let the Heritage Centre have any articles or photographs  
 that could be carefully copied for inclusion in future issues. We  
 would also be happy if you would just like to talk to someone about  
 your memories and experiences. These reminiscences could be  
 written up on your behalf by one of our researchers.





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## 01536 418850

23 Market Hill, Rothwell. Northants. NN14 6BW

[theredlionrothwell@gmail.com](mailto:theredlionrothwell@gmail.com)



## Friends of the Heritage Centre

Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre sends best wishes to everyone for a happy and prosperous New Year. We would also like to take this opportunity to outline a few changes to our Friends membership scheme.

We are introducing a Friends of the Centre card which you will receive on payment of the subscription fee. This will display your name and can be shown to a member of staff when claiming your free Rowell Heritage newsletter. It can also be used to obtain discounts to events that are held at the centre.

It is proposed that subscriptions will be collected at the beginning of the year, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, since this will also help the centre to keep accurate records.

The cost of maintaining the Heritage Centre rose in 2014 and unfortunately the subscription had to increase to £15 to help offset this. This breaks down to £1.25 per month but of course, does include all the newsletters and discounts to various talks and events. We are always looking for ideas so do come in and let us know if there is anything you would like us to consider organising.

The Heritage Centre really does rely on its supporters so if you are able to subscribe to our Friends membership scheme we would be delighted. You will be given a warm welcome and with your help we will be able to keep the heritage of this unique town alive.

*Ray Davis.*

The Well & The Bridge Community Project | Rothwell

# We Need Volunteers



**Mission and Purpose**

Our mission and purpose as The Salvation Army in Rothwell is to be a spirit-filled Christian Church with a mission to save souls as well as putting its faith into action by providing care, support, service and friendship to both the local and other communities, and thereby sharing God's love with all people.

**Rewards**

- Personal satisfaction
- Gain valuable skills
- Meet new people
- Helping others
- Enjoy making a difference
- Learning about The Salvation Army
- Share your skills with others

**We are looking for people with:**

- Good communication skills
- The ability to work with a variety of age groups
- Availability during mornings and afternoons
- Flexibility
- Time and skills to support the work of The Salvation Army
- Commitment
- The attitude to give something back to the community
- Enthusiasm

We are looking for YOU!

For Further Information please call (01536) 711512 or (07726) 580187  
Alternatively you can write to:  
**Volunteering | 9-11 Bridge Street | Rothwell | NN14 6EW**

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Website: [www.blackandwhitesrothwell.co.uk](http://www.blackandwhitesrothwell.co.uk)

**Opening Times:** Closed Mondays, 9.00 – 4.30 Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 – 4.00 Saturday