

Rowell Heritage

The Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre Magazine



No 6

May ~ June 2015

£2.00

Free to Friends of the Heritage Centre.



Rowell Heritage Issue 6.

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

Cover Picture:
Time to Proclaim the Fair
G Davis. 2014

PRICE INCREASE

Unfortunately we have had to raise the cover price of this magazine.

This measure that has not been taken lightly and is based purely on the cost of production.

Each copy costs at least £2.00 to produce and as demand increased, we found ourselves in a situation where the more we printed the more money we lost. Obviously this could not carry on since we are trying to generate income for the Heritage Centre.

Had we continued to charge £1.00 for every issue sold, publication would have ceased very soon.

It would not be fair to ask for more money from our advertisers whose continued support is vital to the ongoing production of this magazine. We do hope that our readers will honour the businesses that sponsor us whenever they can and that the price increase will not deter anybody from purchasing 'Rowell Heritage'.

Appeal

We are so grateful to the people who have taken the time to write articles and submit photographs for publication in this magazine. These are all most welcome and will appear in future issues.

But we still need more!

Do you have any photographs, memories and family stories to share?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Please note that while we take every care to be accurate, no liability will be accepted should any of the contents of this magazine be incorrect.

811th Rowell Fair Week, Sat May 30th - Sat June 6th

Details from Sue Johnson

Enjoy the Fun of the Fair and Celebrate Rowell's Unique Heritage

Trinity Sunday

Rowell's Civic/Car Parade with marching pipe band to & from the Civic Service 1.30pm through Town to Parish Church then 2.30pm to Fairground

Traditional Blessing of the Fair 3.00pm Fairground
(Fair open after Blessing)

Fascinating free Model Exhibition All day in Tresham Hall

Entertaining Silver Band Recital 3.30pm in Methodist Church

Plus refreshments around the Town and remember that the Bone Crypt is open for viewing at Holy Trinity Parish Church

Proclamation Monday

Unique Proclamation on horseback –
the only remaining Charter Proclamation in the UK (granted 1204)
6am start at the Parish Church
Then through the Town.

The Town celebrates its Heritage
Entertainment and refreshments at various locations throughout the day.

Fair opens 6pm

Join us for these events and the week-long fair to help celebrate and continue the unique history and traditions of our Ancient Town.

.....And don't forget the tasty Rowell Fair Tart Competition judged at our own Arts & Heritage Centre on June 6th.

THE ROWELL FAIR SOCIETY – WORKING TO PRESERVE THE TRADITIONS OF OUR TOWN



ROTHWELL MANOR PARK BOWLING CLUB



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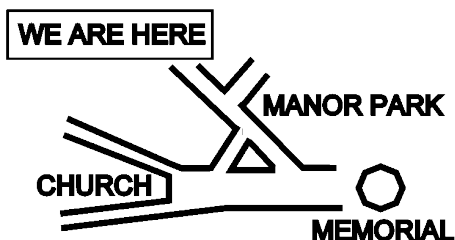
**Come along and try, the only equipment you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes,
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OPENING TIMES (Mon to Fri)

**Afternoon 2:00pm to 4:30pm
Evening 6:00pm to 8:30pm
Season starts on April 29th
Coaching starts Monday May 11th**



Club telephone number (during opening hours) 01536 711861

MEMORIES OF THE MOONROCKET

by Stan White

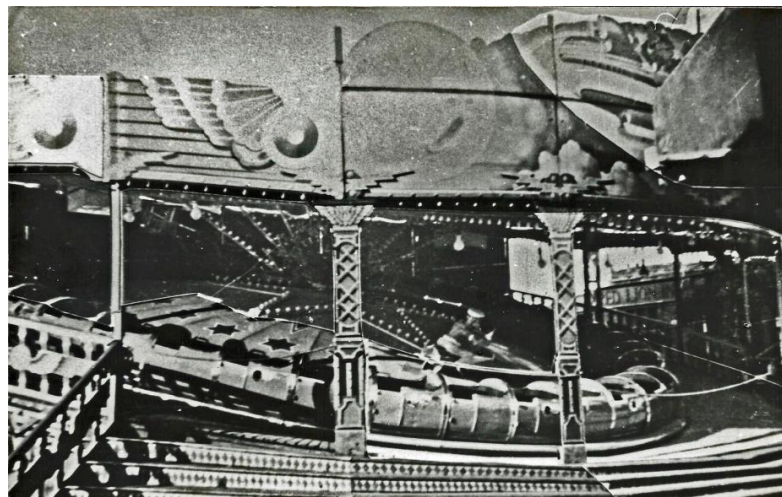
In the post war 1940s and for a decade or two afterwards, older Rothwell citizens, when talking about Rowell Fair, would often recall the George Billings Gallopers (galloping horses roundabout) which stood near to the Market House in about the same position as Thurston's Waltzer usually stands these days. The Billings Ride last attended Rowell Fair in the late 1930s after which the outbreak of war badly disrupted the activities of the travelling showmen. George Billings senior died in March 1943 and his gallopers were sold.

Albert Holland senior purchased a brand new ride in 1939; this was the British built Maxwell/Lakin 'Moonrocket' and the firm built about 14 of them. Albert took delivery of his at Easter but was only able to attend about 10 fairs with it before the war began and it had to be put into storage.

This Moonrocket had 2 small wooden rockets on opposite sides of the centre dome and these travelled in the opposite direction to the seating for the riders, giving the impression of a faster speed. Albert Holland's Moonrocket was unique because a Popeye figure rode on one wooden rocket and Olive Oyl was on the other. As far as I know, the other Moonrockets had just one figure. Throughout the war, when the Moonrocket was in storage, another Holland ride stood next to the Red Lion and I believe it was the Ark. In May 1945 the war in Europe ended and things started to get back to normal for showmen so the Moonrocket returned to the road, hauled in part by the Burrell steam traction engine "Dreadnought". Bill Mason was the driver of this engine and it stood outside the Sunday School building, generating power for the Moonrocket. The ride was so big that it filled the whole area from the Red Lion to the Market House and was very popular with the crowds. The whole theme of a moon rocket no longer seemed so far fetched due to the development of jet engines during the war and the German rockets that had been fired at this country.

Albert Holland returned his Moonrocket to the Lakin firm in part exchange for the dodgems track in 1951 and these still attend the fair today although there have been replacement sets of cars since that date. The main reason for the exchange was the sheer difficulty in erecting and dismantling such a huge ride as Moonrocket. The dodgems track is far easier to handle. Frank York looked back in 2010 on 100 years of the Holland family's attendance at the fair and stated that probably the most talked about ride they had brought to Rowell was the Moonrocket. Not many would dispute that.

It seems that the only photograph of the Moonrocket in Rothwell is the one I took when I was 16 in 1948. It was about 7.20am after the Proclamation and I used a British post war Coronet Cub Camera. The light was very contrasty, making it a difficult negative to print to show all the detail, but thank goodness I took it since there is no other known shot of the entire front of this ride at Rowell Fair.



THE OTHER ROWELL FAIR *By Stan White*

The Fote Fair was held during the week following the real fair and it was organised by children. It took place along the wall of the Avalon Shoe Factory in Cross Street and cigarette cards (called 'fag cards' in the war) were used as money. During the 1940s there were dart boards, coconut stalls (tins full of soil as well as coconuts) and many other activities with fag cards used both for payment and as prizes. I guess that this Fote Fair started in the 1930s when all the cigarette packets contained a card and smoking was widespread. I have it on good authority from my son Gary that the Cross Street Fair lasted until about 1972. I took some photographs of it in 1968 (see below).

Opposite the Avalon Factory in wartime there was an area of waste ground on which a huge round water tank was built for use in the event of their top and bottom factories (and also Taylor's factory) being bombed and set on fire. Children would throw stones across the water, skimming the surface to see how many times they would bounce before sinking.....about 3 times with luck! The houses and gardens of 5 and 7 Crispin Street are now on that ground. The late Bernard Chambers and Warren Eagle and their families were long time residents.



The case of the drunken bell ringer.....

Assaults.—William Essam, of Thorpe Malsor, labourer, was charged by W. Maunsell, Esq., churchwarden of the parish, with assaulting him on the 14th June. Defendant is one of the bell-ringers, and on the day stated was in the belfry jingling the bells to celebrate Rowell fair, but was unable to ring owing to his being intoxicated. Plaintiff thought his conduct very indecorous, and wished him to leave the place, which he refused to do, acting in a very rough and insulting manner, and assaulting complainant by striking him on the head. The bench said it was a very great offence towards a gentleman whom he was bound to respect, they should therefore inflict such a fine as would cause him to remember his disgraceful conduct. To pay £.1 11s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. expenses. The money was paid.

Northampton Mercury 3rd July 1853

CROSS STREET FAIR

By Helen Brown (nee Chapman)

Cross Street Fair or 'Fote Fair' took place the week after Rowell Fair. How it originated, no-one knows, but it continued for quite a number of years, through the fifties and early sixties, and I think generated more excitement for the children who lived near to Cross Street, than the real Rowell Fair. Lots of discussion took place beforehand concerning making stalls and trying to create a stall different from everyone else's. Parents were consulted and drafted in to help manufacture imaginative stalls which were planned weeks ahead. We made placards to advertise our stalls. This fair lasted for five days – Monday to Friday after the real fair. Money did not change hands, but 'fotes' were used as the currency. 'Fotes' were found in all cigarette packets – Players, Wills, Benson and Hedges etc. These are now highly collectable and one was even sold for over two million U.S. dollars in 2007! We children all tried to collect a whole set, which usually consisted of 25 or 50 related subjects. I particularly liked the birds, butterflies and flowers but the boys tended to collect aeroplanes, cars, military figures or sportsmen.

My sister Joan remembers how one year, Pat Eden decided he would read the Proclamation and officially open the Cross Street Fair. I recently spoke to Pat about this and he said that his dad gave him a top hat to wear for the occasion and that his dad kept this special hat in a leather hat box. Pat also remembered that he wore some other fancy regalia and that he rode around for this proclamation on a chassis. Lots of boys, in the fifties owned a chassis, which was made of a few pieces of wood and four old pram wheels. It could be steered by a piece of rope which was attached to the strut linking the two front wheels. Pat says that his friends pulled him from his house at number 50 Crispin Street, up Rushton Road, along Littlewood Street and then down Stanley Street and along Crispin Street to the bottom of Cross Street where the fair was held. My sister Joan remembers how she and lots of children followed Pat on his chassis as he rode around the streets, stopping every so often to read his version of the Proclamation. I imagine Pat looked a bit like The Pied Piper!! Joan said it was very exciting, as children came from all over Rothwell for this special proclamation.

The stalls for 'Fote Fair' would be near the walls of The Avalon Boot and Shoe factory – 'bottom shop', as it was then known. Children came from the other side of the town to try their hand on the stalls, paying with 'fotes' in order to try to win more 'fotes'. There could be as many as forty children shouting and yelling in excitement at the Cross Street Fair. There were many types of stalls – old weighted tins would be used as a coconut shy and the kids would throw balls at them to knock them down; I had some wooden bridges which my dad had found in some packing cases at work - each bridge would have a number and children who could roll the marbles under the bridges and gain a total above a certain number would win some 'fotes'. When anyone won, I would always give them old, scruffy 'fotes' as their prize, keeping the pristine 'fotes' for myself! Other stalls would be darts, bagatelle, a type of roll-a-penny game, hoopla, games using magnets, throwing balls into a bucket and one enterprising group of children even had a refreshment stall. The stall-holders would be shouting out in broad Rowell accents – 'Cumon ave a goo! It unee costs a fote! Ave a try! Roll up! Roll up!'

I used to get to Cross Street as early as I could to make sure that I got a good place for my stall. Kids would vie with each other for the best pitch. So, for the duration of Cross Street Fair, all of the stallholders would gobble their tea as quickly as they could in order to set up their stall at the best spot. I cannot remember it ever raining during this week and have happy recollections of light, warm, balmy evenings for this fair. I think any child who lived within the vicinity of Cross Street in the fifties or early sixties would agree with me that 'Fote Fair' was far more exciting and much more fun than the real fair!

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ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Information supplied by David Rhinds

Rothwell Corinthians celebrated their 80th anniversary in 2014, having begun to play competitive football in 1934 when they joined the Kettering and District Amateur League. The idea of the team was first put forward in a terraced house in Littlewood Street. At that time the league had three divisions and Corinthians were placed in the second.

When football resumed after the war, the Corinthians were playing at the old recreation ground. This venue was their headquarters for the best part of the next 20 years. Their first reserve team was introduced into the league in 1950 and nine years later they brought the first league honours back to the Club when they became Champions of Division Three. The following season was a great success with the first team winning the First Division Championship and they repeated this feat in 1964. Relegation soon followed however, and by the end of the decade the team found themselves in the Third Division.

It was not until 1979 that Corinthians began to get themselves noticed again when they were promoted to the First Division and also reached the N.F.A. Area Cup Final. The 1980/81 season marked the emergence of the club as we know it today and the move to Rothwell Town's Cricket Ground brought about a more professional approach to the organisation. In addition, the league had re-styled itself as the East Midlands Alliance and had raised its standards, - a move much appreciated by the Corinthians. In 1984 they gained promotion to the Premier Division and at the same time, the Club purchased the land on which the present facilities are located. An official opening was performed by Northampton Town in 1988.

Season 1989/90 saw the Corinthians lift their first Premier Division Championship. Then in 1994/95 they secured their second Premier Championship, and after consultation with the United Counties League Management Committee, promotion was secured. Success since 2000 has seen the club accepted into the F.A. Vase and F.A. Cup. There have been three appearances in the Northamptonshire Junior Cup Final: - 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2007/08, with Corinthians lifting the cup at the last of these.

The Reserves have also enjoyed a promotion and won the U.C.L. Reserve Supplementary Cup.

A brief three season spell in the U.C.L. Premier League followed promotion under Frank Ielapi and Paul Smith but successive managers couldn't stop Corinthians falling back into Division 1. Since that time there have been several managerial changes and everyone is now pleased to have Shaun Sparrow at the helm of the first team with Lee Ainsworth and Steve Malone in charge of the reserve team.

Rothwell Corinthians now also have teams in the Northants Senior Youth League East Division and there is a women's team playing in the East Midlands Regional League Division 1, plus a reserve team playing in the Northants Women and Girls' League.

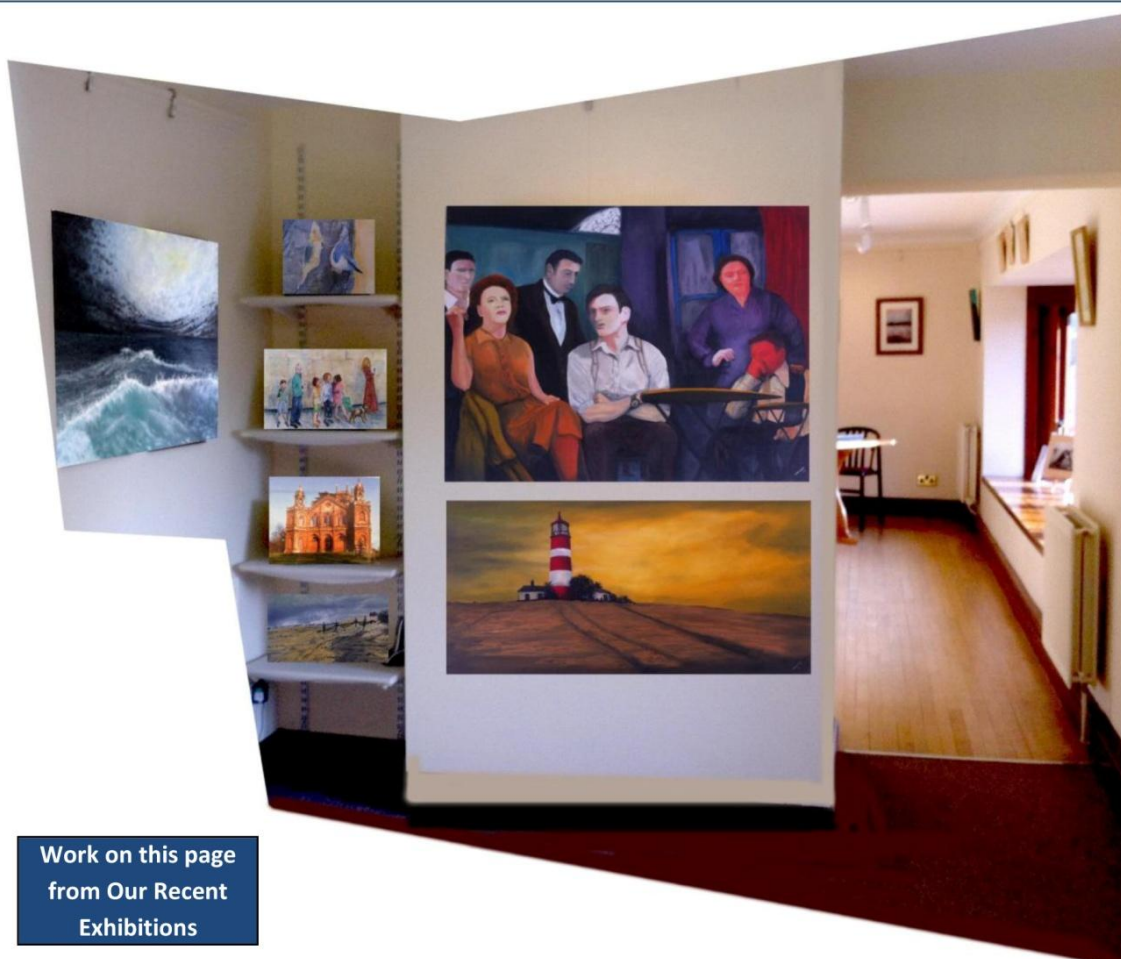
Admission to First Team matches is £5.00 for Adults & £2.50 for Concessions. For Reserve fixtures it is £3.00 & £1.50 while for Under 18s games it is £2.00 & £1.00. Match Programmes are issued for First Team games and these are included in the admission price. There is a cash bar facility open before and after all matches as well as at half-time, while hot refreshments are available at the interval.

For the latest news, views, fixtures & results please visit the official website which is www.rothwellcorinthians.co.uk or send specific enquiries via e-mail to corinthsofficial@gmail.com

STOP PRESS Congratulations to the Corinthians who secured a return to the U.C.L. Premier League after an absence of 4 years following a win over Irchester on Saturday April 25th.



the GALLERIES



Work on this page
from Our Recent
Exhibitions

We are grateful to **DEREK MOONEY** for exhibiting at
short notice during April

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- The Gallery takes a commission on all work sold

at Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre

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Trip to Switzerland 1963

Eileen Wallace.(nee Streather.)

During Easter in 1963 a group of Rowellian teenagers left by coach for their first ever holiday abroad. About 20 were members of the Parish Church Youth Club and a few were from the Congregational Church YC. Before we left we had a talk by a local doctor about sensible health and hygiene; mundane though it might sound, this all added to the build up of excitement.

We were heading for Wilderswil in Switzerland by coach and by train, bravely led by Mr Robert Denton and Miss Betty Copley. We did not have sleeping compartments, nor were there 'trains à grande vitesse' - at least, if there were, we could not afford them. In order to try and get some sleep during part of the long journey south through France, ingenuity crept in. We girls piled the suitcases in the gap between the bench seats so that some could lie stretched across the seats but, because the compartment was not wide enough for all the sardines, taking it in turns, two climbed on to the luggage racks!

The hotel was a large wooden, typical Swiss chalet, so the floors creaked. Here was the first time I tasted yogurt. This was really exotic to one who had never travelled further than Cornwall or the Isle of Wight - this was something I understood was staple food for the people of Mongolia - although what we ate was in fact akin to that which we buy today.

We went for walks; we saw the famous mountains of Jungfrau, Mönch and Eiger during our 10-day stay. We visited Wengen, Grindelwald, Lauterbrunnen and the Trümmelbach waterfalls; we went to Interlaken and the Blausee (Blue Lake). I believe we visited Kandersteg and certainly had a ride on a chairlift: sometimes just a few feet, sometimes a looong way above the ground, it was thrilling to be carried silently through the air. There was still snow on the ground. But the highlight of it all was the visit to Jungfrauoch. This journey took us by train, up incredible slopes, way above the snowline to over 10,000 feet. We had to get out at Kleine Scheidegg to change trains and, in this snowy paradise were people actually skiing! How I longed to be able to do that but I would have to wait quite a few more years yet

On we went, up and up; the temperature at the top was so cold but the sun shone from a deep blue sky and we, from a platform, had an eagle's eye view of real mountains and glaciers! - slow-moving rivers of ice, full of crevasses where they flexed and stretched to creep round curves, grinding up rock, creating moraine. We went into the ice palace, carved, I believe out of bluish glacial ice, with pillars and so on, seeming as solid a construction as any building. How exciting was that.

But, you know, that talk about health and hygiene did not mention one problem - the travel bug. I was smitten right from the start. All these years later, notwithstanding the fact that I have been lucky enough already to have visited all seven continents, I still yearn to see more of the world. I thank my parents, Miss Copley, Mr Denton and Rothwell for this wonderful opportunity!



L -R: Eileen Streather, Peter Loke,(partly hidden) Miss Betty Copley, Jeannette Mullins, Jimmy Yeomans, Brian Perkins, Rosemary Jones, Roy Houghton, Keith Brown. (Bob Denton's hat & shoulder are just visible).

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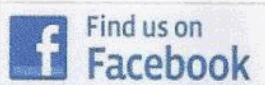
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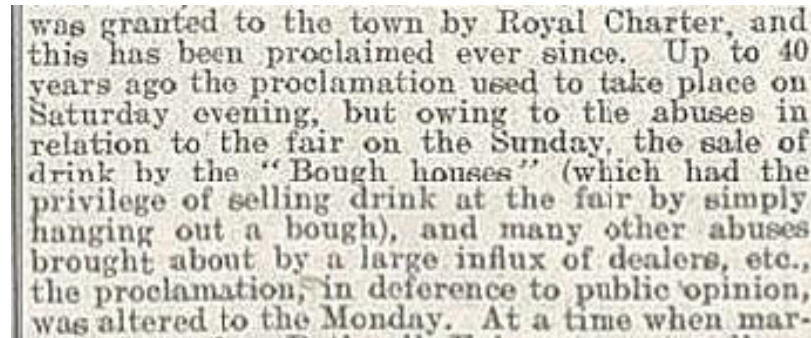
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A GLIMPSE OF ROWELL FAIR THROUGH THE YEARS by Sylvia Davis

For centuries, the Proclamation of the Fair took place on the Saturday nearest to Whitsun. This regularly resulted in a drink fuelled and rowdy Sunday so it was eventually decided that the day should be changed to the Monday morning following Trinity Sunday.



was granted to the town by Royal Charter, and this has been proclaimed ever since. Up to 40 years ago the proclamation used to take place on Saturday evening, but owing to the abuses in relation to the fair on the Sunday, the sale of drink by the "Bough houses" (which had the privilege of selling drink at the fair by simply hanging out a bough), and many other abuses brought about by a large influx of dealers, etc., the proclamation, in deference to public opinion, was altered to the Monday. At a time when mar-

Northampton Mercury 31st May 1907

Below is an evocative description of the fair in 1858:

Sunday last being a remarkably fine day, vast numbers from here and the surrounding locality trudged to Rothwell, some no doubt with a view of paying their friends an anniversary visit during the fair. A number of stalls containing eatables and sweetmeats were opened, to the delight of the many who eagerly purchased pop to allay thirst after a toilsome journey beneath a burning sun and dusty roads. Some of the visitors however, having a predilection for something more substantial, entered bough and public houses, where they were regaled with beef, ham, ale and porter, while the more gentle class chose to indulge in their favourite beverage, tea. On the following morning, from daybreak until ten, vehicle after vehicle, in quick and rapid succession, dashed through Kettering en route for Rothwell Fair, which had now begun in good earnest, in addition to which hundreds of pedestrians, in high state of perspiration, hurried off to the scene of mirth and glee. The weather being fine it was an unusually large fair. A great amount of stock was exhibited, some of which were really fine specimens of breed, many of them finding ready purchasers at rather a discount on former prices. The show of horses was also numerous, and a goodly number of them, with the addition of Welsh ponies, sold well. There was a great quantity of sheep, many of them possessing fine specimens of breed, but which also sold rather under former prices. Tuesday was well thronged with pleasure seekers, and both on the evenings of this and the preceding one the merry dance was exercised in and carried out with no small share of vigour at all the public houses, bough houses, and private residencies, until a late hour, or rather in several instances until the following morning. Some suspicious characters were observed, but the vigilance of the several policemen present kept them at abeyance, and all, it is said, passed off quietly. *Northampton Mercury 5th June 1858*

In 1877 it was reported that the trading of horses, cattle and sheep concluded earlier than usual and there followed a description of the rest of the scene:

The tide of humanity flowed towards the pleasure fair on the Market Hill, which became to a surging crowd the scene of noise, gaiety and excitement. The ground was occupied as usual by a large number of stalls and booths, where a lively trade was kept up by the sale of toys, sweetmeats, gingerbread, nuts and other articles of a like kind desiderated by the juvenile portion of the community. Swings and roundabouts were kept constantly going. Aunt Sally was in much request. Payne's Theatre, the fat woman, weighing 40 stone, and the dwarf, and the professor of the conjuring art, all obtained a large share of patronage, while six donkeys ran to and fro between the Market Hill and the end of the town with boys and girls on their backs, who enjoyed the privilege at the moderate charge of a penny a ride. *Northampton Mercury 2nd June 1877*

The fair of 1899 was marked by a couple of incidents which were recorded in the Northampton Mercury of 22nd June as follows:

‘Mrs Essex, a widow who keeps a shop in Bridge Street, had cooked a large ham in readiness for sale at the fair and placed it in her back kitchen on Friday week to cool, but on Saturday morning when she went to fetch it, the ham was missing and nothing has been ascertained at present concerning it’.

‘A serious accident occurred to a load of visitors to the fair on Sunday. While driving at a rapid rate the tail-board of the cart came down, throwing the three occupants with great force to the ground, one of whom was picked up insensible. He was taken to a neighbouring hostelry where he at length recovered sufficiently to be taken home’

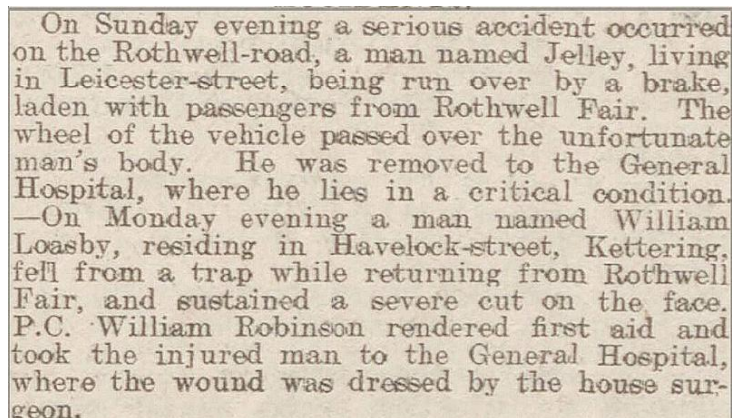
This particular fair was attended by a very large crowd and after the proclamation had been read by Mr Willis in Bell Hill, the procession made its way to the newly created recreation ground. Frederick Barlow, Chairman of the Urban District Council, announced the opening of the park with its swimming baths and said that these would be available to those who had no dread of cold water. The park had been secured by the Council on a 21 year lease at a peppercorn rent from the Maunsell family, and Cllr Barlow stated that he ‘hoped the present Council and its successors would do all they could to improve the grounds and beautify it and make it a credit to the town and conducive to the better health of the people’.

The fair of 1901 was notable in that Queen Victoria had died on 22nd January and the bailiff, Isaac Willis, had a few stumbles when he had to refer to the new king each time he read the proclamation. The Northampton Mercury of 7th June 1901 reported:

‘After being accustomed to declare the fair open for so many years in the name of the Queen, it was only to be expected that the aged bailiff would somehow get confused over the change in monarchs and on two or three occasions a perceptible slip was noticed. The old insignia of office which has probably been in use for centuries, has at last been dispensed with, and the herald bore a new staff, elegantly surmounted by the Royal Arms, and bearing the name of King Edward VII’. It was also recorded that ‘a large force of police was drafted into the parish, under Superintendent Andrews, the Grammar School being utilised as a police station’.

The following year, 1902, also saw changes to the proclamation because the Lord of the Manor, Captain John Borlase Maunsell Tibbetts, had died on 17th January. His successor, Lieutenant Cecil Maunsell was therefore addressed in the speeches but he actually missed the fair due to his being on active service with the Imperial Yeomanry (2nd Boer War).

By 1907, the UDC had decided that Rothwell could no longer cope with the large influx of cattle and horses in the streets and they were largely confined to a field off Castle Hill. Isaac Willis still presided as bailiff but by now was being driven in a horse and trap from where he read the proclamation. That year was marred by a couple of unpleasant accidents which illustrate the dangers of horse transport.



On Sunday evening a serious accident occurred on the Rothwell-road, a man named Jelley, living in Leicester-street, being run over by a brake, laden with passengers from Rothwell Fair. The wheel of the vehicle passed over the unfortunate man's body. He was removed to the General Hospital, where he lies in a critical condition. —On Monday evening a man named William Loasby, residing in Havelock-street, Kettering, fell from a trap while returning from Rothwell Fair, and sustained a severe cut on the face. P.C. William Robinson rendered first aid and took the injured man to the General Hospital, where the wound was dressed by the house surgeon.

Northampton Mercury 31st May 1907

Isaac Willis died in Northampton in 1913 at the age of 79. Joseph Hall who read the proclamation at the fair that May was the first new bailiff for 50 years.

The photo of Mr J Hall (below) appeared in the Northampton Mercury of 23rd May 1913.



ROTHWELL.
FIRE AFTER THE FAIR.
Considerable damage was done to Messrs. Holland's picture show by fire in the early hours on Sunday morning. A large caravan, containing an organ, a piano, and parts of the covering, was being moved at the conclusion of Rothwell Fair on Saturday to a site in Cecil-street, when the vehicle burst into flames. Though the Fire Brigade were summoned, their efforts were handicapped by lack of water, and ultimately the outbreak was overcome by means of patent extinguishers. Damage was done to the piano and the front of the organ amounting to £300. The organ was valued at £1,000.

The following year there was a rather dramatic fire. *Northampton Mercury 19th June 1914*

In 1922 Reg Hall became bailiff and in 1925 he ended up reading the proclamation on foot. His horse had been so unsettled by the noise of the event that it was deemed safer for him to dismount and walk.

RESTIVE STEED THAT SPOILED CEREMONY.
Rothwell's old chartered Fair, which has outlived its aforetime rival in popularity—Boughton Green Fair—attracted many hundreds of visitors from far and near on Monday, to witness the time-honoured ceremony of the Proclamation of the Fair by Mr. R. Hall, bailiff to the Lord of the Manor.
This functionary was, in accordance with custom, mounted on a white horse, and was escorted by eight halberdiers. Unfortunately the ceremony was this year marred a little by the fact that the mount used by the bailiff, though borrowed for the occasion from one of the amusement caterers, was so nervous of the noise and bustle that Mr. Hall, after only completing a part of the duty, found it advisable to dismount and walk round to the points at which the Proclamation is declared.
Though there were many people present at the ceremony and there was plenty of excitement manifest, some of the old residents and visitors were to be heard deploring the fact that "things were nothing like they used to be." And this can well be believed, seeing that before the opening hours of licensed houses were restricted as they now are, this early morning ceremony usually finished up with a good proportion of the crowd getting themselves into such a condition that further active participation in the day's events was not an easy matter.

Northampton Mercury 12th June 1925

Below is an article from 1938

ROTHWELL'S CHARTER FAIR

OBSERVING OF ANCIENT CEREMONY

Crowds from a wide area thronged around the Lord of the Manor's bailiff (Mr. Reg. Hall) when he proclaimed Rothwell's ancient Charter Fair early on Monday. Mr. Hall, wearing his customary top-hat, and mounted on a charger, was accompanied by a party of halberdiers with their staves of office and the charter was read at various vantage points followed on each occasion by the singing of the National Anthem.

The fair unofficially opened on Saturday when good business was done by proprietors of the pleasure fair, the roundabouts, etc., taking up their usual positions in the main streets of the town.

There were special services at the places of worship on Sunday, and the Rev. L. A. Ewart (vicar of Earls Barton) preached at the usual "Blessing the Fair" service for which one of the roundabouts was used as a pulpit.

Band concerts are also again features of the Fair, which will occupy all this week.

At one time there was a large horse sale in connection with the Fair but very little business in this connection is now done.



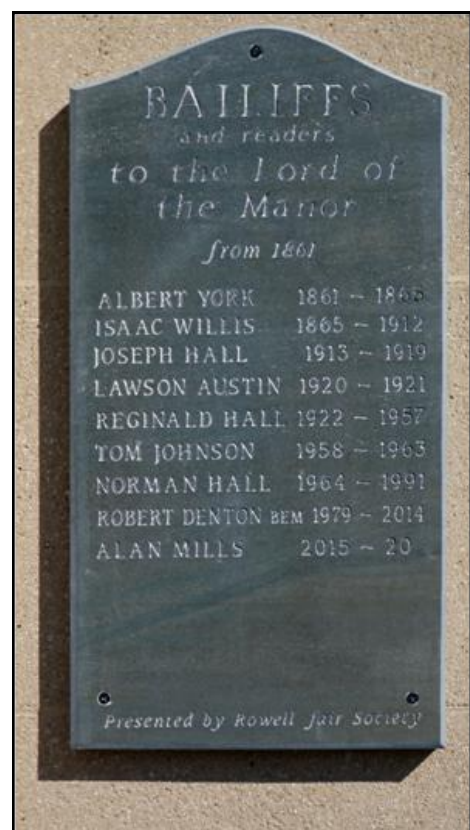
MR. REG HALL chaired by enthusiastic supporters of Rothwell Fair after his reading of the Fair Charter on Monday morning.

Northampton Mercury 17th June 1938

The fair continued throughout the Second World War just as it had during the First but the crowds at the proclamation were sparser since a great many of the town's young men were serving in the forces. The pubs and clubs were also unable to extend their licensing hours because Kettering Justices had turned down the application due to the national emergency.

During the 1950s, the popularity of the fair grew again and there were many newspaper reports of the fun and games that took place, with the bailiff and his halberdiers frequently getting covered with bags of flour. Many local people have fond memories of this time and are most welcome to send them in.

It is fitting that a plaque displaying the names of all the Bailiffs and Readers since 1861 has recently been mounted outside the Conservative Club.





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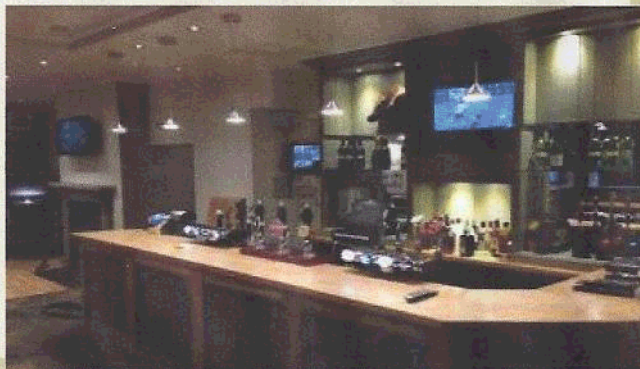
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My first work experience

by David York

"Your Dad's left his sandwiches. Pop down to the factory and hand them over". I'd done this operation several times and knew the procedure, although it was no mean distance to the factory – it was across the fields from Glendon Road, thru' the Rec. & on towards the Mounts & down the gulley to Gordon Street. Outside of the building I'd have to look through a certain window which was stained with dirt and covered with a wire mesh and wave my hands around to attract his attention. He was working away on one of these rattling machines that stitched the soles of the shoes and he would come outside into the yard in his leather apron and brown smock and take the sandwiches off me.

"No place for you, son", he would often say. My Mum would nod in agreement and yet, no sooner had I left school, my Mum would go on at me "You've got to get a job. We can't have you hanging around the house all day – you've got to start work and help provide for the household". So she took me off to the Faringdon, situated at the bottom of The Avenue to see Harry Cross. He was one of the directors and also my Methodist Church Sunday School Superintendent. The idea in Mum's head was 'he knows you, so he'll give you a job', but Harry said that there were no vacancies. So she took me off to Grocock's where my Dad worked and we sat patiently waiting for someone to see us. Arthur Willis, who was foreman of the Clicking/Press Room came in and offered me a job on the spot, starting immediately. I was to work with a guy called Jack Curtis in the leather store. It was late July 1963 and I was sixteen.

Jack was a kindly man in his mid 50s – a bit grumpy – he grunted a lot, but showed me the ropes. He had a bad back and it was no surprise when I saw what we had to do. Vans would reverse up the yard, the rear doors would be opened and we had to grab hold of these huge bale sacks of leather rolls and hump them up and over the loading bay opening then haul them in and across the concrete floor. Some would contain up to nine or ten rolls of leather so they could easily have weighed between twelve and fifteen stone. Then we would have to cut open the bales, take out the rolls and house them on racks inside the back of the store each with its own location number which we would jot down in the register.

Derek Tibbett, the Clicking/Press Room Leather Supervisor, would come down the tunnel from the factory and take appropriate supplies of leather from the store, vet them for blemishes and issue sheets to the clickers who would cut the leather into various shoe shapes inside the Clicking Room. This room would buzz with activity and chatty banter. There was a whole lot of camaraderie going on between the workers. I can only remember a few names – Mr Yarrow, the Starkey twins, Fred Grantham (the electrician and maintenance engineer), Graham Johnson, Norman Charlton and Ray Righton. Derek and a few others would pop down to the leather store during the tea breaks to eat their sandwiches, have a chat and a smoke.

I only worked there for five months and towards the end of that time the price of leather must have fallen sharply as the Buying Department must have been doing a lot of bulk buying as the deliveries just came in one after another for days on end. We were piling the leather rolls everywhere. It was so bad that it creased poor ol' Jack and he had to have several days off with his bad back.

It was during this time when I was working on my own with leather all over the place, that I walked a gentleman with a dark brown suit and black rimmed glasses looking a bit like Denis Norden (of 'out-takes' fame). He appeared to be looking for something. I was to later learn that this was the Managing Director, Mr Irving Grocock. He approached me and asked if I'd seen a special delivery. Well, it happened that I'd spotted some high quality burgundy brown leather a day or so ago from a Northampton tanning company called Peebody & Brown (or something similar to that) and I asked him whether this was what he meant. "Probably", he said, "have you any idea where it is?" I checked the register and it drew a blank – all the locations were full, so it was out there amongst the general overflow of leather. However, I had an idea where I had put it and went straight over to a section by the back wall where leather rolls were propped up against a work bench. I moved half a dozen rolls away from the bench and there it was underneath, on top of yet another pile of leather. "That's it – thank you very much" he said and walked off. I had no idea whether I had impressed him or not, but it had made my day.

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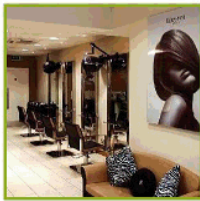
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Music at Holy Trinity Church

Rothwell was extremely privileged during the late 1950s in receiving annual visits from the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The then vicar, Canon George F. Turner, was an acquaintance of its conductor, Sir Adrian Boult, and each year they would give a concert in Rothwell Church. My family and I attended all of them and looking back I am amazed that concerts of this calibre were held in our little town: however the church provided a fantastic venue both visually and acoustically. It was there I first heard 'The Lark Ascending' by Vaughan Williams, with the orchestra's leader, Jean Pougnet, as the soloist. To this day the only vinyl record I keep as a memento of my early days listening to music with my father is a recording of Pougnet with the LPO.

Canon Turner was an imposing figure and lived with his wife Rose and son Christopher in the old vicarage in Bridge Street, later Rothwell House Hotel. My family's church loyalties were divided at that time: my mother and sister Jenifer attended Holy Trinity Church, whilst my father (Brian Austin) and I went to the Congregational Church where Dad was for a while Superintendent of the Sunday School. My sister recalls that George Turner had a lovely singing voice and that many times at Evensong he would treat the congregation to a rendition of 'The Old Rugged Cross' from the pulpit, insisting on singing all the verses, whilst my sister was itching to get home to watch the Sunday Play.

Susan Hill (née Austin)



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Visit by Jim Dale



Jim Dale made a most welcome impromptu visit to the Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre on 12.04.15 to see the room dedicated to his career. He performed his highly acclaimed one man show (Just Jim Dale) at the Corby Cube on the 11th & 12th of April, prior to its West End run at the Vaudeville Theatre in London from May 26th until June 20th.

At the time of writing, tickets are still available at the Vaudeville Theatre.

Jim's visit was attended by members of his family, his directors, and pianist. Rothwell's Mayor and Mayoress, the Lord of the Manor and her Bailiff were also present as were the Centre's volunteers.

Members of Jim's entourage are pictured here alongside his brother Mick. They are L to R: Richard Maltby Jr (Director), Mark York (Pianist), Aaron Gandy (Musical Director) and Mick Smith.



*Jim with:
Cllr Roger Wilson (Mayor)
Mrs. Jenny Wilson (Mayoress)
Cllr Alan Mills (Bailiff)*

*He was also introduced to
Zandra Powell (Lord of the Manor).*



Jim with his brother Mick Smith who has loaned all of the exhibits



Pictures: **G Davis**

Letters Page

Heritage Centre Manager Ray Davis received an email from Jim Dale on his return to New York:

From: "Jim Dale"
Date: 16 April 2015 21:11:33 BST
To: "Raymond Davis"
Subject: RE: Visit

Hi Ray,

My visit is now such a lovely memory. What a great job all of you have done. It is truly a wonderful exhibition with many photos and posters I had never seen before. It brought back so many memories from long ago, family photos, early Music Hall days, pop singing etc., etc.

Perhaps there will be a chance of a return visit with my wife later in the year, no promises though.

I am just so very honoured that you have given my theatrical memorabilia a permanent home at your delightful Centre, and I hope Mick will be adding to it for many years to come.

Thank you again,
Jim

The Editor,
Rowell Heritage

Dear Sir,

I was very interested recently to read an article in your magazine, Rowell Heritage:
The United Reformed Church, Rothwell by Melanie Walker.

In 1994 my father, George Streather, published a book about the Church's history. Two earlier histories were produced in 1729 and 1870, so he felt it was time for a new attempt. In addition to the evidence provided by the Church's own records starting in 1655, he travelled all over the country, wrote many letters and made lots of phone calls, consulting archivists, historical records, university libraries etc. to achieve this work with the best accuracy possible for the long period of time covered.

It occurs to me that if anyone reading Ms Walker's article would be interested in reading and learning more about the struggles of the early members and onwards of this establishment, important in terms not only of non-conformism but also in terms of the town, the county, even the country, I believe there might still be a few copies left for sale at the church.

Yours faithfully,
E Wallace (Mrs)

I would like to thank Mrs Wallace for her letter referring to George T. Streather's book 'The Memorials of the Independent Chapel at Rothwell'.

I can confirm that there are several copies still for sale at the URC and although we have sold out at the Heritage Centre, we will be replenishing our stock in the very near future.

Mrs Wallace also kindly sent an article and photograph which can be seen in this issue.

G Davis.

Dear Geoff,

I now live in Norwich but I was raised until I was 18 in Rowell. My parents were there until recently, until their death. My sister and I still visit as frequently as we can. She lives in the Cotswolds and so Rowell is half way ... It is still our roots . We were part of the Crispin Street gang. We came over today and bought the newsletter. It is absolutely lovely. Lots of memories came flooding back. We see Helen Chapman fairly often and it was funny when she referred to us.

On Page 20 you referred to Henry Parmenter. Could that have been Henry Polmateer? He was the pharmacist in the chemists shop on Market Hill where the Estate Agents is now. There is a picture of the bus going to Kettering. Did it change to be 251? I always remember it as 259 ... A number imprinted on my mind like my mother's Co-op divi number (ROT.118). I really have enjoyed reading the magazine and look forward to your next issue.

Margot Markham (nee Panther, of Castle Hill)

Thank you for your email, Margot. It was indeed Henry Polmateer. My apologies for the typing error. G Davis.

Dates for your Diary in May & June

Friday 15.05.2015 at 7:30pm	Kelmarsh	A talk by Betty West
Friday 05.06.2015 at 7:30pm	The Suffragettes	A talk by Peter Barrett
Saturday 06.06.2015	Rowell Fair Tart Competition	
Thursday 11.06.2015 2:00 - 4:00	Tea Dance	Tresham Hall
Friday 19.06.2015 at 7:30pm	Experiences of a Driving Instructor	A talk by Roy Sharman
Saturday 27.06.2015 10:00 - 3:00	Art & Craft Fair	Tresham Hall

**A few of the names of the Rothwell Air Raid Wardens picture in the last issue are:
Back Row: 1. Eric Beasley. 3. Len Buswell. Middle row right hand end: Mr Howlett .
Front row fourth from right: Bill Smith. Father to Jim Dale & Mick Smith.**

Answers to issue 5 quiz are as follows:

1. Amble. 2. Goole. 3. Masham or Bakewell. 4. Nuneaton. 5. Ramsgate. 6. Harrow. 7. Rye. 8. Deal. 9. Broadstairs. 10. Paignton. 11. Hayle. 12. Gravesend. 13. Evesham. 14. Gainsborough. 15. Redcar. 16. Pudsey. 17. Chard. 18. Camelford. 19. Peacehaven. 20. Basildon.

There were no winners in this quiz, but thanks to everyone who entered.

In order to keep printing costs to a minimum, a quiz has not been included in this issue.

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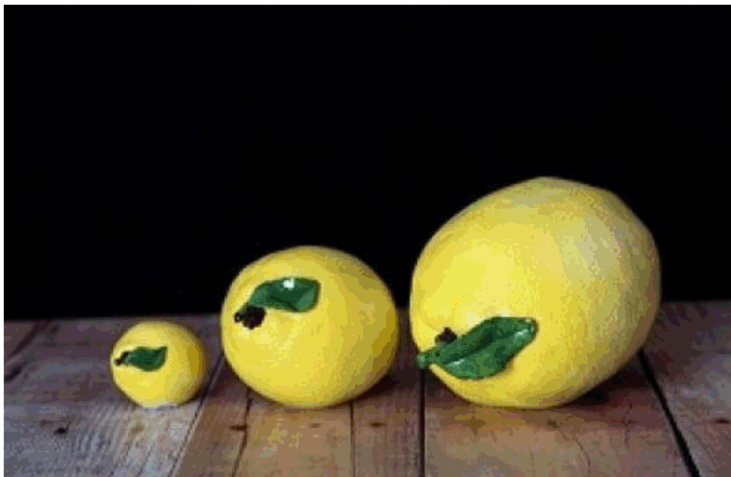
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