

# *Rowell Heritage*

*The Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre Magazine*



*No 7*

*July ~ August 2015*

*£2.00*

*Free to Friends of the Heritage Centre*



### Rowell Heritage. Issue 7.

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 support.  
*Editor.*

**Cover Picture:**  
*The Aviva Women's Tour passes along Bridge Street.*

*G Davis. 2015*

### FORTHCOMING EVENT

**Friday 17th JULY at 7.30pm at Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre**

**A talk by MIRANDA PONSONBY**

Miranda's autobiography 'The Making of Miranda' told the extraordinary story of how she was born as Rhodri, in 1933, into one of Britain's renowned families, being educated at a war-time boys' prep school and then at one of Britain's most ancient public schools before being commissioned into the Household Cavalry.

It was only when his 30 year marriage came to an end that Rhodri decided to undergo transgender surgery and become Miranda. After the operation, Miranda retrained as a nurse, although she had to knock several years off her actual age in order to be accepted. She became a highly regarded and much loved nurse in the Coronary Care Unit at Kettering General Hospital.

Miranda's sex-change decision estranged her from family and friends, and even today she faces a battle against deep-rooted social prejudices. She is a charming, witty and warm person as those who have seen her interviews will already know. Her appearance on the Lorraine Kelly Show last September was especially memorable.

**Tickets will be on sale at Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre from July 1st at £3 each.**

**Numbers are limited so remember to book early.**



***Deadline for September - October issue is:-  
Tuesday 25th August 2015***

***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.***



# the GALLERIES



ON THIS PAGE IS WORK FROM OUR JUNE/JULY EXHIBITIONS



## AUGUST

Gallery Two

BOB CULLY

## SEPTEMBER

Galleries One & Two

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS

Photography - ANNIE FORD CHRIS SHAW

WARREN SHAW

Metal Sculpture - WAYNE SUMMERFIELD

Paintings Ceramics Jewellery Textiles - WENDY CASSON

Artist in Wood - FIONA KINGDON

Paintings Drawing Prints - CONRAD JOHNSON



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## **REFLECTIONS**

**by Robert Denton**

It was a bright morning as I arose early on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Rowell Fair Monday had come round once again.

Then realisation hit me!! This time it was going to be really different for me. I would not be riding the horse or reading the Royal Charter: the first time for 35 years! But as we say, time moves on, and since that morning I have had time to pause and reflect on my involvement with the fair over the years.

I cannot remember just how old I was when I went to my first 'proc' but I imagine I was 5 or 6 and in the protective company of my mother. Then, throughout my teens I was involved with the 'battle' to try to disarm the halbadiers and I am fairly certain that the only years when I actually missed the 'proc' were 1959 and 1960 when I was at Teacher Training College in Birmingham.

The next milestone for me was when a group of us got together and helped in the formation of the Rowell Fair Society in 1968 and I am proud to say that I have been associated with that Society since then. However, a surprise for me was when Norman Hall, the then Bailiff, asked me to walk beside him and carry either the Charter or his Staff of Office for him whilst he rode the horse.

Many of you will remember that Norman was taken ill during the late 1970's and felt unable to ride the horse any more, although he would continue to organise the fair. Now, I do not remember actually volunteering to take over from Norman but, with his encouragement, I did agree to read the Charter and so began another phase in my life when, at Rowell Fair 1979, I actually sat astride the horse and read the Charter for the very first time. Norman and I worked together until his death and then I was asked by the Lord of the Manor, Mrs Cecilia Fearfield, if I would accept the office of Bailiff. This I was proud and honoured to do. So now I did not just read the Charter but also had to organise the fair and, thanks to the ready assistance of Iris Hall, this duty was easier to undertake than I had expected.



*Robert Denton after receiving his B.E.M. from Sir Peter Ellwood, Vice Lord Lieutenant, with Paul Johnson, President of the Rowell Fair Society. 31st May 2015*



The years rolled by and the events of Rowell Fair were amply recorded on TV film and in photographs. Indeed, it became well recognised throughout the country. However, with the turn of the century, the new Lord of the Manor, Zandra Powell, and the Rowell Fair Society had to look forward to, and plan for, some very busy years ahead. 2004 would see the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the original Charter by King John: in 2008 the Fair Society would celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary: whilst in 2010 the Hollands would recognise the fact they had been tenants at Rowell for 100 years.

Then in 2014 a very special event: the Lord of the Manor's family would have an unbroken record, unique in the UK, of celebrating their 400 years of the holding of the Royal Charter. We could not just let this event pass us by!

I had already given notice to the Lord of the Manor that it was my intention to retire from the position of Bailiff in 2014 so my successor was already chosen. Alan Mills, a well-known figure in the town, would take over from me so, in order to give him a 'taste' of the situation, we shared the 11 readings in 2014 with me reading the final one by the Charter Public House and then 'stepping down'.

I cannot fully or adequately put into words my feelings to express the honour which I have enjoyed for so many years. It has been a great joy!

I shall certainly miss it but I am delighted that I have been asked to act as the Deputy Bailiff to Alan for as long as he feels he needs me to be there.

I wish him good health to enjoy many years in the office of Bailiff to the Lord of the Manor of Rowell and I give my heartfelt thanks to the town as a whole for the support and encouragement which they have freely given to me over those years.



*Bob pictured during his last Proclamation as Bailiff  
alongside Zandra Powell, Lord of the Manor. 16th June 2014*

*Photographs G Davis.*



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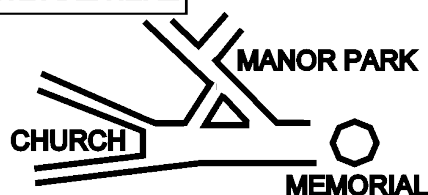
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# JANET BASSETT



All at Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre wish to thank Janet for her various roles in the running of the centre's Art Gallery since its inception.

As the gallery co-ordinator she has managed to organise many successful exhibitions and encouraged local artists to exhibit their work in the two galleries. Her ability to arrange and hang the submitted works to their best advantage has been most appreciated by both artists and visitors.

We are pleased to say that she will continue here as a volunteer and as one of our most successful and popular exhibitors.

Some of  
Janet's current  
work



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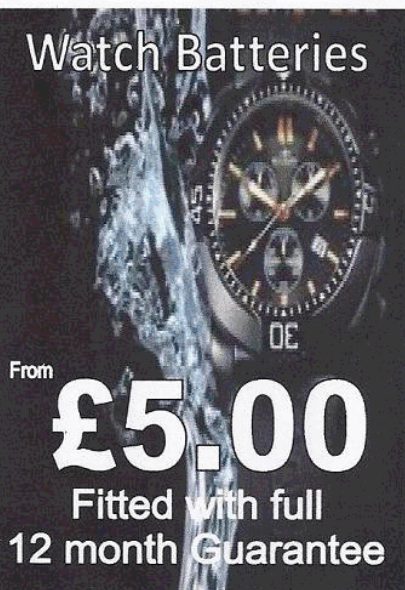
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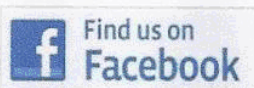
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## Nan Woolston's corner shop as I remember it

*by David York*

Nan Woolston had this horrible looking heater in her general store on the corner of Meeting Lane and Kettering Road and it gave me nightmares. I used to avoid it like the clappers. I have recently discovered that it was a Victorian paraffin or kerosene heater so was almost as old as the shop, but to me at that time it was like something out of the 1958 TV series 'Quatermass & the Pit' ( which, incidentally, I've watched on DVD & it is just as scary today as it was for a child in 1958). You see, it was jet black & stood up on legs right bang in the middle of the shop. It also weighed a ton ( not literally, but was very heavy ).

For a child, when you went through the shop door all you could see apart from the counter and the 'alien' was row upon row of sweet jars full of deliciously tasting morsels. Well, Nan being a typical grandmother, would always treat us when we visited. That was about three times a week. No wonder my brothers and myself were constantly at the dentist.

Behind the counter Nan stored all the expensive items like cigarettes and chocolate bars such as my favourite - Fry's chocolate cream. You had to lift the hatch on the counter to get through to the living quarters or you could simply go through the gate in Meeting Lane and enter through the back door. In those days hardly anyone would lock the doors even to the rear of shop premises and children were allowed to roam anywhere.

Granddad Fred Woolston, who died in 1934, had his cobbler's shop off the back of the yard along Meeting Lane and that was still there in the 1950s with all the tools and equipment neatly put into drawers or still hanging on the walls. Further down the yard was their garden where he used to grow irises, phlox, dahlias and roses and this was still being cared for by one of Nan's sons - Wilf, who lived in Desborough.



*Hilda Woolston at the door of the shop 'F Woolston General Dealers'  
on the corner of Kettering Road & Meeting Lane.*



Often on a visit to Nan's living quarters she would offer us a penny ice-lolly from an antique type of refrigerator which was not much more than an ice box located in a small pantry in the corner of the living room.

There wasn't room to swing a cat in that living room - it had a range for cooking at the front by the pantry, a wooden dining table against the adjacent wall, a number of wooden chairs and own made colourful rugs over the red tiled floor. Sitting in one of these chairs would often be the insurance man - almost a permanent fixture - who would be waiting for his cup of tea & biscuits that Nan would provide in between serving customers. He was a cheerful soul who would teach us magical tricks such as throwing a penny over to the other side of the room then collecting it back in his hand from behind someone else's ear or from underneath the rug. Nan also had visitors from the Methodist Church, which she attended most Sundays in her best hat; these would include the vicar of the day and quite often David Turner, who came over from Rockingham Road Methodist Church. They would also get tea, biscuits and/or cakes. Nan would have been so pleased that David rose to greater things and became director of Agatha Christie's 'Mousetrap' at St Martin's Theatre, London, and is now commanding fees of £2.5K a time for his after dinner speeches called 'The Wicked Side of Life in Theatre'.

There was a passage from the rear quarters to the front room that went along the back of the sweet shelves passing loads of boxes of groceries such as custard powder, starch, cocoa, Oxo cubes, Atora suet, tins of peas, beans etc. Then you did a sharp right turn past the bottom of the stairs to the sleeping quarters and the front door out to Kettering Road and on into the front room. This was the best room in the house and was full of ornaments collected over the years - an aspidistra in a copper pot in the front window and green suede furnishings. It also had a piano that had been purchased from the Butlin's household ( the shoe manufacturer ), which mum inherited and was at our house in Glendon Road, then later moved on to my brother Wal's house in Leicester.

I don't think either Fred with his cobbler's business or Hilda ( as her name was, but we never used it ) with her corner shop made much money, but she worked there until she was around 70 years old then moved to a small terraced house in New Street.

*Below: Fred & Hilda Woolston with daughter Phyllis & sons Eddie & Wilf in the back garden of their shop.*

*Right: A group of girls thought to be from Groocock's. The sign over the shop says H Woolston so this picture was taken sometime after Fred's death in 1934. Do you know any of the girls in this picture?*







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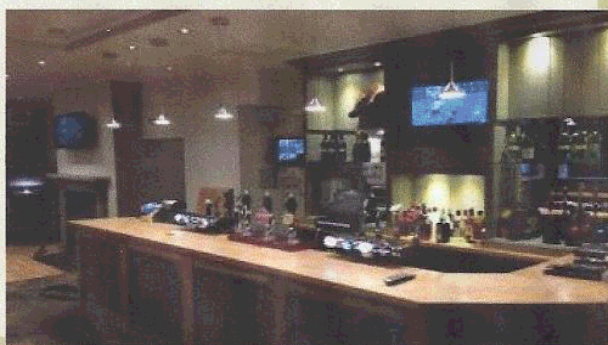
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I remember my mother taking me to school when I was four years old. It seemed a long walk up the school drive to the red brick Victorian building. Inside were four classrooms and the hall which was used for whole school assemblies every morning. Miss Briggs was the Head teacher – a slim, upright lady who had her grey hair drawn back into a severe bun. Most of the children were frightened of her, as she was a stern disciplinarian.

In the school playground there were two old air-raid shelters - dark, smelly buildings which were out of bounds. There was also a narrow alley at the side of the school building where the girls would run screaming from the boys who tried to play kiss chase! In those days, each child was allowed one third of a pint of milk, and these small bottles of milk were left in the school playground in crates. In the winter, lumps of ice would be floating in the milk, but we were still glad to drink it. This free milk was introduced in 1946 as part of the post-war welfare reforms to assist in the nourishment of all children. The free milk was eventually abolished in 1971 by Baroness Thatcher who was the Education Secretary. For this deed, she became known as 'Milk Snatcher'!!

Our teachers at this time were Miss Hopwell in Year 1 – she was a young, lively attractive teacher; in year 2 we had Miss Chaston, who taught us songs and played the piano; in year 3 we had Miss Rawlings and in our final year we had Miss Easton. We were taught well at this school – basic numeracy, reading, writing and comprehension. I really enjoyed going on nature walks along a narrow track at the side of the school (where Leys Avenue is now) which led into fields at the back of the school. We sometimes did this on a sunny afternoon. Music was an important part of our education and I remember playing the castanets in a band. Drama too took place and we re-enacted 'Lochinvar' by Sir Walter Scott. Eileen Streather took the part of Ellen the bride and she remembers that a heavy, metal clanking toy horse was used in the production. Brian Buckby was Lochinvar and Keith Johnson and Stephen Loveridge were by their side in kilts, with Jennifer Hall as a bridesmaid. Another dramatic production was Alibaba and the Forty Thieves in which Michael Pateman was Alibaba. Photographs of these productions plus a third one follow this article.

All the children went home for lunch at 12.00pm and returned to school at 1.30. As many of our fathers worked in the shoe factories and had an hour off for lunch, most families had a hot cooked meal at this time and tea merely consisted of bread and jam or something similar. Children who lived at outlying farms went to the school canteen for their midday meal. The canteen was a ramshackle building on Castle Hill.

My sister Joan started school in 1943, when she was only three years old. At morning 'playtime' or break, as it is now known, Joan thought the school bell signaled the end of the school day, so she walked all the way home, on her own, to Crispin Street! Can you imagine my mother's surprise when Joan, a small three year-old, arrived at the back door? Can you imagine the repercussions if a child did that today? Of course there were very few cars in those days and Rothwell was a safe place for young children. But even so, Joan did very well to find her own way home!

***Postscript*** In order to write the above article I have entered into some fascinating correspondence with David York, Michael Pateman, Janice Linnett, Susan Austin, Patsy Chapman, Eileen Streather and Mary Martin. I am very grateful to them for the photographs and their input.





## Lochinvar

(L to R)  
Keith Johnson,  
Brian Buckby,  
Eileen Streather,  
Stephen Loveridge,  
Jennifer Hall.

## Alibaba and the Forty Thieves

(L to R)  
Adrian Letts,  
Roy Houghton,  
Michael Pateman,  
Brian Perkins,  
David York.



(Back row L to R) Helen Chapman, June Read, Rosemary Jones, Christine Page, Janice Linnett,  
Jane Austin and the two girls right at the back are Helen Smith and Jennifer Hall.  
(Front row L to R) Jennette Haddon, Susan Austin, Helen Stanyon, Kathryn Dainty.



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## **Rowell - Some memories of the early to mid 1950's**

***by Mike Pateman***

Spring:-

After school with evenings getting longer, we (Rob Marlow and Jim Smith), often used to walk down the lane at the eastern end of Meadow Road to what used to be the A6, cross over into Jubilee Street and follow it round to the end of Gordon Street and then take the footpath to the bottom of the 'Mounts'. There were 2 ponds (they seemed like lakes to us) in those days surrounded by May trees. Sometimes we would take nets with us to catch newts and tadpoles by the jarful. Other times we would arm ourselves with 'peashooters' made from 'kek' stalks and use May blossom buds as 'peas' and play Cowboys and Indians. We became really very good with these deadly weapons, both in distance and accuracy, but the supply didn't last very long if it was a warm spring.

Summer:-

We often used to set out after breakfast with a sandwich lunch of either pork dripping or potted meat plus a 'spruce' bottle refilled with water on a fishing trip. We usually had the latest angling kit with us - a slender willow branch of around 5 feet long, 6-8 feet of cotton or twine, a bent pin (with a couple of spares in case we were broken up by a big one) and a used lollypop stick for a float. There was also a tin of freshly dug worms plus a large jam jar for the catch.

Fully kitted out, we made our way to Harrington Road and headed towards Harrington village. After about a mile and a half (if memory serves) we turned right into Thorpe Underwood Road and continued to the T junction (where there was a very large ash tree which I used to observe for the Bird and Tree Competition at Gladstone Street). We then turned left and carried on to a small bridge over the R. Ise (brook). I think that we called the bridge either 'Blue Bottle' or 'Bluebell'. About half a mile or so before the brook there was a large brick farm building with a large yard in front. We always stopped here to talk to the turkeys - usually a dozen or so. We climbed up the fence and shouted "gobble-obble-obble" and we were always answered by the silly birds which came running to the fence, probably expecting food.

Finally the serious stuff started. We were pitting our wits against the wildest of fish, Redthroats and Three Spined Sticklebacks and if really lucky, a Nine Spined one. We usually managed to land 6 or so to take home to our fish tank - they never lasted more than a day or two.

To finish off the day we raced twigs and sticks down the stream under the bridge.

Autumn/Winter:-

I recall that we used to collect rose hips for school (sent on to make rose hip syrup somewhere) - a favourite spot was in the fields behind the Infants School; a bonus was the hazel nuts which, of course, we ate.



Fond memories of scrumping, two popular spots were :-

1. Along the footpath at the end of Jubilee Street on the way to the Mounts - we had one favourite 'Beauty of the Bath' which was the easiest to reach.
2. At the top of the Mounts, near the church, there was a stone wall on the other side of which were several fruit trees but this was much more chancy as we had to climb over the wall and then climb the trees. We were almost caught more than once but lived to tell the tale.

#### Bonfire Night:-

Always looked forward to this, saving and scrounging as much money as possible to buy fireworks - there was a shop on the A6 opposite the church where we bought our supplies and drooled over the large boxes of mixed fireworks in the window....never did get one! We used to keep our precious collection in a shoe box under the stairs; favourites were Roman candles, Catherine Wheels (which often got stuck and needed a poke with a stick to continue), Jumping Jacks, Golden and Silver Rain, Mount Vesuvius, Halley's Comet and Rockets.

We spent 2-3 weeks building the bonfire with all sorts of oddments: twigs, boxes, bits of wood, old tyres and dry leaves. It was mostly leaves that we used to stuff into old worn out sacks to make the Guy.

It always seemed to be bitterly cold, damp and misty. I can still imagine the smell of the acrid firework fumes hanging around in the mist/fog. When it was over it was great to end the night with toasted crumpets and Ovaltine.

Another bit of fun was to knock the long icicles off the guttering and suck them.

Any snow was always welcomed because it meant lots of hard work to make very long slippery slides on the path and road followed by the inevitable bruised backsides.

Odd isn't it that the weather never really bothered us?!

*Mike Pateman (left) with Robert Marlow in their cub uniforms.*

*Mike Pateman now lives in Australia.*



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


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## Rothwell from a Loddington Perspective

*by Daphne Neville*

I was born in Loddington but Rothwell played a big part in the formative years of my sister and me. Our mother (Kathleen Gilbert) was Rowell born and lived in the town from 1920 until 1949 when she married my father (Stan Clarke) in the non-conformist chapel one cold day in December shortly before Christmas. When, as newly-weds, they emerged from the chapel, snowflakes fell from the heavens like confetti. Of course I wasn't there to witness this and neither was my little sister, Kay.

Because of Mum's roots, Saturday afternoons meant a trip from Loddington on a green, single decker *United Counties* bus; down the hill past Three Chimneys, past the reservoir, over the hills and far away to the town where some of our relations lived. I only remember the name of four of Rothwell's streets; Greening Road, Evison Road and Gladstone Street, each accommodating the homes of said relations; and then there was Fox Street where I believe we alighted from the bus.

Rothwell had lots of shops back then. At least that's how it seemed, and most memorable was the *Co-op* where I remember buying a pair of pink baby-doll pyjamas with my birthday money – a 'must have' item for young gels back in the early years of the Swinging Sixties. I also remember the earthy smell of *Pentelows* where we'd go with Mum to buy seed potatoes for Dad, often Pentland Dell, so I assumed they had to be purchased there because of the name similarity. *Pentelows* was just past the hairdressers where we regularly had our hair cut, much to my dislike, as I wanted to grow my hair long - something I was not permitted to do until I reached the grand old age of eleven.

And then of course there was the Fair where we won many a goldfish, ate candy floss and toffee apples and rode on the amusements. Noah's Ark was my favourite; it was very near to Gladstone Street where our elderly aunt lived. I considered her a very lucky lady to live in the close proximity of such joy. In retrospect I don't think she would ever have shared my sentiments.

Apart from the Fair and of course visiting relations, some of my happiest memories were of the Annual Flower Show at the Chapel. I loved going into the schoolroom where plates of fruit and vegetables lay in neat rows on white cloths and displays of sweet smelling flowers, chrysanthemums and dahlias, graced the long stretches of trestle tables. Meanwhile, downstairs, ladies of the Chapel would be making tea and selling homemade cakes and sandwiches. Likewise, I enjoyed the Christmas Bazaars where each year we'd eagerly rummage through sawdust in the bran-tub for a gift. It didn't matter what we found, it was always a treasure.

Finally, I recall waiting for the bus home. I believe it was near to a zebra crossing and opposite a fish & chip shop. As we waited, particularly in the winter, my sister and I had six penneth of chips to share before riding home in the dark, over the hill and far away. The perfect end to what was often a perfect day.





Daphne Neville when she was Church Queen sitting in the flower-bedecked carriage, made with old pram wheels. The date was 11 September 1965. Daphne was 13. Her aunt who lived in Evison Road made her dress. The names of the other children in this picture are currently unknown.

Daphne Neville (nee Clarke) has published a series of novels and the following information can be found on her author's page on the Amazon website:



Daphne Neville was born in Northamptonshire, England, and moved to Cornwall when she was twenty years old; there she married a fisherman, Cornish you might think, but no, he was a Londoner. After bringing up four children, she worked in a local pub, first on the bar and then in the kitchen as a cook. Thus came the inspiration for The Ringing Bells Inn. As a keen reader of murder mysteries, thinking up a plot was not difficult. After The Ringing Bells Inn was complete she wrote a sequel, Polquillick. However, not happy that the time span of her stories covered a mere two year period, she decided to for 'lucky seven' and write a further five. Hence the Trengillion series, set in Cornwall, has a time span of sixty years.

## **My memories of the early days of Rothwell Corinthians**

*by Norman Mason*

The Corinthians originated from Rothwell Congregational Church Institute with a team known as Rowell C.I. playing in the Kettering Amateur League. A number of younger players who could not get picked to play, had organised a team of their own and played a series of friendly games against K.A.L. teams which took place on the Rothwell Town F.C. ground in Cecil Street. They played in maroon and white striped shirts in the season 1934-5 and my Uncle Leslie Tebbutt played at outside right.

A team in the K.A.L. was unable to fulfil its fixtures and the Corinthians were invited to take their place for their remaining fixtures and league position in the 1935-36 season.

1939 saw the end of the K.A.L. as it was, with many players called to serve their country in WW2. My Uncle Leslie served in the East Surrey Regiment at the Battle of Monte Casino and as they turned to fall back, he suffered a recurrence of a football knee injury and was carried to safety by his colleagues. His brother Henry suffered broken arms, having fallen heavily while playing with me as a small child. Henry served as a Bevin Boy in Derbyshire coal mines which were hugely different to shoe factories. He later was Chairman of the Corinthians Committee and an entrance gate at the present ground is named after him. Cyril Tebbutt was a brother of Leslie and Henry and he served in the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver. He was at the Battle of Caen in France but never spoke of it.

1939 marked the start of the under 16 and under 18 leagues with matches played at the recreation ground. I played football for Gladstone Street School and was centre half. I was captain in my last year (1941-42), leaving school at Easter 1942. I played my first game for Corinthians on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1942 at centre forward but was moved to left half which became my regular position. We were in Division 2 and won the Division in the season of 1942-43. We had lost many players to National Service and refused to be promoted, so left to join the Market Harborough League for a season. We returned to the under 18 league in 1944-45 and won it. We were invited to play a 'rest of the league' team as part of their VE celebrations at Wicksteed Park on a pitch within the velodrome (now occupied by fairground rides). We were soundly beaten, having lost more players to National Service. I was called to National Service in 1946 but played on every home leave and continued to play until I was 36 years old in 1964. I then served as a linesman, first aider and committee member for 15 years after which work commitments took priority.

We played on several pitches after the water pipe from Pitsford Reservoir to the water tower in Rushton Road ruined the natural drainage of the recreation ground pitch which has a liquid clay base. We had two pitches down Fanny Joyce's Lane and then two in the Rothwell Cricket Ground.





*Rothwell Corinthians winners of the Wicksteed Park Challenge Cup 1945.*

*(Back row L to R) Major Clipston (Chairman), ? Hawsley, Ray York, John Wells, Des Sumpter, Norman Hall, Norman Mason, Dennis Andrews Capt. Stan Rowlatt. (Front Row L to R) Vic Hancock, Derek Chester, Jack Covington, Gordon Parker, Alec Brown. The three men on the right are committee members.*

*Winners of the Munton Cup 1968-9 (below)*

*(Back row L to R) N Mason, J Farey, M Johnson, R Swingler, J Wells, P Tebbutt, H Tebbutt.  
(Front row L to R) S Swingler, M Barton, R Holmes, A Joyce, K Turner, M Deacon, M Payne.*





## THE LEGACY OF AUNTIE DICK

by Sylvia Davis

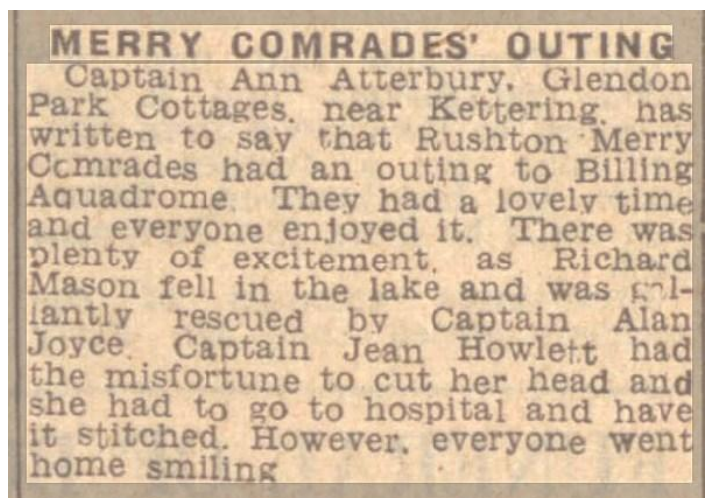
In 1919 Bernice Power ran a column in the Northampton Mercury that was for the amusement of children. It contained stories, competitions, jokes and anecdotes. Youngsters could become members of the Merry Comrades Circle. Bernice was known as 'Auntie Dick' simply because the previous columnist had been called 'Uncle Dick'. He had produced his column until the outbreak of World War 1. The two Northampton newspapers combined in 1932 and became the Mercury and Herald. At that point, Bernice decided that it would be a good idea if local children could raise money to benefit the patients in the county hospitals. This charity, at its peak, had 10,000 Northamptonshire children as members. Bernice Power married Edward Field in 1924 and although she then gave up journalism, she continued to run the Circle from her home. When the charity was eventually disbanded in 1988 it had raised more than £130,500. The efforts of the Merry Comrades provided and maintained radio systems and headphones in all the hospitals. Many wards were also supplied with TV sets and funds were additionally raised to provide specialist equipment including two hydrotherapy pools. During World War 2 the children's efforts ensured that blankets, food parcels, cigarettes, books and clothes were sent via the Red Cross to the men of the Northamptonshire Regiment.

The rules for joining the Merry Comrades Club were simple. Members had to be under 16, and kind to birds, animals and each other. Funds were raised through bazaars/bring and buy sales, May Day celebrations, concert parties, collecting/selling silver paper, whist drives, selling scented cards and recycling/selling Christmas cards.

There must be many people from Rothwell and the neighbouring villages who were members of the Merry Comrades Club and this might jog a few memories. The wonderful description of the outing in August 1950 (below right) could only have come from Ann Jones (nee Atterbury)!



*CAPTAINS Ann and Jill Atterbury and Nancy Mason (centre) holding a tray of fruit which Rushton Merry Comrades sent to the children in the Manfield Hospital. The gift was bought with money which Rushton members raised by carol-singing.*



Mercury & Herald 25th Aug 1950

Mercury & Herald 6th Jan 1950



## AUNTIE DICK'S LETTER.

My Dear Boys and Girls,

I hope you all enjoy Guy Fawkes Day. Several members are planning to raise some money for our Hospital Radio Fund that day.

Rushton members are starting their celebrations to-night when they are having "A Tramps' Social." Captains Jill Atterbury, secretary of Rushton Merry Comrades' Club, and Eileen Joyce (treasurer) tell me that the boy members have been most helpful. They have printed the tickets and sold them. There will be prizes for the best boy and girl "tramps."

This certainly is a very original idea, and I really wish I was at Rushton to-night because I am sure there will be a lot of fun there.

Mercury & Herald 2nd Nov 1951

## THESE RUSHTON COMRADES HELP

When Auntie Dick wrote a report about the Rushton Merry Comrades' concert last week, she had not received the list of names of children taking part. As they all put up such a very fine show, she feels that their names should be mentioned.

In the play "Susan's Fairies," the parts were taken by Lena and Rita Parker, Brenda March, Eileen Brown, Pat Christian, Janet Toyne, Jean Howlett, Dawn Liddle, and Alan Joyce.

In the other play, "The Messenger," those taking part were Nancy, Ray and Christine Mason, Ann and Jill Atterbury, Eileen and Alan Joyce.

Boys who gave a special number, "Widdicombe Fair," were David Palmer, Bobby Mason, David Day, Brian Hales, David Blakesly and Alan Marlow.

Merry Comrade Diana Hollow, from Loddington, was guest artist and contributed fancy dances.

Recitations were given by Richard, Christine and Nancy Mason, Jean Butler, Gordon Day, Ann and Jill Atterbury.

A competition for a box of grocery given by Mrs. Marlow, and for some eggs, added nearly £5 to the proceeds. Mrs. Weatherill, Mrs. Blakesly and Miss Woolmer were in charge of the refreshments, all of which were given and served by mothers of Merry Comrades. Mrs. L. Joyce, Mrs. Toyne, and Mrs. A. Christian helped with the seating arrangements.

Names of other helpers were mentioned last week.

Mercury & Herald 19th May 1950

## AUNTIE DICK'S LETTER

My Dear Boys and Girls,

I KNOW you like competitions at this time of the year, and you will find another detailed in the next column.

I was very interested to receive photographs of so many girl Merry Comrades with long hair.

When I was a little girl, long hair was the fashion and very few girls had short hair.

I was very proud of my two long thick plaits in those days.

*Auntie Dick.*

Mercury & Herald 12th Feb 1954

## PRIZES OFFERED BY AUNTIE DICK

This competition will specially interest girls, but boys may compete if they like.

A prize will be awarded for the neatest darn in a piece of old stocking. Another prize will be given for the neatest strip of hemming, which must measure at least four inches.

Please sent your entries to reach Auntie Dick at the "Mercury and Herald" Office, Northampton, not later than next Thursday morning, and fasten this coupon to your work:—

## A KINDLY GIFT.

David Martin, of Desborough-road, Rothwell, has sent a gift of 1s. for the Cot Fund, also a nice parcel of silver paper. He writes: "I am sure if Michael goes to Wicksteed Park he will have a good time. When I went I enjoyed myself very much. There are all kinds of amusements for children. I liked sliding down the chute, and I had a ride on a little train which runs through a tunnel and goes round the lake. There was also an aviary and some monkeys."

We must certainly go to Wicksteed Park soon, David. It sounds quite exciting. Thank you for the silver paper and postal order. It was very kind of you to send a gift of money for the Fund.

Mercury & Herald 4th Oct 1935 (2)





## Rowell Fair Proclamation 1st June 2015

*Pictures G Davis*







## Rowell Fair Tart Competition

(Left) Mr Norman Austin receives the first prize and Salver from Alan Mills and Paul Johnson on behalf of his wife Brenda.

(Below left) Olivia and Georgia Burns receive 2nd prize.

(Below right) Ann Jones receives third prize on behalf of Janet Clements.



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# Rothwell Carnival & Fete

## Saturday July 11th 2015

Parade starts at Moorfield Road at 1pm

Fete opens at Manor Park at 1:45pm

**Big Bopper Entertainment**  
**En Pointe Dance**  
**Childrens Entertainer**  
**Attitude Dance Group**  
**Vehicle Display**  
**Psychic Reader**  
**Fun Dog Show**  
**Games**

**Carnival Queen**  
**Baby Show Results**  
**Raffle & Tombolas**  
**Burgers and Icecream**  
**Tea and Cakes**  
**Face Painting**  
**Bouncy Castle**

**ADMISSION £1**  
**CHILDREN FREE**



*Rothwell*

CITIZENS WELFARE COMMITTEE  
REGISTERED CHARITY 230563





# **Rock 'N' Rowell**

**Party in the Park**

**25th July 2015**

**Noon till Midnight**

**Rothwell Corinthians  
Sergeants Lawn Training Ground  
Desborough Road**

**At Least Six Bands**

**Beer Festival**

**Bar & Wine Bar Facilities**

**Cider & Soft Drinks**

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**IN AID OF ROTHWELL CHARITIES**



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