

# ROWELL HERITAGE

EMBRACING THE PAST | INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

## CARRIED HOME OVER FIELDS OF SNOW

Rothwell Spoken Archive

To get a girl home to an isolated farm, Rothwell Ambulance men, using a hand litter, had to force their way across more than half a mile of fields where snow had drifted up to four-feet deep.

The girl, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bellamy who live at Blythe Lodge, Thorpe Underwood, had been discharged from hospital, but it was found that the car conveying her could not get to the lodge because of the deep snow.

Rothwell Ambulance was called out and detouring round the deepest drifts managed to force their hand litter through the snow to get the patient safely to the lodge. "The litter has a canopy so that the child could be completely covered in and she was protected with plenty of

blankets and hot water bottles," said Ambulance Officer R. Westley, who was in charge of the litter. "Most of the way the snow was over our wellingtons."

Pte. E. Muggleton and Mr. Bellamy helped to get the litter through, two of the three men pulling on rope in front of it by means of the handles. In many places the snow was so thick that they had to stop for breath everytime they had covered a few yards.

Mr. Westley said that it was the most difficult transport job Rothwell Ambulance had ever tackled, but the patient was bright and cheerful all the way and was none the worse for the adventure.

Mrs. Bellamy also crossed the fields to carry her daughter's luggage, and the girl was put straight to bed on arrival.

## WELCOME

**Rowell Heritage** is the new look newsletter for the Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre. This edition is complementary to our readership as we launch this publication to embrace the past and inspire the next generation. We want to engage with you and share your history – the history of Rothwell.

If you have any articles, stories, quizzes, photographs, artifacts, memories or anything that you want to see appear in any issue then please come in and see us at the Arts & Heritage Centre on Bridge Street. You can advertise your business - please contact the Centre Manager for costing.

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June 1, 2014 [Edition 1; Volume 1]



## PERSPECTIVES

Connecting with the Local Story, Journey and Development of Rothwell

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Rothwell people mainly worked on the land or were connected with the weaving trade in one form or another.

The early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw a collapse of the wool trade and the town turned to silk weaving for a time but this too went into decline.

Elsewhere in the county the established boot and shoe crafts people were under pressure to produce more in what was still very much a handmade occupation.

To meet this demand some of the stitching work was sent to Rothwell in a more or less emergency situation. The Rothwell weavers readily adapted to this work and so boot and shoe making came to the town.

The work involved stitching the upper leather parts together, a process that shoemakers call *closing*. The people worked in their own homes either in their houses or in special buildings set aside for the work. Many Rothwell houses still have these *shops* and they can be seen in the older properties in the town.

When the uppers were stitched they were sent back to Kettering to be stitched onto the soles in a process called *finishing*.

Mechanisation came rather late to Rothwell. Kettering had some machinery by 1857 which reduced the need for some of the hand stitching, but it was not until the 1880s that a *Finishing Machine* was installed in Rothwell.

Gradually the *shops* were abandoned as the work became more central and mechanised. Some continued up until 1894 when action by the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union brought this form of outwork to an end.

The first shoe factory in Rothwell was established in what had previously been a textile mill. There was a great demand for boots by foreign armies with the prospect of the Franco/Prussian war.

The Avalon Boot and Shoe Co. was run as a co-operative with excellent benefits for employees. They made heavy boots and shoes, for the police mainly. Over the years they extended their premises about five times.

Goodyear welting was introduced around 1910 which eliminated a lot more of the hand sewing but with WWI looming the need once again was for traditionally made army boots.

The 1920s saw a fall in demand but T. Groococks seemed to survive best due

to being more competitive on price.

Threats of war in the 1930s saw demand rise again and several other small firms were set up making either heels or other parts.

In the 1950's Rothwell's fate followed the national trend of boom and bust. J.T. Butlin were down to just 100 workers with little work and were taken over by the West Country shoemakers 'Clarks'. Expansion followed in 1960 into a new factory of 40,000 square feet.

Groococks developed the cemented sole which eliminated the welting process. They took over the ailing firm of S.E. Gamble in 1965. This expansion and further development on cemented soles enabled production to rise to 20,000 pairs of shoes per week.

In the year of 2004, as we celebrate the signing of our Rowell Fair Charter 800 years ago, we also see the end of another era as T. Grocock and Sons the last shoemaking firm of our ancient market town moved their business to Kettering.

This ends a craft and industry that has served the people of Rothwell by providing employment for well over 150 years.

Author Unknown

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## THE ROWELLIAN

We are fast approaching the Fair and, as it is quite late in the year, let us hope that the weather will be kind to us and to the showmen.

Once again, it has been somewhat difficult to fill the fairground as, this year, our fair coincides with both Cambridge and Newcastle. This means that the showmen have to decide where to go for the best. Thankfully, we have all the machine positions filled but still have some spare spaces where the juveniles and stalls go. Let us hope that we can fill them.

Can I now take this opportunity to ask for help from some of our more active members? We need 4 volunteers who will direct traffic from 5.45 -7.15 on Fair Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Then we need 6 to 8 to help put the barriers in place to close the road whilst the fair is open. They then have to be removed at the end of each evening. If you can help, then please contact me. You will all know, by now, that this will be my last fair as Bailiff so, obviously, I approach it with mixed emotions. However, the Lord of the Manor has asked me to support Alan as his Deputy for as long as he feels that he needs me there.

I also hope that a good number of you will do your best to attend this year's Proclamation as it will be a bit different. Both Alan and I will read the Charter alternately, and on 11 occasions rather than the usual 9. The two extra spots will be the old Crown Inn and then adjacent to the Midland Bank (site of a former pub). At the 11th reading, back at the Charter Inn, I shall end my 35 years of reading the Charter and then hand it to Alan.

I know that you will all wish him well in his new post and give him the wonderful support which you have given me. See you all at the Rowell Fair 2014.

Bob The Bailiff







## YEARS AT ROWELL FAIR

*From The Rowellian Spring 2014 Edition*

Over the years many showland families have come and gone as tenants of Rowell Fair and the Society has recognized the loyalty shown to our fair by some of these. Willie and Norma Thurston, Linda Holland and the "Legendary" James Holland have all made Life Honorary Members. This year Joseph Summers celebrates his fiftieth consecutive year of attending Rowell. Joe's parents Charlie and June were well established visitors here when Joe was born.

Charlie was a halberdier for many years at the Proclamation, and his name is given to a trophy at the Conservative Club, which is usually presented by a member of the family each year.

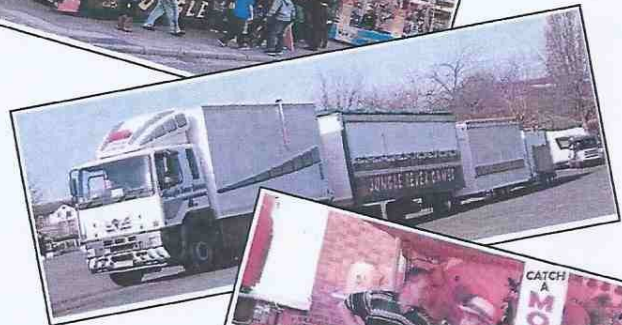
Based at Norwich, Joe along with his wife Mandy and their two children, Jaymee and Charles visit many fairs, but have always included Rowell on their calendar. Their side stalls and games are always immaculately presented, and on the road, the road train of Foden lorry and 3 trailers is something to behold.

Joe himself has carried out the role of ceremonial halberdier at numerous Proclamations and made a special effort to join us, when we escorted the late Norman Hall on his final journey.

At this year's Annual General Meeting it was proposed and unanimously

accepted to make Joe a Life Honorary Member of the Rowell Fair Society. Congratulations to Joe and the family.

The photos shown here are Joe's "jungle fever" mixed games unit, the road train arriving on Peterborough embankment, Joe in conversation with the late Ernie Chapman and finally Mandy and Jaymee.





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## ROTHWELL TO NASEBY

By Max Scott (From the Archives. Written on 12.06.2006)

This is a cycle ride of approximately 20 miles using relatively quiet roads and offering some attractive scenery, with opportunities to cut the ride short if you wish. Leave Rothwell Market Place and ride west along Bridge Street to the High Street (formerly the busy A6 but now B576) where left and second right Fox Street, Harrington Road. Using extreme care at the roundabout with A6 take the second exit towards Harrington past Nunnery Farm, which possibly has some historic connection to the former mediaeval Priory in Rothwell.

On entering Harrington keep left by the Tollemache Arms, named after a former vicar who objected to villagers attending the pub on Sundays so he bought the establishment, installed his coachman as landlord and ensured that the public house was closed on Sundays. This restriction must have applied for some time since the Rev. Hugh Tollemache was rector of Harrington for 58 years, dying in 1890 at the age of 87. The grassy bank opposite the pub presents a cheerful sight in late winter when it is carpeted with snowdrops. Just beyond the row of restored cottages and behind the chestnut trees opposite is the Falls Field, once the site of a monastic manor owned by the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. This area was later laid out as an ornamental garden with fish ponds, sunken gardens and terraces and it is worth parking the cycle for a few minutes to examine the remains and to take in the broad view across the fields towards Arthingworth. Access is through a cattle pen marked by a post indicating a bridleway to Arthingworth, an off road diversion if one has a suitable bike.

Keeping to the tarmac, however, turn right at what we local cyclists refer to as the Co-op tree, planted to commemorate the purchase of the Harrington estate by the Desborough Co-operative Society in

1913. The estate was broken up in 1927 and the properties sold to private buyers.

The route now heads almost directly west to Kelmarsh, passing over the old railway which now forms the Midshires Way. Access to the track is by footpath only at this point and an airshaft vent on the right indicates that there is a tunnel beneath. The road descending to Kelmarsh has been quite recently resurfaced and allows an exhilarating freewheel down to the A508 junction. Cross directly over the main road, which has a sensibly observed 40 mph limit, but still requires caution. Just over the junction is the entrance to Kelmarsh Hall, where the lovely gardens are worth at least an hour if this ride is done on a Sunday, Bank Holiday Monday or a Thursday afternoon from Easter to September (Check on [www.kelmarsh.com](http://www.kelmarsh.com)). The Hall itself, an attractive early 18<sup>th</sup> Century building requires rather a longer visit and there is a pleasant tearoom.

Head on towards Clipston for a short distance, taking a glance to the right where a herd of rare British White cattle may perhaps be seen, but watch for a rather unobtrusive lane on the left just beyond the farm buildings. Take this rather poorly surfaced lane which ascends gradually to pass under the A14 and then continues in an undulating fashion, passing beneath the A14 again to emerge on the Clipston to Naseby road. Turn left over the A14 and pass the obelisk, erected in 1823, rather misleadingly sited over a mile from the true site of the 1645 battle which decided the outcome of the Civil War. The actual Naseby Field lies alongside the Sibbertoft road north of Naseby village and would mean extending our ride. Before leaving the village, however, take a look over the wall into the garden of the corner house opposite the fine church on one side and the Fitzgerald Arms on the other.



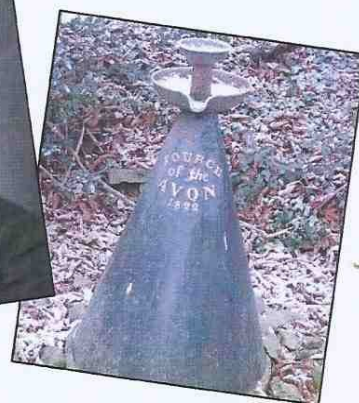
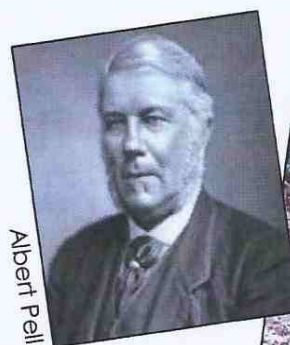


Looking rather dry nowadays is a small monument, dated 1822, claiming to mark the source of the River Avon, the only one of the larger rivers of Northamptonshire to flow westward. The Fitzgerald Arms is closed but the Royal Oak remains. There is also a recently opened tea room at the Old Vicarage, which offers tea and cakes on Sundays from 11.00 a.m.

Retrace now to the eastern end of the village but turn right, signposted to Haselbech, with the impressive village hall on the left. On entering Haselbech turn right by the Hall for a short diversion to the church, notable as the last resting place of some unusual people. Edwin Godkin, an Irish born journalist who covered the Crimean War and also the American Civil War for the Daily News, became an American citizen and established a New York based weekly news magazine. He died on a visit to England in 1902, whilst in Devon and, since there is no obvious connection with Northamptonshire, it is something of a mystery that he, together with his American wife Katherine, should be buried in this churchyard. Nearby is the grave of Albert Pell, MP for South Leicestershire for 17 years, and a prominent agricultural and Poor Law reformer who died in 1907. He was educated at Rugby

School, under Doctor Thomas Arnold and, whilst at Trinity College, Cambridge he introduced the game of Rugby Football to that university. Also in the churchyard is the tomb of Bower Ismay, a big game hunter whose daughter Florence is credited with providing six bells for the church, in memory of her father who died in 1924. It is not unreasonable to suppose that they may have been related to the Ismay family of the White Star Line, owners of the ill-fated Titanic.

Retrace to the Hall and continue towards Scotland Wood, but take the narrow lane on the left after passing Haselbech Grange to cross over A14 and join the A508 at Kelmarsh. Afternoon tea is an option here obtainable at Nagarjuna, the Buddhist retreat on the right just before reaching the main road. It is a favoured rule with cycle tourists that one does not return home by the same route as the outgoing ride but the option here could involve a rather hilly diversion by way of Arthingworth. Turn left, therefore, on A508 and then almost immediately right at the crossroads to follow our outward route as far as Harrington. This time turn right at the Co-op tree and cross over A14 again, noting the entrance to the Carpetbaggers air museum on the right, well worth a visit if you have the time. Bear right at the next junction and continue towards Lamport, taking the next turn left, signposted to Broughton. After passing Foxhall cottages on the left take the next turning on the quiet lane through Orton and return to Rothwell, negotiating the two A14 roundabouts with extreme care.





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This wind plays avail with me air, luks like I'm bin through an edge backuds mind you with all the air dresses in Rowell, we should all look bootiful, shellatta goo gel, gotta meet the ole boy outa school. Life's all goo these days, so long see yah soon.



If you would like to record any births, christenings, marriages or deaths (Obituaries) in the newsletter, then please contact the Centre Manager (Ray Davis).

We have various design layouts which can include specific colours, photos, symbols and personal messages to suit the occasion / remembrance.


Rowell Heritage is a place to embrace the past and inspire the next generations.



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## OVER A CENTURY OF BOOTS & SHOES

By Researcher: Elvin Royall

This is the history of a boot-and shoe factory, but it also reflects something of the character of the Rothwell men and women who managed a company that has provided employment for Rothwell people for well over a century. T. Grocock & Co.

The factory which stands in Gordon Street Rothwell, with its red brick walls and steel window frames, is typical of many built in the area during the last quarter of the 19th century. The real story starts hundred years earlier, with the invention of the powered weaving frame. The main industry at that time in this district was weaving, both silk and plush, carried out in cottages. The Industrial revolution had yet to manifest itself in the rural communities. The Enclosure acts were forcing more and more people from the land into other work and to the towns.

The woollen, worsted and silk weavers of Rothwell although poor could at least make a living, provided they

worked hard enough and long enough. It is said that some of these skilled craftsmen could make velvet that looked like ermine, a secret that they kept to themselves and guarded within their cottages. Then the powered loom was invented and the trade moved north to Lancashire so the Northamptonshire weavers became redundant. A few travelled to the new mills and a few tried to carry on locally but by 1830 there were only memories of the trade that had been flourishing 40 years previously.

The shuttles of the few remaining looms were slowly silenced as rapid changes in fashion styles were passed by the local weavers. Rothwell was under a cloud of depression and deprivation as the majority of the people were paupers, without hope or employment. In a letter that assistant Commissioner Earle writing to the Poor Law Commission on 24th. August 1835 he said that 'Rowell was heavily burdened with

*paupers and yet the ratepayers conceive it to be economical to leave expenditure of nearly £2,000 a year to the unpaid overseers, aided by an assistant who is remunerated by a salary of £10.* J In April 1836 Rothwell was made one of the three administrative districts of the Kettering Workhouse Union.

The boot and shoe industry had always been present in Northants as a cottage industry and with the Napoleonic wars it flourished with the demand for Army footwear. Some of the out of work weavers and dyers gladly learnt a new trade, that of shoemaking.

Tom Grocock's father was one of the weavers who turned to shoemaking at this time. The family had a house in Gladstone Street, with a barn at the bottom of the garden. It was there that he sat making boots and shoes, which were made for a wholesaler who supplied the leather and bought back the finished product on completion.



Young Tom Grocock took his place at his father's bench and learnt the trade and when he married went to live in a house on Castle Hill, which later became Weston's shop. The introduction of machinery into the shoe trade meant that the days of the independent one man businesses were numbered. Machinery had to be housed in factories where the power to run them could run not one but a row of machines. The Industrial Revolution had affected the lives of Rothwell people once again.

The Gordon Street works were built about 1880 for a Mr J.T. Butlin who started a shoe factory and because home working was more or less finished Tom Grocock went to work there. The factory workers now earned less than when they worked for themselves mainly because they were in the habit of not going in to work on a Monday. Tom and his wife turned their front room into a shop and sold shoes to help supplement their reduced income.

Eventually Mr. Butlin, who they say, had a more than

average taste for whiskey, went bankrupt. In 1898 Tom and his wife's brothers, the Bosworths of Desborough started making shoes in a small factory on the Market Place, which has now been pulled down. In 1914 the Bosworth brothers left the partnership to start up their own factory in Desborough and Tom took over a small factory premises in Fox Street at the back of Cooper's Garage. He had only a few men working for him on a medium size contract for army boots. The production was not large enough for him to make a fortune like the larger factory owners did at this time so expansion was always on his mind. After Mr Butlin had been declared bankrupt the factory in Gordon Street was taken over by a Mr. Chapman who also subsequently also went into receivership. The factory was left empty for some time, until 1922 when Tom moved in with his son Irving and just a handful of workers.

The main characteristic of the Grocock family seems to be their capacity for work and willingness to take chances. Hence the often quoted phrase in

times past 'I've worked like hell and Tommy Grocock'.

Soon after the move to Gordon Street Tom retired from active control of the firm, due to ill-health. His son Irving became managing director, who has been responsible for the growth of the firm since then.

New machinery was installed and production at that time was about 1200 pairs a week. The styles were either Oxford or Derby, welted or riveted sole and all the processes were carried out under the same roof. The machinery was run by belts from an overhead shaft. The power source was a gas engine with its own gas-making plant. At first the gas engine was run on the town gas supply but had to be switched to its own supply by 7.00am each morning as when everyone was cooking breakfast it would suck the town dry of gas. This gas engine remained in use until after the war when it was replaced by an electric motor powered by a diesel generator which supplied the electricity. This generator was once used to run the Noah's Ark



during one Rowell Fair. Later each machine had its own motor and the noisy shafting could be dispensed with. Gradually production expanded to 7-8000 pairs a week and the labour force increased to 100. The factory needed more space for the machines if production was to increase any further. A two storey extension was added to the long side of the L-shaped factory. Some of the windows were taken out and a beam inserted to take the weight of the walls above. This provided access to the extension at ground floor level. On the first floor, a smaller access was provided at the end of the building. During the 1939/45 war the building was shared with another local shoe firm - Taylors, whose factory had been taken over for use as an army store. Between the two companies they made army boots with a workforce of people who were too old for, or excused military service. After the war, expansion continued at Groococks and in 1952 a three storey office block was added to one end of the factory. The space thus saved in the factory was taken over with more

machines.

Until then, men's fashion was unheard of, but with the end of rationing the first Italian imports of shoes came into this country. New processes were also used to decorate leather and slowly the British Male wanted something that didn't look like an old army boot. It was a momentous time for the shoe industry, but as always, Groococks plunged forward while others hung back. They entered the fashion market producing a variety of designs. This expansion meant that more space was needed to store the different types of leather and so a single storey building was added at the rear of the factory for this purpose. Irving Groocock's daughter now joined the firm as the head of the design department. Although she had been trained as a designer of ladies shoes, she soon adapted her ideas for men's wear. The days of the old choice of Oxford or Derby boots or shoes, were gone for ever. At that time several small shoe factories in Rothwell went into liquidation due to the fact that they were too conservative their designs

and outlook. They refused to expand production and stuck to the old styles. Production continued to rise steadily and soon the limit of production at the old factory was reached. In 1950 all the machines had been fitted with individual electric motors which meant that they could be spaced to their best advantage. The new shoe styles which came out twice a year created an expanding demand for the latest fashions so that shoes were now thrown away instead of being repaired time and again. The profit on each pair of shoes was gradually being reduced and so the only solution was to expand once again.

The first phase of the new factory was opened in 1958 and all the finishing processes were transferred there. The initial manufacturing processes up to and including closing were expanded in the old factory. The second phase of the new factory was completed in 1960, giving a large open plan single storey area. The shoes had previously been trundled along between machines on racks.



Now a conveyor belt system was installed which speeded up the handling of the shoes. Then another revolutionary process was installed, the high velocity hot air system, which ensured that shoes kept their shape after only one hour on a last. Previously it had taken 36 hours on a last before this would happen. This speeded up the finishing process but created a bottleneck in the closing room. The new styles, often with a lot of fancy stitching on the top, meant that this process was more intricate and therefore slower.

The shoe manufacturers of Oesborough and Rothwell decided to set up a small closing factory in Nuneaton where there was a surplus of female labour. The Nuneaton works was called D & R Closers Ltd. This company was eventually run by just Groococks as other members of the consortium went out of business. Other small factories used as closing rooms were subsequently opened by Groococks at Desborough, Long Buckby, Thrapston,

Wellingborough and Irchester to enable production to be increased. When the process known as injection moulding came into use they bought Gambles, a small Rothwell factory and concentrated on this method of manufacture in that factory as far as finishing was concerned. With the increase in exports it was found necessary to separate the packing of these shoes and in 1967 an export packing department was built onto the end of the office block and the house was used as a storeroom. At that time it was intended to demolish the house and extend both the car-park and the export packing areas.

Mr Irving Groocock died in 1966 and his sons, Tom and John found they were now in charge of the firm Tom as managing director, inherited his grandfather's urge to work, as have all the directors of firm. Mr. Burditt although well over 70 still got to the factory at 8am every morning. His daughter, Molly, another director, worked part-time in the wages dept. Mr. Groocock's Daughter, Elizabeth, was in charge of the design dept. Being

a director of Groococks doesn't just mean collecting the dividends, which is probably why the firm has flourished where so many have foundered.

The total labour force by 1966 had now risen to over 500 and production to 20,000 pairs a week. To keep up with the changing fashions there were two designers and three pattern cutters who were responsible for producing 400 styles and samples a year for the two boot and shoe shows. However not all of these prototypes went into production, only those that are ordered. By then the footwear was being produced using a variety of processes including injection moulding, welted, cemented sole and pre-finish in both boots and shoes. The longest boots they had produced at that time were 17 inches high.

It is interesting to note how the type of motive power has influenced the design of factories. When power was supplied by a gas engine, to an overhead shaft, with a belt to every machine, the building had to be long and narrow to enable as many machines as



In order to save ground area the buildings would be at least three storeys high with a row of windows along one wall. The machines were stood in a tightly packed row by the windows with the shaft overhead. Holes were cut through the floors of the upper areas so that a belt could drive the shafts from one floor to the next. Belts would sometimes break which meant that the whole factory would stand idle until the repairs were carried out.

The next development was a diesel engine to drive the shafting which saved labour by not having a gas works as part of the factory. Eventually that was replaced by mains electricity but for emergencies during power cuts it was also necessary to produce at least some

of the electricity used by means of a generator.

It was not until machines were fitted with individual electric motors that it was possible to break away from the oblong factory shape and have a square building. Square buildings have many advantages because for the same floor area the outside walls are shorter and thus the building costs are less. The inside volume is less saving on heating costs. The outside walls can be mainly of glass as the structural demands are less and consequently the interiors are much lighter. The open plan makes the use of a conveyor system possible thus obviating the use of racks for moving the shoes about inside the factory which in turn creates more space for machinery.

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## ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

### July

**Coffee Morning** | Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July | 10am-1pm  
**Talk** | My Horsey Family by Ann Jones | Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July  
**Dance at Tresham Hall** | Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July | 7pm till late  
(In Support of Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre)  
**Afternoon Tea** | Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July | 2.30pm onwards  
World War One Exhibition



## Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre Events for 2014



### August

**Coffee Morning** | Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August | 10am-1pm  
**Talk** | Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August | 7pm  
(Rothwell WWI Prisoner of War Camp by Doctor Chapman)  
**Afternoon Tea** | Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August | 2.30pm onwards  
**Open Art Studio** | Commencing on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
**Talk** | Tresham Family by Andrea Mallow | Date & Time to be Confirmed

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - ROWELL FAIR

### Saturday 14th June Fair opens

### Sunday 15th June

10:00am - 4:00pm Model Show at the Tresham Hall  
10:00am onwards Rowell Fair exhibition at the Arts & Heritage centre. (open all June)  
1:30pm Vehicle and Civic parade sets off from Columbus Crescent through the town.  
2:00pm Civic Service at the United Reform Church, Fox Street. Then the Civic party return to the fair.  
3:00pm Blessing of the Fair  
Fair opens  
Gretton Silver band perform at the Methodist Church.

### Monday 16th June

06:00am The Proclamation

This year marks a special milestone in the history of Rowell's unique Proclamation. To mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Charter, the Bailiff and the Deputy Bailiff will both be reading the Charter. The Bailiff, accompanied by the Lord of the Manor in a horse-drawn carriage and his Deputy on horseback. There will also be 2 extra readings this year, at the sites of the former Crown Inn and Bull's Head alehouses.

### Saturday 21st June

Rowell Fair Tart competition at the Arts & Heritage Centre. Entries need to be in at 10:30am for judging at 11:00am.

1st Prize Trophy and cash

2nd Prize meal for 2 at Rothwell House Hotel [www.therothwellhousehotel.co.uk](http://www.therothwellhousehotel.co.uk)

3rd Prize £10 voucher for The Parlour. [www.theparlourrothwell.com](http://www.theparlourrothwell.com)

Fair closes



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Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June | Entertainment by Paul Jones - Vocalist

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Sat 8am - 1pm



## Update on the Woolpack



Since Rachel took over last July as Tenant/Licensee there has been a lot of effort put into improving the general decor & reputation of The Woolly by various people. Many regulars have fond memories of it throughout the years & Rachel has done her best to make it a 'home from home' for both locals & visitors alike. There is a good selection of Real Ales, Carlsberg beers/cider plus the usual range of spirits & bottles, including children's drinks.

To celebrate the 300yr anniversary of the building which houses The Woolly, Rachel will be brewing a Celebration Ale with Julian Church of J. Church Brewing Co in Cransley. It will contain a blend of three English hops (to represent the 300yrs), & will be a medium coloured bitter, around 4.2. Glen McCabe of Tattoo Inc. designs Julian's pump clips, and as it's going to be called "Freaky Sheep" it's bound to be interesting! It will be launched on Proc. Monday, 15th June.

Rachel is currently having the kitchen refurbished, so on Proc. Monday The Woolly will be serving breakfast & bacon rolls from 6am to 11am. There will be three pre-booked sittings, as well as walk-ins provided there is space. At midday a barbeque will start, weather permitting, & that will continue until 6pm. There will be live music outside, again weather permitting, from 10am to 10pm. First up will be 'Flare' with their mix of 60's, 70's & 80's tunes. Most of you know Cliff & Tim, so be prepared for some fun!

Between 2pm & 6pm The Alcoholics will be doing their thing fronted by Jim Hale, and finally from 6pm to 10pm Ian KG will be performing his Meatloaf & Bon Jovi Tributes, as well as various rock tracks. He has a great voice & some of you will have seen him in The Woolly recently doing Rock Karaoke. There will also be a 'Can Bar' outside, with various drinks at £2 per can. As well as the 'Woolly Ale' Rachel will be starting the Family Fun Days on the last Sunday of the month from June.

For those of you who did not manage to attend one last year, there will be a bouncy castle for the children, a barbeque & either a dj or live music. On 2th July it will be the pub's birthday party & celebration of Rachel's first year as Landlady in her own right. As well as the usual things, Ian KG will be performing his Neil Diamond Tribute Act.

We also plan to start serving traditional Sunday lunches as soon as soon as possible.





### Gladstone Street Junior School

Mr Woodston, Michael York, Michael Woolmer, Murray Coleman, Clive Breakspeare, Michael Yarrow, Peter Timpson, Michael Martin, Ian Starnier, John Gilbert, David Daniels, Mr Davies,  
 Ann Hefford, Rosemary Curtis, Yvonne Coulson, Lesley Bindley, Margaret Read, Margaret Freestone, Ann Davies, Jeanette Cheaney, Marion Billingham, Margaret Kilbourn, Anne Woolley, Sandra Hall,  
 Pat Johnson, Ann Giles, Ruth Mabbutt, Carole Gilham, Ann Beard, Pauline Tye, Janet Willis, Rita Pollard, Diane Taylor, Gwendra Drage, Vanda Robinson, Sheila Law,  
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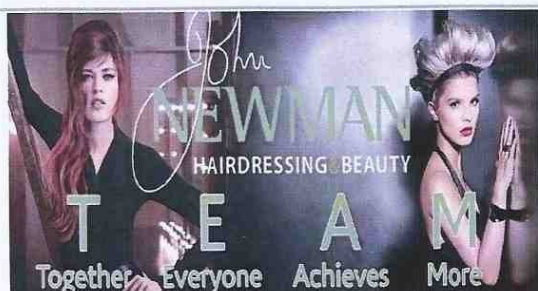


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## ROWELL PERSONALITIES



Congratulations to Allan and Margaret Marlow on their golden wedding anniversary.

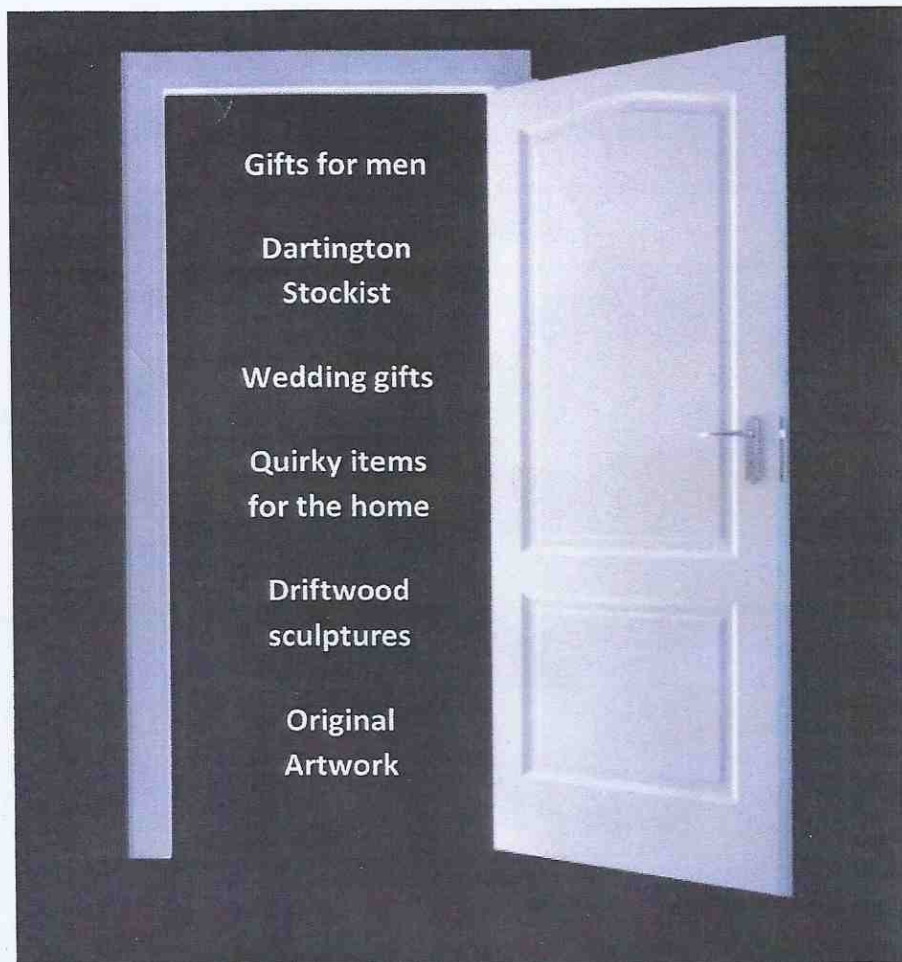
The happy couple were married on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1964 at St Siles church Desborough.



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