

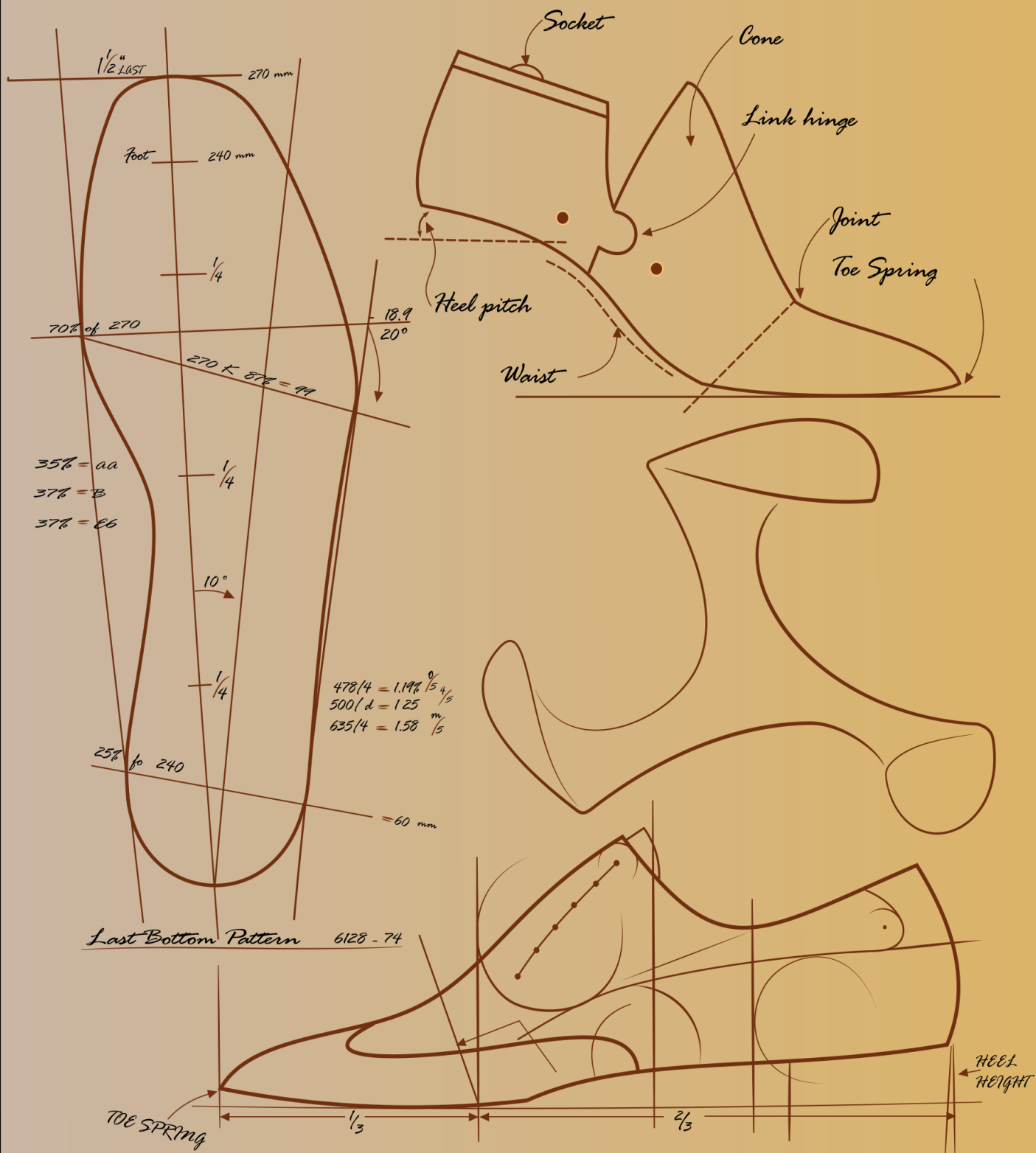
# Rowell Heritage

No: 17

## March - April 2017

£2

# Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



Welcome to the March/April issue of Rowell Heritage. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together.

Last month's cover photo was of Rothwell Manor House and in this issue we have an article submitted by Jayne Panther who used to work there when it was the Council Offices.

We also have an article on the shoemaker William Timpson and the centre is currently displaying exhibits connected with Rothwell's shoe trade. Please call in and have a look and check out the website for a video made by his great great grandson.  
<http://www.rothwellheritage.org.uk/>

Thank you again to ALL of the contributors and also to the advertisers whose financial support is vital to the funding of this newsletter. 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 at the bottom of the page.

The Centre is currently looking for Kelly's Trade Directories (or similar) to help with research. If anyone has any that they would like to donate, they would be very gratefully accepted. If you have any photographs to donate or loan please bring them in to the centre and if you can put names and dates to them it really helps our archivists. Our tea room CD player has seen better days too so if you have one going spare, please let us know.

Finally we have been asked to pass on apologies for the recent cancellation of the monthly film club which was due to a licensing issue. Hopefully normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

*Val & Barry Panter*

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**Address:** Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre, 14-16 Bridge Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, NN14 6JW  
**Telephone:** (01536) 711550

**Open Monday to Saturday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm**

**Centre Manager:** Ray Davis

**Editors of Rowell Heritage:** Barry and Valerie Panter - [editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk](mailto:editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk)

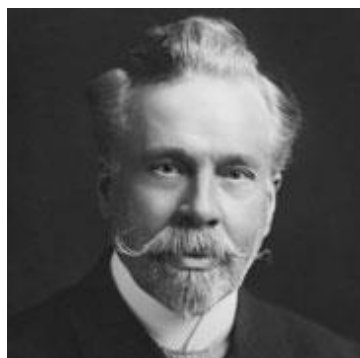
**Website:** [www.rothwellheritage.org.uk](http://www.rothwellheritage.org.uk)

*Please note that whilst every care is taken to be accurate, no liability will be accepted should any of the contents of this magazine be incorrect.*

**Front Cover Design:** Shoemaking patterns and last (Barry Panter)

## A Famous Rowellian - William Timpson (1849 – 1929)

William Timpson was born in Rothwell on the 20th May 1849, the youngest of eight children. His parents Anthony and Mary lived in a small cottage in Crown Yard. By the age of 8 he was already making money by making and selling leather boot laces and also often carried boots for outside workers from Rothwell to Messrs Gotch's boot factory in Kettering for repairs.



At the age of eleven William was sent to Manchester to work with his elder brother Charles delivering boots around Manchester. After an argument with Charles, William returned to

Rothwell to learn shoe making with Tom Butlin (who later became his brother in law). William then started to work for an old shoe repairer in Rothwell and took over his business when he died.

At the age of sixteen William returned to Manchester to join his brother in law, Walter Joyce with whom he started a retail boot and shoe business at 298 Oldham Road in April 1865. In May 1870, William started his own business by opening a shop at 97 Oldham Street, Manchester. With the success of this first shop, William was soon able to start and open more shops around Manchester.

Due to ill health William decided to move back to Kettering but still managed to keep an eye on his business by travelling to Manchester every other Tuesday by train and return on either Friday or Saturday. William was a well-known traveller from Kettering to Manchester as he did this journey for nearly forty years and held a 1st Class season ticket the whole time.

The business went from strength to strength and William expanded the business wisely with the help of Mr David Gotch and Mr T.A Mursell. With the business growing, a new warehouse was opened in Manchester in 1895 in Great Ducie Street. It was said that this warehouse could hold 40,000 pairs of shoes, a massive amount for the time.

William's son William Henry Farey Timpson joined the company in 1896 and started working at the Oldham Street warehouse in Manchester and after eighteen months he took over managing the Great Ducie St warehouse. In 1912 he became Managing Director. William was active in the business until 1903 when his health would not let him travel as much and the hard slog of finding new sites for stores became more demanding. In the years up to the Great War, William passed on more and more to William Henry and by 1919 he only made one or two trips to Manchester.

William died on January 23rd 1929. His funeral was held in Kettering and even though it was Saturday afternoon shops closed as a mark of respect. The streets were silent as the people of Kettering lined the streets as his funeral procession passed through the town.



*Information and photograph courtesy of Timpson Ltd*

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GC-LIFT 9639



It happened at the Loddington Hall Fete day one year shortly after the war, I was about ten or eleven at the time.

Various posters around the Hall grounds announced that there would be a special lady guest called Loddington Lou.

It went on to say that whoever approached and challenged her with a certain sentence, and be word perfect, would be presented with a prize of a one pound note, a fortune back in those days.

I quickly memorized the words and decided to lay in wait at the main entrance, keeping my eyes open for a female stranger to the Fete, possibly a gorgeous model up from London.



Within minutes a taxicab arrived and slowly drove through the gates. Once it was in the grounds I ran over to it, looked in the back window and sure enough, there was a young lady dressed up to the nines; tons of make up on, peroxide blonde hair under a large floppy hat.

She was sitting next to one of Rothwell's councillors so I knew it had to be her. I opened the door, leaned in, jabbed my digit at her and called out, "You are Loddington Lou, and thus I claim, one pound note if that's your name."

She gave me the dirtiest look and in the broadest Cockney accent said "At least give us a chance to get out the bleedin' car!"

I stepped aside, she climbed out and reluctantly handed me a pound note.

As I walked away I heard someone yelling out, "You are Loddington Lou, and thus I claim, one pound note..." and her reply, "Too late mate, that bleedin' kid's walked orf wiv it!"

**By Jim Dale**

This is believed to have been situated in the Slade Valley. Records show that the race meetings were jointly organised with the Slade ward in Kettering as far back as the seventeenth century.

One of the earliest recorded meetings in the town was in 1637 when a £50 race took place between Lord Cullen and Mr Washbourne and was won by Lord Cullen's horse.

A further meeting took place in September 1638 and was advertised in the London Gazette of 9th to 13th August 1683 as follows:

*A meeting at "Rothwell Slade in the county of Northampton at which the two usual Plates will be run for on the first Wednesday and Thursday in September; for the Thursday Plate each Horse to carry 12 Stone, gentlemen only to ride, three Heats, 4 miles each Heat; the Horses are obliged to be at Rothwell Town three weeks before the Day. For the Wednesday Plate each Horse to carry 10 stone, two miles each Heat; what horse runs for it is obliged to be at Rothwell ten days before the day of the Race."*



The next evidence of racing at Rothwell was a two day meeting held on 30th and 31st August 1727.

Baily's Racing Register does not provide results from all races held at Rothwell Slade but does record the final meeting which took place on Saturday 10th September 1730.

1. Carlisle Gelding owned by Mr Bainbrigge
2. Red Rose owned by Sir A Hasilrigg
3. Cripple owned by Lord Essex
4. Now-or-Never owned by Mr Hawkins

Information from [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)

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# What's Missing?



## YOU!

*Do you have a few hours to spare and would like to support the Arts and Heritage Centre?*

*We are always looking for volunteers to help and at the moment particularly need an assistant accountant. Or maybe you are someone that likes filling in forms and can help us with that. The centre would like to apply for grants, charity status or other funds so anyone with experience of applying for such would be a great asset.*

*Perhaps you are green fingered and prefer to be outdoors in which case the garden could do with some TLC and a regular offer for cleaning would be greatly appreciated.*

*Why don't you pop in, have a cup of coffee and a chat? You never know what you might end up doing. Look at us. We only went in to look at old photos and here we are editing the magazine!*

Did you know that an average person will spend 25 years asleep?

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# Folklore Festivals and Customs

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Most towns and villages have local festivals and customs and with our annual Rothwell Fair we are no exception. April Fool's Day is looming but do you know how that started or what other traditions are celebrated around the country at this time of year? Here are just a few ...

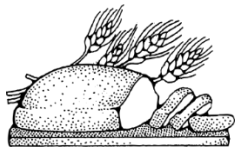
## March 1st Whuppity Scoorie

This festival is celebrated over the border in Lanark and marks the approach of Spring. At 6pm children traditionally race around St Nicholas' Church, making as much noise as possible and trying to hit each other with paper balls on the ends of strings. Nowadays it is no longer a race for safety reasons and after three laps, they scramble for coins thrown by members of the Community Council who host the event.



Its origins are obscure: one source claims that the children shouting was to chase away evil spirits, another claims that it reflects curfew changes when the lighter spring evenings replaced the dark winter nights. Yet another claims that it dates from a time when villains were whipped round the town cross then 'scoored' (scoured or cleansed) in the nearby River Clyde.

## March 11<sup>th</sup> Penny Loaf Day



This is connected to Newark in Nottinghamshire. The story behind this is that for three nights a rich merchant named Hercules Clay dreamed that he saw his house on fire. So convinced was he of impending doom that he moved his family out. They had no sooner left the property, when a bomb fired by Parliamentary forces during the English Civil War, destroyed the house. As thanks for his lucky escape, Hercules left £100 in trust, to provide penny loaves for the poor of the town.

## April 1<sup>st</sup> All Fools' Day

The current All Fools' Day tradition can be traced back to 16th century France, when the beginning of the New Year was originally observed on April 1. Then, in 1582, Pope Gregory introduced a revised calendar for the Christian world which meant that New Year fell on January 1.

It took some time for many people to hear word of the change (communications being what they were in the 16th century) so New Year's Day continued to be celebrated on the first day of April in many areas. Some just simply refused to accept the change. People who had accepted the dates of the new calendar played tricks on those who had not and referred to the victims of such pranks as "April Fools."



This annual tradition migrated to England and Scotland during the 18th Century. Sending unsuspecting folk on pointless errands was a particularly prized practical joke in the early days. The style of the pranks has changed over the years. However, the primary aim is that the jokes should be able to be enjoyed by everyone ...especially the person upon whom the joke is played. Custom dictates that pranking must stop at noon.

## April 30<sup>th</sup> Walpurgis Night



May 1st marks the victory of spring over winter and the night from April 30th to May 1st is called Walpurgis Night. Walpurgis was the name of a woman who was born, probably in Britain, around 710AD. The name suggests a Celtic, German or even a Scandinavian background. She travelled to Germany and founded the Catholic convent at Heidenheim, eventually becoming the Abbess there. She died in 779 and was made a saint on the 1st May later that year. It is because of this date that her name also became associated with the pagan Viking spring fertility celebrations which took place around the 30th of April. As the Vikings spread across Europe these two dates appear to have become intertwined and the resulting celebrations gained acceptance by the Catholic Church. Under Christian influence Walpurgis Night became a festival to drive out evil spirits with prayers and tolling of bells.

I visit Betty at her flat (6 Beech Close Desborough) and she still likes to recall those pantomime days which she thinks began about 1954.

About 42 productions were made over the years and many photographs and videos were taken. It is good to look back on happy times.

Betty had many helpers, including:

Eric Jones who provided the music at the piano whilst smoking his cigar. (That would never be allowed today)

David Muggleton and Helen Barratt also played piano and as nervous teenager Helen sang solo parts.

Beryl Smith (Hill) taught the dance steps and did the choreography.

Props and back drops were painted by Roy Chambers. George Willis and Mr Armstrong were also 'backroom boys'.

Betty Jones looked after wardrobe, making costumes with the help of many mothers including Carol Barratt, Edith Chambers and Violet Zendra.

Newman's barbers sold the tickets and many dads took turns on the door with mothers in charge of refreshments at the interval. Joan Parker had a good team of helpers including Betty Willis, Peggy Horsley and Violet Zendra (to name but a few).

Lighting for the show was done initially by John Muggleton and later by Keith Parker and then Roger Smith.

Rhona Eagle would play the accordion, Malcolm Horsley was another solo singer and Judith Zendra and Joanne Muggleton used to dance.



Pantomime from 1981  
but do you know  
which one?



So many people were involved with the productions over the years. Can you recall others taking part or helping?

Were you one of them or can you identify anyone in the photos? Do you have any others that you'd like to donate to the centre?

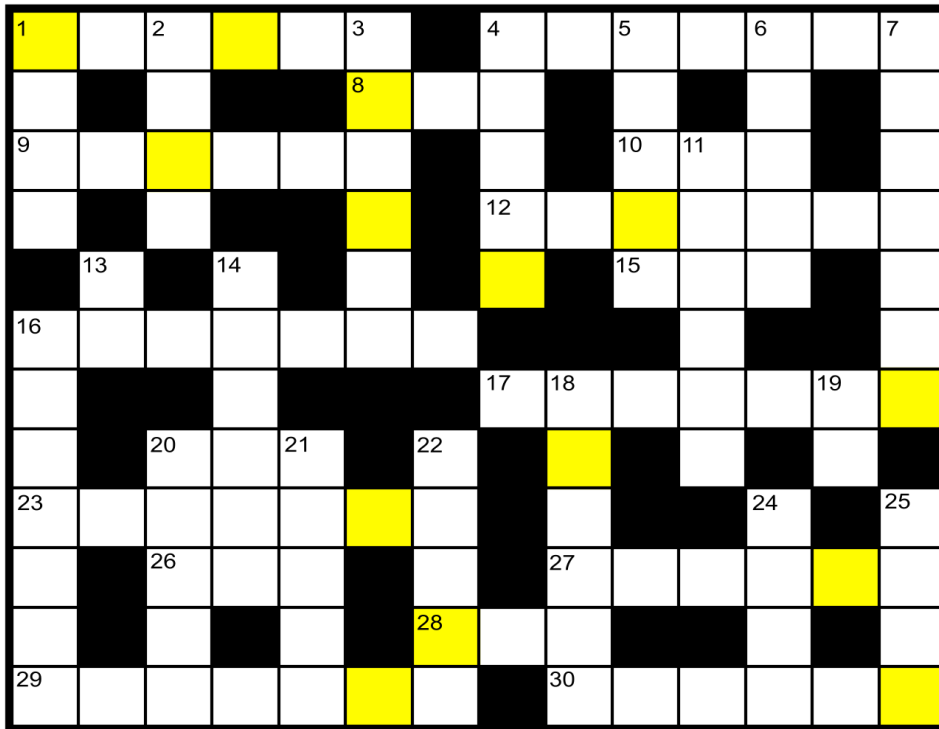
Contact our editors to include your memories in another edition of Rowell Heritage Magazine.



The Photograph above is from Aladdin 1966.

Below is one of Dorothy Potter's Dance Group. Does anyone know if this was part of a pantomime or who any of the dancers are?





#### Across

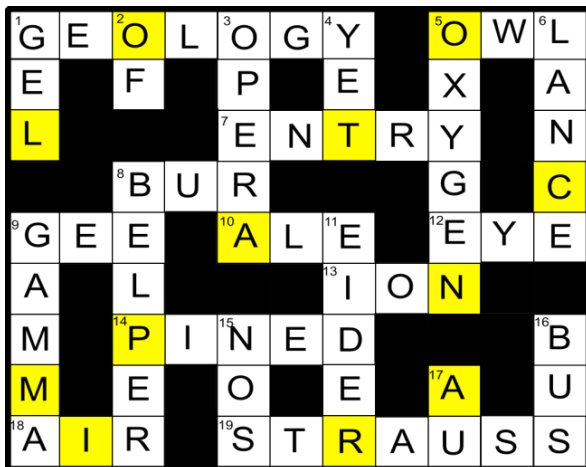
1. Type of fingerprint (6)
4. Climbing tropical plants (7)
8. Become older (3)
9. Central vein of a leaf (6)
10. Perform on stage (3)
12. Cover for an engine (7)
15. French for body of water (3)
16. Goes Away, deviates (7)
17. Letters sent to people by admirers (3,4)
20. A cereal (3)
23. Group of islands famous for its Triangle (7)
26. Officially prohibit (3)
27. Region on each side of the head (6)
28. Geisha's waistband (3)
29. Assure, convince (7)
30. Celestial bodies with tails (6)

#### Down

1. A Genie holder (4)
2. It has its highs and lows (4)
3. Flat piece of stone (6)
4. A stretch of river between two bends (5)
5. A way to catch fish (5)
6. Shenanigan (5)
7. A marine bird (7)
11. Asserts one's right to (6)
13. That guy (2)
14. Grand \_\_\_\_\_ Freeport's island (6)
16. Plays in water (7)
18. Relating to the body's main blood vessel (6)
19. Chemical symbol for Indium (2)
20. Eye socket (5)
21. Fixes keys (5)
22. Type of brassica (5)
24. Dueling sword (4)
25. Singles or Doubles (4)

Rearrange the yellow squares to spell a building in Rothwell

Answers in next Issue



Last month's puzzle. Answer PROCLAMATION

#### Did you know?

On December 21<sup>st</sup> 1913, a journalist from Liverpool named Arthur Wynne, published a "word-cross" puzzle in the *New York World* that embodied most of the features we know today.

Later, the name of the puzzle was changed to "crossword".

This puzzle is frequently cited as the first crossword puzzle, and Wynne as the inventor. This is often disputed as earlier puzzles date as far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

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## **The Last Years of Rothwell Urban District Council at the Manor House, Squires Hill**

---

My first job was at the Council Offices at the Manor House. This lasted for 8 years until local government re-organisation in 1974. It was a very interesting, varied position in the lovely surrounds of the Manor House. I can still clearly remember every nook and cranny of the imposing building and what every room was used for in those days. The main door led onto a large hall which was very cold due to the flagstones on the floor and minimal heating. To the right was the main office where people paid their rent, rates, made complaints and various other things including booking their burial plot.

This office had a hatch through to the kitchen area so at some time must have been a dining room. To the left of the main hall was a further office which was used for private conversations especially when rate rebates were introduced. It was also used by the Council House rent collector (Mrs Joan Buckby) to count all the money collected and balance everything. If the money was short then Mrs Buckby had to make up the shortfall herself – no writing off anything in those days.

Further to the left in the hall was the office of the Clerk of the Council. Mr Albert Sharman had the privilege of this position. He had served at the council since he was 14 and a meal was held at Rothwell House Hotel upon his 50 years of service to the town. This was not a jolly in today's terms as I distinctly remember all the serving councillors and staff paying for their own meal. Mr Sharman eventually retired and the position was taken up by the Collector Mr Derek Kerry.

The main staircase was in the main hall and to the right of this behind an internal wall was the strong room. This room held all the important ledgers and interestingly the infectious diseases book which was used to monitor measles, scarlet fever etc. These books were locked up every night. Outside this room were the old bells which presumably had been used by previous occupants to summon the servants. The main kitchen, scullery and pantry were at the back to the right. Also in this area was the back staircase which no doubt was used by the servants.

Upstairs on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was the main council chamber, the office of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector Mr Arthur Smith and the office of his deputy. All the other rooms on this floor were either for storage or empty. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was a treasure trove of items – old gas lamps, civil defence items including masks, ration books and many other things. I wonder what happened to all these gems. This floor was obviously the servants' quarters when the house was inhabited.

The rear garden to the house at this time led onto Bridge Street and was a lovely place to spend lunch time if it was sunny. To the side of the building the outhouses were the stores for the council painters. To the front there was a little garden which had the most amazing daffodils and faced the Mounts which some years during the winter was closed and sheep were allowed to graze.

The Council Office was a very old fashioned place in which to work. It was always shirt and tie for the gentlemen and for us girls definitely no trousers. We used to rebel at Christmas and always go to work in trousers.

I have only managed to re-visit this imposing building once since my time there but perhaps after this article I may get the chance again. Obviously things have changed. The rear garden was given to the County Council to house the former health centre and the main house and outbuildings have been used by businesses.

There were satellite buildings which the council controlled. The main library was housed at the top of the Market House and although not disabled friendly was I think, enjoyed by many people. Miss Vera Warren and latterly Mrs Blake and Mrs Lancaster (librarians) would visit the main office every morning to collect post or to get instructions. They worked at the top of this lovely building on their own in the mornings and then again in the early evening. At times they had to endure some young trouble makers who would run up and down the stone staircase trying to frighten these ladies.

(Continued over)

In Glendon Road there was the workman's yard. This housed the refuse bin and other items. The workers would come to the office on Friday afternoon to collect their wages in cash and sign for them. Even in those days there were a couple of people who could only place a cross as they could not write their signature.

There was also the cemetery. We had a big board which showed which burial plots had been taken and which were free. The cemetery caretaker/head gardener, who we called Jolly Jack, would be in the office when he had heard that someone had died wanting to know if it was a burial so he could start digging the grave. He was also responsible for mowing the bowling green which was also owned by the council.

The then council controlled most things in the town except the main roads. All the monetary issues were controlled from the offices at the Manor House and most planning things apart from those which had to be overseen by the County Council. Unfortunately with local government re-organisation the offices at the Manor House were disbanded and staff moved to Kettering Borough Council (if they wanted to). My personal view is that a considerable amount of local knowledge was lost then although a Town Council was formed which continues to today.

Written by Jayne Panther (nee Atter) January 2017



The photograph was taken outside the front door of the Manor House circa 1972/3

Back row left to right: Derek Kerry, Douglas Greenaway,  
Front row left to right: Kay Tebbut, Jayne Atter, Patsy Dines



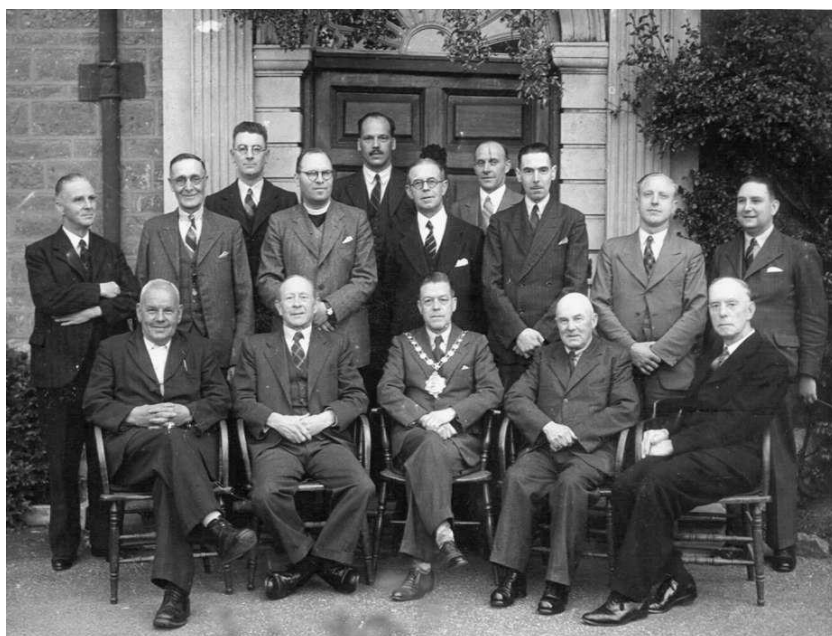
This photograph donated by the United Reform Church, Rothwell also dates from that time. Mr Kerry is seated second from the right.

We have names for some of the other people but if you can help identify them, please get in touch.

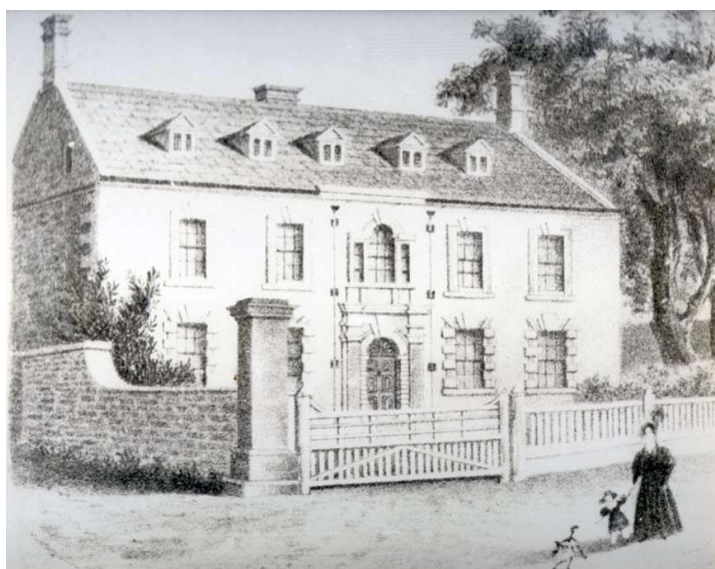
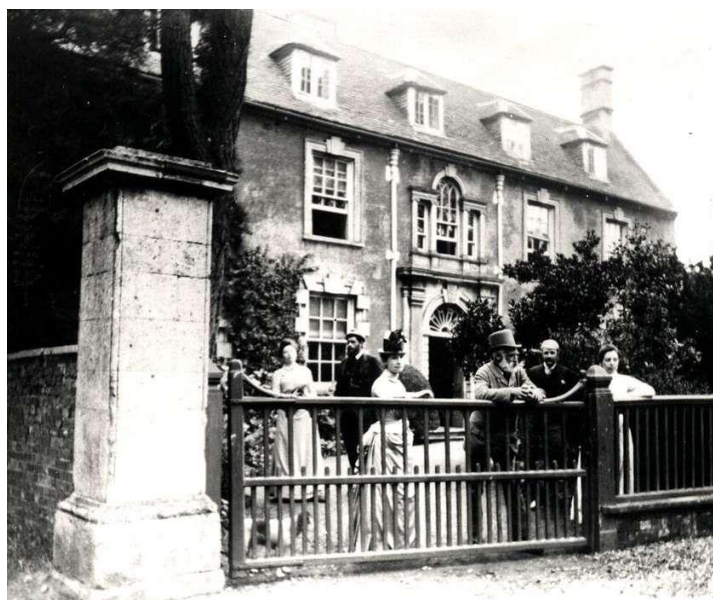
The photograph on the right is from an earlier period, possibly 1950's.

It was donated by Mr J Sharman and our records show that standing back left is a Mr A Sharman.

Again if you can identify anyone please let us know.



The last photograph below is circa 1886 and the illustration circa 1800, both from the Heritage Centre Archives.





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## Incident on the Brigstock to Oundle Road By David York

---

Riding your bicycles in the late 1950s/early 1960s was an enjoyable pastime. There were few cars on the roads especially the minor ones and those motorists on the minor roads kept their speed well down.

We cycled all over the place from our home in Rothwell even as far afield as Peterborough and Banbury. I hasten to add we were not racing cyclists who would think these mere distances as chicken feed. Our journeys were usually on a nice day and had a purpose to them such as going to Naseby to see the monument, to Foxton to see the locks, to Braybrooke to strawberry pick, to Cottesbrooke to see the hall, to Pitsford to lie in the grass by the reservoir. Peterborough and Banbury were trainspotting trips - just me and Graham Owen to see the sheds at New England, Woodford Halse and Banbury. The Peterborough trip was particularly daunting as there was a thunderstorm on the return journey with lightning hitting the ground all over the place. We got drenched. At Woodford Halse, on the long gone Great Central railway, I took a photo (sadly, now lost) of a steam loco bearing the name 'Duane Eddy' which someone had chalked on the side on top of the grime. It was in cold storage, ready for scrap, but the name conjured up the era we were living in at the start of the pop music scene.

Our cycling group sometimes went on treasure hunts where myself or Chris Middleton would go out in advance on a planned out route to look for things to spot (like items you'd see in old I-Spy booklets) that would turn out to be answers to clues that we would make up on our return, then we'd come home and draw up sheets containing anagrams of the route name places and work out the clues. Then our group or some of them, at least, would go off on another day and try to work out the route from the anagrams and answers to the clues we set by spotting the items. A bit like the things Anneka Rice and Kenneth Kendal would get up to, but with bicycles instead of the helicopter. I don't think there were any prizes and it was rather time consuming so I think we only managed two in all (one a year). We would also go off to trace the source of certain small streams like the one that runs into Loddington reservoir - I think we traced that back to somewhere near Harrington US rocket base (or what was left of it by the early 60s).

Our group of cyclists over the years 1959 to 1963 included myself, my brothers Wal & Jim, Chris & Graham, our neighbour, Rod & Tony Burrows and Keith Brown, Donald Grantham, Francis Shortland, Norman Butlin, Graham Owen and Woko from Kettering, who came on at least one trip.

My brothers and I liked the scenery out towards Fotheringhay in the Nene Valley and decided to head out one day towards Oundle taking with us our neighbour Tony Burrows. We set off on a route through Rushton, Great Oakley, Little Oakley and Stanion to Brigstock where we had a break. It was rather a hot day and we had to buy some pop from a local shop to eat with our sandwiches. We set off again venturing down the long & fairly straight road to Oundle. We passed Lyveden on the way and hadn't seen one car - it was an extremely quiet road.

It was about two miles beyond Lyveden, still no cars, when I discovered I'd got a flat front tyre. I turned my bike upside down to check it out. Sure enough I'd got a puncture. Well, with no traffic on the road I decided to mend the puncture in the best possible place - on the flat bit in the centre of the road where there was no camber or uneven grass verge. I'd got the tyre off and the inner tube out and had located the hole and was getting the patch ready to put over the hole when Tony shouted out "Car coming". It was a long way off - two miles away at least - you could see it in the distance. I cursed and moved the bike to the side of the road to await its arrival and passing, only it slowed up when it approached us. "I saw you", he said. He'd already got the car window wound down. "You were fixing that in the middle of the road" pointing to my bike. I didn't deny it. In fact I think I answered "Well it's a very quiet road". He didn't disagree, but said "Don't do it again!" I looked at him as if to say 'what's it to you'. He said "I mean it, fix it over there by the grass. I'm on the way to work and I'm the superintendent of Oundle Police Force - so be warned" and he moved off on the way to his headquarters in Oundle.

We quickly fixed the tyre and carried on our journey - the same way he had gone. It didn't spoil our day - we got to Fotheringhay and had a picnic by the Nene. I thought myself rather lucky he hadn't booked me.

Tony, by the way, took up a career in the police force.

**Did you know that there are about a billion bicycles in the world, twice as many as there are cars?**

## Did you know that Rothwell once had a Cinema?

**Rothwell Cinema** first opened around 1920 in the former Oddfellows Hall at the bottom of New Street.

It was owned by Len Bailey, a motor engineer, George Kilburn, an inventor, and Arthur Pollard, a traveller for a local boot and shoe factory.

The auditorium floor was raked, but there was no balcony.

Power was originally supplied by a gas engine situated in a yard further up New Street but by 1930 the cinema was on the mains electric supply. It was equipped with a Morrison sound system.

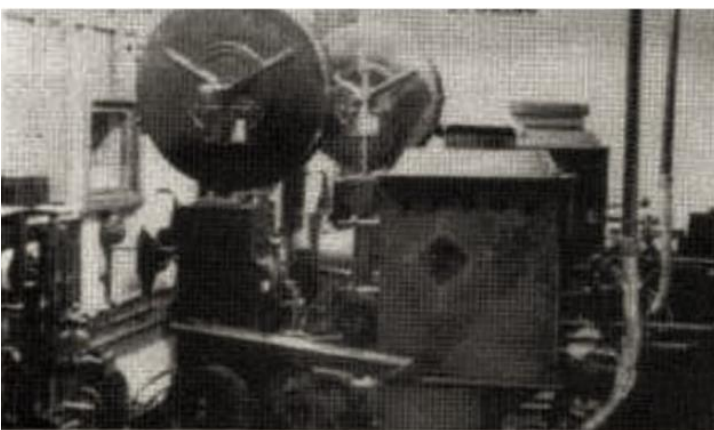
Sometime during 1945 the Picture House was taken over by Hudson Cinemas and closed for refurbishment.

When the cinema re-opened it was called the New Picture House.

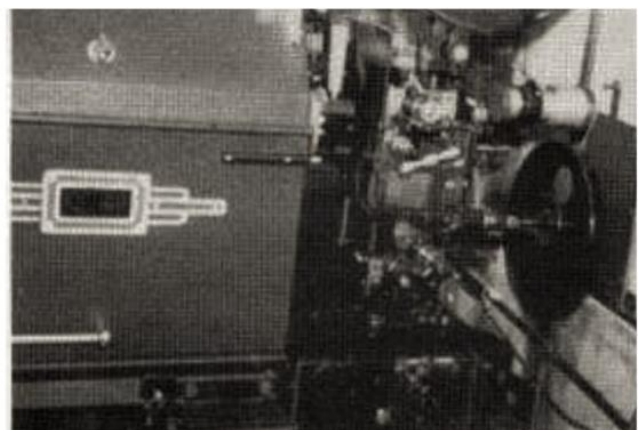
In 1948 the cinema was acquired by Rothwell Cinema Company with a new manager Eric Gillette (right).



A new screen was installed and the old American Simplex projectors were replaced with Kalee 8 ones.



*The original Simplex projector*



*Kalee 8 projector which replaced the Simplex*



Stan White (left) was the projectionist at that time and he managed to obtain a lens from one of the scrapped projectors.

This is now in the Arts and Heritage collection along with a photograph of the projection room taken while the Simplex projectors were still in use.

The cinema closed on Saturday 19th February 1951 and the building first became Taylor's shoe factory and later was home to a manufacturer of electrical components. Today it is occupied by A. J. Mills Stonemasons.



Information from [www.cinematreasures.org](http://www.cinematreasures.org) and photos courtesy of Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre

#### **Editor Val's note:**

I recently discovered that my paternal grandfather Frederick Parker (pictured right with wife Sarah) was also a projectionist, during the war years.

Eric Gillette boarded with Fred and his family, round the corner from the cinema, at 1 Madams Hill.

Sarah also worked in the cinema as a cleaner and their daughter Elma worked first as an usherette and later as cashier.



***Would you like to know more about one of your ancestors? Pop into the Centre and we can search the Census Returns for them and maybe surprise you. Cost is £1.00 per search and 50p per print.***



# Rothwells Premier Private Hire Venue

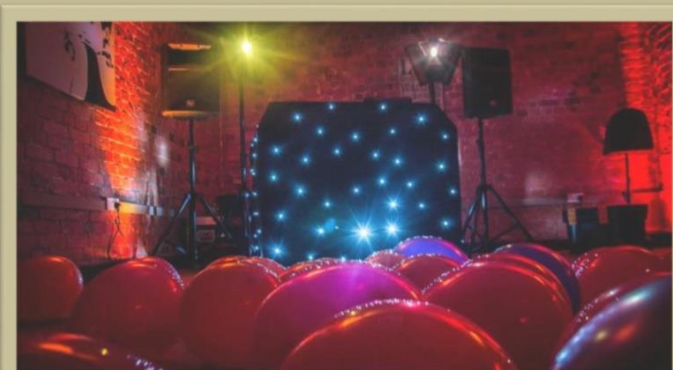
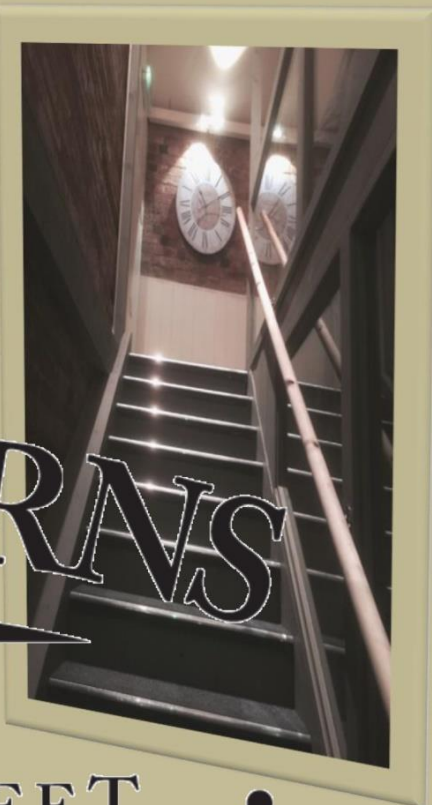
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## Sports Day at Gladstone Street School

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Sports Day was held annually in the summer term at Gladstone Street School. The participants were the fourth year children - we were all due to leave to go on to Secondary School. We had completed the 11 plus exam and we already knew whether we would be going to The Kettering High School for Girls, The Kettering Grammar School for Boys, The Kettering Central School or the Rothwell Greening Road School - Montsaye as it is now called. We were 'demob happy'!!!!

Before Sports Day, the heats had already taken place so on the actual day it was the final events only. These took place on the Rothwell football field. It was a very exciting afternoon for the rest of the school; all the children watched the races from the grandstand, jumping up and down, cheering and yelling for their respective House teams - Clare (red) Dryden (green) Cogan (blue) and Tresham (yellow). Parents also came along to watch and cheer their children on to victory. Unlike many school Sports Days today, it was highly competitive.



The type of events that took place were - running race, skipping race, sack race, three-legged race, egg and spoon race, hurdles and high jump. There were separate races for girls and boys. Michael Pateman remembers that the boys had throwing a cricket ball to see who would get the furthest distance and also a cross country race. The route for the cross country race was via the football field, into Cambridge Street, through the allotments to the bottom of The Folly (I think it is now

called Shotmill Lane) and back. Michael said that it seemed a very long way to run when he was only eleven. Michael remembers teaming up with Robert Marlow for the three-legged race and together they won the boys finals.

I had to team up with another girl from Dryden for the three- legged race, so Mary Martin (now Cox) and I tied our ankles together and won the heat. After that we were totally 'hooked'. Mary lived only six houses away from me in Crispin Street, and we practised each night after school. My right ankle would be joined to Mary's left ankle by tying a scarf around them. We would put an arm around each other's waist, shout "Ready, steady, goo" and we'd be OFF!!!! We raced along Crispin Street, down Rock Hill to the Rec, then along the foot path to The Mounts (now called Manor Park, I think), through top Church Yard, along the High Street, back to Crispin Street. Woe betide anyone who got in our way! We were invincible! I think we must have been quite a sight, racing around Rowell streets with our legs tied together! I doubt if it would happen today!

After daily practising, no other pair stood a chance in the three-legged race! We were YARDS in front of the pair who came second! What a victory for Dryden! As a result of our outstanding win Mary and I were entered for the three-legged race in the Combined Schools Kettering and District Sports Day. I remember the Gladstone Street Sports Day fondly as I won lots of red ribbons for Dryden and we were the girl team winners that year.

I remember winning the running, skipping, hurdles and high jump as well as the three-legged race. I was declared the best girl and Michael Pateman (who now lives in Australia) was the best boy, as we each won the most medals and gained the most points for our House teams. The Chairman of Rothwell and District Council, Mr. Frank West, a local butcher, whose shop was where The Salvation Army Drop-In Centre is now, presented Michael and me with special medals in little boxes. It was such a memorable occasion for a girl of eleven and I know that Michael remembers it too.

Michael and I were also entered for high jump at the Combined Schools Kettering and District Sports Day.

I remember that Mr. Davies took us in his car and he left his indicator on. This was like a little arrow that stuck out on the right or left side of the car. Neither Michael's parents nor mine had a car, so it was a special treat for us to be driven by our headmaster for a Sports event. What happy days.....

### **Helen Brown (nee Chapman)**

With thanks to Mary Martin (now Cox) and Michael Pateman who helped with some of the detail.

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### **Rothwell Methodist Reunion Lunch Final Reminder**

This is a final message to all members of the Methodist Church including the Sunday School, Youth Club and Social Hour, in the fifties and sixties. Please come to our reunion lunch at the Rothwell Methodist Hall on 29th March at 12.00pm. Tickets are on sale NOW at £10.00 from Margaret Read, Alan Joyce, Max Green, Jayne Panther (nee Atter) and Helen Brown (nee Chapman). All profits will be donated to the church. It will be fantastic to meet up again.

I hope this photo brings back happy memories.....



### Dr. Gibbons Remembered

Our small house is humming. The doctor is coming!  
Sweeping and dusting and plumping of cushions,  
My ringlets bunched with blue satin ribbons  
All for the visit of Dr. Gibbons.

Mum's on her mettle;  
Soft pump-water boiling in our copper kettle  
To sterilise the doctor's hands  
Pre and post-prodding of my swollen glands.

Awaiting on the sideboard,  
Our white porcelain bowl rimmed with gold  
And a soft, snow-white towel  
For the doctor to unfold.

With Evening Telegraph-plaited spills  
And Dad-axed kindling sticks, flames leap and flare  
And the crumpety-fork makes me think of Hellfire  
Where the devil prods the sinners there.

Doctor is here! Suit-jacket hitched up to toast his rear.  
Legs a-straddle, barking gruff staccato  
Between each puff of his Players' Number Ten  
And thunder-rumble diagnostic 'Hmms!'

I kept him busy over the years, always too scared to let  
him see tears.

Evacuee-rickets, leg-irons prescribed;  
Then a small arm scalded to the third degree –  
Just seconds the copper kettle rested there.  
'Don't come,' warned Mum. But in I ran, all unaware.

Childhood chickenpox, measles and mumps,  
farm-wedding show-off haystack jumps,  
Higher and higher, landing face-first on rusty barbed-  
wire.  
Bursting in screaming, bridesmaid-dress covered in gore.  
Clang! Of wedding-cake-cutting knife on the floor.

Stitches secured with Elastoplast strips,  
the yanking off zig-zag I never forgot,  
And refused to go back when a teased cat,  
clawed, just missing my eye.  
Nor when the metal school-dinner custard jug held high  
Gouged out a sliver of flesh nearby.

I was twelve the last time the doctor was called.  
'Rheumatic fever,' he said and Mum stood and bawled.  
Hand on her shoulder he told her,  
'Your little girl will be fine,  
All she needs is time, you'll see.  
Now how about that cuppa, Mrs G?  
For me, two months in bed, legs in a frame.  
But always smiling whenever kindly Dr Gibbons came.

By Maysie Guilford (as was)

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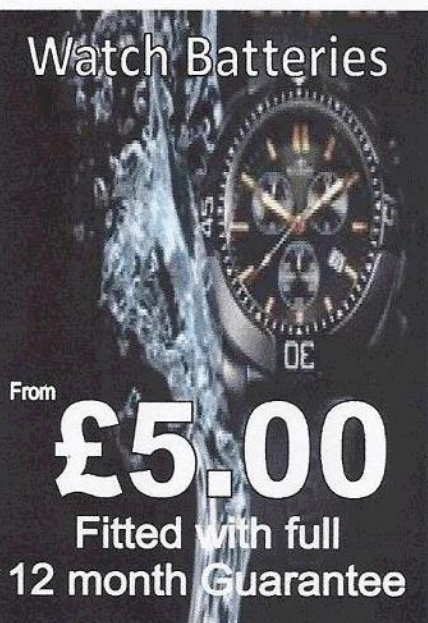
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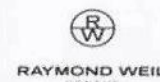
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## *A STEP BACK IN TIME*

Here we take a look at National and World events which took place in March and April.

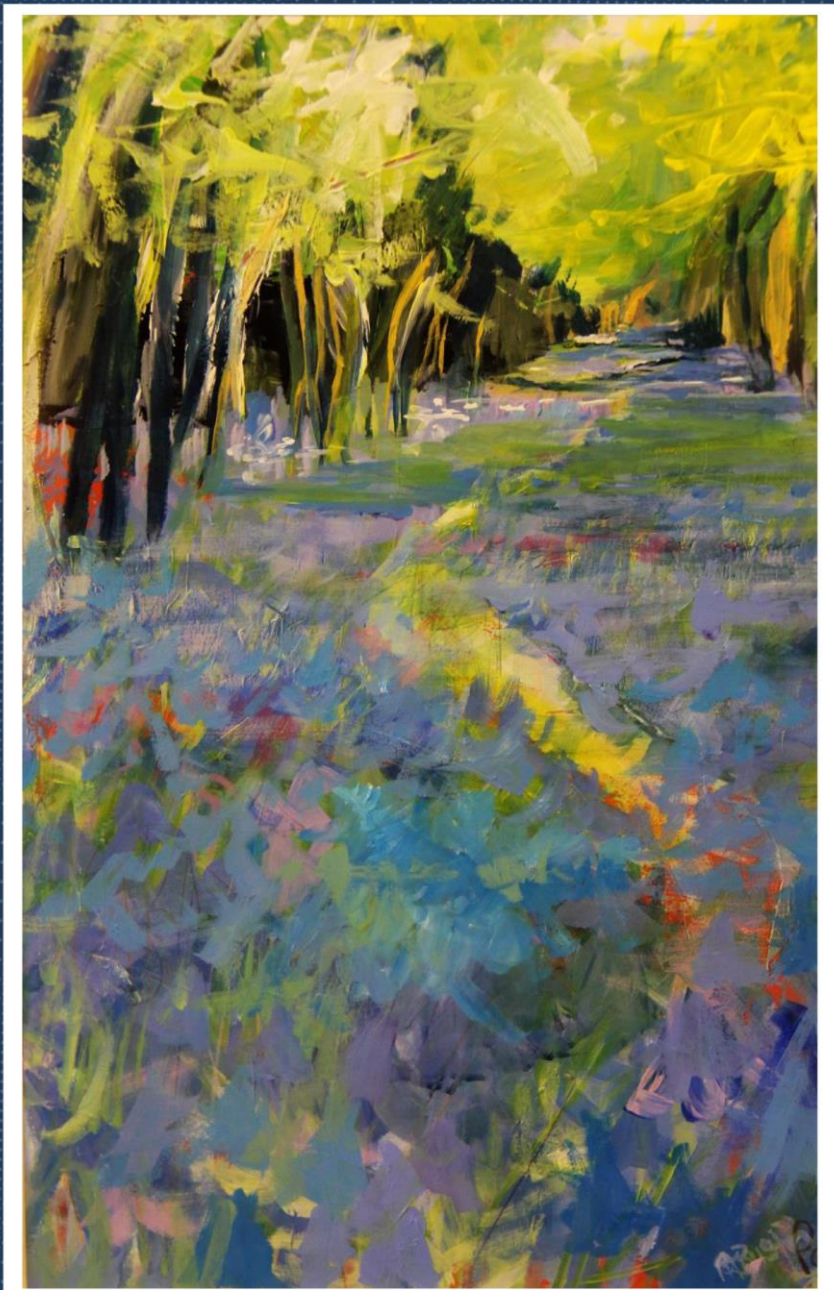
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March 1936</b>	The British fighter plane Spitfire made its first test flight from Eastleigh, Southampton. Powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine the aircraft will enter service with the Royal Air Force in the next two years.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March 1876</b>	The Scottish-born inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, patented the telephone
<b>18<sup>th</sup> March 1967</b>	The super tanker Torrey Canyon ran aground on Pollard's Rock in the Seven Stones reef between the Cornish mainland and the Isles of Scilly, loaded with 120,000 tonnes of crude oil. The vessel released 32, million gallons of oil, much of which washed up on the Cornish coast.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> March 1653</b>	Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, dissolves the Long Parliament.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 1824</b>	The British Parliament voted to purchase 38 paintings at a cost of £57,000, to establish a national collection which is now housed in the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April 1721</b>	Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister of Britain
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April 1739</b>	Travellers throughout England breathe a sigh of relief, safe in the knowledge that the most notorious of highwaymen Dick Turpin, was hanged today in York.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> April 1633</b>	Bananas, never seen before in England, went on sale in a London shop.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 1963</b>	The first cordless telephone went on sale in Britain.
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April 1915</b>	In World War I, over 70,000 Australian, New Zealand and British troops met fierce resistance from Turkish forces as they landed at Gallipoli.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> April 1945</b>	In his hideaway bunker in Berlin, Adolf Hitler shoots himself. His wife of 48 hours and former mistress, Eva Braun, took a cyanide capsule. In accordance with Hitler's instructions both bodies were then burnt.



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## Another Famous Rowellian – Dr Alfred Carpenter (1825 – 1892)

*In the last issue of the magazine we published a photograph of The Old Surgery on the Market Hill, where I lived as a child. I decided to do some research to see if I could find out who the doctors were who lived there.*

*The 1851 census records that a surgeon by the name of John Carpenter was living with his family at Market Place. It was then pure chance that Barry discovered an article about John's son Alfred who not only followed his father into medicine but also made quite a name for himself. This is his story ...*

**Alfred John Carpenter** (physician) son of John Carpenter (surgeon) was born in Rothwell on 28 May 1825.

He was educated at the Moulton grammar school in Lincolnshire until 1839 when he was apprenticed to his father. In 1841 he became a pupil of William Percival at the Northampton Infirmary and afterwards acted as assistant to John Syer Bristowe at Camberwell.

He entered St. Thomas's Hospital in 1847, taking the first scholarship and afterwards gained the treasurer's gold medal. He was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in 1851.

From 1852-82 he was a general practitioner but then in 1882 became a consulting physician.

He acted as a medical attendant to the cadets of the East India Company military seminary at Addiscombe in Surrey, until its closure in 1861 and also medical attendant to four successive Archbishops of Canterbury at Addington Palace, Croydon, "closing the eyes of three".

Carpenter sat on the Croydon Local Board of Health and introduced many important reforms. He believed that healthy homes made healthy people, and his life was devoted to putting this into practice. His interests included sewage irrigation, infectious disease and temperance. Croydon lost 10% of its inhabitants to typhoid fever in 1852 and He studied the general sanitary conditions of Croydon with great care, established public baths and ventilated the sewers.

As chairman of the Croydon sewage farm he introduced a model which was afterwards copied widely. He worked on the concept of sending sewage to the fields of ryegrass nearby, to grow grass good enough feed local dairy cows. This process was a complete success, and no taint of microbes from the human sewage was found in the milk when tested independently. Everyone was mightily impressed with this.

Carpenter continued to advance his sanitary knowledge and was awarded the Certificate of Sanitary Science from Cambridge University and later became a lecturer in Public Health at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

Carpenter had a philanthropic nature. He gave ten per cent of his income to the poor and held annual parties for the children from the Ragged School.

Twice he stood twice for parliament as a Liberal, first in 1885 for Reigate and in 1886 for North Bristol. Each time he was unsuccessful. However, he was never far from controversy and was involved in two high profile court cases against him. An effigy of him was burnt behind Croydon Town Hall apparently caused because he supported the temperance movement who were calling for pubs and taverns to be closed on Sundays. In Reigate he was thrown into a pond by the publicans. Later when he became a Justice of the Peace he was particularly hard on those who came before him for drunkenness.

He died on 27 January 1892 at The Esplanade Hotel, Ventnor, Isle of Wight and is buried in Croydon cemetery. According to probate records his effects were worth £23019 18s 7d.

There are a number of memorials to Carpenter at Mayday Hospital, Croydon, including a brass plaque commemorating him as a founder of Croydon General Hospital (1866) and a marble bust (pictured right) which was executed by E. Roscoe Mullins and is now in the post-graduate centre.



His name is also carved on the stone memorial dated 1883, which would have been placed inside the Croydon Union (workhouse) Infirmary. That later became Croydon General Hospital.

**Information was taken from:**

Wikisource – [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Carpenter,\\_Alfred\\_John\\_\(DNB01\)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Carpenter,_Alfred_John_(DNB01)) and <http://generalpractitionermemorials.blogspot.co.uk/>

Photograph by Dr Nicholas Cambridge MD, University of London, MRCS, LRCP, London FSA, FRSA, FLS

**Did you know that March 30th 2017 marks the 175th anniversary of the first use of general anaesthesia in surgery?**

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