

Rowell Heritage

No: 18

May - June 2017

£2

Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



Dear Readers

Well it's that time of year again and Rowell Fair will soon be with us and we have several pieces about it in this issue.

You may remember in the last magazine we advertised the Methodist Church Youth Club Reunion. That was held in March and was a resounding success. Two people contacted us afterwards with their stories and photographs from the day, so they are in this issue too. See who you can recognise.

This month we also have several contributions from the Art Gallery and Craft Group.

In the last issue we published an article on Rothwell Cinema along with a photograph of a projectionist who we believed to be Stan White. Mr White saw it and called in to the centre to point out that the photograph was in fact one of Lionel Collins, not him. He was however delighted that we had featured the old cinema or 'Rowell Pictures' as he calls it and he loaned us some more photographs and an old programme which you can see in this issue. It is vital that we preserve this sort of thing for future generations, so thank you Stan.

In fact, thank you again to all our contributors and their valuable support. Remember, if you have a story to tell or photographs to share, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Why don't you call into the centre and while you are there have a cup of tea or coffee in the recently refurbished Vintage Tea Room?

Val & Barry

Address: Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre, 14-16 Bridge Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, NN14 6JW

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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

Website: 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 Photo: Bailiff at Rowell Fair Proclamation circa 1900 (Courtesy of Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre)

The History of the Fairground Cake Walk

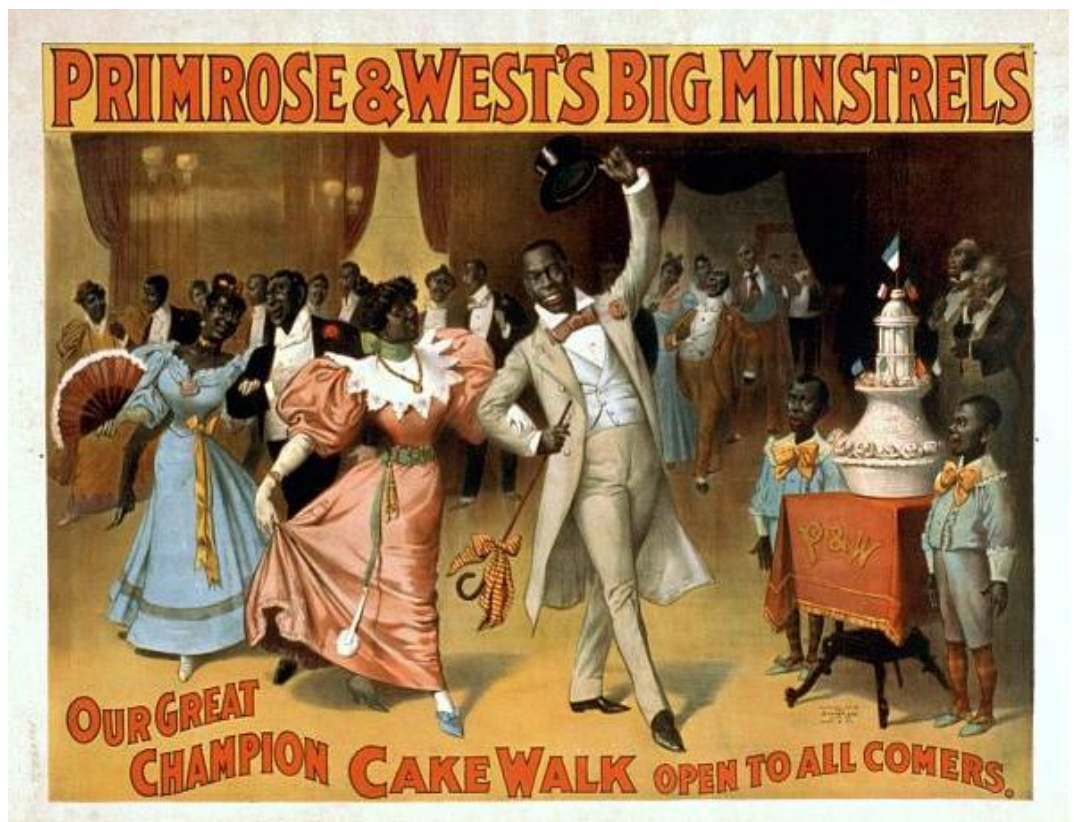
You are all probably familiar with the fairground ride the Cake Walk but do you know its origins?

The Cake Walk was originally a dance performed by slaves on plantations in America. It was first known as the "prize walk" with the prize being an elaborately decorated cake. Hence, "prize walk" is the original source for the phrases "takes the cake" and "Cake Walk." Anything that can be done with straightforward ease is often said to be a "Cake Walk".

Couples would stand in a square formation with men on the inside the steps included "a high-leg prance with a backward tilt of the head, shoulders and upper torso. Plantation owners served as judges for these contests and some people think that the slaves might just have been mocking them during these highly elaborate dances.

By the 1870s a Cake Walk was a popular feature of minstrel shows and the Oxford English Dictionary notes that usage of the word "Cake Walk" really began to take off during this decade.

It was also when the word began being used as a way to describe an accomplishment that was easy or simple to obtain. This is not because winning a Cake Walk competition was easy. Rather, it was because the dance steps were fluid and graceful and hard work by the dancers gave the impression of great ease.



The dance was so ingrained in American popular culture and entertainment that by 1892 local Cake Walk championships were being held in New York's Madison Square Garden. It hosted a national championship in 1897 and the dance was even performed in 1889 at the Paris World's Fair in 1889.

As Cake Walk dances became more popular, they gave rise to their own form of music, an early forerunner of what is now known as ragtime.

The fairground ride named after the dance, emerged around 1909. It consisted of undulating bridges and gangways driven by cranks. These were often connected to the organ so that when the music was speeded up so was the ride. This increased the speed of the riders 'dancing' much to everyone's amusement. This made for a good spectacle and showmen quickly learnt that a ride that makes a good viewing also makes a good profit.

Image - (Primrose and West Big Minstrels) courtesy of Library of Congress – <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014637013/>

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Rowell Fair

(by Valerie Panter)

A royal charter did declare
That the town of Rothwell could hold a fair,
At the feast of the Holy Trinity
With all the liberties and customs free.

Horses, cattle and sheep for sale
Visitors came and supped the ale.
Leather, cloth and tools to trade
Friendships renewed and new ones made.

As time progressed the trade declined
But a fair continued of a different kind.
Steam driven rides and bioscope shows
And then came the stalls that everyone knows.

Dodgems, or bumpers to you and me
The cake walk rocking and so wobbly.
The spinning waltzer for those who dared
And ghost train for those not easily scared.

Remember the skid and the speedway too
And Noah's ark animals, two by two?
A big wheel for those who loved to go high
And chairplanes flew you up to the sky.

Then the stalls where you tried your luck
Hoopla, roll a ball and hook a duck.
Trying to win that goldfish so rare
That had often died by the end of the fair.

Candy floss, toffee apple on a stick
Popcorn or doughnuts, take your pick.
Hot dogs and burgers with sauce on top
All washed down with a fizzy pop.

On Rowell Fair Monday still gathers a crowd
To celebrate a tradition of which we are proud.
Young and old all feel the suspense
At 6 O'clock, let Proclamation commence.

The Bailiff today still rides on his horse
Guarded by his halberdiers of course.
He reads out the charter loud and clear,
After the National Anthem the crowds all cheer.

Milk laced rum drunk at every stop
The landlords are careful, mustn't spill a drop.
There follows a scuffle and with all their might
The halberdiers stand firm and put up a fight.

A whistle is blown and order restored
Nowadays its good humoured, with no discord.
One final anthem and a round of three cheers
And that's it all over for another year.

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Rowell Fair Society by Ian Pratt

My name is Ian Pratt, secretary of the Rowell Fair Society. To most Rowellians the society is well known. However, in a growing town there are many newcomers, so if I may, I will explain what we are about.

We have a membership of 400, by far the largest organisation in the town. Our objective is to maintain the tradition of the annual fair which is arguably one of the oldest 'charter fairs' in the country.

We with the help of many volunteers, organise the activities of Rowell Fair Week. Starting with the first weekend of the fair, Sunday is full of activity. It also coincides with Rothwell Town Council Civic Parade. At the Tresham Hall there is the model exhibition which is one of the most popular events and has been running for 25 years. The Town Council Civic Parade takes place later in the morning with the new town mayor (Mr Clive Cross) and all town organisations take part. Whilst all this is going on there will be a gathering of vintage cars on show in The Charter Inn car park.

The society also assists with the parade and this year will be led by Lloyd Mills, son of the late Alan Mills, who sadly passed away last year. Lloyd will be ably assisted by Mark Spendlove.

The second parade, on Sunday afternoon, will be at the 'Blessing of the Fair' ceremony on Willie Thurston's Waltzer. After this, the fair will be open for a while.

The society is also responsible for the 'No Traffic' and various diversions signs. Not always popular but necessary in an age of Health and Safety.

Then onto what is the most important day in Rowell's year – Rowell Fair Monday. From early dawn the town starts to come alive getting ready for the Proclamation or 'Proc' as it is locally called. This year's Proc is probably the most important day in the life of Frank York as he will be making his debut as 'Bailiff'. Everyone still remembers the last one as one of the most poignant heroic readings in the history of Rowell Fair. Despite his illness, Alan read the charter three times with the same old gusto and smiles as he had in past years. As an observer you could feel the whole town willing him on. Frank is aware that he has a hard act to follow. We wish you luck Frank but with his family's 70 years association with the fair, he will be fine. The society is particularly proud that Frank was chosen by the Lord of the Manor to succeed Alan. He has been an active member of the society committee and his know how will be a great asset as Bailiff.

I must point out that the society does not run all things but is purely back up to the Bailiff and the Lord of the Manor but helps to keep up the wonderful tradition of 813 years.

The society also has its social side, holding monthly events, mainly speakers and film shows. These range from live owls in the Conservative Club, a magic lantern show, how to dress an elephant (true) to an extra in various TV Soaps. If possible we get various celebrities including the Rev Richard Coles a well-known broadcaster, Tom Owen of Summer Wine fame and the ever popular Bernie Keith of Radio Northampton. Bernie is a supporter of the society.

It is possible that we are the only organisation where its members proposed an increase in the annual subscriptions because they thought were undercharged (£2 to £3).

We are fortunate to have a full committee adding their talents to what goes on. We also publish a newsletter every so often to keep members informed.

We are also self-financing. Although we do get some grants we mainly raise our own funds. This year some of our local businesses have kindly sponsored our monthly events. This is a huge help and the society thanks those who did and those who might.

Next year sees the 50th anniversary of the society, started in the Conservative Club by the legendary Norman Hall, a former Bailiff, It is hoped that it will be as an unforgettable one as the society hopes to make it.

Our treasurer, Robert Denton (Yes that Robert Denton) will accept all help. Any article concerning Rowell Fair would be empty without giving Robert a mention, the greatest horse and man legend since 'The Lone Ranger and Tonto' (Robert and Charlie).

If you feel that you would like to join or just want to know more of what we do, come along to one of our monthly events. They are usually held on the last Thursday of the month. You will be very welcome. Rowell Fair badges can be obtained and subscriptions paid at the Heritage Centre.

Finally a special thanks to all the volunteers without whose help our wonderful tradition would not be possible.

See you at the Fair!

Ian Pratt Secretary
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Dates for your Diary – updates to Heritage Centre Programme of Events

Thursday	25 th May	Talk - The Suffragettes by Peter Barry
Saturday	3 rd June	Arts and Craft Fair
Saturday	10 th June	Rowell Tart Fair
Saturday	1 st July	Special Coffee Morning / Strawberry Fair
Saturday	15 th July	A 1970s Afternoon
Friday	28 th July	Centre Open Evening & Cheese and Wine Evening
Saturday	19 th August	A 1950/60s Afternoon
Friday	25 th August	Talk – Rowell's connection to Queen Elizabeth 1 st and The Gunpowder Plot by Peter Deakin
Tuesday	12 th September	An Evening with Dennis Binks
Saturday	30 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday	21 st October	Special Coffee Morning and Cake Making Competition
Saturday	4 th November	The Gunpowder Plot Coffee Morning
Saturday	9 th December	Arts and Craft Fair
Friday	15 th December	Rowell Santa on a low loader
Saturday	16 th December	Special Coffee Morning with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine etc.

Note: Programme Subject to Change

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Simple idea really - just place the equivalent of armchairs (call them 'cars') on an undulating ride similar to the Noah's Ark and make it a bit more exciting by having them rotate around a central pivot. But who would have expected that because of the offset weight when fully loaded that it would bring about unbelievable G-forces giving the riders the thrill of their lives. This creation was, and still is, the Fairground Waltzer.

They have been around since the mid-1930s, but the first one I saw was at Kettering Fair in the mid-1950s. Then one came to Rowell Fair in the late 50s/early 60s. It didn't look too scary, but there was plenty of screaming and shouting going on so we tried one out. "You have to sit right", we were warned, and "don't get your head in a place where it's not supported - keep yourself tucked well down in the seat". In we got and pulled up the lap bar which was something to hold on to.

Off we went, slow at first, clockwise. "This is a bit tame", I thought. We weren't really doing anything much - just spinning a little and moving up and down over the undulations. Then it came. Thud! A kick on the side of the car from the fairground worker who was waltzing around himself like an acrobat weaving in and out of the cars. That did it.....whoooooosh and the G-force came right in the centre of your body. You suddenly weighed a ton and were rigidly stuck to the back of the car unable to move an inch. The lights of the ride wheeled around as you spun, the pop music was going around and around in the air, the lorry's roaring generator added to the thrill as you passed it every five or six seconds and you looked up at the ceiling whirling around as you were fixed to the chair. A lovely out of body experience - wow - it was simply sublime - psychedelic in fact. You could possibly liken it to a LSD trip (not that I've ever been on one, and would never condone ever going on on). It went on for several minutes then it came to an end. "Whooooo".... I could do that again. We had a chat, me and my mates, and paid the price of another ride.

The Waltzer at Rothwell has been located in several positions on its streets over the years, but our first ride was when it was positioned down a corner at the bottom of Market Hill outside my old friend Chris Middleton's house. In fact I believe Chris was on that very same ride with me.

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Another Famous Rowellian

You may remember that the last two magazines advertised the Methodist Youth Club reunion. That took place in March and by all accounts was a resounding success. Following the reunion we were contacted by Bev Willis who was part of their shows in the sixties.

Bev went on to a career on stage, screen and TV. You may have seen him on Inspector Morse, Casualty, A Touch of Frost, Lovejoy or Van der Valk (to name but a few) or in movies such as Jacob, A Question of Guilt Cemetery Junction and The Golden Years.

Bev was born in Rothwell in 1944 to Les and Mary Willis. He was actually born at his grandparents' house at 47 Wales Street although lived first at 2 Rock Hill then later at 75 Kettering Road.

He attended the Central School in Kettering and on leaving went to work at the Evening Telegraph. He then joined the Phoenix Theatre in Leicester and one of his first roles there was in Under Milk Wood. He has since gone on to work at the Old Vic and National Theatre as well as in TV and films.

The photographs below are of Bev as a young lad and on stage as Trinculo in The Tempest at The Old Vic.



This is Bev and friends from the Methodist Church taking part in a pram race. Do you recognise yourself or anyone else?

'Photograph reproduced with kind permission of the Northamptonshire Telegraph'

Bev's account of the reunion is on the next page.

Rothwell Methodist Reunion (by Bev Willis)

One of the greatest experiences of being an actor is making the leap into becoming a completely new person. There are always large bits of us that remain, but taking that journey into new worlds can be a real thrill! Some actors however may be lucky and become successful on more single merits than complex delving into a character, relying simply on their looks, particular appeal, sound of their voice etc. How many TV cop shows for instance rely on northern accents, or east end twang? West Country burr has had its popularity Wales, Scotland and Ireland too. Yes anyone worth their salt can put on an accent but these days (unless you're posh) you have to be the real deal. I think I can say without any doubt that Northamptonshire me duck does not feature highly in this category! Apart from the odd H E Bates adaptation or Shane Meadows movie, the landscape is bare! So I've always kind of known that being a Rowell lad alone would not have the kind of kudos that would ease me into a long TV series or gritty drama..... HOWEVER, I was lucky enough to be cast in a number of shows at the National Theatre one of which was George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM, playing Benjamin. Sir Peter Hall was the director and I suggested to him that a Rothwell accent would be good for the character. Every time I read the lines it reminded me of certain grown-ups I remembered as a kid. He was all for it, for the simple reason that his father was a signal man on the railways in the 30s and lived a few miles east of Northants. He was always bemused by the idea and I was glad I'd suggested it and a bit proud that a small part of Rowell figured nightly at the National Theatre.

Recently this turned full circle. An email appeared in the inbox and the contents announced that there was to be a reunion at Rowell Methodist Hall of the members of the youth club era (60s) on the 29th March 2017 and would I like to be there..... There I was in Whitechapel E1 on a hot summer's day 2016 and the date seemed a long way off.... the last time I saw the fair was the 800th anniversary in 2004 I think so that was a long way off too. What was an even longer distance away were the scenes in the photos I casually looked at that day from all those years ago. Skeggy and the Peak District trips, pram races to Rushton, carnival floats and Valentine dances (called Socials I think) but most of all THE SHOWS! I vowed I would keep it in mind.....and then over six months later was reminded that I had not even replied. There was a lot of oooing and ahhhing but there was never any question of not being there.....so... What was it like?

Walking into the hall I was full of anticipation, keeping in mind that 50 years had passed since seeing most people. There were faces that were immediately recognisable and names that were equally familiar. Then there were conversations during which you would suddenly remember bits from the past that had been long forgotten and amazingly the whole event turned not merely into a nostalgic trip down memory lane, but a real return to what I guess could be called ones roots. It was funny, sad, a bit strange and very emotional. It was important because it made you realise how all those people there (and others sadly not) had affected and influenced each other. I was so proud to have been part of a town that had somehow allowed a large group of people to be creative and inspirational in their lives and personally able to thank those people for their influence on me as a young person. It turned out of course to be the signing of Article 50 day. There wasn't much talk of Brexit, - probably just as well to avoid a messy punch up - but it did put into perspective the power of people supporting and caring for each other. A true spirit of community. Little did I know when those show photos were being taken where it would all lead.

Thank you Rowell.

Bev Willis

Rowell Methodist Reunion Lunch - Remembering The Fifties And Sixties

Article by Helen Brown (nee Chapman) Thanks to Tony Holt and Wally York for photos.

(Maiden names used for the ladies mentioned in this article – not their married names)

Over sixty people attended the Rowell Methodist reunion lunch held on Wednesday 29th March 2017.

People travelled from far and wide to attend - Pat and Meg Eden travelled from Norfolk, Pip Larkin travelled from Suffolk, Christine Page and her husband Tony Holt travelled from Staffordshire and Biddie and Stuart Bishop travelled from Cornwall. Stuart was our much loved Youth Club leader in the sixties. Needless to say, we all wore name labels otherwise we wouldn't have recognised each other.....age is not kind!!!!

Max Green, Jayne Atter and I had great fun tracking people down to invite them to come to this reunion. Much of the work was done by word of mouth, Facebook, telephoning, knocking on doors and emailing, and most people were simply thrilled to be invited.



Unfortunately some were not able to come – Malcolm Armitage, David York, Frank Stanley, Jean Simson and David Turner sent their apologies.

Letters were received from Malcolm Armitage, minister here from 1962 to 1966 and also from David Turner who was an energetic driving force within our church before his meteoric rise to fame as the director of 'The Mousetrap' in the West End. Jeanette Mullins who attended the church as a little girl, sent an email to convey her good wishes.



The reunion lunch coincided with Margaret Read's birthday. I am not permitted to say how old she is, but we all sang the customary song accompanied by Brian Laywood on the organ. Unfortunately we weren't allowed to contravene the Health and Safety regulations and give her 'the bumps'.

Linda Charlton kindly addressed everyone and said grace – her words about Rowell were very poignant indeed – how the seeds of our futures were planted here, in this town.

There was a constant buzz of many conversations, lots of hugs, laughter and kisses throughout the afternoon.

Many enjoyed the varied display of photographs of happy times spent on coach outings to the coast, and of people participating in amateur dramatics and variety concerts which were performed in the old Sunday School buildings.

Quite a few people brought photograph albums with them - all of which evoked very happy memories of times spent all those years ago. It was lovely to see old friendships rekindled.

For example, Joyce Crick, now living in Loughborough had not seen Marion Ginns since they were Sunday School teachers together in the fifties.

Valerie Stanley, now living in Harrow had not seen June Green for many years and they were very happy to be reunited.





Similarly Mervyn Sharp and Pat Eden had lots of catching up to do, as they hadn't seen each other since they were kids.

Most of the photographs seemed to have Bev Willis in them – Bev in swimming trunks dipping his feet in the North Sea, Bev with a girl on his knee (my sister!!), Bev dressed as Julius Caesar for a pram race, and Bev dressed for one of the many shows that we performed!! It was great that he came along. Despite his lack of hair, he was easily identifiable. Even though he has a lot of television dramas, films and live theatre roles to his credit, to us – he is just our mate Bev from Rowell.



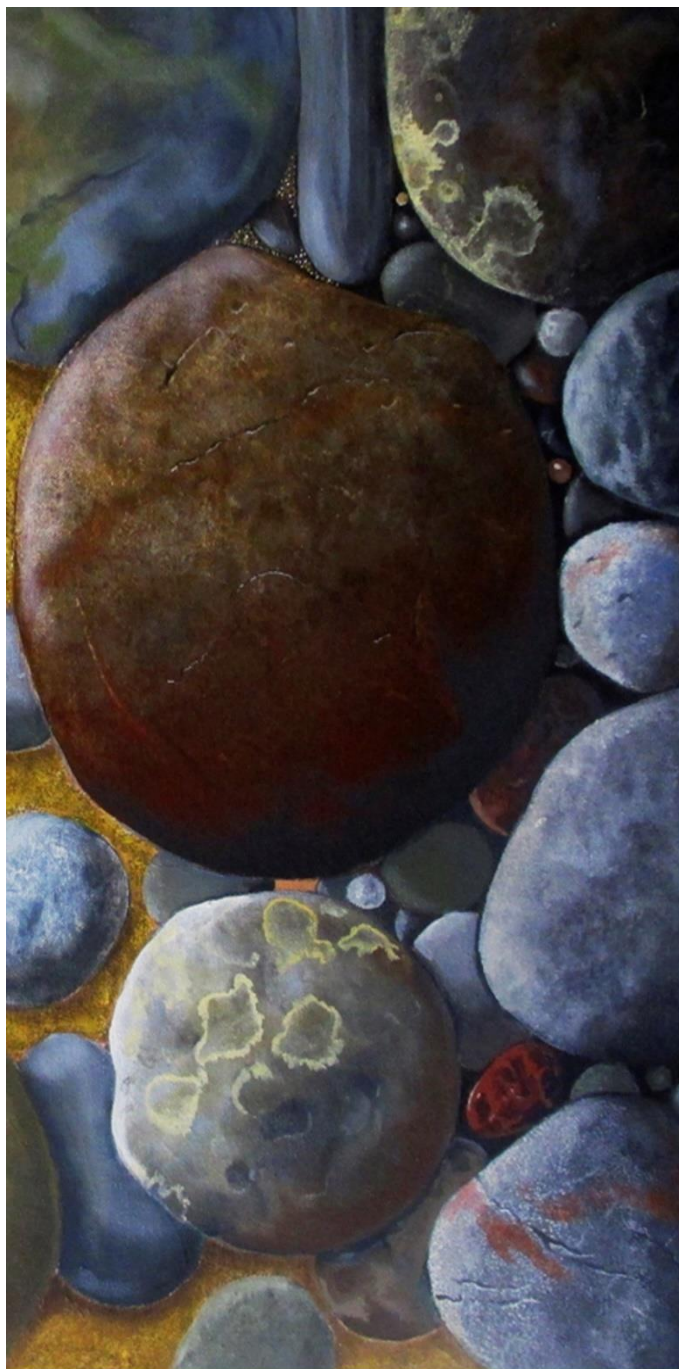
Max, Jayne and I wanted to keep the catering within the locality and Rowell's Rolls did an excellent job of providing the food. Our buffet lunch arrived promptly, was beautifully presented and was very tasty....ten out of ten! Thanks too, to my niece, Judith Bailey, (Dorothy's daughter) for managing the kitchen and keeping us supplied with hot and cold drinks throughout the afternoon. We appreciated the support of Alan Joyce in organising the venue for this event and were also delighted that we were able to give the Rothwell Methodist Church £240 as a result of our efforts.



In summary, it was a very successful day – a day where old friendships were rekindled, a day of nostalgia and very mixed emotions for everyone present. We started planning this day last April - and even though it is all over, the strong friendships rooted in Rowell and our childhood, remain as strong as ever.

Names for photos:

1. Pip Larkin, Dorothy Chapman, Joan Chapman, Carole Atter, David Page (Max Green behind in striped sweater)
2. Ashley Johnson, Jennifer Bindley, Biddie Bishop, Stuart Bishop, Bev Willis, Ken Evans, Merle Willis
3. Janet Charlton, Beryl Norman, Neville Read, Sandra Johnson, Margaret Goosey, Linda Charlton
4. Glenys Chapman, Lynette Parker, Rosemary Brooks, Shelly Brooks, Margaret Tibbett, Mary Martin
5. Joyce Crick, Marion Mears
6. Stuart Bishop, Biddie Bishop, Bev Willis
7. Brian Laywood, Neville Read, Kay Sturgess
8. Janet Green, Vanda Robinson, Mick Turner, Alan Joyce, Ann Giles, Valerie Stanley, June Green
9. Elaine Bailey, Christine Page, Margaret Tibbett



Tidelines & Tulips

By Angela Stanbridge and Peter Almond

Gallery 2
Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre
14-16 Bridge Street, Rothwell, NN14 6JW
www.rothwellheritage.org.uk

6th March - 2nd June

I took up 'A' level Art at Kettering Technical College in 1964 purely because it was one of my best passes at 'O' level and that it might be an easy subject to pass at advanced level. I had no idea that some of its ancillary topics - history of Art and history of Architecture would be more interesting to me than picking up a paintbrush and trying to create a picture. There was another sideline that took my interest and that was life drawing, which we, as a class, selected to do at night school on Monday evenings after the normal day session. I hadn't anticipated that I'd be sketching nude women as part of the syllabus, but that turned out to be another added bonus.

The day class was run by a rather strict Ms. Stella Marlow of Rushton who had a lighter side to her and you could warm up to her on certain days as she strolled around chatting to you at your easel encouraging or criticizing your work. "Don't speak to me in German", I got on several occasions meaning 'don't use that Rowell slang in my class'. She had a supporting teacher called Ms. Johnson who was tall and quite attractive who would take the class on alternate days of the week. Painting for many is an interesting hobby, but after several months I got rather bored with this mainstream side of the subject. I much preferred it when Ms. Johnson would take us down to Manor Gardens, the Art Gallery and Library to sketch buildings or the view down Northampton Road to the railway.

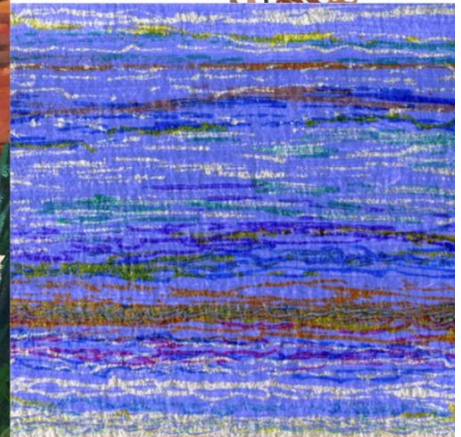
History of Art was mainly a study of the great artists such as Turner, Constable, Monet, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Van Gogh and Picasso along with their various styles. History of Architecture was a study of the evolution of buildings and their construction from Roman times to the present day including a study of the various architects such as Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren and Capability Brown. For this topic we were encouraged by Ms. Marlow to visit as many local examples of fine buildings as we could so as to learn about their history and how they were constructed and to sketch what we found most interesting. It was these missions that I loved the most. There was a team of us - Peter Bryan (from the Avenue, Rothwell), Ricky Lyne (of Wellingborough, who I believe now lives at Loddington), Alec Bates of Rushden, Sally Freeman of Pytchley, Bridget (sorry, forgot your surname) and Della (also forgot your surname) that would go out on these field trips, but not all of us on every occasion - just one or two on some. We went to Rothwell Parish Church and out to Lyveden (a double to Rothwell Market House, but without its roof) and during July we paid a visit to Thorpe Malsor Manor. This trip was bestowed on us on the spur of the moment by Ms. Johnson who took one look at the weather and encouraged us to walk out to Thorpe Malsor where she would catch up with us later after travelling there on the bus. She must have been friends with the owners as we just walked in through the main entrance and out to the extensive lawns at the rear where we spent an afternoon in glorious sunshine sketching the building.

On another occasion I was with Peter Bryan and we were heading for Peterborough Cathedral only we had very little money on us so we decided to hitch it from Kettering to Peterborough (this would be about May 1965). Hitching was fun in those days, but I wouldn't encourage it now. That part of getting to Peterborough was an adventure in itself. The first car to pick us up only took us to Thrapston and we'd almost walked it to Barnwell before we got another lift that took us the rest of the way.

At Peterborough we were sketching inside the Cathedral when we were approached by the bishop who was rather pleased that we were taking an interest in his building.

At the 'A' level exam I remember I chose to paint a scrapyard as we'd visited George Cohen's one on many occasions to see scrapped steam locomotives, but I made rather a mess of it. I passed the exam and that was down to the questions on the famous artists and architects with their styles and me having forwarded in advance of the exam some of my sketches.

I can't think of any reason why someone would not wish to take up Art at 'A' level except that it didn't help me afterwards as no potential employer saw this as a beneficial subject to help start your career. It was OK for Alec, though, he went on to become an architect based at Bedford and it also helped Peter to get into Oxford University.



Spring Showcase

An exhibition of work by a variety of local artists

Gallery 1
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6th March - 2nd June



Did you know that there is an art group in the Heritage Centre?

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GC-LIFT 9639

Rothwell Heritage Craft Group

We've been operating for a couple of months now and already have a very high set of skills within our group. There are quilters (both hand sewn and machine sewn), knitters who are busy knitting for premature babies and the forthcoming craft fair at the Heritage Centre, crochet work, beautiful beading, cross-stitch, leather carving and tooling, spinning, weaving and dyeing. We are all happy to share our skills or to learn from you.

Colleen from Fabric and Faith is busy giving sewing lessons, and Linzi is ready to give lessons in leatherwork and spinning.

We are based at the Heritage Centre, where there is a lift to the upstairs rooms which we occupy every Thursday afternoon from 1pm until 4pm. We each pay £3 into our kitty to cover the room and any excess will be for the group to vote on.



Not everyone is expected to make it every week and we would welcome anyone interested to come and have a look at us and maybe join in. We have a 'toy box' with lots of things to try (card-making, spinning, leather, wool, needles etc), so you don't even need to bring a project when you come.



We usually lock the centre door, but there is a bell or you could text/phone for entry.

We are a lovely, diverse and happy group with room for more, so come and join us!

Contact: Linzi on 07913 603 186
spookymason@gmail.com
Facebook: Rothwell Heritage Crafts



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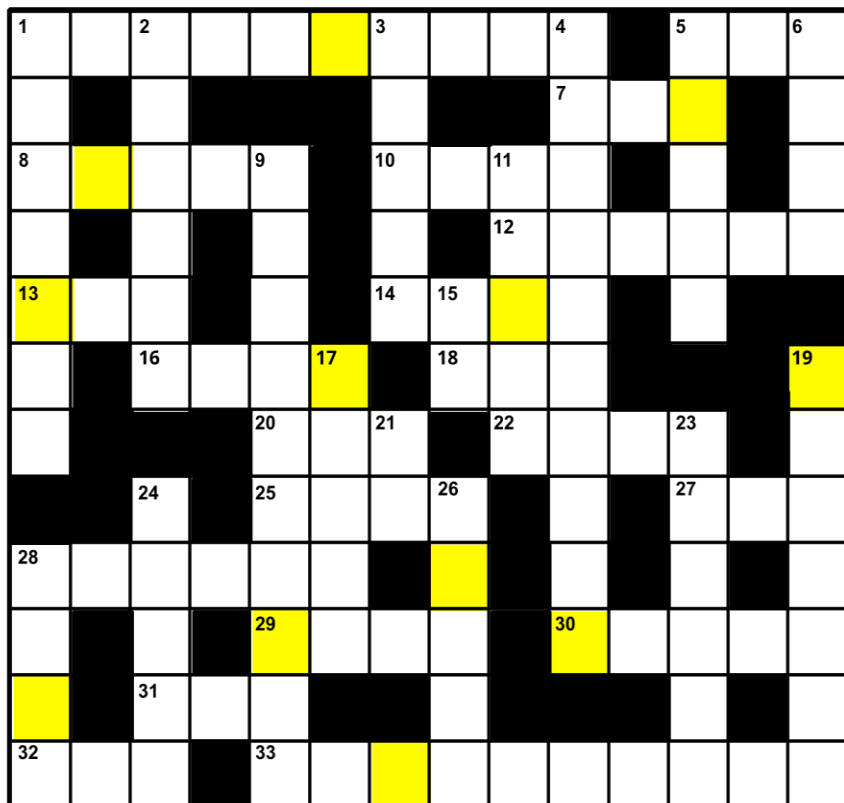
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**Rearrange the yellow squares to spell
out the name of a famous Rowellian (4,8)**

Answers in next Issue

Across

1. A large revolving device in a playground. (10)
5. Bituminous material. (3)
7. Hedgerow fruit. (3)
8. Charcuterie. (5)
10. Strong desire. (4)
12. Gone off as in butter. (6)
13. Every last bit. (3)
14. You can't do it alone. (4)
16. Patron saint of sailors. (4)
18. For every. (3)
20. They look best when ripped. (3)
22. Scots garment. (4)
25. Coral ridge. (4)
27. Slang for an off road vehicle. (3)
28. Buckwheat pancakes. (6)
29. Nautilus's captain. (4)
30. Sections of the brain. (5)
31. U.K. honour. (abv) (3)
32. Large body of water. (3)
33. Deprived of liberty. (10)

Down

1. Defensive wall. (7)
2. Worth keeping. (6)
3. All tied up. (5)
4. Relating to acting. (10)
5. A couple of times. (5)
6. Surprise attack. (4)
9. Underwater sailor. (10)
11. Kind of salad with feta. (5)
15. Opposite of down. (2)
17. Very overweight. (5)
19. Lubricated. (7)
21. Compass point. (2)
23. Sikh's headdress. (6)
24. Greek Letter. (5)
26. Kind of door. (5)
28. Signs of spring. (4)

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Answer to last month's crossword

Oddfellows Hall

Staff of the New Picture House Rothwell (Courtesy of Stan White)



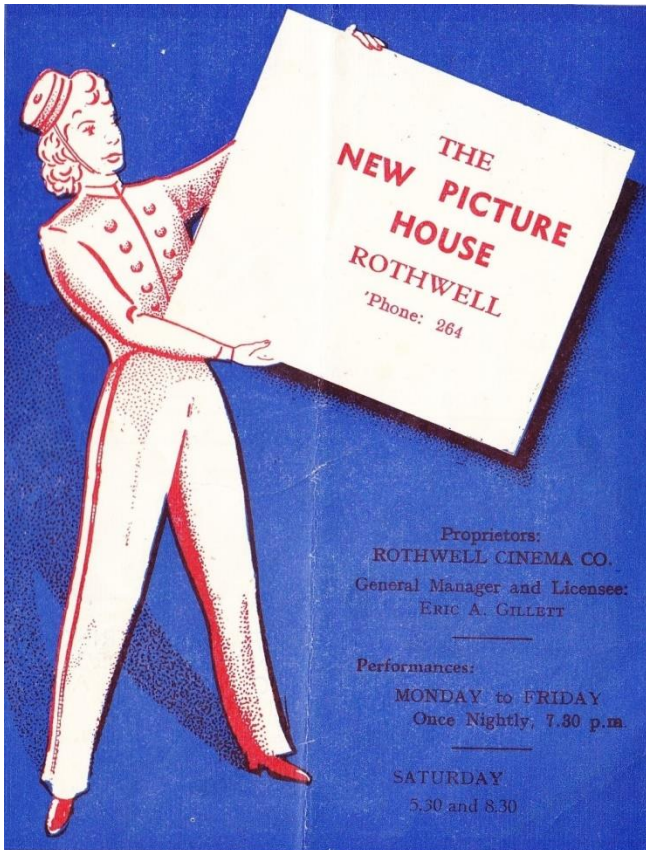
L-R Joan Gillette, Stan White and Elma Parker circa 1949



June Robbins Secretary to John Harvey and Eric Gillette
circa 1950



L-R Dennis Scotney, John Harvey and Lionel Collins circa 1948



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"THE MUTINEERS" (a)

Chapter 3, "Congo Bill," **"A Hot Reception"**

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Also "Hopalong" Cassidy, Andy Devine in

"THE LEATHER BURNERS" (u)

Chapter 4, "Congo Bill," **"Springs A Trap"**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th.

Three Days.

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"PHANTOM SHOT" (a)

Chapter 5, "Congo Bill," "White Shadows in the Jungle"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st.

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"G MAN" (a)

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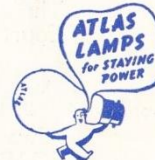
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Why do the British drive on the left?

With recent events and the triggering of Article 50 you may wonder how different are we to the rest of Europe? We still have our own currency and we drive on the left. Do you even know why the British drive on the left? No? Well read on ...

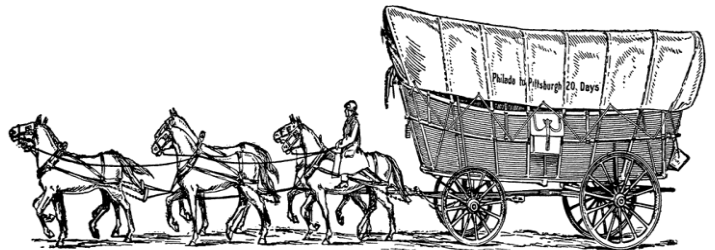
The reason is historical and all to do with keeping your sword hand free!



In the Middle Ages you never knew who you were going to meet when travelling. Most people are right-handed, so if a stranger passed by on the right of you, your right hand would be free to use your sword if required. Medieval castle staircases spiral in a clockwise direction going upwards, so the defending soldiers would be able to stab down around the twist but those attacking (going up the stairs) would not.

But the 'keep to the left' rule actually goes back even further in time. Archaeologists have discovered evidence suggesting that the Romans drove carts and wagons on the left and it is known that Roman soldiers always marched on the left. This 'rule of the road' was officially sanctioned in 1300 AD when Pope Boniface VIII declared that all pilgrims travelling to Rome should keep to the left.

In the late 1700s, however, teamsters in France and the United States began hauling farm products in big wagons pulled by several pairs of horses. These wagons had no driver's seat; instead the driver sat on the left rear horse, so he could keep his right arm free to lash the team. Since he was sitting on the left, he naturally wanted everybody to pass on the left so he could look down and make sure he kept clear of the oncoming wagon's wheels. Therefore he kept to the right side of the road.



In France a decree of 1792 ordered traffic to keep to the "common" right and Napoleon later enforced the rule in all French territories.

Traffic congestion in 18th century London led to a law being passed to make all traffic on London Bridge keep to the left in order to reduce collisions. This rule was incorporated into the Highway Act of 1835 and was adopted throughout the British Empire.

In Europe, the remaining left-driving countries switched one by one to driving on the right: Italy in 1890s and Portugal in 1920s.

There was a movement in the 20th century towards the harmonisation of road laws in Europe and a gradual shift began from driving on the left to the right. The last Europeans to change from left to right were the Swedes who bravely made the change overnight September 3rd 1967. At 4.50am all traffic in Sweden stopped for ten minutes before restarting, this time driving on the right. It was called H Day with the 'H' standing for 'Högertrafik', the Swedish word for 'right-hand traffic'.

Today, only 35% of countries drive on the left. These include India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malta, Cyprus, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Most of these countries are islands but where land borders require a change from left to right, this is usually accomplished using traffic lights, cross-over bridges, one-way systems or similar.

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A STEP BACK IN TIME

Here we take a look at National and World events which took place in May and June.

1st May 1707	The Union between England and Scotland was proclaimed.
6th May 1954	Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground, Oxford, England
16th May 1943	RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams with Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs.
19th May 1536	Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, was beheaded in London.
14th May 1796	The Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr Edward Jenner. Within 18 months, 12,000 people in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.
1st June 1946	Television licences were issued in Britain for the first time; they cost £2.
6th June 1944	D-Day invasion of Normandy by 1 million Allied troops, to liberate Western Europe from German occupation.
13th June 1944	The first V1 flying bomb, or "doodle bug" was dropped on London.
19th June 1917	In the midst of World War 1 the British royal family renounced the German names (Saxe-Coburg-Gotha) and adopted the name of Windsor.
20th June 1756	In India, over 140 British subjects were imprisoned in a cell measuring only 5.4m by 4.2m ('The Black Hole of Calcutta'). Only 23 came out alive.

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