

# Rowell Heritage

Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



No:21

November - December

£2

## Dear Readers

Well the clocks have gone back and the dark nights are here so draw the curtains, pour yourself a cuppa and settle down with your winter edition of Rowell Heritage Magazine.

This month we have several articles submitted by readers who share their memories of Rothwell in the fifties and sixties. We have tributes to two well-known Rowellians - Betty Cobley and Michael (Butch) Joy and an article on an old Rowell business celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Many of us are now preparing for Christmas so may be interested in the article on traditions from other parts of the world.

The Arts and Heritage Centre is busy as always and here is a reminder of the events coming up:

### November

Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Talk by Peter Deakin - The Princess and the Plotters
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Gunpowder Plot Coffee Morning
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Film Club – Murder at the Gallop (1963)

### December

Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Arts and Craft Fair to include judging of the Junior Art Competition Closing date is Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> December. More details on page 8.
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Rowell Santa on a low loader
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning with Mince Pies and Mulled wine
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Film Club – Lady of Burlesque (1943)

**Please note that all dates are subject to change so please check details with the centre**

***New for next year – we will be offering a subscription service to the magazine and an application form is enclosed if you are interested.***

Finally as we draw near to the end of the year, our first as editors, Barry and I would like to thank everyone for their support and for the contributions that have been submitted to us for the magazine. Please keep them coming, we cannot do it without you. We hope that you have enjoyed reading the magazine as much as we've enjoyed producing it.

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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

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

**Deadline for submission of articles or adverts for Jan/Feb Issue is December 8<sup>th</sup>**

***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 by Barry Panter**

## A MEMORY OF BETTY COBLEY (1921 – 2017) – *by Ann Jones*



Betty was a true born Rowellian and spent early years spent living with her parents in Crispin St. Her father was a baker for the Co-op and they moved to a new home in Desborough Rd, Rothwell, when the Co-op built new homes for its employees in 1925.

When Betty was 4 years old her brother was born and she enjoyed looking after him. All her life she loved children and young people, and will always be remembered for her Youth Club work.

She attended school first at Rothwell Gladstone Street then Kettering Central. After leaving school she worked at Rothwell Co-op Bank, above the shop on Bell Hill. A secretary in charge of accounts, she was always good with figures.

During WW2 she joined the ATS and was in Belgium to celebrate VE Day.

Betty was always a member of Rothwell Church and took part in the formation of the Parish Church Youth Club in 1947 and was Youth Club leader for over 50 years. For many years she was also on Rothwell Carnival Committee and her youth club always took part in the carnival parade.

She met her friend Molly Cooke when they attended language classes together. Many holidays were spent abroad, sharing their experiences with many of us by giving slide shows etc. Betty also took her youth club on day trips and holidays to Holland and Switzerland.

A true Rowellian, she never missed the 6.00am Proclamation of the Charter for Rowell Fair. As she became frailer she was collected at 5.30am by Lord of the Manor, Zandra Powell, who also encouraged her art work at classes in Thorpe Malsor. When Rothwell Heritage & Art Centre first opened, Betty was a very helpful volunteer, with valuable knowledge of Rothwell, its people and past.

She was a bell ringer on retirement and a peal was rung on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2002 to celebrate 2 new bells.

Betty was a lifelong member of the Royal British Legion always taking part in the November Memorial Services. She encouraged people to attend the Tribute Band at Northampton Derngate Theatre and five years ago on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2012 (her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday) she attended this service and the band played 'Happy Birthday' for her, in recognition of her support over the years.

Betty loved all sports and encouraged her youth club to enjoy life to the full. Many of the young people met their life partners at the Parish Church Youth Club. She managed to touch many lives in Rothwell and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Her last years were spent happily at Beech Close, Desborough.

R.I.P. BETTY



Photo above shows Betty with the Church Youth Club in the 1970s

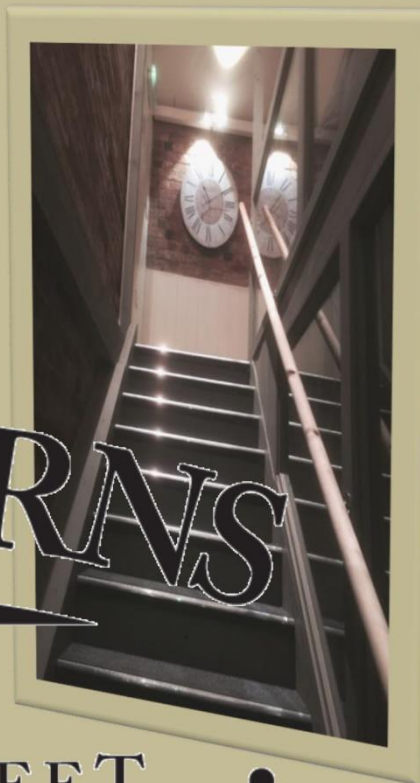


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## A VISIT FROM THE CHIMNEY-SWEEP *by Helen Brown (nee Chapman)*



Everyone has heard of “spring cleaning”, but autumn was also a very busy time, way back in the fifties. There were lots of jobs to be done involving planning for the cold winter weather that was about to come. At our house in Crispin Street, in the autumn, we always had lots of sacks of coal delivered. Eden’s the coal merchant lived next door to us, and my parents always ordered our coal from them. We had a narrow entry to our back yard where the coal shed was situated, so the coal-men had to trudge up the entry, carrying their weighty sacks in single file to unload the heavy bags of coal into our barn. Inside the house we had three fireplaces downstairs and two fireplaces upstairs.

The upstairs fireplaces were never used, but there was always at least one fire burning brightly in one of the downstairs rooms, throughout the winter months. My parents always ensured that we had plenty of coal before the onset of winter and that we were warm.

Also in the autumn, my parents had to have the chimneys swept. I am not sure of the name of the man in Rowell who did this, but I clearly remember him as a small man, dressed in very old clothes, who wore a flat cap. He pushed his chimney brushes through the streets of Rowell in an extremely old pram. He was a sight to behold after a day’s work, when his face and hands were black and grimy with soot - in fact he was quite scary!

Before the chimney-sweep came there was a great deal of preparation to be done. The lightweight summer curtains were taken down, the furniture had to be covered with old sheets to protect them from any soot, and any lightweight furniture was moved into another room.

My sisters and I were always very excited when the chimney-sweep came and we would watch him at work as he pushed the brush up the chimney and then gradually attached rods to force the brush higher into the chimney. It was hard manual labour as he shoved the brush further and further up the chimney. At each push, clods and clouds of soot would come down the chimney on to the sheets covering the hearth and splattering the chimney-sweep’s arms, face and hands. No wonder he always looked so black at the end of his working day.



Eventually the chimney-sweep would ask us kids to go outside and let him know when we could see the circular brush poking through the chimney top. This was a very exciting time for us, as we stood waiting in the backyard for the first glimpse of the chimney-sweep’s brush. When we saw it, we gave a huge cheer! At last the chimney-sweep knew that he had completed his job! Then we would watch intently as he removed each rod, one at a time, to lower the brush back down the chimney. There was a copious amount of soot in the fireplace and around the hearth after his visit. I think my father, an avid gardener, kept the soot and used it as a deterrent for slugs! Nothing was wasted in those days.

After the chimney-sweep left with his ramshackle pram and his dirty brushes, my mother would clean the sooty room until it was spotless once more. All of the furniture would be moved back to its rightful place and instead of re-hanging the lightweight curtains, some thick, heavy curtains were brought out of the mothballs and hung at the window - thus, we were ready for winter!!

## Christmas Traditions around the World

Carol singing, Christmas trees and crackers, roast turkey dinners with plum pudding, exchanging presents – these are probably all very familiar British Christmas traditions. However there are some alternative, rather quirky festive rituals from around the world that you might not be aware of but which you might like to include in your celebrations this year or next.

**Ukrainian** Christmas trees are traditionally decorated with a fake spider and web. The custom, which is said to bring good luck, stems from an old wives' tale about a poor woman who could not afford to decorate her tree. She woke up on Christmas morning to find a spider had covered it in a glittering web.



<https://goo.gl/images/cKFNJv>



<https://goo.gl/images/KC2PpG>

There are a couple of strange **Catalonian** traditions, one of which is the 'Tio de Nadal' (Christmas log) or 'CagaTio' (defecating log). In the fortnight leading up to Christmas, a grinning creature is created out of a small log and placed on the dining room table. The log must be fed every day with fruit, nuts, and sweets, before – on Christmas Eve – it's beaten with sticks, excreting its goodies.



<https://goo.gl/images/FgNkan>

Another faecal-themed Catalonian custom is a caganer, a small defecating figurine, which traditionally appears in nativity scenes. The traditional caganer is portrayed as a Catalan peasant man (i.e. a farmer or shepherd) but the Catalans have modified this tradition a good deal since the 1940s and in addition to the traditional caganer design, one can easily find other characters assuming the Caganer position, such as celebrities, historical figures and politicians.

In **Greenland** it is tradition to eat fermented birds or Kiviak over the winter season for celebrations. The bird is kept in the carcass of a seal for seven months so it is ready just in time for winter. I think we'll stick to turkey, thanks.

In **Norway**, it's thought that Christmas Eve coincides with the arrival of evil spirits and witches. To protect themselves, families hide all their brooms before they go to bed.

In **Sweden** you eat rice pudding for Christmas and hiding among the creamy sludge is a lone peeled almond. The lucky person who finds the almond can kiss their single days goodbye, as they will be married within the year.



Over the Christmas period, **Czech** women use a clever trick to predict their love lives for the coming year. Unmarried women stand with their backs to their front doors and toss shoes over their shoulders. If a shoe lands with its toe pointing towards the door, the woman will get hitched within the next 12 months.

<https://goo.gl/images/RmypoF>



The Christmas pickle is a Christmas tradition in the **United States**. A decoration in the shape of a pickle is hidden on a Christmas tree, with the finder receiving either a reward or good fortune for the following year.

There are a number of different origin stories attributed to the tradition, including one saying that the tradition came from Camp Sumter during the American Civil War. Apparently Bavarian-born Private John C. Lower had enlisted in the 103rd Pennsylvania Infantry, but was captured in April 1864 and taken to the prison camp. According to the story, on Christmas Eve he begged a guard for a pickle as he was starving. The guard provided the pickle, which Lower later credited for saving his life. After returning to his family, he began a tradition of hiding a pickle on their Christmas tree each year.



<https://goo.gl/images/sw1bHH>

Another story is a Victorian era tale of St. Nicholas saving two Spanish children who were trapped in a barrel of pickles by an innkeeper. In Berrien Springs, USA they hold an annual Christmas Pickle Festival.



While some countries enjoy the fun of Santa Claus and his elves, Austria take to the streets to celebrate Santa's terrifying evil companion, Krampus.

According to Austro-Bavarian German folklore, the mythical beast is hairy, usually brown or black and has the hooves and horns of a goat. His long pointed tongue lolls out and he has fangs. He is said to appear on December 5<sup>th</sup>, the night before the Feast of St Nicholas and punishes naughty children by putting them in a woven wicker basket on his back.

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## Rothwell Ladies Thursday Club

We meet in the Methodist Church every Thursday evening during school term time at 8pm. All new visitors and members are very welcome. Admission for members is £2 and for non-members is £2.50 (includes tea/coffee and biscuits).

Our programme for November/ December is:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Nov 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <b><i>Deportation of Convicts</i></b> - a talk given by <b>Michael Britton</b>  |
| <b>Nov 9<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b><i>Bonfire Evening</i></b> - a light-hearted quiz evening  |
| <b>Nov 16<sup>th</sup></b> | <b><i>Recipe Swap</i></b> - bring along a favourite recipe to share   |
| <b>Nov 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b><i>The Homeless</i></b> - a talk on the work of the Salvation Army given by <b>Major David Ludditt</b>                 |
| <b>Nov 30<sup>th</sup></b> | <b><i>Trip to Malta</i></b> - a talk about a recent trip with the Classic Car Club given by <b>Barbara and Pat Farmer</b> |
| <b>Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b><i>The History of Ladybird Books</i></b> - a presentation by <b>Biff Raven-Hill</b>                                    |
| <b>Dec 14<sup>th</sup></b> | <b><i>Christmas Party</i></b> - members evening.  |

For more information please contact Janette Rowland on 01536 711012 or email [janetterowland@hotmail.com](mailto:janetterowland@hotmail.com)





*The following article was taken from The Kettering Leader, 13th December 1963 and submitted to us by Stuart Irons, secretary of the Desborough and Rothwell Photographic Society.*

## **Presentation to Dr. G. Gibbons**

A television set, a cheque and a book of names were presented to Dr Gerald Gibbons at a ceremony at Rothwell on Monday evening to mark his retirement from forty years of medical practice in the town. The presentation had been organised by a special committee under the secretaryship of Mrs L. Read and was made by Miss M. H. Panton, former health visitor in Rothwell for many years. Tributes to Dr Gibbons were paid by Miss Panton, Mrs Read, Mr J. H. Davies (headmaster of Gladstone Street Junior School) and the committee treasurer, Mr R. W. Tyldesley. The ceremony, in the Tresham Hall, was accompanied by a running buffet that was attended by over 400 of his patients and friends from whom the presentation came.

Photo shows Dr Gibbons at his farewell party as he stops to talk to a former patient Mrs A. F. Payne.



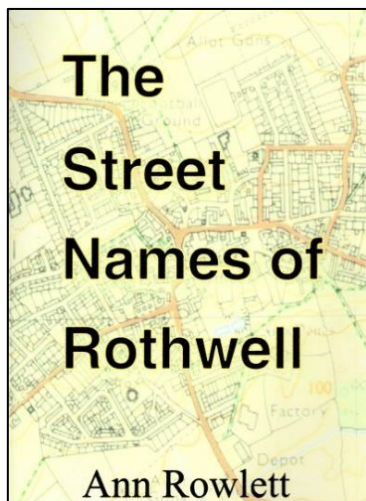
Dr Gibbons was the son of Dr H. Gibbons, who practiced in Desborough. After training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, he helped his father for a time before enlisting in the Royal Army Medical Corps for the First World War. Upon his discharge, he returned to Desborough, where he assisted his father until 1924, when he moved to Rothwell and his own practice. Two years later he was appointed to the surgical staff of Kettering General Hospital, from which he retired in 1957.

He is vice-chairman of the Kettering and District Hospitals Management Committee, a past-president of the Northamptonshire branch of the British Medical Association, a member of the local medical committee of the NHS and was president for 25 years of the Rothwell branch of the British Legion.

During his retirement, when he will live at Kettering, Dr Gibbons will continue a part time appointment as a medical referee under the Ministry of Health. He is married with a son and a daughter who is married to a doctor.

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## **New Booking Coming Soon**



What do you know about the street where you live, how it acquired its name, the history of the buildings and of the people who have left their mark on our historic town?

Many of Rothwell's street names have a local connection proudly bearing the names of past residents or those of national importance. All the names have an interesting story to tell of how and why they have come to be remembered so prominently in our town.

Some of the streets have changed their names over the years and others have been lost entirely with changes to the landscape

This book (written by one of our volunteers) looks at the origins those street names and will be available for purchase soon. Cost £10.

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## Rowell Fair Traditions - by Sue Johnson

Each Proclamation Monday sees a relatively "new" but now established tradition. The Bailiff and some of his entourage re visit all the town locations later in the morning where the Ancient Charter has been read earlier and rum and milks have been provided.



The Rowell Fair Society provides a gift as a thank you for the Bailiff and RFS President to present and for 2017 the gift was a framed photo you can see here. The photo displays some of the traditional features of the Rowell Charter Fair.

The Bailiff's "Staff of Office" is over 200 years old and once would have been at least half as tall again. In the past, the Bailiff to the Lord of the Manor would collect rents with the staff of office giving him the authority to do so and as he was invariably on horseback the staff would have touched the ground as he sat in the saddle. On the staff there are coats of arms of the Monarch and the Lord of the Manor.

As the Bailiff collected rents he would have been accompanied by Halberdiers carrying halberds to protect him as went about his business as rent collection was not always popular! The short halberds carried today have metal heads and many were made in Balls Foundry and some are over 100years old. The tips are now balls of metal and not points as they probably were originally.

An aim was to have one halberd per monarch since King John but as there have been 32 monarchs there were a few missing. In 2004, to commemorate the 800th year, several of the taller ceremonial halberds were commissioned by the RFS to try and complete the gaps and also to give slightly more mature halberdiers the opportunity to continue to take part in our ancient traditions without the rough and tumble!

The Bailiff wears a top hat and the collaret was commissioned by the RFS with the badges engraved with the known names of past Bailiffs.

The rum and milk drinks were originally a drink that would have been given to those travelling by horse and coach as a warming drink when they stopped at hostleries along the way. A red hot poker would have been put into each cup to heat the drink. An unusual but tasty drink that is still enjoyed (without the red hot poker!) during Rowell Fair week.

As the first Rowell Fair weekend is based around Trinity Sunday, families would get together from far and wide to celebrate and feasting would include cooked hams and Rowell Fair curd tarts. If an oak bough was over a dwelling doorway this signified that home-made beer was on sale and Rowell had a good reputation for such beer as it had its own spring water.

*"God save the Queen and the Lord of the Manor".*

With thanks to Robert Denton and Frank York

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## The Six-Five Special by Mick Smith

In the late fifties teenagers were desperate to hear their favourite disc played on either radio or television. They would beg their parents to let them stay up and listen to the current week's top twenty which was played from 11pm to 12am on a Sunday evening.

One day my brother who was in show business was excited by the fact that he had been asked to co-present and sing on a brand new pop programme to be called 'The Six-Five Special'. It was given this title because the only slot the BBC TV would allow it to go on air was after the 6 o'clock news which finished at five past six. Thus The Six-Five Special, produced by Jack Goode, was born.

The theme music/song was recorded by Don Lang whose band was called The Frantic Five. It had a rhythmic pulsating beat and was similar to a steam train hurtling down the track. Needless to say it was called The Six Five Special.

The show started in 1957 and was broadcast every week, live from the riverside studios in Hammersmith.

Most weeks, on Saturday morning, I was picked up by my brother from St Pancras station and we went off to the studios.

There were two rehearsals 1-2pm and 2-4pm. The presenters who started off the series were: my brother Jim Dale, Josephine Douglas, Pete Murray and Freddy Mills, the boxer. He became like a brother to me and after rehearsals always took me to the BBC canteen and bought me beans on toast.

I remember one Saturday when Freddy asked to be in a sketch with him and Leila Williams, who I believe was Miss United Kingdom. In the sketch I caught Freddy with my supposed girlfriend, Leila. With one right hand to the jaw I laid out the world champion... dah dah! Thank God he didn't retaliate.

A few years later it was reported in the papers that Freddie Mills had committed suicide apparently by shooting himself. I wonder!



The Six-five Special only lasted a short while and ended in December 1958. But it led to other great shows like 'Oh Boy' and 'Thank Your Lucky Stars'. The latter came from BBC studios in Birmingham and also went out on Saturday evenings. But that's another story.

When the show finished at 7pm I used to go into the next studio and watch 'Dixon of Dock Green' go out live. Do you remember Jack Warner's catch phrase "Evening All"?

In 1958 my friends and I had been banned from the cinema for making rude noises and gestures. The manager told us in no uncertain terms to stay away and never go back.

However, one day my parents and I were invited to a preview of the Six Five Special film in which my brother starred. The invitation came from the very man, who just a couple of weeks before, had barred me.

We were taken to the cinema in a very large Bentley and after the show were invited to the George Hotel to dinner.

The driver picked us up from Rothwell and we were welcomed with red carpet treatment with the Evening Telegraph taking photographs. The manager was dressed in a black dinner suit with a very large dickie bow. He introduced himself to my parents and then his mouth fell open wide as he recognised me. With teeth gritted, he shook my hand and took us to our seats. After the show and dinner, the manager asked if we had enjoyed the evening. I said I thought it was wonderful and again through gritted teeth he said I was welcome back any time.

Once again my brother came to my rescue.

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### **The Methodist Players** *by Bev Willis*

I think it was the winter of '64-'65 that Mrs Read, who ran the Methodist Players, cast several people including yours truly in a production of Sailor Beware on that little stage upstairs in the church hall. It's quite hard to remember a lot of the details but Ann Giles (now Ann Joyce) and Alan Joyce were in it. So too, were Stuart Bishop, Joan Cross (now Joan Barlow) and Jill Woodward (who later became Mrs Willis!) - There were a couple of other characters in the play too, but sadly I can't quite remember who they were.....but maybe someone reading this can?

The film had been out for a while and it was one of those Rep Theatre stalwarts that was very popular all over the country. Peggy Mount was the lead in it and Joan Cross playing the same role gave her a good run for her money using a wonderful Rowell accent to full effect. The main humour and drama is that she is the mother in law from hell and the play takes place on the eve of her daughter's wedding. I had the supporting role of Carnoustie Bligh, the Scottish best man. My big moment was having dosed down on the settee for the night; I stubbed my fag out on one of my shoes - sophisticated humour at its best!

Having been in all those youth club shows this was my first dalliance with a real play.

Maybe some of our readers have photographs to share. Please let us know.

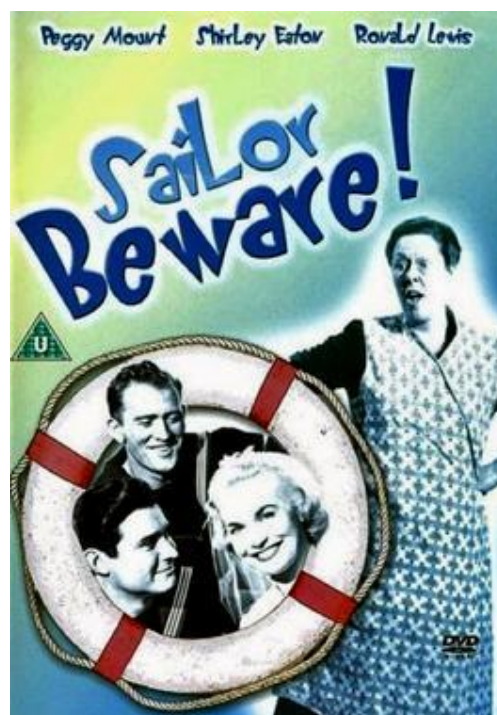


Image courtesy of [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sailor\\_Beware!\\_\(1956\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sailor_Beware!_(1956_film))



The Janet Bassett Gallery



## *Winter Showcase*

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## Where do you read your Rowell Heritage Magazine?

As you can see from the photos below, our magazine is travelling far and wide.

Margaret Marlow (pictured below) took hers to read in the Benidorm sunshine and Roger Smith sent us a photo of his wife Delia in Herault, South of France.

Barry is pictured outside the National Stadium in Malta and I chose the shade of a local police box.

Where do you read yours? Share your photos with us and let's see how far this magazine can go!



## Local Business Celebrates 95 years of Trade in Rothwell

John Newman Hairdressing recently had cause to celebrate as it marked 95 years of trade in the town.

The business in Rothwell was started by Edward Newman in 1922. Ted, as he liked to be called, was born in 1894 and served in the London Irish Regiment during WW1. He sustained shrapnel wounds in France, where he also suffered being gassed. After WW1 ended Ted opened up a Barbers and Tobacconists in Cranford. However, one day he was robbed of his takings walking back home to Thrapston and was put out of business.

Undeterred, he got on his bike and applied for a job at Pollards Barbers in Rothwell where he worked until 1922. He then opened up 'E. Newman Hairdressers & Tobacconists' at No 1 High Street, Rothwell.



*Photos L-R: Cranford, 1 High Street, Hilda and Ted, Derek outside High Street.*

In June 1924 Ted married Hilda Skinner from Finedon. In 1927 Hilda found out she had breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy. Dr Gibbons from Rothwell afterwards told her it was the first mastectomy he had performed! Hilda recovered and went on to have their first and only son, Derek, in 1928.

After leaving school at the age of 15 Derek started his hairdressing apprenticeship with Frank Page in Kettering. Unfortunately, Ted, Derek's father died suddenly in December 1944 aged 50 years and Derek who was just 16 years old, joined the family business to take over following his father's death.

It was just before Ted's death that Derek met and started courting Vera Wiggins, whose parents were landlords of the Woolpack Inn in Rothwell. In 1946 Derek joined the RAF and his mother Hilda, continued to run the business at No 1 High St, expanding into selling fancy goods and stationery.

Derek returned home in 1949 and resumed his position of barber in the business and the following year married Vera. In 1952 Derek and Vera bought 19 Bridge Street and moved the business as 'Derek Newman Hairdressers & Tobacconists'. They lived above the shop. Hilda continued the 'E Newman' business for a few more years at No 1 High Street selling fancy goods but later moved into 19 Bridge Street with the family. Derek and Vera's first son John was born in 1956 and then David was born in 1961.



*Photos L-R: Derek and Vera wedding, 19 Bridge Street, Derek at work.*



Derek retired from the business in 1990 due to ill health and Hilda died in 1992 aged 96.

The hairdressing business continued to grow under John's management and he trained and employed many young people over the following years. His wife Shirley also trained to be a hairdresser while continuing to develop and run the business side.



*Photos L-R: John and Shirley, First ladies salon, John at work.*

In 2006 John was recognised for his services to the hairdressing industry and his training successes and was winner of the 'East Midlands Apprenticeships Employer of the Year 2006' in the 1-9 employee category. He was also voted 'Regional Winner - Employer of the Year 2006'.

In 2008 John and Shirley expanded the business by completely refurbishing and modernising the whole 3 storey building and basement. It included a contemporary ground floor salon, two further floors of hairdressing and also Beauty Services. The company celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 but sadly without Derek who had died the previous year, aged 83. Two years later John suffered a life changing stroke and also retired, leaving his wife Shirley to run the business. Vera died in 2014 aged 87.

Congratulations John and team.



#### Interesting facts:

- In 1922 a haircut cost 2d and a wet lather shave cost 1d
- In the 1920's and 1930's the salon would remain open on a Saturday night until Midnight, to catch customers leaving the pub and wanting a shave for Church on Sunday!



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## Thankful Villages (also known as Blessed Villages)

During the Great War of 1914 – 1918, millions of families throughout the UK suffered the loss of close family relatives who were serving in our armed forces.

Today we are reminded of that by War Memorials, Remembrance Day and by the wearing of poppies, but have you ever heard of the Thankful Villages?

The term "Thankful Villages" was first used by the British writer and journalist Arthur Mee in one of his books in his series called *King's England* which was a guide to the counties of England in the 1930s.

Mee wrote that a Thankful Village was one which had lost no men in the Great War because all those who left to serve came home again.

His initial list identified 32 villages and these villages had no war memorials, although some had monuments, usually in the church, in gratitude for their good fortune.

Incredibly, Arkholme in Lancashire saw 59 of their sons go to war and all returned. In Yorkshire, *"Thirty men went from Catwick to the Great War and thirty came back, though one left an arm behind."*

In Northamptonshire there were two: East Carlton, near Corby and Woodend near Towcester.

In a 2013 update, researchers identified 53 civil parishes in England and Wales from which all serving personnel returned. There were none identified in Scotland or Ireland.

Fourteen of those English and Welsh villages are considered to be "doubly thankful", in that they also lost no service personnel during World War II either.

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## Tributes to Michael Joy (Butch)

Referred to by some as a 'gentle giant', Butch was a familiar face in Rothwell and especially at Rothwell Corinthians. He sadly passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 aged 66 years. Here are just a few of the tributes made to him:

**Rothwell Corinthians Official Statement** - "It is with great sadness that the Club and town of Rothwell learned earlier today of the passing of Mick "Butch" Joy. Our thoughts are with the Joy family at this sad time as well as the wider Rothwell Community of which Butch was such a large part. Butch had recently been ill, but his recent appearances to watch his beloved Rothwell Corinthians had given us hope that he would fully recover. His time as Linesman, Gateman, Assistant Grounds man, and Committee member spanned several decades, but to most he was a friendly, generous, giant of a man who epitomised grass roots sport. The outpouring of sadness and grief in the town today shows the affection in which he was held by his local community. In consultation with his family it has been agreed that both the First team game at Sleaford and the Reserve game at home to Oadby Reserves tomorrow will go ahead as Butch would have wanted."



**Rothwell Corinthians Vice Chairman Mick Johnson** – "Firstly may I send sympathy and best wishes to Dick Joy and family on the tragic demise of Butch. The sadness around The Lawn will never really leave, as the big man will leave such a huge gap physically and emotionally around the ground. Butch had a relentless sense of fun, never missing a chance to rip a player, fellow committee member, Mr Chairman or basically anyone who he considered was a suitable victim! When sanding the pitch if someone was grumbling about the amount of sand on it you could be sure an extra shovel or two would go on the barrow with a grin and a wink. Butch always found time for children visiting the ground, either formally having a kick about or just spoiling them from May's biscuit tin. You don't need to have long debates or in depth discussions, being in the big man's company would make you smile. Sad day for Corinths, local football and the community in general, the world would be a better place with a few more Butchmesiters! Rest in peace big fella, you will be greatly missed!!!"

**UCL Chairman John Weeks** - "On hearing Butch had passed away earlier today I was greatly saddened. We have lost another great character from the UCL scene. Butch was the first person to greet you on arrival at Rothwell Corinthians, he was generally on the gate although laterally had spent a spell in hospital at Kettering. I visited him there and he was in good spirits and itching to get back to his club. He was a true gentle giant, anyone shaking hands with Butch would genuinely quake at the prospect as he has enormous hands but the most gentle of handshakes! A true club stalwart, he would readily tackle any job asked of him from painting the rails to fetching balls that went into the adjacent fields, he would just wade in. Every club needs a Butch and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him, he loved talking about football and Corinthians meant everything to him, I will miss his smile and welcome, it will never be quite the same without him at Sergeants Lawn."

**Ex Corinthians player Nathan Mitchell** – "I signed for Rothwell Corinthians back in 1991. My first time playing for the reserves I was greeted by the gentle giant himself. Booming voice and shovels for hands yet somehow his smile would put you at ease. Over the weeks and months of getting to know Butch I soon realised that this was a respected man at the club and one who wouldn't stand for any messing from opposing fans, players or managers. Butch was one of the first at the ground and would happily go about his roles of car park attendant, gateman, linesman or ball boy. I'm sure he may have fetched 1 or 2 of my shots from the trees. I think he would be first back in the clubhouse for a pint and one of the last out. He lived for his Saturdays and was definitely one of the faces of Rothwell Corinthians during my 5 years at the club. Nobody had a bad word to say about Butch and come rain or shine he would be there. He made new players welcome and in the times that I have been back to the club to watch games he always had time for a chat. It won't just be Corinthians players current and old that will miss him but also those of opposing teams."

**Former Rothwell Corinthians Reserves coach Simon Morrice** - "My first memories of Butch are of him running the line for his beloved Rothwell Corinthians many years ago when I was a player. I let him know a few times that I didn't agree with a few of his decisions, his reply was just a look at me, I soon shut up; a beer with him and a catch up after the game and all forgotten. Once I went into management at Corinths it's then you realise what a truly selfless bloke he was, he hardly ever missed a game and would do anything for the club and its people. We will miss his bonfires at the club, and his hands that make a pint glass look like a shot glass. We truly have lost a gentle giant and true gentleman. R.I.P butch, a true legend."

**Rothwell Corinthians committee member David Rhinds** - "When I received a call from Andy Scarratt, one of our Committee Members, late this morning asking if "I'd heard the news", I was expecting to be informed of an insignificant development, but instead I was told the news of Butch's sad and untimely passing and, like everyone else who has had the misfortune over the last few hours to discover the news, was completely shocked and saddened. I first met Butch when I joined Rothwell Corinthians four years ago having never previously had the pleasure of meeting the man on my previous visits to Sergeants Lawn. Despite my, admittedly, shameful lack of knowledge of this Club stalwart prior to getting involved with Corinthians, this would soon change as I began to spend much time in Mick Joy's company, quickly becoming familiar with his dry sense of humour and his infectious booming laugh. Not only this, but I also soon began to develop a genuine respect for his passion and enthusiasm for Rothwell Corinthians Football Club having been involved with the Club in a multitude of different capacities spanning many decades, not bad for someone who, previously, was involved with Rothwell Town- although, he always denied having ever been involved at Cecil Street! Although Butch was always a regular fixture at Sergeants Lawn on the match day's involving all three of our sides, religiously emerging from the Clubhouse clutching his old chocolate tin containing the float in one hand and a carrier bag full of programmes in the other as he went to hold court at the entrance, eagerly awaiting the arrival of his first paying customers of the day. Like everyone else at the Club, it's incredibly difficult to comprehend not being greeted by the sight of Butch upon arriving at the ground and I join everyone else with a connection to the Football Club, in addition to the wider Rothwell community in mourning his passing."

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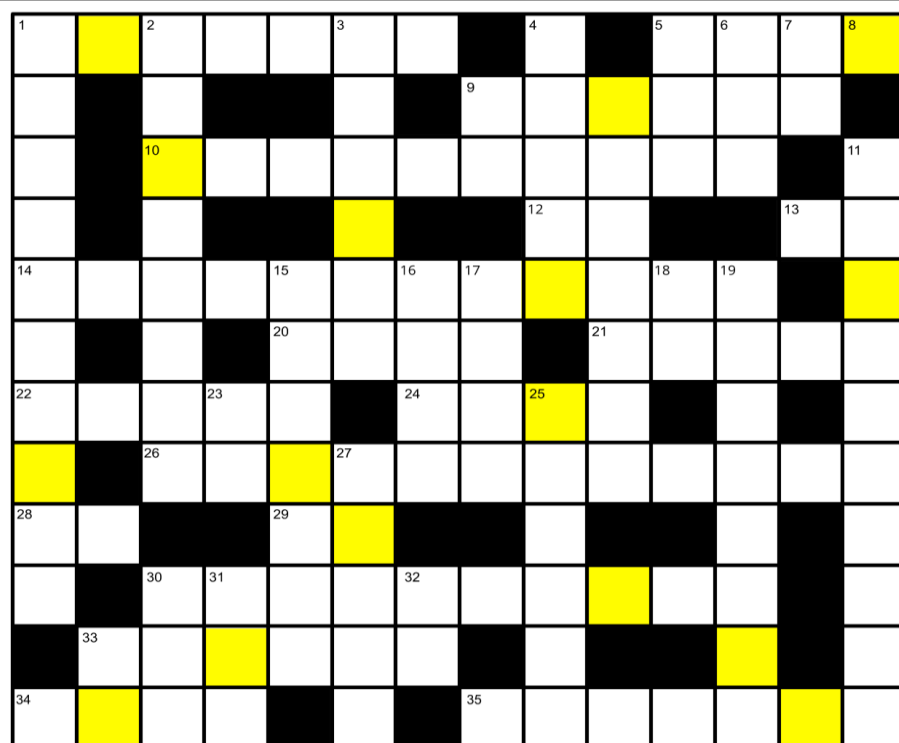
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**Rearrange the yellow squares to spell out**

A festive treat (7,9)

**Answers in next Issue**

### Across

1. Item of office equipment. (7)
5. Piece of chest armour. (4)
9. Upper arm muscle. (5)
10. Connecting foetuses to placentas . (10)
12. Chemical symbol for Argon. (2)
13. Free trade area (abbr). (2)
14. Change into another form. (12)
20. Operatic song. (4)
21. Restrict or confine. (5)
22. Silky fabric. (5)
24. Energy source. (4)
26. Careful juxtaposition of shapes. (12)
28. Saywhat, so so. (2)
29. @. (2)
30. Warned of danger. (10)
33. Colour variations. (6)
34. Departs. (4)
35. Hovering songbird. (7)

### Down

1. Alan's dream about an amphibian. (10)
2. Broad washes of watercolour. (8)
3. An elector or chooser. (6)
4. O.T. book following Jonah. (5)
5. Fish in Geelong. (3)
6. Sat Nav system (abbr). (1,1,1)
7. Exists, transpires. (2)
9. Two. (2)
11. Tool used to fasten gloves and boots. (10)
15. Roof with two different slopes. (7)
16. Chockablock. (4)
17. Damascus road convert. (4)
18. Chemical symbol for Silicone. (2)
19. Web Spinners. (3)
23. A diphthong. (2)
25. The red gurnard or cuckoo fish. (6)
27. Soak as in tea and fruit. (5)
30. Title opener, Often. (3)
31. Possesses. (3)
32. Comparison. (2)
33. Hence, As a result. (2)



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