

Rowell Heritage

Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



No: 22

January - February 2018

£2

Dear Readers

May we start by wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Next a reminder to the 'Friends of the Heritage Centre' that your membership subscription for 2018 is now due. Payment can be made at the Centre and that is also a good time to make sure that we have your correct details: address, post code, phone number & email address.

Membership entitles you to half price magazines (published in January, March, May, July, September and November) and also reduced admission fees at most of our talks.

Every subscription is important in raising funds to help in the preservation of the centre and this town's wonderful history.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everybody who has supported the Rothwell Arts and Heritage Centre during 2017 and special thanks to all of the volunteers. If you have an hour or two to spare each week why not come along and see if you can help too?

The new programme of events for this year is on pages 10 & 11 and we look forward to see you all at those.

What do you think to our very colourful cover depicting Rowell Gala Night? It was designed by our Junior Art Competition Winner, eight year old Emily Robinson, (pictured right). Well done Emily!

Finally, in this issue we have a number of articles about Rowellians and the town itself including a tribute to the late Robert Denton and our very own Broadway start Jim Dale. If you have any stories or photos to share please send them to us.

(Photographs will be scanned and returned if required)



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

Website: www.rothwellheritage.org.uk

Deadline for submission of articles or adverts for March/April issue is February 15th

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.

Robert Arthur Denton B.E.M. (1938 – 2017) – *by Ian Pratt*



Anyone in Rowell coming along between Bridge Street and High Street on Friday 17th November 2017, and not a Rowellian, would have been puzzled at a funeral procession slowly making its way to the end of the street, accompanied by six men carry poles and escorting the hearse.

They would have been correct in thinking 'this was someone special.' This was Rowell saying goodbye to one of its most prominent citizens, for over 65 years - Robert Denton. He was known as Bob to most people and to the older ones - 'Grace Stratford's boy'.

From a very early age Robert was involved in various activities in the town i.e. Church Youth Club, Church Choir, Church Brotherhood and the local Young Conservatives. I was enrolled by my mother for a shilling subscription (deducted from my pocket money) and she described him as 'a big and well-mannered young man'.

Robert was the eldest son of Ernie and Grace Denton and elder brother to Margaret. He was educated first at Rothwell Church School and then Kettering Central School. From there he went to Teacher Training College in Birmingham to study for one of his many vocations in life, leaving with flying colours and get his first teaching post at the Grange Primary School in Kettering. For many years, generations were taught by Robert and often newlyweds coming to live in Rothwell were shocked to see their old form teacher again but always showed him respect (rather than get 100 lines). Robert was promoted to Headmaster at Walgrave Primary School and this was a position he held with the honour and respect of his pupils, until he retired.

In his spare time he was a Special Police Constable and served in the force for many years. Later he became Chief Constable of the County Specials and retired with a commendation, which he was very proud of. Amongst all this he was a town councillor on Rothwell Urban Council and he also served as Chairman (one of the youngest ever). His Civic Ball was held at Rothwell and Desborough Secondary Modern School (Montsaye). It was the one and only time it was held there and I was a guest and my recollection was seeing how proud his mother Grace was at the reception.

Robert was also involved in Freemasonry and a former Provincial Grand Master gave a wonderful eulogy at his funeral.

Any time left for anything else? Yes, he was also a committee member of the Rothwell Conservative club and an active member in the fast growing Rowell Fair Society led by the then bailiff Norman Hall who, on his retirement, recommended Robert to the position of bailiff. In my opinion it was a role he was born to do. He was a big lad with a happy face and a voice that could be heard over thousands of people. He was a wonderful sight for 15 years, immaculately dressed in top hat and tails and riding the legendary horse Charlie.

One thing people will probably remember is when he fell off the horse and injured himself but I hope those same people will also remember that despite those injuries he finished all the readings. At the last one, at the Charter Inn, he was given a massive 'three cheers' that moved the unmovable Robert. It was well deserved.



In his last years Robert was also Treasurer of the Rowell Fair Society. He also went on to become secretary of the Rothwell Conservative Club having held every office: Chairman, President, Treasurer and finally Secretary. In 2014 he was awarded the British Empire Medal and it was the proudest moment of his life to be in the Honours List. Again, well deserved and I think he is the only Rowellian ever to receive such an honour.

No longer with us but never forgotten. I was proud to call him a friend. **Rest in Peace Bob.**

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Rothwell Ladies Thursday Club Spring Programme 2018

8pm every Thursday evening during school term. All new visitors and members are very welcome.

Admission is £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members (includes tea/coffee and biscuits).

For more information please contact Janette Rowland on 01536 711012 or email janetterowland@hotmail.com

January 11 th	Highlights of the Year Members will tell us about their highlight of 2017	Members
January 18 th	Craft Evening Try your hand at simple felting	Julie Ludditt
January 25 th	History of Wicksteed Park The story of Wicksteed in pictures	Ian Addis
February 1 st	From Here to There Ruth's life in objects and pictures	Rev Ruth Colby
February 8 th	Guide Dogs for the Blind Meet some of the guide dogs and hear about their work	Bob Pooley
February 15 th	Half Term	
February 22 nd	A Visit to Peru Talk and pictures of a holiday	Pat and Ian Basson
March 1 st	Harps and Nightingales A talk about Nick's music and his role in schools	Nick Penny
March 8 th	A Quiz Evening	Pauline Toseland
March 15 th	A Wool Spinning Demonstration Ilona will talk about her new hobby	Ilona Bickle
March 22 nd	Rushden Lakes A talk about the work of the local wildlife trust	Katie King Nene Wetlands Education Officer

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Are you all ready for your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? (It is 13th February this year). Do you know why we even have pancakes on that day?

The connection with pancakes dates back to when fasting in Lent was strictly observed. Shrove Tuesday is always the day before the first day of Lent (known as Ash Wednesday).



Pancake ceremonies provided the opportunity to use up the households fatty foods like butter, eggs and flour. Scarborough in Yorkshire still has a pancake ceremony today.

Some Christians meanwhile believe that four ingredients in pancakes represent the four pillars of the Christian faith. That is flour for sustenance, eggs for creation, milk for purity and salt for wholesomeness.

The name 'Shrove' derives from the word 'shrive' meaning 'to free yourself from sin'.

Some towns like Olney (Buckinghamshire) and Ripon (Yorkshire) have pancake races which can be dated back to as early as 1445. Legend recounts a housewife in Olney who was cooking when she heard the church bells calling the faithful to prayer. Afraid of being late, she ran to the church still clutching the frying pan in which the pancake was still cooking.

Barry and I like our pancakes with lemon and sugar. What about you?

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Rothwell Scouts

The First Rothwell Scouts Free Troop - (The Originals) was created at a public meeting held in the Adult School on November 8th 1939.

The meeting was called to ask Rothwell people if they agreed to have a Scout Troop in the town. When the proposal was put something like 80% of the people were in favour. One objector thought it was wrong to dress boys in uniform and teach them to march around – reminiscent of the Nazis. Councillor Paul Butlin, Chairman of the meeting soon assured him that this was not the idea.

Having dealt with all the questions Mr George Howell, District Commissioner, then asked Mr Dennis Tailby if, as an ex-scoutmaster, he would be prepared to run the troop. Mr Tailby's answer was yes, provided he was allowed to make his own terms and conditions. These were stated as being that the troop must be a 'free' troop i.e. must not be attached to any other organisation, such as a church, school, factory, business etc. It must be self-financing and able to stand or fall on its own merit. These terms were agreed by all present.

Next was to invite the boys present to join the troop. A total of 44 came forward to sign up. Next a parents' committee was formed from volunteers, 4 in total. Thus the First Rothwell Scouts was born.



Photos:

Top left - circa 1939

Middle - January 1940

Bottom left - circa 1955

Scouting Facts

During World War II over 50,000 Scouts trained to undertake National War Service jobs, including acting as police messengers, firemen and stretcher bearers.

Sea Scouts helped evacuate Dunkirk during World War II.

In the past one hundred years, over half a billion men and women have taken the Scout Promise.

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THURSDAY	09:00 – 20:00
FRIDAY	08:00 – 18:00
SATURDAY	08:00 – 16:30
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The Suffragettes and Votes for Women – by Valerie Panter

February this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first women being given the right to vote.

This 'right' only came about following a long struggle by a group called the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) which was set up in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst.

They were probably better known as the 'Suffragettes'. The word '**suffrage**' means having the right to vote in political elections and they campaigned for women to have this right. They adopted a colour scheme of purple, white and green: purple symbolised dignity, white meant purity, and green stood for hope.



Initially they tried peaceful methods of campaigning but when that failed to bring about any result, the movement became more aggressive.



In 1905 that the organisation created a stir when Emmeline's daughter Christabel and Annie Kenney interrupted a political meeting in Manchester. They asked two Liberal politicians (Winston Churchill and Sir Edward Grey) if they believed women should have the right to vote but neither man replied. As a result, the two women got out a banner which had on it "Votes for Women" and shouted at the two politicians to answer their questions. Such actions were unheard of in those days when public speakers were usually heard in silence and listened to courteously even if you did not agree with them. Pankhurst and Kenney (pictured left) were thrown out of the meeting and arrested for causing an obstruction and a technical assault on a police officer.

Both women refused to pay a fine preferring to go to prison to highlight the injustice of the system as it was then. Some Suffragettes handcuffed themselves to railings and broke shop windows in order to get the police to arrest them.

When imprisoned, some of the women went on hunger strike and the police attempted to force feed them. This led to allegations of police brutality and created sympathy for the Suffragettes. The so-called Cat and Mouse Act of 1913 enabled the police to release women from prison when they became ill and then to re-arrest them when they had recovered their strength.

The Movement acquired its first martyr when Emily Wilding-Davison threw herself under the King's horse during the 1913 Derby.

The Suffragettes may have gone on to be even more violent. They'd already blown up part of David Lloyd George's house and he was not only one of Britain's most famous politicians at the time but was thought to be a supporter of the right for women to have the vote! But Britain and Europe was plunged into World War One and in a display of patriotism, Emmeline Pankhurst instructed the Suffragettes to stop their campaign of violence and instead support the government and its war effort in every way. The work done by women in the First World War was to be vital for Britain's war effort and they took on a wider range of roles in society thus convincing many more people that they deserved greater equality and suffrage.

Finally in 1918 the government created a law called the **Representation of the People Act** which gave women of property, aged thirty and over, the authority to vote. In 1928 the age was lowered to twenty one and finally in 1969 it was set at eighteen, which it is today.

Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre

Programme of Events 2018

An Evening with Dennis Binks



Monday 20th February 7.30 pm

Table Top Sale



Saturday 3rd March 10:00 - 1:00

Cheese & Wine Open Evening



Friday 23rd March

Talk about Morris Dancers



Date to be confirmed

Talk about Boot & Shoe Industry



Date to be confirmed

Rowell Fair Tart Competition



1st Saturday of the Fair

Table Top Sale



Saturday 18th June 10:00 - 1:00

Talk about Guide Dogs



Date to be confirmed

An Evening with Dennis Binks



Monday 16th July 7.30 pm

Table Top Sale



Saturday 8th September 10:00 - 1:00

Cheese & Wine Open Evening



Friday 14th September

An Evening with Dennis Binks



Monday 8th October 7.30 pm

Jim Dale talk & showing Scapino



Friday 19th October

Talk about The Little Book of Monarchs



Date to be confirmed

Cake Decorating Competition



Saturday 3rd November

Table Top Sale



Saturday 8th December 10:00 - 1:00

Please note all events and dates subject to change so please check Art and Heritage Centre Website, Facebook or by phone

Film Club

The Film Club is held on a Wednesday afternoon, once a month, starting at 2.00pm. Admission is free and tea/coffee/biscuits are served free of charge. The films are shown in the gallery on the first floor but there is a lift available for those who need it.

January	24 th	The Big Sleep (1946)
February	21 st	Suffragette (2015)
March	21 st	Singing in the Rain (1952)
April	25 th	Psycho (1960)
May	23 rd	Jamaica Inn (1939)
June	20 th	Last Time I Saw Paris (1955)
July	25 th	Murder Most Foul (1964)
August	22 nd	How Green Was My Valley (1941)
September	19 th	Shadow of a Doubt (1942)
October	24 th	Notorious (1946)
November	21 st	State of the Union (1948)
December	19 th	Whatever Happened to Baby Jane (1962)

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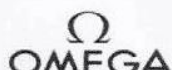


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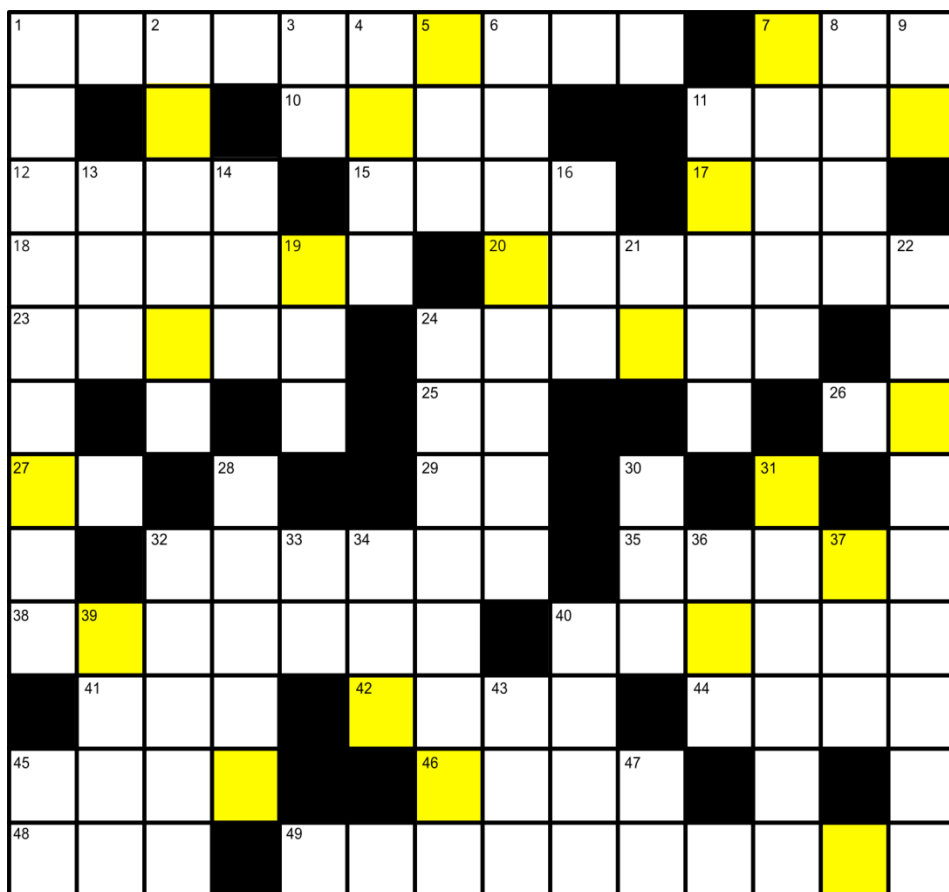
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Down

1. Large and imposing. (9)
2. Six-legged crawler. (6)
3. Infectious disease (abbr). (2)
4. Son of Aphrodite. (4)
5. First sign of the zodiac. (3)
6. What makes you you. (8)
7. Not taut. (5)
8. Option word. (4)
9. A roman copper coin. (2)
11. Cinematic spectacles. (5)
13. Crusty dish. (3)
14. Green type of warrior. (3)
16. Negative denoted therein. (3)
19. Timeline segment. (3)
21. Thanks. (2)
22. Deficits. (9)
24. I see sand for herbs. (8)
28. Goads. (5)
30. For each in Polperro. (3)
31. Very odd fellow. (6)
32. Dummy bullet. (5)
33. Record album, for short. (2)
34. Hallucinogenic drug. (1,1,1)
36. Good & Plenty amount. (3)
37. Content of hipflask is for a runner. (3)
39. Farm grazers. (4)
40. Lovers' spat. (4)
43. Garland of flowers. (3)
45. Support group (abbr). (1,1)
47. Biblical you (2)

Across

1. Sparkling, brilliant. (10)
7. Triton's domain. (3)
10. A type of nail. (4)
11. Old cloth measures. (4)
12. It's the altar end. (4)
15. Phenomenon believed to predict the future. (4)
17. Ballet step. (3)
18. Female relatives. (6)
20. Fliers, e.g. (7)
23. Designer's concern. (5)
24. Act violently against. (6)
25. metallic symbol. (2)
26. Fro's mate. (2)
27. In a general sense. (2)
29. Object, thing. (2)
32. Confident, bold. (6)
35. Expel from the body. (5)
38. Obscuring celestial event. (7)
40. Russian sled. (6)
41. Equine nibble. (3)
42. Fine food shop. (4)
44. Cell at sea. (4)
45. Barley beards. (4)
46. Resist openly. (4)
48. Pose a question. (3)
49. Bearing a sword. (10)

Rearrange the yellow squares to spell out

Springtime favourites (9,3,8)

Answers in next Issue



Last month's answer
Roasted Chestnuts

Memories of a Rothwell Dinner Lady

Nora Clayton was born Dallas Nora Headland on 21st March 1920 in Woodford.

She married Arthur Clayton who many of you will remember from Gray's Chemist on the Market Hill.

Nora worked at Gladstone Street Junior School in the Castle Hill canteen between 1970 and 1982 (approx) and was initially employed as an assistant cook but later became "Cook in Charge". They not only provided dinners for Rothwell but they were delivered to the villages around as well.

Nora died in 2010 so you may wonder why we are telling this story now. Well recently her son Ian came across some letters from 1981 which written to her by the children at the school when she was off sick with a Deep Vein Thrombosis in her leg.



Some of the letters are printed here including the covering letter from the headmaster. The rest of the photos were loaned to the Arts and Heritage Centre and copies can be viewed there. Were you one of those children? Come along and see if your letter is amongst them.

Northamptonshire	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"><div>Gladstone Street Rothwell Kettering Northants NN14 2ER</div><div>Telephone Kettering 710349 (STD 0536)</div><div>Headmaster R. Y. McNulty B.A., A.C.P.</div></div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: large; margin-top: 10px;">Rothwell County Junior School</div>
-------------------------	---

4/2/81

Dear Mrs Clayton,

I enclose some letters which the children have written, we haven't vetted them!!

I hope you are progressing well and will soon be back. I miss your cooking and your friendly smile.

Yours sincerely
Richard Y. McNulty

HC,
Junior School,
Rothwell,
KETTERING,
Northants,
3.2.1981.

Dear Mrs Clayton,

I hope you get better soon so you can come back to the canteen. Did you hear they are going to bring out a £1 coin and a 20p coin. If you have not been down street lately you won't have seen the work men have dug it all up to lay new slabs. The school school football team are still at the top of the second division. In may the first we are going to have a may day hope you'll be there.

yours. sincerely.
Mark Spencer.

HC,
Junior School
Rothwell,
KETTERING-
Northants
3.2.1981.

Dear Mrs Clayton,

I hope you will soon get well again. Last Saturday I went to Kettering and I went into the Co-op. I played some music on a organ for about half an hour. It was great fun. Tonight there is going to be a netball match. I am going to stop to see if we win. You were so good at cooking the school dinners miss you a lot. You are so hard working. I hope you will go come back soon.

Yours sincerely
Karena Horsley.

HC.
Junior School,
Rothwell,
KETTERING,
Northants,
3.2.1981

Dear Mrs Clayton,

I hope you get well soon. The school team are top of division two with ten points next are Grange with nine points. At school there is a gym display for anyone who is good at gymnastics. There is also a new machine in the school when you put a ten pence piece in it a kit kat comes out of the bottom.

Yours Sincerely
Andrew Breeze

HC,
Junior School,
Rothwell,
KETTERING,
Northants.
3/2/81

Dear Mrs Clayton,

I hope you are feeling a bit better. In school we have got a KitKat machine. Everyone is around it. We all hope that you will come back soon even though some of us don't have school dinners. Tonight the netball team has got a match against Quondale which should have been played before christmas. Here is a joke.

Q. What does Otacula have for breakfast?
A. Readyneck. Ha Ha Ha

Yours Sincerely
Nicola Doherty

When someone mentions rationing we automatically think of war time and ration books but how many of you remember the sugar shortage of the seventies?

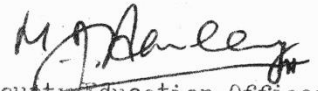
The following is an extract from an article originally published in the Guardian on 9 July 1974

Britain is facing a shortage of sugar because of the serious reduction in sugar cane imports from the Caribbean. So far this year there has been a drop of more than a third in the sugar imports. Usually about 1.3 million tons can be expected in the first six months, but the figures show that 400,000 tons less has come in.

Although the Ministry of Agriculture stresses that there is no immediate crisis, some large stores have already begun rationing. The State-supported British Sugar Corporation has now urged the Government to press the EEC Commission for a significant increase in sugar beet production in this country. Home production, accounting for one third of consumption nationally, is controlled by EEC regulations.

Sugar imports started falling late last year when the Caribbean countries, apparently in breach of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, began selling sugar cane to more lucrative markets in the United States.

Amongst Nora Clayton's recipe books there was a letter from Northamptonshire County Council Education Department giving advice on how to cook with less sugar.

Please ask for	Mr.N.Billings	Ext	5478	Our Ref	C/67/74/JCH	Your Ref		Date	24. 9. 74																				
Dear Madam,																													
EDUCATION CATERING SERVICE SUGAR SHORTAGE																													
Some canteens did not receive any sugar last week and further supplies will be erratic.																													
Whilst we know everyone is making savings by cutting down on amounts used in custard and sauces and avoiding puddings with excessive quantities of sugar, the following suggestions may be helpful, depending on what you have in stock at the moment. Try to have at least 2 sugar free days a week, i.e. serve soup, fresh fruit or Jam Tart or any pastry with a ready-sweetened filling, served with milk shake. Canteens buying Lyons Ice Cream on contract may use this as an alternative.																													
<table><tr><td><u>Sweets with little or no sugar :-</u></td><td>Fruit Scones</td><td>)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Cheese "</td><td>)</td><td>Serve with Milk Shake,</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Chelsea Buns</td><td>)</td><td>Coffee or Chocolate</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Lemon "</td><td>)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Doughnuts</td><td>)</td><td></td></tr></table>										<u>Sweets with little or no sugar :-</u>	Fruit Scones)			Cheese ")	Serve with Milk Shake,		Chelsea Buns)	Coffee or Chocolate		Lemon ")			Doughnuts)	
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	Lemon ")																											
	Doughnuts)																											
Drinks can be sweetened with Saccharin tablets bought from petty cash. Syrup can be used to sweeten custard and milk puddings.																													
Schools with a choice of menu can serve Yoghurt and Cheese & Biscuits more frequently.																													
You may all order catering mix during this emergency. If you run out of sugar completely, please inform your Area Organiser.																													
Yours faithfully,																													
																													
County Education Officer.																													

If you have trouble cooking for your family, imagine cooking for hundreds of hungry children.

Nora's recipes indicate the number of servings and below you can see her recipes for Hungarian Goulash and Marble Pudding. Imagine mixing that lot!

<u>HUNGARIAN GOULASH</u>		<u>100</u>
Stewing Steak	16 lbs.	
Pearl Barley	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	
Onions	4 lbs.	
Bay leaves	6	
Prunes	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	
Paprika Pepper	3 tablespoons	
Tinned Tomatoes	2 x A3s	
Stock	1 gall.	
<u>Method:</u>		
As for Brown Stew and braized steak.		

<u>MARBLE PUDDING</u> (100)	
10 lbs. flour	
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. golden raising powder	
2 oz. salt	
3 lbs. margarine	}
1 lb. lard	
5 lbs. sugar	
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. semolina	
20 eggs	
3 colourings and 3 flavourings	
6 - 8 pints water to mix.	
<u>Method:</u>	
1. Use creaming method.	
2. Divide into 3 portions. Glour each a different colour and add flavouring.	

Fun Food Facts

- Chocolate was once used as currency.
- Ketchup was used as a medicine in the 1800s to treat diarrhoea, among other things.
- Apples float in water, because 25% of their volume is made of air.
- The oldest evidence for soup is from 6,000 B.C. and calls for hippopotamus and sparrow meat.
- Sausages are older than the Bible. The first written mention of them is in a 4000 year old text from the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia.
- Pound cake got its name from its original recipe, which called for a pound each of butter, eggs, sugar, and flour.
- The tea bag was created by accident, as tea bags were originally sent as samples.
- The 57 on the Heinz bottle represents the number of pickle types the company once had.
- When cranberries are ripe, they bounce like a rubber ball.
- There are 7,500 varieties of apples grown throughout the world, and if you tried a new variety each day, it would take you 20 years to try them all.
- The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia.
- Banana trees are in fact giant herbs.
- Chicken Tikka Masala isn't really an Indian dish. It was created in Britain to suit the more western palate.

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Do you ever wonder what this building was?



Referred to as The Nunnery it is actually a former farmhouse. The building (now two houses) features a date stone inscribed 1660, though there has been speculation that it might be earlier.

The house is thought to stand on the site of an Augustinian priory of nuns founded in 1247 by Richard Clare, Earl of Gloucester and dedicated to St John the Baptist. Records describe the priory as laying "on the high ground on that side of the town nearest to Desborough".

Little else is known about the priory's history except that it was a very poor Order. The last recorded Prioress before its dissolution was Margaret Loftus in 1543.

Another nearby building known as Nunnery House is dated 1849. Building work on either The Nunnery or Nunnery House in 1849 uncovered a number of inhumations (burials).

The photograph to the right is looking up Desborough Road at the houses which used to stand opposite the Nunnery and the one below is looking down the road after they were demolished.



More photographs of old Rothwell Streets and shops are currently on display in the Heritage Centre.

The name 'Crispin' is extremely apt for the street where I spent my childhood, as Saint Crispin is the patron saint of shoemakers and of course the Avalon shoe factory was situated on this street on the corner of Cross Street.

When I was a child, Crispin Street seemed a very long and wide street – very few people possessed cars so the road was not cluttered with vehicles. Crispin Street was an unusual street. It contained two shops, a barber's, a coal merchant, a shoe factory, a garage, three police houses and a wood yard. It had a very diverse history compared with today. So it was always busy and there was always something going on. We played in the street most nights – hopscotch, rounders, two-ball, arrows – the list is endless, and so as kids we knew everyone who lived in the street and much of what was happening.

In the fifties the barber's shop on the corner of Rock Hill was owned and managed by Horace Tomlinson. My dad had his hair cut here and would come home after a short back and sides with his hair slicked back with Brylcreem, which had its own strong, distinctive smell. We could smell him wherever he went in the house!! Eva Tomlinson, Horace's wife managed the grocer's shop next door to the barber's, with the help of my aunt – Grace Jarman. Lots of Crispin Street people used this little shop and as a child it was fascinating to go in there and listen to all the gossip. There would be lots of glass jars of loose sweets and basics such as sugar, potatoes, bread, butter, tinned fruit etc. Some people had their weekly shopping delivered and my sister Joan was the delivery girl for Tomlinsons. I envied her so much when she was able to buy a bar of chocolate or a bottle of Tizer with her earnings. Mr and Mrs Parker later became the owners of both shops, after the Tomlinsons retired.

Opposite, on the corner of Rock Hill stood a large detached house. Here two people died during the late fifties or early sixties. It was a murder and a suicide. I didn't know the couple who lived there, but as a youngster it frightened me very much and I always walked on the opposite side of the road. This story hit the headlines in the Evening Telegraph and Crispin Street residents talked about it a great deal.

On the corner of Cross Street was The Avalon shoe factory – bottom shop. The frosted factory windows facing on to Crispin Street had a metal grill covering them. As kids we liked to get a large stone and scrape it along the metal grill. It made a very loud, clattering noise and we were always delighted when a gruff voice from within yelled "Bugger off!" I loved the smell of leather and rubber solution that pervaded the atmosphere and the excitement when the buzzer sounded and the men whizzed along Crispin Street on their bicycles to get home as fast as they could!

Opposite Cross Street, where there now stands a bungalow, was a plot of land belonging to P.C. Horace Panther. Here he kept hens and pigs. When walking by you could often hear the pigs grunting or the hens clucking. Lots of people in the post war years kept pigs and poultry as a source of food and income. When the pigs were slaughtered, the sound of them squealing could be heard from quite a distance. It always sent shivers down my spine.

We lived at number 48 Crispin Street, next to the coal merchant E. W. Eden at number 50. The coal was collected from Rushton station. Most houses had coal fires - there was no central heating – so coal was an essential commodity in the fifties. I remember, missing the school bus one day, along with my friends Kathryn Dainty, Jayne Atter and Mary Martin. Pat Eden passed us at the bus stop and offered us all a lift to school in the back of the lorry with the coal. He drove at speed and we all hung on for our lives and he dropped us off in Bowling Green Road just as Miss Woodrow, the Headmistress of Kettering High School, was leading the school assembly. As she was positioned high on the stage, she could see us all clamber out of the back of the lorry in front of the school windows. We were of course, summoned to her office and duly reprimanded!

Next to Eden's house were the three police houses. P.C. Beasley lived in number 52, P.C. Atter in number 54 and P.C. Panther in number 56. They all used their bicycles for police business to get around Rothwell. I'm not sure what type of crime existed in Rowell at that time, but as a child I was hardly to know.

On the corner of Ragsdale Street and Crispin Street was Bass's wood yard. The photograph on the right shows Jayne Atter and Mary Martin standing outside Mr Bass's house. He brought tree trunks on his trailer to the large shed in his yard and there, with his circular saw he cut the wood into logs and sticks. He didn't wear a mask or protective clothing as workmen would today. The floor of the shed was full of curly wood shavings and sawdust and the smell of the freshly cut wood was very pungent. As kids, sometimes we watched him at work and were fascinated by the circular saw which made a high squealing noise that could be heard from all around. Mr Bass sold bundles of sticks for 6d – the equivalent of just over 2p. He supplied most people in the neighbourhood with logs and sticks for their open fires.



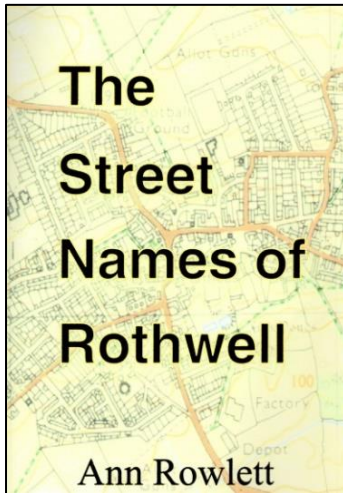
Further along Crispin Street, towards Stanley Street, also on the left, was Bailey's garage. Mr Lance Bailey was the owner and he employed a long-serving mechanic, Bernard Chambers. Cedric Guildford and Colin Freeman also worked there for a short time. Even though very few people owned cars, the garage always seemed to be very busy. There was a petrol pump there too, on the small forecourt. Pat Eden later became the owner after Lance Bailey retired because of ill health.

On the corner of Stanley Street was Munton's, an off-licence which also sold bottles of what we called 'spruce' – i.e. fizzy drinks. Sometimes as a treat on a Sunday I would run along to Munton's for a bottle of Tizer – our favourite fizzy drink. The shop was dark inside with lots of barrels containing beer, port and sherry. People would go there with their empty bottle to get a refill! There was a musty smell in the shop of stale alcohol which I still remember. An old lady who lived around the corner in Stanley Street would lurk around this shop. She would dress all in black – a long dress, shawl, boots and bonnet - and she had a wizened, wrinkly face; she would accost anyone who entered Munton's and give him or her, a religious tract about the evils of alcohol. She frightened me when I was a child and I would try to avoid her.

I have happy memories of growing up in Crispin Street. Everyone knew each other – there were lots of children to play with because of the post war baby boom. Many of us are still friends to this day.

Remember our article in the last issue about where people read their Rowell Heritage Magazine? Well three of our readers took theirs on a trip to New York. Below you can see Pat and Pam reading theirs on a break in shopping (looks like they needed it) and Sharon was in Bryant Park.





Ann Rowlett's book is now on sale in the Heritage Centre, priced £10.

There is some very interesting history behind some of the street names.

For instance you may all be aware that Clicker Close is named after the shoe making process of the same name. The Close stands on the site of the old Grocock's shoe factory.

But did you know that Crispin Street is named after the Patron Saint of Shoemakers?

Or that Vickers Close was named after Mr JHT Vickers who was Headmaster at the old Rothwell Grammar School.

The photograph below shows him standing at the back at the left. Do you recognise the location? The school stood where the Library now does and this playground backs onto Tresham Street where the Fire Station now stands. You can see the one storey building behind which is now a physiotherapy centre.

The photograph was taken 1954/5 so you may even recognise someone.



Some of our streets have changed their names over the years and others have been lost entirely with changes to the landscape. Why don't you come and buy your copy of the book now and learn more?

What is the meaning of the name Rothwell? by Stan White

Rothwell has had many spellings along the ages. The local name of Rowell still in use today goes back to the 12th century. Other spellings include Rodwell, Rodewell, Rotheweale, Rowthell and Rotwelle. They could have been mis-spellings or different translations of the different languages of those who invaded this country from the continent and settled here after the Romans left from about 200 onwards.

So what about the name Rothwell? We are told that it translates from Danish (Old Danish that is) and also old German, to something like 'village or town by the Red Well'. There are other translations which do not make much sense but are interesting. Such as 'the clearing by the stream where the roes feed'. Probably they did but Danes based their place names in something more solid than that.

Another saying about Rothwell from old English which roughly relates to the years 450 to 1150 is, 'a forest clearing and a well'. Again that does not quite match up to naming Rothwell but it does I am sure picture the settlement as it was then, in the midst of Rockingham Forest which covered an area of about 40 miles in length and width. This is known because it is recorded as a Royal hunting area.

Back to Rothwell, which the Danish settlers called Rodewell. As I mentioned before this means the settlement beside the red well. Now a well can be a water well, oil well, ink well etc. or can mean a spring head, a brook or stream.

As far as Rothwell is concerned people decided long ago that the Danish 'Red Well' means water coloured red by ironstone. For instance, a pamphlet issued by the Preservation Trust talks about springs in the town rising through the 'rot' (red) ironstone. The current guide mentions the settlement of Rodewell and the many freshwater springs coloured red by iron ore minerals, although they do use the word 'presumably'. Thank goodness they do, because how many springs, streams or water wells have you seen around Rothwell with water coloured red by the ironstone minerals?

Ironstone does not colour water red. Look at any pool of water left in an old ironstone pit and the water is clear. Until the post war 1940s, Rothwell's water supply came from a spring which kept the tanks at the water works full of lovely clear water. (They were down Shotwell Mill Lane a.k.a. The Folly).

No water in the Rothwell area is impregnated with mineral substance which could colour it red. It can happen and far from here in Northumberland, the river Coquet is in parts, stained a reddish colour due to softer minerals in it.

Ironstone sometimes called sandstone is a compressed sedimentary rock used for building. Rothwell Church and other buildings around and about are built of this stone. They don't run red when it rains!

When the Danish people came to Rothwell, it was long before it became a walled town with castle and church. That was the work of the Normans. The Danes could have named the settlement as to how they found it when they arrived or they might have named it in connection with their own life and work. I do know that ironstone was very important in that long ago Rothwell/Rodewell. There is a word – 'wellan' which means to boil or to melt and within this great Rockingham Forest they were able to build huge fires which were used to melt the iron ore. This allowed the metal within to trickle out of the fires into shallow wells prepared in the ground just below the fires. This was always done on a hillside or slope to allow this to happen.

Thus Rothwell's Red Well or more likely wells.

The photo taken in 1984 shows Derrick Dunn (left) owner of Weldon Stone Enterprises and Co-founder of The Orton Trust and Stan White of The Orton Trust. They were discussing the use of burnt stones used in the building of this wall. The stones which appear darker than the others in the photo, had been through a fire and may well be connected to the process described above.

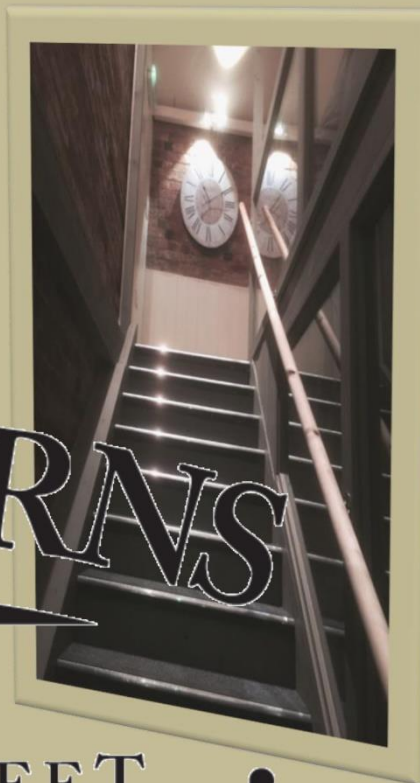


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Jim Dale MBE *by Valerie Panter*

Many of us Rowellians take it for granted and assume that everyone has heard of our very own Jim Dale but because he moved to America in the 1970's many people moving into the town either don't know that he was born here or don't realise how much of the entertainment industry he has been involved with.

He is probably best recognised in the UK for his roles in the Carry On films but as well as an actor he is also a singer, songwriter, comedian, dancer and narrator.

So let's set that straight and tell you all about him...

Jim was born Jim Smith on 15th August 1935 in Fox Street but then spent most of his childhood at the next family home which was at 24 Jubilee Street. His father William was a sheet metal worker at Ball's Foundry on Kettering Road and his mother Miriam (Jean), was a machinist. His younger brother Mick became a welder and it is thanks to him that we have the lovely exhibition room at the Arts and Heritage Centre.



Jim started training for his career at the age of nine and spent six years studying tap dancing, eccentric comedy dancing, judo, National dancing, ballet and tumbling.



His father took him to see a production of the musical *Me and My Girl* in London, starting Lupino Lane as Bill Snibson. It was then Jim decided he wanted to be a comedian and his copy of Lupino Lane's book called *How to become a Comedian* is part of the exhibition at the Heritage Centre.

Jim performed in many amateur shows and started to include comedy in his act but at one audition he was told that although he *was* funny, he didn't look funny. So Jim dashed back home and asked his mum to make him a new costume with trousers that were too short, a jacket that was too big and a large bright kipper tie. The results can be seen in the photo on the right. Jim's mum made all his costume's in those days and his brother Mick said they had a huge

chest full of them which meant that growing up he had the best dressing up box imaginable.

Jim was educated at Kettering Grammar School and when he left aged 15, went to work in the office at Senior Products in Desborough, However, he got fed up of being the 'tea boy' and so moved to the Avalon shoe factory in Rothwell.

In 1951 he entered and won a talent show at the Savoy Theatre in Kettering and it was here that he was spotted by the talent scout Carroll Levis. Jim eventually managed to persuade his mum and dad to allow him to go on tour with Levis and he became the youngest professional comedian in Great Britain, touring all the famous Variety Music Halls.

Jim was then introduced to Stan Dale (agent to Frankie Howard and other stars) and that's why when signed a five year contract with him he changed his name from Smith to Dale.

His contract start was delayed until he was 20 because at the age of 18 he was called for National Service. He left home in Jubilee Street on his 18th birthday and joined the Royal Air Force. First he went to RAF Cardington and then



RAF Padgate. Eventually he ended up in Germany and between his duties in the stores spent a lot of time arranging entertainment for the troops.

In 1955 when he left the RAF he met the illusionist Billy McComb who was head of the Magic Circle and from him learnt another trade – magic.

During 1956 jobs were few and far between and he played the Skiffle bars in Soho with Colin Hicks a.k.a. Tommy Steele. It was at this time he met and fell in love with his first wife Patricia and they were married within months. His daughter Jane Belinda was born in 1957 and he later recorded a song with the same name.

Jim joined Parlophone Records and had several top twenty hits including, Piccadilly Line, Be my Girl and Crazy Dream.

1957 also saw the launch of a new TV pop music show called the Six-Five Special and he appeared in and hosted this.



The following year Jim had his film debut with a Six Five Special spin off film and that was followed by his roles in the Carry On films – 15 in all.

In 1967 he wrote the lyrics for the song Georgy Girl which was sung by the Australian Folk group The Seekers. The melody was written by Tom Springfield, brother of the singer Dusty Springfield. The song reached number one in the charts in Australia and number three in the UK.

In 1970 Sir Laurence Olivier invited Jim to join the National Theatre Company in London which was then based at the Old Vic. Shortly after, at the Young Vic Theatre, he created the title role in Scapino which he co-adapted with Frank Dunlop. He also played Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew.

Jim had also been hosting Sunday Night at the Palladium and presented his first musical The Wayward Way at the Vaudeville Theatre in London.

On 21st November 1973 whilst at the Palladium he was surprised by Eamonn Andrews and became the star of 'This is Your Life' (the first live episode of the show). Quite a few old Rowellians turned up to support Jim that night.

Shortly after this, Jim and his family packed their bags and headed for New York where Jim was to star in his first Broadway Musical - Scapino. New Yorkers loved it, fell in love with Jim and he won various awards. Unfortunately his wife and children returned to the UK and they later divorced.

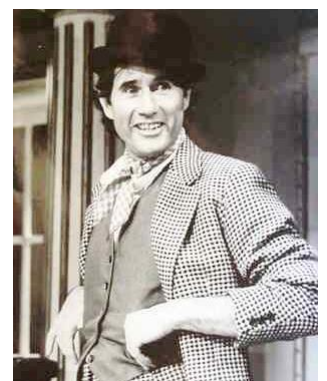
Jim stayed on in New York and was approached by Walt Disney Productions and he starred in a film called Hot Lead Cold Feet. Following this he starred in Digby, the biggest dog in the world, Pete's Dragon and Unidentified Flying Oddball. He starred in seven Disney films in all.



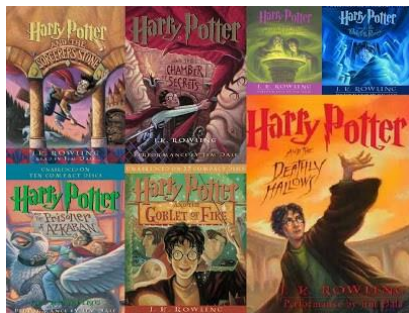
In January 1980 Jim took the leading role in the musical Barnum. He starred alongside Glenn Close and he won a Tony Award for best lead actor for his performance.

Some of his other musicals on and off Broadway include Joe Egg, Travels with My Aunt, Candide, The Comedians, The Invisible Man, Privates on Parade, The Music Man, Three Penny Opera.

Jim's career turned full circle in 1989 when he took the lead as Bill Snibson in Me and My Girl (right) the show he watched with his father as a young boy all those years ago.



In 1997, Jim was invited back to England to play the part of Fagin in Oliver at the London Palladium. He holds the record for occupying the number one dressing room there!



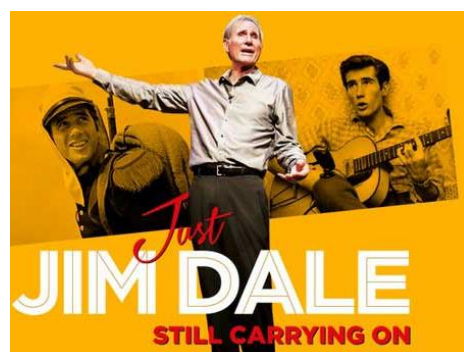
He has appeared in 26 Broadway productions and won numerous awards including an MBE in 2003. But this is not the end of his achievements. He has narrated all 7 of the J.K Rowling Harry Potter books in the USA and holds three Guinness World Records for doing so. For The Order of the Phoenix he created an incredible 134 voices.

In 2012, Jim worked with journalist Thomas F Flynn, the author of an epic poem called 'The Bike Man'. On September 11, 2001, Tom set off on his bike toward the World Trade Towers not knowing what he was riding into. The poem recalls his journey and the horrors of that day. For the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks Jim read the Bikeman at the New York Public Library of Performing Arts.

Jim still lives in New York with his second wife Julia Schafler, an art gallery owner who he married in 1980, but comes back to the UK to visit his family.

In 2015, approaching his 80th birthday he returned again to the Vaudeville Theatre in London where he performed a one man in which he nostalgically told his story. He also put on two performances at the Corby Cube and took time out to visit the Heritage Centre.

Maybe we can persuade him to visit again.



Whilst we were helping Jim's brother Mick to re-arrange and catalogue the items on display at the centre, a lady brought this photograph in. It shows Jim in the centre (arms crossed) but we'd be interested to know if anyone can identify other people too. Please let us know if you recognise anyone.



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