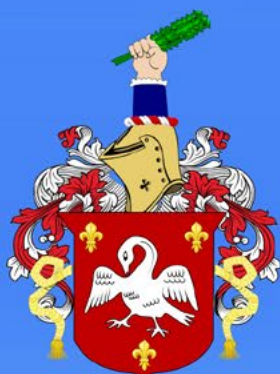


# Rowell Heritage

Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



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No: 28

January - March 2019

£2.50

# Rowell Heritage Magazine

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our first quarterly edition of the Rowell Heritage magazine for 2019.

There have been some changes recently. Barry and Valerie Panter have stepped down as sole editors of the magazine, but remain an essential part of the new team who are working to build on their achievements.

This team of volunteers will be working hard to get stories, photographs and anecdotes about the local area and its residents past and present, whilst striving to build on our base of supportive local advertisers without whom there wouldn't be a magazine.

Helping to give the pages a new look is Stuart Everitt, who has worked on many national and international publications in the past and is lending his expertise and experience to the team.

Rothwell might not be the largest of towns, but we do have a long history, so please keep sending in your stories so we can share them with others. Don't worry about how long or short your contribution is, whether you can put your story into words properly, or if you simply can't type or use a computer - come down to the Heritage Centre, have a cuppa and get one of the volunteers to do the writing for you ... and we'll ensure the finished item will do your story proud.

After all - without these stories, we have no magazine ... and without volunteers, we'd have no Heritage Centre. So, if you haven't got a story for us, how about helping us out - at the centre itself, or join our team of researchers? Everyone is welcome.

Best wishes to all,

The Editorial Team

Please could we remind our 'Friends of the Heritage Centre' that your membership subscription for 2019 is now due and can be paid at the centre.

Membership entitles you to the Rowell Heritage Magazine at a discounted price of £1.50 (usually £2.50) and reduced admission fees at most of our events.

This year we're also offering a discount on bookings for afternoon tea which will be £5 per person instead of £7. For private afternoon tea events the minimum is 12 people and maximum 16. Please phone the centre and ask for Christine or Pat to book.

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*Plus more stories, features, news of forthcoming events and our crossword to keep you busy during the cold winter months.*

Submissions etc. to:

**editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk**

Deadline for submission of articles or adverts for April/May/June issue is **March 12th, 2019**

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

Front cover design: **Barry Panter**

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# Frances Gertie Wager

13TH JUNE 1920 ~ 19TH OCTOBER 2018

*A close friend spoke to Frances on our behalf because, as one of the oldest Rowellians, her life story merited inclusion in this magazine. Sadly, Frances died a few weeks later, on October 19th. She was a lovely lady and this article is a tribute to her.*

**F**RANCES was born on June 13th 1920 to William Leonard Sharman and Elsie Bamford. She was named after her father's sister Frances and his cousin Gertie. She was always called Gertie by her mother but didn't

like this name and so chose to be known as Frances as she grew older. She had a brother, Charles William (born 1919) and grew up in a rented house in Coronation Avenue. There were many aunts and uncles and her grandfather Charles Frederick Bamford lived in Jesus Hospital.

Money was very tight so there were no holidays. Frances played in the street with her school friends. She enjoyed skipping and she loved her baby doll and pram. She was good at swimming, remembers going to "Rowell Baths" at the bottom of the Rec. and she was also an attendant of Rothwell's Carnival Queen during her teenage years. A special friend was Win Denton (nee Johnson) who lived in Tresham Street.

Frances used to help her Dad on his allotment in Glendon Road where he kept pigs and had a greenhouse for growing tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuces. He grew many vegetables to make sure that his family had a good supply of fruit and veg all year round. Chickens were kept in the Coronation Avenue garden so the family had plenty of eggs as well.



Frances with her Dad.

Frances attended the Grammar School, leaving at about 15 years of age to start work in the warehouse of the corset factory in Desborough. She was eventually moved to the machine work, "flossing" edging on corset steels. *Flossing was the decorative and functional embroidery that was applied at the*

*ends of boning to keep it in place. It reinforced the material so that the boning would not wear through.*

In 1940 at the age of 20, Frances married 24 year old Stanley Hull who had had been a sailor in the Navy and had witnessed some horrific scenes. He later worked in the building industry. Frances remained at the corset factory until her first son Richard was born in 1944.

A second son, Roger, was born in 1947 and tragically, Stan died that same year aged only 31, leaving Frances with a 3 year old and a new born baby to look after. With the help of her parents, she moved into a little cottage next door to a beer shop in Glendon Road.

When Roger started school, Frances went to work at Sarjeants Shoe Factory where her job was to spray and polish the shoes to leave them shiny and immaculate. She later worked at Gamble's shoe

factory and finally at Groococks where she stayed until her retirement at 60. She did the same job throughout, shining the shoes to prepare them for sale.

It was while Frances was working at Sarjeants that she met her second husband, John Wager. The couple married in 1954 and moved to Ragsdale Street which was where Frances lived for the rest of her life. She and John were married for some 55 years.

Frances and John enjoyed trips to London theatres and saw Arthur Askey, Jim Dale, Rock Hudson and shows such as 'The King and I'.

They also had many holidays in Jersey, Spain, Holland and Scotland. The east coast was a firm favourite too and they regularly visited Cromer, Skegness, Gt. Yarmouth and Hunstanton. ■



Frances as Carnival Queen attendant.



Frances with her Mum at Coronation Avenue.

# Annie Plumb and Her Son

By:  
JEAN BUSWELL

**S**ome years ago I obtained the 1895 death certificate of my grandfather's great-aunt Ann, wife of Rothwell farmer William Chater. The death had been registered by an unknown 'niece' called Annie Plumb. I discovered that she was actually a niece by marriage.

Annie was born Annie Elizabeth Chater, in Rothwell Lodge in 1837. I'm not sure where this was, as I've found two places labelled 'Rothwell Lodge' on old maps, one on the A14 just outside Rothwell (which is still signposted as Rothwell Lodge) and another off Violet Lane.

In 1859 she married farmer William Lea of Lea's Lodge Farm, Cransley, and they had six children before William died in 1867 aged only 42. His younger brother Samuel took over the farm.

Annie's second husband was George Plumb, a Shoemaker from Corby. They moved to London's East End with Annie's children before having two more of their own.

They became pub landlords. Their first pub was The Red Deer in Bethnal Green where George's brother Frederick worked as Barman. Then they moved to the Angel, Bloomsbury and from there

to The King of Prussia, Shoreditch. Finally they moved to The Baxendale Arms, Bethnal Green.

George and Annie moved back to Northamptonshire, and in 1895 when Annie Plumb registered the death of her aunt-by-marriage Ann Chater in Rothwell, she gave her own address as 'The Round House, Finedon'.

The Round House building is in the parish of Burton Latimer but the 120 acres of land that come with it are divided between the parishes

of Great Addington, Woodford and Finedon.

Apparently the Duke of Wellington remarked that the panoramic view reminded him of the battlefield of Waterloo, hence the plaque on the wall of the house:

**Panorama. Waterloo  
Victory June 18 AD1815.**

Annie Plumb died at Chaters' Lodge, Rothwell on 6 February 1898 aged 61, and is buried in Rothwell churchyard. In Annie's will there is a reference to her having previously owned the copyhold of property and land in Kettering including 'The White Horse Inn' which seems to refer to The Old White Horse at 43 High Street, Kettering (right), opposite Marks & Spencer, which became Burton Menswear in 1962.





Meanwhile, what of Annie's eldest son William Chater Lea?

When George and Annie Plumb first moved to London to keep the Red Deer pub in Bethnal Green, Annie's eldest son, eleven-year-old William Chater Lea, was left behind in Corby where he boarded with Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress John and Annie Pool at Rectory House.

Ten years on, 21-year-old William was working as a Warehouseman at Samuel Jordan's Manufacturing firm in Luton. By 1884 he had moved to Shoreditch to take over from his stepfather as licensee of the King of Prussia public house

William was a keen cyclist, winning the Catford Cycling Club Hill Climb race in 1888, 1889 and 1891. The production of cycles was a boom industry at the time and William joined the firm of Messrs Linley & Biggs of Clerkenwell Road, London, makers of Whippet cycles.



In 1890 he set up his own firm under the trademark Chater-Lea, based in London's East End, as a supplier of cycle components.

By 1900 the firm was manufacturing complete cycles, by 1903 they were making motorcycles, and between 1907 and 1922 they produced cars. Many of the inter-war AA motorcycle/sidecar combinations were made by Chater-Lea.



His brother in law, John White (husband of William's sister Annie) joined him as a cycle engineer and later worked as a 'Steel Carboniser – Motor Manufacture.

The 1901 census shows William's growing prosperity. He was still living in Hackney but in the household along with his wife and three children were a maternity nurse, governess, cook, housemaid and parlour maid.

By 1911 the family had moved to Patcham, Sussex, where William gave his house the name of Cransley Lodge. He died as the result of a paralytic stroke on 15 September 1927 at the age of sixty-eight. The business was taken over by his sons John and Bernard, and the following year the company moved to Letchworth, Hertfordshire. The firm was wound up in 1948.

Chater-Lea specialised in the top end of the market, and many examples of their bikes and cars are still owned by enthusiasts.



Images - <https://www.yesterdays.nl/>



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# COLIN PATSON SARJEANT

(11TH DECEMBER 1918 ~ 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018)

by JANET SQUIRE

**OLD ROWELLIANS *will be sad to hear of the death of Colin Sarjeant just three months short of his one hundredth birthday.***

Colin Patson Sarjeant was born at the Poplars, Well Lane, Rothwell one month after Armistice Day, younger son of Edgar Sarjeant who in turn was the youngest son of Samuel, founder of Sarjeant's shoe factory. Colin's Mother, Mollie Griffiths, had come to Rothwell as head mistress of the Primary School. Their elder son, Ivor, was killed in the Second World War.

Colin spent his school days in Rothwell and was hoping to become an engineer. The Second World War intervened and Colin saw active service in the 16th/5th Lancers, serving in North Africa and later Italy. A freak posting resulted in his being in charge of the Officers Mess rather than on the frontline at the Battle of Monte Casino. Colin had many amusing stories from his wartime years and they instilled in him a lifelong love of Italy, Alpha Romeos and Chianti!

After the war Colin returned to Rothwell to marry his sweetheart, Greta, whom he had met while billeted with the TA's in Brixworth. He began work with Rigid Containers, the cardboard factory located in Desborough and founded by local entrepreneurs, including his father, to produce cardboard boxes for the shoe industry. Expansion of the firm resulted in Colin and Greta's relocation to Liverpool where their sons Roger and Peter were born. The family returned to Rothwell in 1963 and Colin eventually retired from Rigid in 1978.

Throughout his life Colin was a "fixer". He soon had a reputation for being able to mend anything, and a kind willingness to do so. He loved "tinkering" with things and even in his last years he would be found, screwdriver or drill in hand, adjusting some piece of equipment to make it more workable. Together in Rothwell Colin and Greta worked tirelessly for good

causes ~ Dr Barnardo's, Meals-on-Wheels and the RNIB ~ and there was always a welcome in their home for friends and family.



*Colin & Greta in 2003 when they lived in Tremeirchion*

After retirement Colin and Greta decided to move to Tremeirchion in North Wales where a new set of friends and local charities benefitted from their generosity. They maintained close links with their Rothwell connections and returned to Northamptonshire in 2005 to a new bungalow in Desborough near their son Roger and his wife Wendy.

Eventually increasing infirmity necessitated their move to Brookside Care Home in Braybrooke where Colin continued to enjoy "tinkering" whenever possible. It became necessary to hide the more dangerous tools!

He remained an avid reader of the Heritage Magazine, giving us many extra details of "Old Rowell" and its characters, with a joke and a twinkle in his eyes!

Greta died in 2016 but Colin soldiered on, fully intending to reach his Century. Sadly that was not to be and he died after a series of strokes on 17th September.



*Colin (third from right on front row) with other Rigid staff after a course in around 1970*

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*The Arts and Heritage Centre were proud to be involved with this recent reunion of a WWI medal to the grandson of the Rothwell soldier to whom it was originally awarded.*

*The story was reported on by the Northamptonshire Telegraph who have kindly allowed us to reproduce it for those of you who may not have seen it.*

### Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

*These are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals.*

*The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal respectively. These medals were primarily awarded to the Old Contemptibles (B.E.F.) and by convention all three medals are worn together and in the same order from left to right when viewed from the front.*



This photograph, loaned to us by Brian, shows his grandfather Alfred seated third from the left, with his brother Fred on the right (smoking the cigarette). The photograph was taken at the top of the Recreation ground and the cottages you see behind the men are in Ponder Street where the bungalows now stand. You can also see Coronation Avenue in the background.

***Does anyone know who the other two men are?***

Desborough man 'humbled' at return of First World War honour

# Grandfather's medal back where it belongs

BY SAM WILDMAN  
sam.wildman@pimedia.co.uk  
@NTelegraph

**A Rothwell man's war medal was donated to its rightful home after an eBay buyer tracked down a living relative.**

Pte 204358 Alfred Laywood served in the First World War and is believed to have won three medals.

One of them, a general service medal, was spotted on eBay by David Brenton from near Halesowen in the West Midlands.

After buying it for £25 he decided to try and find a relative of Pte Laywood and was put in touch with his grandson Brian Laywood, who lives in Desborough.

And yesterday (Wednesday) the pair met at Rothwell's Heritage Centre in Bridge Street where the medal was donated to Brian.

Brian, 82, said: "I am absolutely delighted and humbled.

"I really would have loved to have known him [Alfred] and I understand he was dying to see me too.

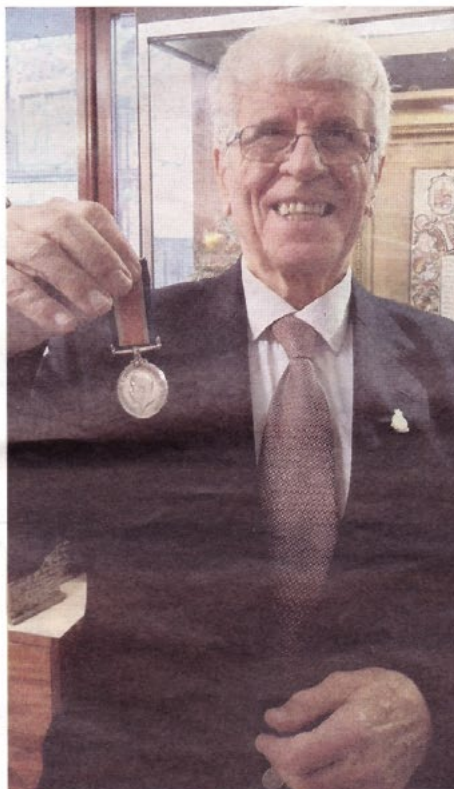
"I'm just so happy to receive this and I have to thank David for it.

"I will treasure it."

David, 52, is a Mason at Queensman Lodge and about a year ago began searching for items related to his Queen's Regiment as a gift.

He saw the medal on the auction site because Pte Laywood's East Kent Regiment, known as the Buffs, was a forebearer to the Queen's Regiment.

His intention was to have the medal mounted in a box and take it to Queensman



Brian Laywood with his grandfather's medal

Lodge to auction it to benefit charity.

But, with this year being 100 years since the end of the First World War, he had a change of heart and decided to try and track down Alfred Laywood's living relatives instead.

With Ponder Street, Roth-

well, on the original box and envelope that came with the medal he contacted Rothwell Town Council's clerk before speaking to the Heritage Centre.

He said he knew it was a long shot but asked if there was anyone called Laywood in

the area. Valerie Panter from the Heritage Centre found an old school register that listed Brian and several people got in touch saying they knew Brian after they put a post on Facebook.

Soon after David and Brian, an organist at Desborough Baptist Church, were in contact with each other.

David, a vice-chairman of the Royal British Legion where he lives, said: "I'm gob-smacked to be here, I never thought it would happen.

"It was such a long shot. "The pleasure of giving it back to Brian is all mine.

"He's now got a piece of his family history he probably never thought he would see."

Pte Laywood was a bandsman in the Buffs and was born in Rothwell in 1881 to parents Elizabeth and Charles.

He had two brothers, George and Fred, who also served in the First World War.

Alfred joined between 1914 and 1916 and is believed to have served in India. He may have served in Europe on his return.

In 1936, with the country in a slump, Alfred started working at Kettering's furnaces.

But he was killed in a tragic accident in September when a lump of ironstone fell on him.

Records show he left £156 15s 1d in his will, a lot of money at the time.

Brian was born two months later.

Valerie Panter from the Heritage Centre said: "I'm just thrilled to be part of it.

"It's great to see Brian back with his grandfather's medal."

Brian added that he will donate the medal to the heritage centre in his will.



Brian and David are pictured together standing in front of the Roll of Honour in the Arts and Heritage Centre. This bears the names of all Rothwell men who served in WWI and lists separately those who died. Alfred is listed alongside his younger brothers Fred and George. All three returned home safely from the war.



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## In A Tight Corner

### *How a Rothwell Cricketer Won the Military Medal*



This is a very interesting picture, because it represents a well-known local cricketer, Corpl. H. Jordan (Royal Artillery), of Rothwell, at work (on the left) on the gun which he utilised so effectively against the enemy in gallant deeds which secured for him the Military Medal. When the rest of the battery were knocked out and he was the only non-commissioned officer left working the gun in a tight corner, he kept it going for three hours until relieved, with the help of four men (instead of 14), who, like himself, were all wounded and gassed.

The Military Medal was presented by the chairman of Rothwell Urban Council at a meeting of that body last week. The Councillors also gave him a handsome clock on the occasion of his marriage and a gold piece to his wife. Mrs Jordan is granddaughter of the late Mr Joseph Whiteman, for many years headmaster of Rothwell Grammar School.

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Story by: **HELEN HART**

**W**hen and where cricket was first played in Rothwell is uncertain. Local cricket reporter, Andrew Radd, writes of a game held between Rothwell and Oundle in 1838 in the year Queen Victoria came to the throne, however, Oundle were the host club on that day.

**SOME YEARS AGO**, the late Jim McLaren of Rothwell found a dance ticket under some floorboards in a house he was renovating in the town for the *Polar Star Cricket Club Dance* in 1870. This friendly society, associated with Rothwell in the 1800's, must have had a team although we have no record of where they may have played.

Known venues for cricket in the town include Doctor Moore's field, possibly close to the old surgery in Kettering Road, and Thompson's field along the Harrington Road, which is now the Morris Homes Development.

What was to become the permanent home of **Rothwell Cricket Club** on Desborough Road, known locally at the time as three cornered close, began around 1900. This land belonged to and was let by Mr. R.C Lane who lived in the Manor House. Not surprisingly he was made honorary president of the club.

Worrying times still lay ahead though for the future of the cricket club when, in 1927, The Stanton Iron Company of Derbyshire gained control of the field and others thereabouts for the purpose of open cast mining. They were subsequently acquired by Stewart and Lloyds Minerals in 1939.

In 1955 the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Duncan Sandys, granted permission for iron ore mining to commence. Fortunately for all concerned this never transpired. In 1979 Stewart and Lloyds Minerals, by now The British Steel Corporation, announced that steel production in Corby was to cease. Two years later an offer to purchase was made to the cricket club which was gratefully accepted.

Over the years Rothwell businesses and organisations have

also enjoyed using the facility, some of whom had cricket teams of their own - The Avalon Shoe Factory, Groococks, the Rothwell Thursday Club, The British Legion and Rothwell Ivanhoe to name but a few. Gordon Street had a cricket side of its own before the Second World War and ran a list of regular fixtures but is not believed to have been a club in the truest sense of the word.

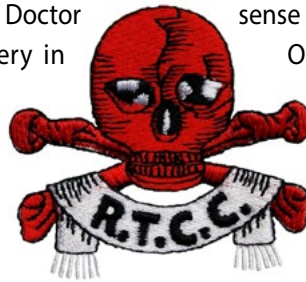
Other sports organisations have used the ground at various times in its history. The Corinthians Football Club, Rothwell Rugby Club, the hockey and archery clubs as well as Kettering Town Harriers, who trained there for cross country runs.

During the Second World War the US Airforce used the ground for baseball practice. There is also a mention in the archives of open-air dances being held at the ground with entertainment provided by the Rothwell Mission Band.

The lime trees that can be seen on the left-hand side of the photograph were planted in 1937 having been donated by former players of the club and the ground was levelled in 1949 by Mr. Peter Bennie.

The pavilion that stands today was voluntarily built by members of the club between 1990 and 1994 replacing a wooden building on the north side of the ground that had stood since 1935. It had been purchased from a firm in Corby and was originally a builder's shed. The hut was adapted to create a pavilion by a local builder Mr. H Sharp.

Almost 120 years since its arrival at Desborough Road the town still has two teams who play in the Northamptonshire County League each season.



*Have you, or any of your family past or present, played for Rothwell Cricket Club or one of the other former teams from the town? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Get in contact with Rothwell Heritage Centre, share your stories and memories, and keep them alive for future generations.*

# **WANTED**

## **DEAD and ALIVE**

### ***For your Heritage Centre***

Papers and other documents no longer required relating to societies or organisations to which you may have once belonged or had a connection with, that once formed part of the social life of Rothwell.

There were a number of groups and societies which flourished in our town before the television and computer age. Some still do, but most have declined and faded from town life. Nearly all of the churches ran a youth club or group of some sort - Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Pantomime Club, Ladies Fellowship or Mother's Union. The list would be a long one with something for everyone.

Parish Magazine or Newsletter - Rothwell like many other parish churches had a page or two of services, local events and other details added to a general magazine of what was considered to be an 'improving nature' in the early years of the twentieth century.

It went through a number of changes in title, from the formal *The Churchman* (1951), *Monthly News of the Parish* (1954), *Rothwell Parish Church* (1975) to the *Church News* (1982) of its current incarnation of Holy Trinity Rothwell.

Our collection of this resource material for the not so distant past life of our town is at best patchy, but mostly non-existent, especially for the various educational and recreational societies: Carnival Clubs, Playgroups, Factory Social Clubs, W.E.A Rowell Fair Society. Football, Cricket, Table Tennis and others.

So we need your help. Do you - or someone you know - have old papers, minute books, correspondence, posters or old copies of parish or other church magazines?

Would you consider donating this material to the Heritage Centre so that we may preserve it for the future?

All we need is the material itself with contact details so we may acknowledge your gift and contribution to our heritage.

*Thank you.*

Jane Houghton and Ann Rowlett. Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre

**YOUR TOWN, YOUR HERITAGE. YOU WERE PART OF IT.**  
**ROTHWELL'S FUTURE HISTORY.**  
**YOUR DEAD DOCUMENTS ~ OUR LIVE HISTORY.**



# Rae's of Rothwell

By: Rae  
Greenshields

In 1958 I started a small business in Kettering. I had two children at that time, it was in a back street and the living accommodation was not very big. After a while I started



looking for a shop with more living space. I couldn't find anywhere in Kettering but the premises at 24 High Street, Rothwell came onto the market for sale. I saw the agent and asked if I could rent but they wouldn't consider this. After some time, when they couldn't sell, they offered it to me on the condition that after renting for a time I would buy it. So, we came to Rothwell.

The premises had been empty for two years and was in a terrible state. It was divided into two shops ~ the one nearer to the accommodation part was empty and the other was rented to the daughter of a printer who had run his business in the back of the shops (this later became our stockroom).

I came from Kettering every night along with my husband and a friend to try to get at least one bedroom, the kitchen and the shop into some sort of order so that we could move in. We had to travel on the bus because we had no car and as my husband was working, we could only come in the evening.

In the living accommodation, all the windows were wired shut so they couldn't be opened. The building had previously been a post office and there was a key in every door. We should have seen to these things first because it wasn't long after we moved in that my two year old son locked himself and his baby sister in the living room and we had to call the Fire Brigade to get in. We had many incidents like this and it was hard getting the shop up and running at the same time.

We did get reasonably ready to open at last. It was very basic ~ the counters were handmade and shelving was put up to store the wool. People used to call us the



wool shop because of the large range of wool that we stocked. We only had a small shop window to show what I was selling as the second window was used by the other shop.

Being a shopkeeper was very different to how it is today. We served the customer ~ there was no self-service. The stock room (the old printing space) was fitted with shelves and I had leather cases to store the goods,

i.e. baby vests, nightgowns, matinee coats and blankets. I had to show the customer whatever they had come to buy, carrying cases from the storeroom and getting out the item requested. It was many years before the shop did become self-service.

For a very long time I only sold items that were 'Made in Britain' ~ building my business selling quality products.

I traded in Rothwell for over 30 years, much longer than many shops today. Rothwell was a very different place then ~ there were lovely buildings and friendly shops, all ready to serve the public.

Looking from my side bedroom window I could see down the High Street. At the bend, where the flats are now, was the beautiful arched entrance to Ball's Foundry. This was part of Rothwell's rich heritage in a very historical part of the town which included old houses, the War Memorial and the Sun Inn (now the Charter).

Although I now live in Kettering, Rothwell has a special place in my heart. I have fond memories of my children growing up there and two of my daughters got married from the shop so it is very much part of my family heritage. ■



# Rothwell Church School: THE TEACHERS

BY: JEAN BUSWELL

*Over the next two editions of Rothwell Heritage magazine, we will be serialising this excellent history of the people who taught in Rothwell Church School, researched and written by Jean Buswell. Here is part one ...*

**W**HEN I was very young, a children's party ~ known as Mrs Capp's Carnival ~ was held in the Tresham Hall each year. It featured a fancy dress competition and, in around 1949, I entered dressed as a plumber's mate carrying my father's tool bag, though his blowlamp was too heavy for me to carry. I believe I won a prize that year ~ the only other time I entered was as a rainbow, but won nothing.

I remember hearing adults saying that Mrs Capp was Mrs Whiteman's daughter, but that meant nothing to me. I have since done some research into teachers at Rothwell C of E Junior School (traditionally known as the Grammar School) in the 19th and 20th centuries, and came across the Whiteman family.

Joseph Whiteman was born in Leighton near Huntingdon in 1842. He appears to have taken a teaching job in Brighton where he met and married 17-year-old Mary Jane Cox Delmon in 1864. By the time he moved to Rothwell to take up the post of 'Schoolmaster' (headmaster) of the Grammar School six years later, they had four children: Margaret, Walter, Florence (the future Mrs Capp) and Catherine. Mrs Whiteman was appointed as 'Schoolmistress', the most senior female teacher.

With a house and four children to look after as well as doing a job, I would have expected her to need some help, but the 1871 census shows just one live-in servant ~ 15-year-old Mary Ashley.

Joseph and Mary Jane Whiteman continued as

Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress while having a further ten children: William, George, Edith, Gertrude, Joseph, Reginald ('Rex'), Beatrice, Louise, Gwendoline (died in infancy) and Winifred.

The picture below appeared in *Rothwell: Pictures from the Past*, published by Rothwell Citizens' Welfare Committee in 1987, where it states that it shows a classroom in Gladstone Street School. I have two reasons to think it actually shows the Church School.

Firstly it looks just like the Lower Juniors' classroom I remember from the early 1950s, though in my time the gas lighting had been superseded by electricity, and secondly, I believe Mrs Whiteman is the teacher standing to the right of the photo. The date might have been about 1910.

The glass-panelled partition on the right would be folded back to open up the space for morning assembly and special events. The doorway glimpsed on the extreme left of the photo led through to the Upper Juniors' class.

The glass roof that can be seen through the window was attached to an external covered staircase to the first floor where there was another classroom that was only occasionally used.

Mr Whiteman died in 1907 aged 64 and was buried in Rothwell Cemetery. He was clearly much liked, as his headstone reads: *In loving memory of JOSEPH WHITEMAN Died March 29th 1907 aged 64 years. For 37 years Headmaster of the C.E. School and organist of the parish church. This stone was erected by old scholars and friends as a token of respect for the untiring zeal and interest he took in their welfare ...*

The account of Mr Whiteman's funeral in the *Kettering Leader* of 5 April 1907





states that he was also a member of the Urban District Council. He clearly did a lot for the school, as it goes on to say: *'In connection with his headmastership of the Grammar School, it may be stated that when he first went there, there were only 60 scholars on the books, and at the present time there are 400.'*

After her husband's death, Mrs Whiteman continued in her role as Schoolmistress while a new Schoolmaster was appointed. He was Bertram Brading who came from the Isle of Wight and took up the Headship in Rothwell around 1907 or 1908. His wife Ada came from Hinckley and their first son Bertram was born in Gillingham, Kent, in 1905. Their daughter Florence was born in Rothwell in 1908 and their son Lionel in 1911.



The above photo of the teachers was taken in the corner of the infants' playground. Behind the railings is the junior girls' playground. I imagine the date was around 1912. Is Bertram Brading in the picture? He's not the tall chap in the back row with the walrus moustache ~ that's my great-uncle, Ted Buswell.

The stern-looking woman standing next to Ted is, I think, Mrs Whiteman. I suspect the woman in the front row, second from right, is Mrs Mildred Barrs who succeeded her as Schoolmistress. I remember Mrs Barrs in her later years and my impression of her was of a rather grumpy old lady, but if she is the woman on the school photo, she looks very sweet.

Mrs Whiteman died on 20 May 1915 aged 68.

Several of the Whiteman children became teachers, including Florence Capp of Carnival fame, who was described as a teacher on one document and as a music teacher on another. She married a local shoe worker, Richard Capp, who appears on the 1911 census as a Clicker, employed by W Chamberlains in Rothwell.

When the First World War started Richard Capp was 47 and married with two children. He didn't have to fight, as conscription was not introduced until 1916.

He was a Quartermaster Serjeant in the 1st/4th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment which served in the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) campaign.

Many casualties from Gallipoli were taken to the Pieta Military Hospital in Valletta, Malta, and that's where Richard died in 1915 and was buried in their cemetery. His name appears on the Rothwell War Memorial. Mrs Capp lived for another 41 years, dying in Rothwell in 1956, aged 87.

Bertram Brading, who had succeeded Mr Whiteman as Headmaster, died in 1918 at the early age of 39. A columnist in the *Kettering Leader* who wrote about Rothwell news under the pseudonym 'Miles Boy', reported that 'our greatly esteemed fellow townsman

Mr Brading' had died exactly eleven years after the death of his predecessor.

*'What a busy man Mr Brading was! His first thoughts were of his school where the staff and scholars, like the townspeople generally, esteemed him highly. What great interest he evinced in getting together his collection of scholars serving at the front! What a work he did as organist and choirmaster and music teacher. And how he liked to train his scholars for concerts and fêtes for deserving objects. How zealous he was in his secretaryship of the War Savings Committee and on the Committee of the Nursing Association; how interested in*

*food economy. He loved his Bible Class and his Bible Class loved him. He was always willing, nay anxious to render any service to benefit his fellow townspeople. Always kind, always gentlemanly, always open minded, nearly always at work...'*

Mr Brading was succeeded as Headmaster by the alarmingly-named Mr E Bloodworth (right - detail from an old class photo which in 1981 was reproduced in the *Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph*), who also played the organ in the church. Mr Bloodworth was headmaster when my father attended the school, and I gather he was very strict. I haven't been able to find out much about him.



Mrs Mildred Barrs, who was appointed Schoolmistress in about 1913 in succession to Mrs Whiteman, was born Mildred Ginns in 1876 at 24 High Street, Rothwell, where her parents kept the Post Office. They were also printers and sold stationery, books and pharmaceuticals.

**Read more of Jean's findings in the next Rothwell Heritage magazine.**

# Memorial Pebbles...

## Have you heard of rock painting?

**I**t's a craze spreading around the country that involves children painting a rock/large pebble and hiding it in the local neighbourhood. Whoever finds it picks it up and lets the original owner know via Facebook that it's been found. They then hide it again for someone else to discover.

Two local girls, Lily and Ava Stevenson, came up with the lovely idea of painting some with poppies on in remembrance of the men killed in WWI



who are named on Rothwell's war memorial. And to make them even more personal they wanted to paint the soldiers' names on them too.

We provided them with a list of names ~ 130 in all ~ and they set about the task with the help of their friends.

They then went one step further and decided to paint a pebble for ALL those named on the war memorial not just the WWI soldiers.

On Armistice Day the pebbles were laid out in the garden near the memorial along with poppies made by the children at Victoria Infants School. Everyone stopped to admire them and said what a wonderful gesture it was.

The pebbles were then moved to the Arts & Heritage Centre where they were displayed in the window before being placed into a permanent display inside.



*We would like to say well done to Lily and Ava and all those who helped.  
It showed great community spirit.*

*If you would like to know more about the soldiers there is a book called 'Rothwell War Memorial - The Faces behind the Names'.*

*Copies can be found in the Arts and Heritage Centre and in the Library.*

*Did you know that the Arts and Heritage Centre may also be able to help you with your family history research?*

*For example, we have an old school register dating back to the 1920's which records the names of the children at Gladstone Street School with their address details.*

*Why not pop in for a chat and see what information we have.*





## This month we have an extract from a book by **Kate Murray** called *See the Pretty Red Balloon*.

### **Kate Murray - a brief autobiography**

Born 'within the sound of Bow Bells', I was brought to Rowell by someone at some time during my first year, was subsequently fostered, adopted and stayed until departure for Teacher Training College at eighteen.

Returning, I taught in Desborough primary school until, 9 years later, I moved to Sheffield to teach French in a Comprehensive school. Three years after that I moved to Bavaria for TEFL where I met and married my husband. Then to his home-town of Belfast followed by twenty years in London with two daughters then off to Seville etc. for a few years before settling in Edinburgh where we've been for eighteen years.

#### **When asked what prompted her to write the book she said:**

"A childhood of my adoptive mum and dad urging me to post my pennies in the roof-slot of my Dr Barnardo's money-box house in gratitude

for their care during my first year and on my 60th birthday a letter comes stating that Dr Barnardo's has no record of me.

"I am staggered. The memories and thoughts are too much to cope with in my head, so I start to jot things down. I use my imagination to fill in the blanks and to add zing and one day I write THE END. And I give it a title: *See the Pretty Red Balloon*."

#### **This is chapter 14, titled: 'Knowing Blue'**

**where she writes about a lane in Rothwell which you are probably familiar with ...**

*All white things. And me feeling like one of them when I wake up the next morning.*

*White and washed-out and blurry as if I haven't slept a wink tho' I don't remember being awake. From downstairs comes the roar and bump of Mum's Hoover and, from the back-yard, the clang of dad hammering some horse-shoe or gun-part or whatever.*

*I have to get out.*

*I'll go down Fanny Joyce's Lane ~ it's my favourite place after the Box Factory and I haven't been there so much since the brick day. Mum said Aunt Zilla asked her why when they met down street and mum said she thought I'd been upset about 'Uncle' Ecta. Like she knew the stuff I'd been imagining! But she couldn't. It was just the first thing that came into her mind.*

*Several times I've asked older people who Fanny Joyce was but they'll never say ~ they all claimed they didn't know.*

*"Fanny Joyce...?" They'd wrinkle up their foreheads, purse their mouths, shake their heads and say, "Cairn's rightly remember."*

*That's stupid. If you were asking about someone who'd done them down a hundred years ago they'd remember alright! Yet they make out they've forgotten someone so important that part of the town had been named after her. Hm! They just don't want to tell me for some reason. And if they really don't remember I don't think much of them either way...*

*... Today The Lane's all lace with Hedge Parsley, and with the sun on it, it smells of lace as well ~ old, going-yellow lace soaked in sun and heavy from the dust of all the years it's been*

*hanging there. If you look close up at one head of the Hedge Parsley you'll see it's like a parasol a bride carries, with green spokes. I wonder if Fanny Joyce was ever a bride.*

*By the first stile there's a sycamore, its leaves that pure, light green of the beginning of summer. In spring it put out pink saplings, the thickness of my thumb. They looked like baby ostrich legs; especially as the leaves were soft and uncurled as they burst out of the bud like a sprouting of downy feathers.*

*The hum of insects mingled with the heavy scent of the honeysuckle makes my head spin. Lovely. I take in great gulps of it and the gunge in my head that I woke up with this morning begins to melt away. It's like when you duck down with a towel over your head above a bowl of camphorated oil cubes in boiling water.*

*Over the stile there's Totty Grass nodding its thousands of goldy-bronze heads and there's a goldfinch. It arrows down and perches on a clump of ragwort, singing and swaying. You feel you can see the yellows from the ragwort and the goldfinch brushing off on each other.*

*Next is the bluebell coppice. This is where I had my "blue thing" last spring. I'd been lying on my back, eyes closed so it was like drowning in the flowers' deep-blue scent. And when I opened them I was pierced by blueness. It went into my skin like an injection. It filled all the spaces inside me.*

**I. KNEW. BLUE.**

*Blue.*

*And I knew it had been given to me, somehow, this magical "knowing blue".*





# Janet Bassett Gallery

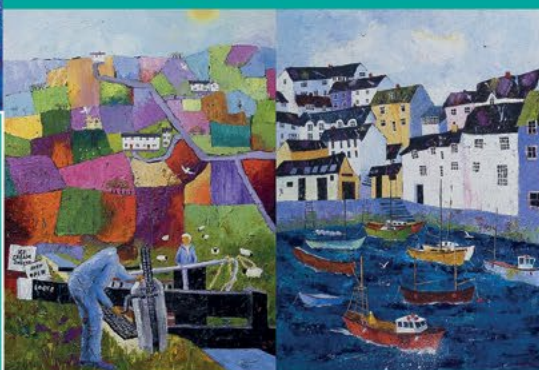
In every edition, the Janet Bassett Gallery will endeavour to feature either an established or new artist who have exhibited in our gallery.

This time we explore the work of **Brenda McKetty** who is making a most welcome return to the gallery in the Students Meet Masters Exhibition.



Brenda is a contemporary artist living in Northamptonshire who loves painting colourful, quirky and often humorous subjects. Her work is always uplifting, like her portrayal of higgledy-piggledy houses running down to Cornish harbours where jolly fishing boats go about their business.

Acrylic is her favoured medium, but occasionally she has a change with watercolour and pastel to produce characterful landscapes. Brenda has a background in illustration and enjoys telling a story through her work. She is a regular exhibitor with the Royal Society of Marine Artists at the Mall Galleries in London. Her paintings are affordable, but we also have limited edition prints too.



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# Janet Bassett Gallery

## The Students Meet Masters Exhibition

7th December 2018 — Early February 2019.

In our next exhibit we are excited to welcome both art students and experienced artists as we showcase their works alongside each other.

We are welcoming the talents of 2016 to 2018 A-level art students from **Montsaye Academy** — featuring paintings, photography, textiles and 3D exhibits.



- (1) Shoes, in Pencil
- (2) Black And White Portrait, in Shoe Polish.
- (3) Grandad, in Gouache.



You will also be able to discover the works of talented professional artist **Brenda McKetty** — who's work we feature here.

As well as returning artists **Pat Bustin** and **Stella Benford**, with artworks and pottery.

Brenda McKetty:

- (1) Clubbing Country Style, in Acrylic
- (2) Saturday Afternoon, in Acrylic
- (3) The Apple Pickers, in Acrylic

Find us at Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre



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# MANOR HOUSE TO LET AGAIN!

The newspaper article below was submitted by **STUART IRONS** and was taken from the **Leicester Daily Post** 25th March 1873.

**THE MANOR HOUSE, ROTHWELL**  
Northamptonshire, to be LET and entered upon immediately. This Residence, which has just been put into a perfect state of substantial and ornamental repair, consists of good Dining and Drawing Rooms, Study and capital Kitchen, House-keeper's Room, Cellarage and every necessary convenience. There are ten principal Bed Rooms, besides Dressing Rooms and seven Attics. Good Garden, stabling for four horses, with PADDOCK, &c. Rothwell is situated within two miles of the Desborough and Rushton Stations on the Midland Railway, four miles from Kettering and seven from Market Harborough, and in the midst of the Pytchley Hunt. Further particulars may be had on application to Messrs. Fisher and Son, land Agents, Market Harborough.



Photo from RAHC archives taken circa 1886

Here we are 146 years later and the building is up for let again.



Photo by Geoff Davis taken June 2006



## ROTHWELL YOUTH CLUB

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meets at the Community Centre in Rothwell and new members are always welcome, as are adult volunteers.

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# Looking Back on a Legend

## 2nd March 1969: CONCORDE FLIES FOR THE FIRST TIME

**A**fter a two previously cancelled test flights, the supersonic airliner had a “faultless” maiden flight. The Anglo-French plane took off from Toulouse and was in the air for just 27 minutes before the pilot made the decision to land.

The first pilot, Andre Turcat, said on his return to the airport: “Finally the big bird flies, and I can say now that it flies pretty well”.

As Concorde sped down the runway, there was a spontaneous burst of applause from watching reporters and cameramen as the wheels lifted off the ground.

The test flight reached 10,000ft, but Concorde’s speed never rose above 300mph, although the plane eventually flew at a speed of 1,300mph.

One month later on 9th April 1969, Brian Trubshaw made his first flight in the British-built prototype. The 22 minute flight left from a test runway at Filton near Bristol and landed at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Concorde completed its first supersonic flight on 1st October 1969. The first commercial flights took place on 21st January 1976. British Airways took off at 11.40am from London Heathrow for Bahrain as an Air France Concorde simultaneously left from Paris for Rio de Janeiro.

The 100 seats of the BA Concorde were filled with celebrities, each having paid around £9,000 for the trip. Among the crowd were Piers Morgan, Jeremy Clarkson, Joan Collins and Sir David Frost.

The menu on that flight included Dom Pérignon champagne, lobster and caviar canapés, fillet steak, palm heart salad with roquefort dressing and fresh strawberries with cream. A red wine, white wine, champagne and port were selected for each flight and passengers could also sup on vintage champagne, claret, whisky, cocktails and liqueurs. The cost? It was all included in the price.



Passenger gift ~  
Wedgwood paperweight

In the early days of Concorde guests could not only smoke cigarettes but were offered Havana cigars.

All passengers were given Concorde-related gifts to mark the unique occasion of flying on a supersonic plane. Souvenirs included Wedgwood paperweights and circular trays, Smythson of Bond Street



**Maiden Flight (Wikipedia)**

*This photograph is part of the Fonds André Cros, preserved by the city archives of Toulouse and released under license by the Town Council of the City of Toulouse.*

notebooks, silver photo frames, letter openers, leather drinks coasters, hip flasks, leather bags, Concorde prints and flight certificates.

The fastest transatlantic crossing made by Concorde took 2 hours, 52 minutes and 59 seconds during a flight from New York to London on February 7th 1996. Supersonic travel more than halved the

flying time of conventional jets on the same routes but there were only ever 16 Concorde in service. Concorde had a maximum cruising speed of 1,350mph (2,160kph/Mach Two) and could fly at altitudes of up to 60,000ft ~ high enough for passengers to see the curvature of the Earth.

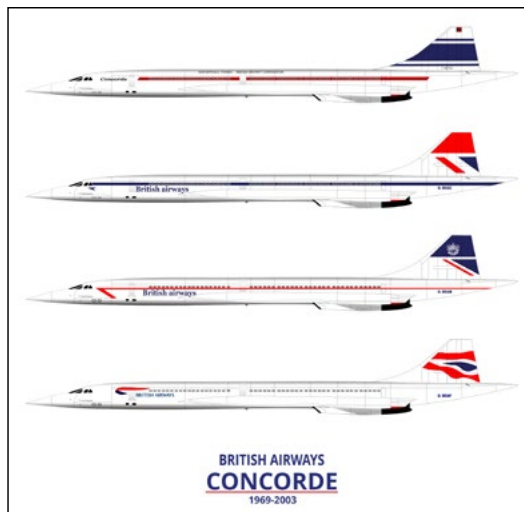
Sadly on 25th July 2000 an Air France Concorde flight crashed just minutes after take-off, killing all 109 people on board. It plummeted to the ground after one of the left-hand engines caught fire on

take-off. It also killed four people on the ground as it crashed into a Relais Bleu hotel in the town of Gonesse, 10 miles north of Paris just before 5pm local time.

The accident report confirmed that a 16in piece of metal lost by a plane that had taken off five minutes earlier punctured one of the Concorde’s tyres. This caused debris to be flung into the fuel tank which subsequently started a catastrophic fire.

£17m was spent on safety improvements and the aircraft went back into commercial service in November 2001. Unfortunately, dwindling passenger numbers, rising costs and that fatal accident in 2000 all sealed the fate of the ground-breaking aircraft.

**Concorde’s era of supersonic travel lasted for nearly 30 years and the iconic ‘Speedbird’ took its final flight on October 24, 2003.**



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Margaret Millington

Treasurers: Shirley Tiney & Julie Ford

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10TH JANUARY	<i>Entertainment by Alan</i> .....	ALAN JOYCE
17TH JANUARY	<i>The Holiday That Wasn't</i> .....	PAT & IAN BASSON
24TH JANUARY	<i>Craft evening (Quilling)</i> .....	JULIE LUDDITT
31ST JANUARY	<i>Community Fundraiser For Cransley Hospice</i> .....	MARY HOLLANDS
7TH FEBRUARY	<i>Sarah's Hairdressing Tips</i> .....	SARAH
14TH FEBRUARY	<i>Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue</i> .....	JO GOULDSON
21ST FEBRUARY	Half Term	
28TH FEBRUARY	<i>The Little Smoke House - The history of smoking and types of smoking</i> .....	KEITH MEREDITH
	<i>A chance to sample and buy a variety of cheeses</i>	
7TH MARCH	<i>Market Harborough Ukulele Band</i>	
14TH MARCH	<i>Treading The Boards</i> .....	JULIE HILL
21ST MARCH	<i>An Inquest into the Death of Emily Davison ~ The suffragette who died in 1913</i> .....	KEITH MEREDITH
28TH MARCH	<i>The Women's Land Army in Northamptonshire [The First World War]</i> .....	HELEN FROST
4TH APRIL	 <i>The Easter Bunny !!!!!!!!!!!</i> .....	JANETTE WALSH

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Mr Barton shares his full experience at Hear4u and how his new hearing aids have changed his day to day life. With new clients at Hear4u and we always aim to please!

**For your Free Hearing Assessment call Rothwell 01536 713775**

Mr Barton has suffered with a hearing loss since the young age of 8 years old, so has been using hearing aids for most of his childhood and adult life. Just before Christmas he accidentally dropped his hearing aids in the toilet (we are almost all guilty of dropping objects such as mobile phones down the loo). Panicking on how he would manage to carry on through his day to day life without his hearing aids, he used some 15 years old NHS hearing aids that have been in the draw to see him through - unfortunately having no luck, continuing to struggle. Hear4u ordered Mr Barton some Unitron Moxi Fit 600 as requested by the customer. These were received next day and Mr Barton was booked in for a home visit delivery as soon as possible.



Our fantastic audiologist arrived at Mr Barton's house prompt with all the equipment needed, including his new hearing aids! Paris professionally fitted the hearing aids and made sure Mr Barton was comfortable with the fit and settings of the aid. From the moment of the hearing aids being switched on Mr Barton said he could hear his wife talking to the dog in the kitchen. Mr Barton had not heard certain sounds for a long time, for example if people are in a different room having a conversation. He could also hear the wind and the rain on the conservatory roof again something he could not hear with his old hearing aids.



**Fabulous home service available**

Mr Barton was delighted he was receiving his new hearing aids in the comfort of his own home, not having to go outside of his comfort zone or worrying how he will travel to his appointment. Paris was very thorough explaining procedures and the technology of the hearing aid, for example; how the hearing aids work, plus how to change wax traps, batteries, domes and what is included in the Hear4u package. Mr Barton is over the moon with his hearing aids, how they fit, how they look- they are smaller, sleeker and better sounding compared to his old hearing aids.

### Hear4u Rothwell:

28 Bridge Street, Rothwell  
Northamptonshire,  
NN14 6JW  
Tel: 01536 713775

Come in today for a **FREE** consultation and hearing test.  
[www.hear4u.co.uk](http://www.hear4u.co.uk)



# Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre present:

## 'Weaving Words into Art'



*An evening of spoken word  
by published performance poet*

**Kezzabelle Ambler**

*from her fifth book*

**'Permission To Speak'**

*The Mistress of Mischief and  
wordsmith wench playfully weaves  
her wit and wisdom to express and  
connect her innermost thoughts.*

*Opening with live acoustic music  
from singer-songwriter*

**Kenneth J Nash**

*combining his lyrical prowess and gentle  
fingerstyle guitar ~ often compared to Leonard  
Cohen, Michael Chapman and Gram Parsons.*

**Tuesday 5th February**

**7.30 - 9.30pm**

**£9 per ticket** (includes refreshments)

## 'I Am John Clare'



**JOHN CLARE**, known as the peasant poet, found himself committed to Northampton General Lunatic Asylum in the closing weeks of 1841.

We join him on the night of the 8th March 1860 after John has answered a well-wisher's letter.

The torment of his reply leads the poet on a quest in search of his own identity, creativity and to try and understand what is insanity and what they call him mad.



*A solo drama of 45 minutes followed by Q&A  
with the author/director **Stephen Loveless**  
and the actor **Robert Hillman**.*

**Wednesday 20th March**

**from 7.30pm**

**£8 per ticket** (includes refreshments)

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