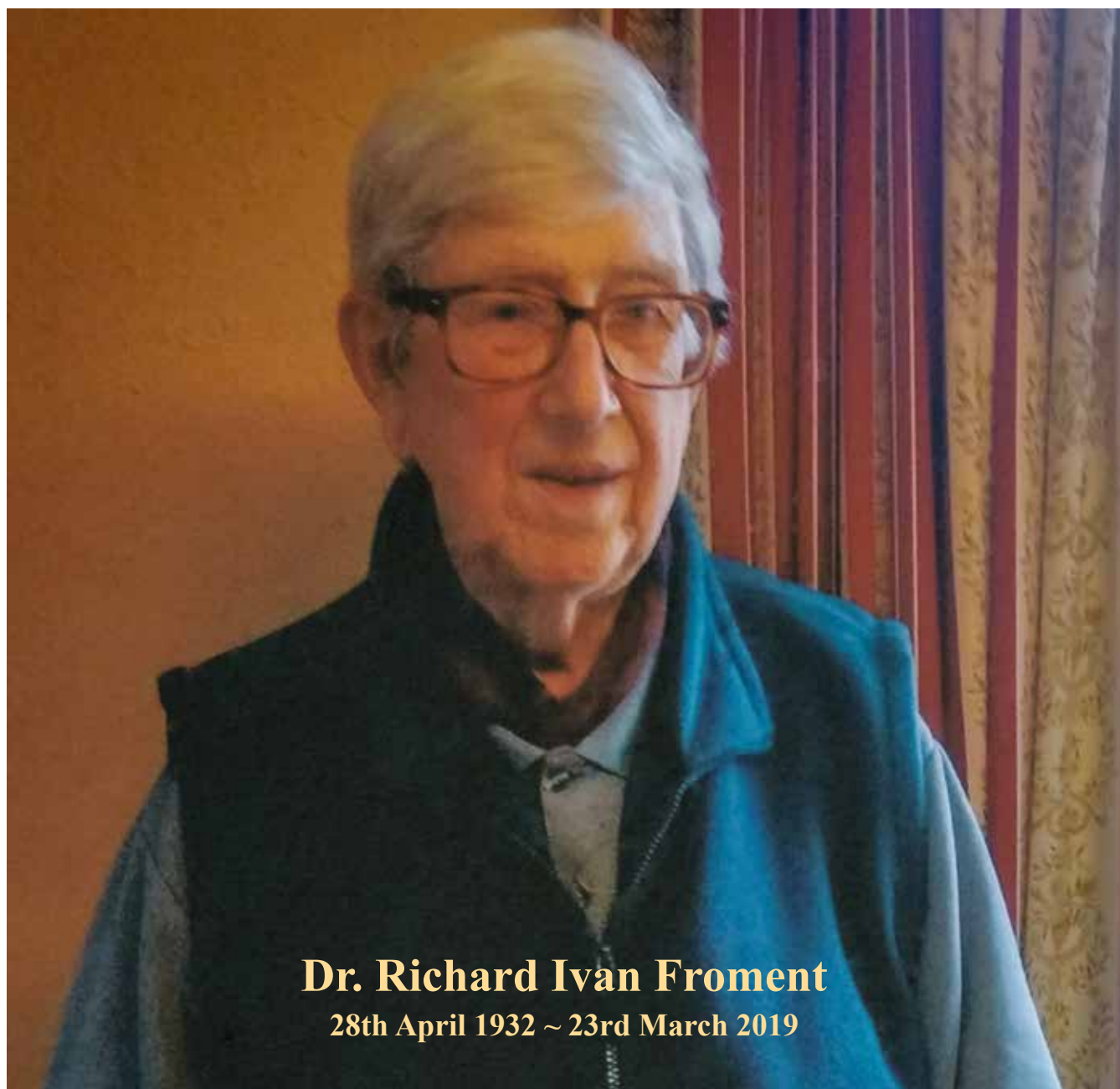


Rowell Heritage

the magazine of

ROTHWELL ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE



Dr. Richard Ivan Froment

28th April 1932 ~ 23rd March 2019

No: 30

July - September 2019

£2.50

Rowell Heritage Magazine

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our third magazine of 2019.

In this edition we have some touching tributes to the late Dr Froment who sadly passed away in March. One of our local GPs for many years, he was well known, well liked and will be sadly missed by many in the community.

On a historical note we look back fifty years to the summer of '69 with articles on the Apollo moon landing and the Woodstock Music and Art Fair. We've also gone back a hundred years to 1919 and in our From the Archives section you can read about Rothwell Rose Day and The Great Thanksgiving Meeting.

July in Rothwell sees the Annual Carnival and Fete. Pat Heald has written about the history of Rothwell Citizens Welfare Committee who arrange this any many other events in the town.

Finally, this issue wouldn't be complete without photographs from one of our oldest and most loved traditions ~ Rowell Fair Proclamation.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and remember, if you have a story to tell or memory to share, we'd love to hear from you.

The Editorial Team

THE BLESSING OF THE FAIR 2019



Submissions etc. to:

editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk

Deadline for submission of articles or adverts for the October~December issue is **September 13th, 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.

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Giant Leaps and Small Steps

July 20th 1969 was a Sunday. If you were alive, can you remember where you were and what you were doing? It was the day that American Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon.

Apollo 11 was launched from Cape Kennedy on July 16th 1969. Commander Armstrong reported the lunar module's safe landing on 20th with the words: "Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed." The astronaut then stepped onto the Moon's surface, in the Sea of Tranquility, at 02:56 GMT, nearly 20 minutes after first opening the hatch on the Eagle landing craft.

As he put his left foot down first, Armstrong declared: *"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."* He described the surface as being like powdered charcoal and the landing craft left a crater about a foot deep.

The historic moments were captured on television cameras installed on the Eagle and turned on by Armstrong, who spent his first few minutes on the Moon taking photographs and soil samples in case the mission had to be aborted suddenly.

He was joined by colleague Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin at 03:15 GMT and the two collected data and performed various exercises - including

jumping across the landscape - before planting the Stars and Stripes flag at 03:41 GMT.

The crew of Apollo carried with them the flags of 138 nations including the Soviet Union and a plaque bearing President Nixon's

signature and an inscription reading: *"Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the Moon July 1969 AD. We came in peace for all mankind."*

A microfilmed message from the Queen was also left on the moon. It read: *"On behalf of the British people I salute the skill and courage which brought these men to the moon. May this endeavour increase the knowledge and well-being of mankind."*

After filming their experience with a portable television camera the astronauts received a message from the US President in the White

House. President Nixon said: *"This certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made."*

Commemorative medallions bearing the names of the three Apollo 1 astronauts who lost their lives in a launch pad fire, and two cosmonauts who also died in accidents, were left on the moon's surface. A one-and-a-half inch silicon disk, containing micro miniaturized goodwill messages from 73 countries, and the names of congressional and NASA leaders, also stayed behind.

The Apollo 11 crew splashed down safely at 16:50 GMT on July 24th in the North Pacific Ocean, about 900 miles southwest of Hawaii. The crew wore biological isolation suits in case they were carrying pathogens from the lunar surface.

Ann Jones has given us this photograph of her mother, Hilda Atterbury, of Castle Hill, Rothwell. She was an Auxiliary Nurse at St Mary's Hospital (Maternity Unit) in Kettering and can be seen here showing a new mum the news.

We'd love to know who the mum and baby are ...



The Apollo 11 lunar mission crew, pictured from left to right: Neil A. Armstrong (Commander), Michael Collins (Command module pilot) and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. (Lunar module pilot).

Photo from [wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apollo_11_Crew.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apollo_11_Crew.jpg)





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More than a coincidence?

VALERIE PANTER

As I write this we have just planted a new rose tree in the garden at the Arts and Heritage Centre to replace a flowering cherry that had blown down in recent winds.

The original was placed in the garden in memory of one of our founders, Ken Cheaney. Coincidentally, today I found a piece written about him by his daughter Michele for his funeral. Although it is some years ago now, I thought I'd share some of it with you.

OVER THE years of his long and wonderful life, Dad worked hard for his family and had fun with his friends. He also dedicated his life to making the world (or at least his little part of it) a better place. He was the epitome of a good citizen.

Dad was the driving force behind numerous community groups in Rothwell and at times, further afield. The History Society, Preservation Society, Lions Club and Twinning Society are just some of the organisations that Rothwell would probably been without had it not been for the efforts of Dad and other community-minded locals who felt that every town needs organisations such as these for the benefit of the whole community.

Historic local buildings have been preserved, lifelong friendships have been established with the citizens of Droue in France and thousands of pounds have been raised to benefit those in need in the town. Thanks to generous lottery funding and a lot of campaigning by him and his fellow townfolk Rothwell now boasts its own Arts and Heritage Centre. It is with enormous pride that we hear the new garden will be dedicated to Ken ~ a place for all his friends and family to go and reflect and remember a wonderful man.

Mum and Dad also helped to establish the Rothwell Swimming Club, which over the years taught hundreds of local youngsters to swim. They were both also active members of Kettering Swimming and Water Polo Club for many years, acting not only as regular taxi drivers to me and my friends as we travelled around the county and country to attend galas, but also qualifying as professional time-keepers, judges and the like.

Aside from his family, the other love of Dad's life was his beloved Rothwell Town Football Club. I remember many happy memories as a youngster, kicking a ball around up the field, watching The Bones and even occasionally going into the dressing rooms after a match when all the lads would be enjoying their post-match bath. Quite an eye opener for an 8 year old girl!

Dad worked tirelessly and with passion for the football club and as well as helping to build the stand, the club house and the Top of the Town Ballroom, he was also Chairman and President over the years. He remained Vice President and even though his health was suffering in recent years, still tried to get to as many home games as possible and Saturday afternoons were dominated with finding out how 'Rowell got on'. I also remember dad filing match reports for the Telegraph every Saturday in

my teens and this gave me my early interest in journalism, a job which I went on to do for many years.

Thinking back to my teens, I also remember Dad's active role as a local councillor. We might have had different views at times but I always enjoyed a reasoned debate with him about politics. While we may have disagreed many a time, he could at least always justify his views and taught me to think, read, listen and reason for myself. I called him my voice of reason.

When I was 15, Dad became Chairman of the Council (or Mayor of Rothwell to give it its posh term). When you are 15 this is about the most embarrassing thing that can happen to you, but I'm glad to say that as I got a little older and my hormones settled down a bit, I was again very proud of this particular achievement.

There's so much that Dad has done that he could be proud of and that my family and I will continue to be proud of. We have the most wonderful memories that will stay with us forever.

Dad never wanted to take credit for the good work that he did ~ he was a true team player. But he and a small army of other committed Rowellians have dedicated years of hard work trying to put Rothwell on the map and make the town a better place for everyone who lives here.

As I am typing this for the magazine other coincidences come to light. I recently posted photos on Facebook about Rothwell's long gone paddling pool and people were sharing their memories of the swimming baths. I also shared a photo of the opening of the Community Centre, which now stands near to where the paddling pool was. Ken was in that photo.

Were all these just coincidences, or has the planting of Ken's new tree triggered something else? Maybe he is trying to tell he is watching over us and reminding us to keep up the good work he started. The last piece that Michele wrote which I'd like to share is this:

Who will campaign and dedicate their time to preserve old buildings, keep crime and vandalism off the streets, strengthen links with overseas friends, create facilities and opportunities for the next generation? Who will keep Rothwell's vibrant history alive?

Well by buying this magazine and reading this you are playing your part. Your support keeps the Arts and Heritage Centre going so thank you. And remember, you can come and enjoy a cuppa in Ken's garden too. ■



Rowell Fair Proclamation 17th June 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY: *Geoff Davis*





**God Save the Queen
and the Lord of the Manor**





The boring but important stuff...

THE GENERAL BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS AND FORMER INHABITANTS OF ROTHWELL AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO AND RELIEF OF THOSE SO QUALIFIED WHO ARE IN NEED BY REASON OF AGE, INFIRMITY, SICKNESS AND ECONOMIC SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

We; RCW Committee support local clubs, groups and individuals to benefit the people of Rothwell.

We keep local traditions alive such as the **ANNUAL CARNIVAL & FETE** in July and we try to engage children through the election of the carnival queen and the design of the programme.

We raise funds for Rothwell people, such as providing vouchers for the over seventies at Christmas, to be used in local shops.

We try to provide fun throughout the year by arranging events for children and adults, such as the Rothwell Carnival and Fete, Halloween Party, Baby Show and much more. We are also sometimes able to help with other local charitable events.

In fact we are all together good eggs who work like maniacs to make good things happen in Rothwell and add a little fun into people's lives ~ and we do it all for love.

We are always looking for new recruits ...



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RothwellCharity>

CONTACT

By Person, Mrs Kate Ley

17 Castle Hill, Rothwell, Northamptonshire. Tel: 01536 710493

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MISS ANN ROWLETT

MRS PAT HEALD ~ SECRETARY

MRS JOAN WILLIS

MRS KATE LEY ~ CARNIVAL SECRETARY, &
CHAIRWOMAN

MR RICHARD SWOBODA ~ WEBMASTER

MRS KEELEY BRIGGS ~ CARNIVAL QUEEN
COORDINATOR

MRS ROSEMARY ROFFEY ~ DOG SHOW
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MRS TRACY COYLE ~ ADVERTISEMENT
COORDINATOR & TREASURER

MS ANNE CANTLEY ~ RAFFLE
COORDINATOR, VICE CHAIR

MRS ZOE IRWIN ~ HALLOWEEN EVENTS
COORDINATOR

MRS SANDY LUDWIG

MR KARL SUMPTER

MR CLIVE CROSS ~ AUDITOR

Our History

By Pat Heald



The first meeting of the Rothwell Citizens Welfare Committee was held in the Tresham Hall, Rothwell on Thursday 22nd March 1962 at 8.45pm.

15 members were present and Mr W. Rowe was elected as Chairman, Mr J. Knights as Secretary and Mr W. Wilson as Treasurer. Co-opted members of the Committee included local clergy and doctors.

The first fundraising events were a Rummage Sale and a Town Collection which were held on May 18th-20th and members of the committee covered various areas of the town.

The first Financial Report was given as the Town Collection raised £73.11.0d, the Rummage Sale £15.11.0d and £8.1.0d from the former Old Peoples Welfare Committee. The rest was made up of donations from businesses, clubs and individuals, making a grand total of £132.13.1d.

A visiting service was set up whereby Committee members visited the elderly to see if any help could be given - or just to have a chat.

A vehicle was purchased in 1962 for the WVS to deliver Meals on Wheels and help was given for the rent of a garage.



Financial help was given to the chiropody service for the elderly.

The First Christmas gifts to the Over 70's were given in December 1962, this consisted of 614 bags of wood, 315 packets of tea and cards. Visits were made to St Crispins Hospital, Northampton and St Marys Hospital, Kettering, where fruit and sweets were given to the patients. At present Christmas visits are made to Glenkindie, Beech Close and Cheaney Court in Desborough.

December 1964 saw the first 10/- vouchers given to the elderly with hampers, tea and sweets also given to the more needy. This has continued over the years and by 2014 the vouchers were for £5.00.



For many years 'welfare' grants of £1.00 a month were given to anyone needing financial help.

The first AGM was held on 1st May 1963, where the treasurer reported that £489.4.11d had been received, expenditure was £371.4.11d. leaving a balance of £117.7.6d.

Yours magazines were also distributed at a cost of 1p to the elderly and the remainder paid from committee funds. This was eventually discontinued when it became too expensive to subsidize the magazines, which were available in newsagents.

In September 1976 a Day Centre was set up in the Manor House. Chairs, settees, crockery etc., were donated and Mondays

saw the start of dinners being provided for the elderly.

Over the years, Rummage Sales, Dances, BBQ's, Dutch Auctions and Car Rallies have been organised to raise funds, but the Fete remains our main fundraiser, the first having been held in 1962 at the Manor Park, with the WVS providing refreshments and the Fete Queen being chosen from Gladstone Street school.

In 1965 a gentleman employed to clear the Manor Park after the Fete complained that he hadn't been paid enough and after much discussion it was agreed to give him an extra 10/-.

From the few records we have, the 1969 Fete provided entertainment from Latvian Dancers, Finedon Bugle Band, Keystone Boys Club with a boxing exhibition and a fortune teller. The Parade commenced in Harrington Road and finished on Hospital Hill. The Fete made a profit of £320.00.

In 1976 it was agreed to change the date from September to July. That year's procession was reported as being one of the best ever, but a lack of collection tins, the field not being as good as it could have been, plus a lack of support and basic manpower as people who promised to support the event failed to materialise, hampered the fundraising efforts.



If anyone would like to join the RCWC or help with the Fete please get in touch with any of the Committee members.

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Why did I write Grandpa's Dream?

by Christine Surl

My husband Stephen (Grandpa) died unexpectedly when he was fifty four, in July 1995. Our grandchildren were three boys, aged two and a little baby girl only six weeks old.

I was so very saddened that they, and future grandchildren, would not know their Grandpa, that I decided to write his story which was unusual and special.

I wrote it in the style of a picture book to be read to young children, but also as a book that

could be read by children themselves as they reached reading age. I felt lifelike pictures were vital rather than cartoon type drawings.

Many of the water colours were based on actual photographs. The cottage shown was our home. The artist, who never knew Stephen or our small holding, became a close friend.

So, *Grandpa's Dream* was born ~ a true story. Waterstones stocked it and sold it for some time as did other bookshops.

The artist and I did signings, which was so interesting and enjoyable. Many families related to the Grandpa history, often when there has been a loss in their family. Copies went abroad too, as it is a typical English countryside picture book.



Grandpa's dream is available at the Heritage Centre for £5. Do come and have a look. And if you call in on a Monday morning, Christine is usually there and will sign your copy.

About the author: Christine Surl was born in North London in 1942, married a biology teacher, and moved to East Anglia in 1963, where she brought up three children. She worked as a playgroup helper and with school pupils through her husband's post. She was closely involved in the extra-curricular activities of her children in sport, music and drama. Christine ran a small holding and was a registered child-minder, enabling her to share her interest in animals and books with young children and in particular her own six grandchildren.

Back in issue 28 we reviewed local author Kate Murray's book 'See The Pretty Red Balloon'. As its arrival at the Heritage Centre coincides with Rowell Fair, we thought it only fitting to reprint this extract from the book, all about "Howell Fair" ...

The following morning I awake to a fluttering expectation in the air, a faint disturbance in the bed-frame, the furniture, the walls and when I put my feet to the floor I can feel a shifting beneath them, like I imagine it would be in the breath-catching moments before an earthquake.

Then, I know. It's coming.
The Fair. Howell Fair is coming!

Howell Fair is coming!

Nosing down the steep hill and on into the valley between our town and the next; vivid daubs if the Noah's Ark flashing in tantalising glimpses from between the forest-green wood- slats; it's always the first lorry to come and the last to leave, carrying the Last Ride of The Fair for when midnight booms out over the expectant town.

The Last Ride.

The Last Ride is free. Free and wild. Don't count the chimes and they'll ring

out forever and you'll whirl on and on and never stop, the breath of the breathtaking boy clouding warm over your neck, his chest hard against your back, his arms and thighs pressing, enclosing. There you'll nestle small and protected as the hoofs of your painted steed plunge and pound through wave-trough and crest.

Faster ... Faster ... Until your gasps of alarm are no longer pretend. Down dip the lights. Speed overcomes sound. There is nothing but the rushing, reeling dark.

Faster ... Faster ...

On and on.

Forever.

On ... On ...

Never stopping. Never ever stopping.

Until ... your heart lurches and clenches in panic as you feel the first snatch of the reining-in and 'No! No!' you cry, disbelief clawing at your



entrails, springing tears from your eyes. No! Only seven short days ago that seem now seven seconds, those wheels rumbled-out the promise of endless possibility. And now. All gone. All over.

A year before it comes again.

A year!

A whole yawning year to wait.

Three hundred and sixty-five days.

No!!!

Slower ... slower ... slower ... slower ... and ... Stopping.

Bright lights, jangling sound
smash your sweet dark silent space.

Elvis throbs in confirmation:

' ... down the end of Lo-only Street

In Hea-eartbreak Hotel

You're gonna be lonely, baby ... '

And you do feel your heart will break.

KATE MURRAY'S BOOK 'SEE THE PRETTY RED BALLOON' IS ON SALE IN THE HERITAGE CENTRE PRICE £7.

From The Archives ...

Week ending 18th July 1919

by STUART IRONS

Rothwell Rose Day

~ CHARMING FETE FOR SWEET CHARITY'S SAKE ~

FOR THE fourth year in succession the annual Rose Day, Procession and Fete at Rothwell, in aid of the local hospitals and other charitable funds, was held on Saturday. Contrary to the anticipations of the morning, when rain fell rather heavily, fine weather prevailed throughout the afternoon and evening, and whilst the venture was largely patronised by Rothwell people, hundreds came in from Kettering and other places by means of the capital bus service. It was therefore, expected that the enjoyable proceedings would result in a profit of £100.

THE PARADE

The pageant, as a whole, surpassed all its predecessors. For the number of entries was greater than ever, and the very varied representations formed many charming pictures. One exceeding pretty feature consisted of a group of about 40 girls from the Victoria Council Schools, who were attached to what might almost be described as a moving Maypole, only the ribbons they held were suspended from the word "Unity." White was the predominating colour in the dresses and all else, and it was relieved by a striking contrast of red flowers encircling the children's brows.

In some of the tableaux an amusing element was evinced, especially in "Women's work is never done." Bearing the title of "Peace," numerous little children from the Grammar School, dressed in white, and each carrying a lily, rode in a car, very tastefully adorned.



"UNITY" ~ The pretty tableaux by girls of the Rothwell Council School, which was awarded a special prize.

In another ornate allegorical representation, "The Pride of the Empire," the child with laurel crown was enthroned, with attendants. "Two Hours off Duty" was also admirably depicted. One very practical, as well as picturesque presentment, was prepared by the officers of



TWO HOURS OFF DUTY – A striking tableau arranged by Rothwell ladies.

the Maternity Centre. Rothwell's war-time twins, wheeled by the proud mother, Mrs Woolston, were generally spoken of as two of the bonniest children ever seen.

A lady on a lovely horse was attended by six jockeys riding. Everybody seemed to be delighted with the mounted children; one was in Georgian costume; then there was a clown, "Queen of Spades," "Queen of Diamonds," a huntsman, Prince and Princess, an Indian Prince (represented by a French young man, and jockey.

"The bells are ringing for me and my gal" was a notice borne by two soldiers, followed by a very interesting wedding party. Twenty Grammar School children were handsomely dressed in Japanese costume, and other groups of scholars very nicely represented respectively, "Victory," "Sunflowers," "Land Girls" and "Gipsies."

A number of German prisoners were accompanied by the watchful guard, and one, who had evidently escaped, was receiving particular attention.

Then there were the Rothwell Scouts, the old men of Jesus Hospital in their top hats, riding in a brake; girls in National colours; discharged and demobilised soldiers; nursing sisters at work and recreation; splendid spring and

From The Archives ...

summer garlands; representatives of the Victory Loan; the last nail in the Kaiser's coffin; the last Pivotal man, etc.

A dejected family were moving their goods and chattels, and looking out for a house; and two brave young ladies had taken up the sweeps' business. The decorated bicycles had been skilfully and effectively bedecked with lovely flowers and small flags.

Industrial representatives were of a very diversified description, and represented Eastern costumes, nursery rhymes, ancient people, fairies, Old King "Coal," gipsies, milk maids, cowboys, and very much else too numerous to mention in further detail. The Peace makers were there



"JOCKEYS" – This exceedingly smart group by Messrs Hart and Levy's girls was awarded first prize in the open class.

as they assembled at Versailles. Before the sounds of one band was out of hearing another was heard, the music very admirably provided in the procession being by the Albion, Mission, and Salvation Army Bands. The route was from Fox Street, Bridge Street, High Street, Market Hill, Tresham Street, Littlewood Street, Stanley Street and Crispin Street, to and back through the principal thoroughfares again.

In the streets about 40 young ladies were, under the superintendence of Mrs A. Gray and Miss Alice Smith, selling roses, and nearly everybody in the crowd which watched the procession wore a buttonhole.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Subsequently a great number of people assembled in the Mounts and derived much pleasure from the varied attractions which had been provided.

Professor Hamylton, of Leicester, the wizard of the drawing-room, entertained hundreds of people by his two very clever performances, his "sleight of hand" with eggs and cards, etc., being really wonderful.

Mr F. Chester had a fine exhibition of war relics; skittle competitions were under the direction of Councillor Wells; and officials of the Health and Vim managed the football contests. Mr F. Clarke had charge of the hoop-la. A tug-of-war had been arranged by the Demobilised and Discharged Soldiers and Sailors. Three teams entered,

and after long and strong pulls Mr J. Letts' team was victorious, Mr H. Austin's was second, and Mr A. Smith's was third.

The Albion Band (conductor Mr E. Sharpe) and the Mission Band (conductor Mr F.T. Tebbutt, J.P.) efficiently played selections of music at intervals.

Under the shade of the trees, refreshments were provided by the Catering Committee. In this connection Mrs A. Wells (chairman of the committee) and Miss C. Jones (secretary) had a large body of assistants, and money had been collected for the tempting eatables.

Very many people had been looking forward with the keenest interest to a visit of Miss Hillyer's pupils from Kettering. Thousands watched with intense pleasure their national and ballet dances, which were most graceful and artistic, or listened to charming singing and excellent reciting. Miss Hillyer was herself somewhat disappointed because the number of performers was less than she had originally expected.



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Dr. Richard Ivan Froment

28TH APRIL 1932 ~ 23RD MARCH 2019

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A tribute from Ann Jones, Nursing Sister in the Community 1967-1994.

The above announcement in our local paper brought back memories of a much respected family GP whose home in Tresham Street was also one of two surgeries in Rothwell, covering Rothwell, Desborough and surrounding villages.

In the days before appointment systems, patients would just turn up to sit and wait their turn, knowing they would see the doctor that day. Surgery times were usually 9-10 am and then 6pm until all patients had been seen. Doctors did up to 20 or 30 home visits per day and were on call 24/7 so did night work too. District nurses would come in daily to report on the progress of patients and to find out about the new ones. The doctors' wives in Rothwell always made us welcome with a cup of coffee.

Dr Froment was always caring and approachable which meant that each year during Rowell Fair week he would experience showmen and their families knocking on his door for treatment. Many of them waited all year to see him because they knew he would always help. Our local doctors had one half day off a week and this routine carried on well into the 1960s.

Dr Froment was part of the team which comprised: Dr Noel Cash, Dr Lawson Matthew, Dr David Scawn and Dr John Holden. These were all family doctors and we knew them well. Things have changed quite a lot since those days.

The Bridge Street Health Centre opened in 1974 on the former garden of the Manor House. It was purchased for £1 from Rothwell Town Council. The town continued to grow and working from home was no longer a viable option for a doctor. Dr Froment was aware that many of his elderly patients were unable to travel to this new surgery so once a month a minibus was arranged with a volunteer escort. People could then be taken to the Medical Centre for a health check. Tea and biscuits were provided and help and advice was available. Many patients looked forward to this little outing which had been organised by such a thoughtful doctor.

On his retirement, Dr Froment took on the task of caring for his wife Joy until her death in November 2017. He was totally dedicated and it was tiring but he always did everything with characteristic good humour. In his later years he needed a mobility scooter himself and could regularly be seen riding round the town, stopping to chat with many of his former patients. He took a great interest in all things to do with Rothwell, enjoyed visiting the market on Mondays and towards the end of his life he found enormous pleasure in meeting with friends in local coffee shops. Dr Froment had a great love of history and one of his hobbies had been collecting lead soldiers which his wife painted for him.

R.I.P. Dr Richard Froment. You will always be remembered with gratitude and affection.



1932 was the birth date of a certain Richard I. Froment who was later to become a Doctor of Medicine.

By 1957 Dr. Froment had joined the Desborough and Rothwell medical practice and subsequently, in 1963, he took over the surgery in Tresham Street at Tresham House.

This was also a family home where he was father to two boys (Mark and John) and husband to Joy.

As a doctor he touched many lives, introduced several generations to the world and was dedicated to the job of healing. He also helped set up the Road Accident Scheme and pioneered the way forward in training newly qualified doctors in the art of general practice.

Although his bedside manner and abrupt way of consultation left some a little uneasy, his main aim and dedication was to cure and help the sick and he would tirelessly strive to save everyone even though at times he couldn't as 'the man upstairs' ultimately had the last say!

He was a good and loving but strict father and never ceased in hunting for knowledge and helping his family. If it was in his power he would do what was needed but he was not one to suffer fools gladly.

Neither son achieved much academically but this never deterred from his love as a parent or husband.

His sense of duty never dulled, even after his retirement, and there was always an ear to talk to, a face to debate with and a wicked sense of humour to laugh along to. Mark and myself are very proud to have had the honour of being the Doctor's sons and also very touched at the kind comments many have conveyed on social media and to our faces on hearing about his demise.

Doctor Froment did enjoy the last twelve months or so of his life with many friends at The Italian Restaurant and Bewiched Coffee House and we offer profound thanks to those that helped him through the dark times after our mother passed away. Trevor Goodwin must take the credit here as he was the one to introduce him to the motley crew he grew to love.

Father loved his history and would constantly seek out new information. Another passion was roses and our garden became rather overcrowded with them but he loved them and tended them as though they were cherished friends. A few will know about his obsession (to a degree) with toy soldiers and he would spend hours researching and restoring these tiny lead figures which mum would paint and enjoy with him. He even took some on holiday to Cromer for the days that were not so clement.

All in all we have lost a very dear man both as a father and as a community but I hope his memory will not fade too quickly and that Rothwell will toast his passing with a nod to humour.

Thank you Richard Ivan Froment (doctor) 28th April 1932 to 23rd March 2019. R.I.P.

One of a large number of Facebook tributes. This moving account was written by Trevor Goodwin ...

I first met Dick (as he preferred to be called) around twelve months ago. I walk into town every day, weather permitting, and sometimes even when it isn't. I used to see him now and again sitting on his disability scooter or sometimes just standing near his door. We often chatted either about the weather or Brexit ~ but mostly Brexit. He asked me one day where I went every day and I informed him I went to either the Italian Market Kitchen or Bewiched when the former was closed. He asked me what I did there and I replied that I read the papers, met people, chewed the fat with several friends and talked about Brexit! I said "Why don't you join me?"

The following day he was sitting in the Italian Market Kitchen when I arrived. He said "I hope you don't mind" to which I replied "Of course not, otherwise I wouldn't have asked you". As my friends (and other people I didn't know) arrived, I discovered they all knew him very well as Dr Froment and he had been a very well-liked and respected doctor in the town for many years long before I moved here. I could tell from people's reactions on seeing him, how highly regarded he was and the affection shown towards him was very moving.

From that day on our meetings became daily, whatever the weather and even on Bank Holidays etc., usually for at least two hours and sometimes longer, in either of the two aforementioned places and on occasion Plotter's Table or The Red Lion garden during the summer. He would always ask "Where are we tomorrow Trevor?" and a rendezvous was arranged, usually with him arriving first to baggsy the best place.

He had a wonderful sense of humour and some of the stories he imparted from his days at medical school and later in life were hilarious, always told with a sparkle in his eyes and obviously, as Broderick Crawford used to say on Highway Patrol "The names have been changed to protect the innocent". He did impart to me on several occasions that during his time in medical school he took a disliking to "Tarquins" as he called them.

His knowledge and memory were phenomenal ~ people would walk in and he would say "Her mother lived in 64 Ragsdale Street or I delivered him at 68 Stanley Street" etc. His knowledge of the old Rothwell properties and families was second to none.

We both shared a passion for the First World War and both owned many books by the same authors which we discussed regularly along with our love of history in general. We often discussed the previous evening's TV on BBC4 where a lot of history is shown and his knowledge always left me speechless. If I mentioned the Crimean War, he would say "Did you know ... ?" and a fact relating to the war was immediately forthcoming. From Boudica to Vikings and Napoleon to Hitler, he never ceased to amaze me and was always adding some jocular comment which had me in stitches.

I went to see him for an hour on the Wednesday before his passing and again we laughed about the state of the government and Brexit amongst other things and I am sure both he and I knew it would be the last time I would see him.

I left with heavy heart, but also a knowledge that I was privileged to know such a wonderful, knowledgeable, kind and humorous man, and to have been able to spend so much time with him over what would be his last year.

I said earlier he made me laugh, he also made me cry last Friday night.

R.I.P. Dick, there's a special place in heaven for you my friend.

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In 2002, Dr Froment wrote a booklet about the development of General Practice in Desborough and Rothwell. It is an interesting read and gives a real insight as to how the provision of medical care has been transformed over the years. Here is an excerpt from the booklet, which is available now (*price £6.50*) from the Arts & Heritage Centre.

ONE DAY in the late 1880's, Desborough citizens welcomed their first resident local doctor, Dr Henry Gibbons. Previously, Dr James More, a Rothwell doctor, had provided some medical treatment in the area, but the people of Desborough wanted their own doctor.

The arrival of Dr Henry Gibbons was such an event that sixty or more years later, the day of his arrival was still recalled by many of the older people of the town. It appears that the doctor and his bride ~ Mrs Emma Gibbons ~ were pulled by hand in an open carriage from the Desborough Railway station to their home at Glenkindie House, in Harborough Road, amidst much acclaim from the local population. Dr Gibbons held regular surgeries in the converted old stables at Glenkindie House, and soon established a thriving medical practice.

At that time medical care was provided by local clubs and Friendly Societies, who charged their members a regular contribution. They then paid the doctor according to the number of their members registered. This medical treatment and medicines were free at the time, for members. A small amount of unemployment benefit was also paid to members certified by the doctor as unfit for work, hence the expression, much used locally, of "Being on The Club". Some doctors, including Dr Gibbons, ran their own clubs, for medical treatment and medicines. This involved members paying a few pennies per week to qualify for treatment.

I had patients who could remember collecting this money weekly and taking it to the doctor's surgery. This was called "The Doctors Panel of Patients". Of course, better off people, or people who did not qualify for club membership, would have to pay the doctor privately for any treatment or medicines

they needed. This idea of a club membership ~ the clubs paying the doctor a "Capitation Fee" ~ is still practised partly today, by the modern General Practitioner receiving part of his remuneration through a capitation fee.

I was told that Dr Henry Gibbons and his wife were enlightened employers for the time. It appears that they allowed one of their resident maids a half-day off one Sunday per month. The purpose if this was to allow her to visit her mother who lived in Wilbarston. As this girl could not leave Glenkindie House until after Sunday lunch, then walk to Wilbarston and be back in Desborough during the early evening, she could not have spent much time with her mother! However, this was apparently quite a privilege at the time.

Mrs Gibbons also provided a gift to all newly confined mothers in Desborough, in the shape of a large nourishing rice pudding. This was delivered by the visiting doctor in a covered wicker basket. This practise was still going on in the early 1930's so it must have been appreciated.

The Lloyd George Act – In 1913, the Lloyd George National Insurance Scheme was

briefly introduced but was suspended 1920 because of the onset of the First World War. The Scheme run by the government, gave free medical care to all fully employed men and single women – provided they earned below a minimum weekly amount.

It also provided sickness and unemployment benefit where appropriate, also a retirement pension at 65 years for men and 60 years for women. The insured people paid a weekly National Insurance Stamp from their wages, and, in return for a Capitation Fee paid by the state, the doctor provided medical care. Each patient had to register with a doctor of their choice.





Janet Bassett Gallery

The Summer Mix Exhibition

Painters and printers, Friday 3rd May — 5th July

Our summer exhibition mixes Printmakers and Painters, to curate a beautiful collection for you to explore. For the first time we feature the talented local **Printmaker Kat Lendacka**, who creates original linocut prints. Kat uses a Northampton-made roller relief press, printing from lino, cut with small wooden handled tools from Prague. Her favourite themes are animals, plants and the British landscape.



Discover **Minnie Teckman** – who uses paint, pencil & print to capture the animal world – **Pat Bustin, Anna De La Mare, Katy Burdett, Conrad Johnson, Annabelle Benjamin, Caroline Duffield, Stella Benford** and **Richard Chapman**.

Upstairs at Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre. Mon: 10am — 3pm & Tue to Sat: 10am — 12.30pm. 14-16 Bridge Street, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, NN14 6JW. rothwellheritage.org.uk | T: 01536 711550 | E: rothwellheritage@gmail.com

B

Janet Bassett Gallery

In this edition, we are featuring **Kat Lendacka** and **Minnie Teckman**, who are both exhibiting in The Summer Mix Exhibition — from Friday 3rd May to 5th July.



www.katlendacka.com

Kat Lendacka was born and grew up in Litomerice, a beautiful historic Czech town. Since her move to the UK, Kat has gained a first class honours degree in Graphics from University College Northampton, has worked in graphic design and illustration.

Now living in rural Northamptonshire with her family and a whippet, Kat is concentrating on her own printmaking work. Kat uses a Northampton-made roller relief press, printing from lino, cut with small wooden handled linocutting tools from Prague. Her favourite themes are animals, plants and the British landscape. All her works are original linocut prints. She also makes hand printed linocut pins and earrings and runs small workshops.

www.teckmanart.com

Artist Minnie Teckman's love for animals and the natural world, informs her art practice. She uses a variety of mediums to capture flora and fauna, from colourful, expressive, oil paintings, to more intricate drawings in charcoal, pencil and ink. She specialises in animal portraiture and creates bespoke commissions on request.

Minnie occasionally runs workshops for adults from her studio in Burns St Northampton. "I love to experiment. With my work I don't wish to create an absolutely lifelike recreation of what I see, instead I enjoy the qualities of the materials I use."

For your pet portraits, please contact Minnie:
minnie@teckmanart.com

Find Kat's and Minnie's work upstairs at Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre

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WOODSTOCK '69

On August 15th 1969, the now famous Woodstock Music and Art Fair officially began although it didn't actually take place in Woodstock. It was actually held about 70 miles away in a place called Bethel. The original plan fell through when the organisers couldn't find a suitable place, but the name remained.

Organizers expected that up to 200,000 attendees would attend, but actual figure was more than double that. For the three days of the festival, the surge in population caused Bethel to become the third largest city in the whole state.

They ran out of food on the first day and when the cost of burgers and hot dogs rose from 25 cents to a dollar, the festival goers were so outraged that they burned down the stand.

When residents of Sullivan County heard about the food shortages, they rallied with the local sheriff's office to donate about 10,000 sandwiches, water bottles, pieces of fruit and canned goods.

According to reports there were a documented 5,162 medical cases, unsurprisingly involving several cases of drug abuse and overdose. Of the hundreds of thousands present, there were three deaths: two from drug overdose and one especially tragic case of a 17-year-old in a mud-covered sleeping bag who was run over by a tractor collecting debris.

Some of the best musical acts of the era played at

Woodstock, including Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Janis Joplin, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Jefferson Airplane, Joan Baez, Santana, Joe Cocker, and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young.

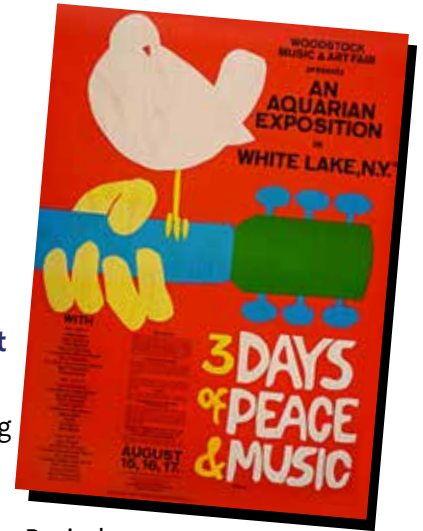
This iconic festival has gone down in pop music history but it wasn't actually the first outdoor pop concert with that name.

Woodstock in Oxfordshire hosted the original one in 1967 in the grounds of Blenheim Palace. It was organised by Oxford manager and promoter Adrian Hopkins.

He was asked by the St. John Ambulance to organise a fundraising pop concert which took place just in front of Blenheim Palace on 23 July 1967, the first of its kind.

Star acts such as Manfred Mann, Jeff Beck and PP Arnold played on the same stage as local groups for the charity gig.

Adrian Hopkins went on to manage many big artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Cash and Thin Lizzy.



Joe Cocker performing at Woodstock - picture by Elliott Landy

From The Archives ...

Week ending 25th July 1919

by STUART IRONS

Rothwell In Radiant Mood

~ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING MEETING ~

The inhabitants of Rothwell foregathered in the old-time Market-place to return thanks for the blessings of Peace. Our photograph was taken as the great assemblage was fervently singing "O God, our Help in ages past."

ROTHWELL REJOICINGS

A Busy and Memorable Day ...

By means of a division of labour loyal Rothwell carried out a very extensive programme, which gave a great deal of pleasure to the "boys," to the children, the old people, and the townspeople generally.

The United Clubs Committee (with Mr Parker, secretary of the W.M.C., as hon. secretary). willingly undertook the provision of a hot dinner for the "boys" in the Oddfellows' Hall, and the Salvation Army, with equal willingness, made all the arrangements for the old folks' treat.

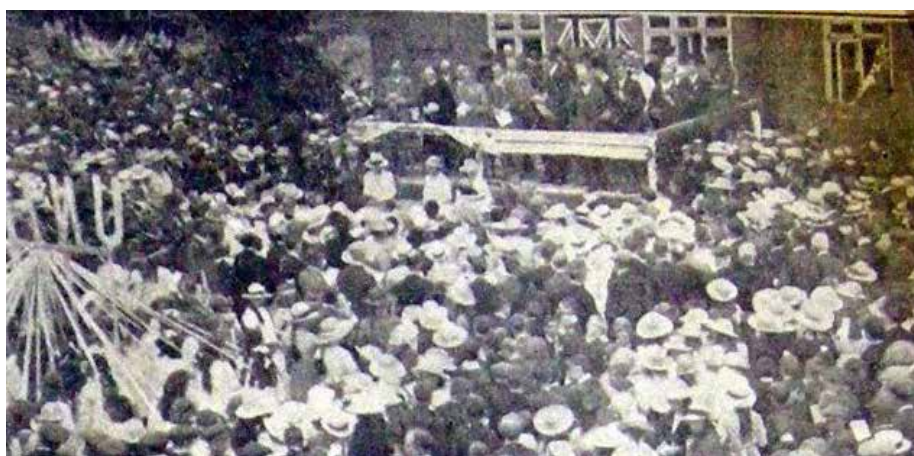
SOLDIERS' DINNER

There were quite 350 of the "boys," and, as may be imagined, silence was not observed while they were partaking ad libitum of the old English meal. The spectacle was a very pleasing one to the "Mayor," Mr F. J. Tebbutt, J.P., the clergy and ministers, Capt. and Mrs Butlin, and various "City Fathers" who assembled. The picturesqueness was greatly enhanced by the decorations, for many plants lent by Mr Evan Sarjeant and Mr Edgar Sarjeant graced the tables, and numerous flags were utilised.

THE PARADE

From a spectacular point of view the great event of the day was the procession, which was witnessed with intense pleasure by a great crowd of townsfolk.

Very prominent features in this connection were some of the productions which were so favourably commented upon at the Rose Day Fete on the previous Saturday. The Mission Band preceded a large body of discharged and demobilised sailors and soldiers and service men on leave; the V.A.D. nurses and Ladies' Ambulance Class: Councillors, Guardians, ministers of religion, Volunteers, members of friendly societies, and other organisations.



The Salvation Army Band led a united procession of children, numbering about 950, many of whom wore flowers and carried flags and banners. The charming nature of the scene was greatly enhanced by the decorations in the streets. The firing of "cannons" in the street seemed to be enjoyed by the youngsters.

SPEECH-MAKING

When all the precisionists had assembled on the Market-hill, the Urban Councillors, the County Councillor (Capt. Butlin), the Vicar (just returned from Ireland), and other ministers of religion, representatives of the "boys," the town clerk (Mr Addin Tyldesley), and others were seated on an extemporised platform in readiness for the civic welcome. As far as the eye could reach there was an immense throng of people. All joined lustily in singing "O God, our help in ages past," led by a united choir of 150 voices.

At this juncture the Peace Proclamation was read, and Mr F. J. Tebbutt, J.P., chairman of the Urban Council, extended in very appropriate words a message of welcome and thanks on behalf of the town to all discharged and demobilised men. They valued the peace, and meant to keep it.

After paying a fitting tribute to the hundred or so Rothwell lads who had made the greatest sacrifice and

From The Archives ...

died that others might live, he asked those who had friends still in the Forces to send a message of goodwill from him as representing the town, saying he hoped they would be entertained when they came home.

The united choirs then led the singing of "O beautiful, our country," Mrs Capps presiding at the piano.

A brief reply to the message of welcome was made in a stirring manner by Mr A. J. Liner, on behalf of the local men of the Navy. Mr A. R. Scarborough spoke feelingly on behalf of the Army boys.

Under the conductorship of Mr F. Butlin, the united choir gave a very effective rendering of "The Hallelujah Chorus," and this part of the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.



AT TEA

The procession was then re-formed, and the journey ended at the Mounts, where the children, seated under the beech trees, were, supplied with a bountiful tea by a host of willing workers.

A little later about 500 people partook of a public tea in the same pleasant locale, and were protected from the drizzling rain by the shelter of the wide-spreading tree branches. Mrs A. Wells was president of the ladies' Catering Committee, and Miss Clara Jones secretary. The Salvation Army Band played selections during the tea.

OLD FOLKS

All the workers in connection with the old folks treat in the Oddfellows' Hall were members of the Salvation Army, with Capt. G. H. Lewis at the head. As many as 160 old-folk over 60 years of age greatly enjoyed the meat sandwiches and various delicacies at the tea in the gaily decorated hall, and their faces beamed with delight.

The oldest amongst them was one of the men from Jesus' Hospital, named Mr Wm. Whyment, who was born in Belgium, but after living at Clipston, has been 80 years at Rothwell. His age was 87. The oldest lady was Mrs Johnson, her age being 85.

The chairman of the Urban Council, the ministers of religion, and several "City Fathers" conversed with many of the old people.

At the close of the meal there was a little speech making by the chairman of the Council, Capt. Lewis (Salvation Army), and Mr Sam Law.

The Rothwell Cinema Company, in addition to placing the Oddfellows' Hall at the disposal of the committee, had generously made it possible for them to

announce four free entertainments - one for old people, one for young children, another for older children, and the other for discharged and demobilised sailors and soldiers.

The children started their sports in a drizzling rain.

Arrangements had been made for "soldiers' sports," music by the Mission Silver Band, dancing and fireworks, but these attractions were affected by the wet weather and postponed until Wednesday evening.

"WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME" - Rothwell recognises its debt of gratitude to "the boys" who went to fight the country's battles and those of the boys who have returned home were given a right hearty reception on Saturday, when they were feted as only Rothwell can.

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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.

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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.

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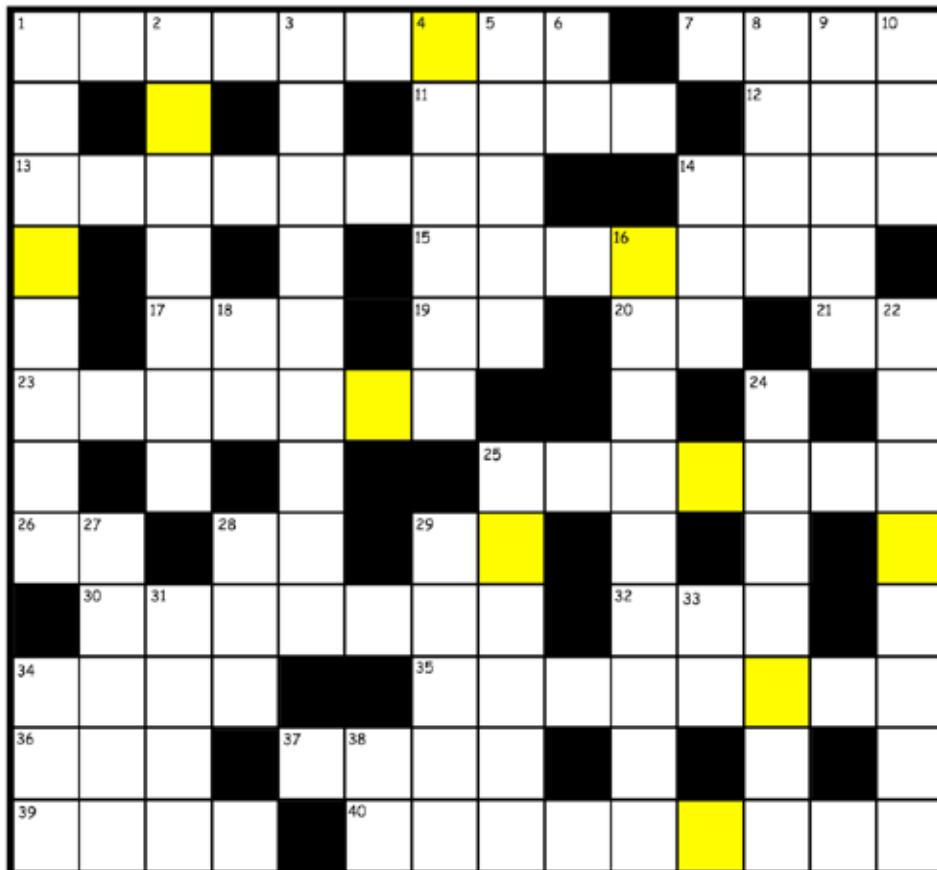
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Across

1. Hindu teacher (9)
7. Soothing cream or ointment (4)
11. Annoying person (4)
12. For each person with no heir (3)
13. Vegas dancer (8)
14. Diamonds & rubies (4)
15. Guacamole is made of this (7)
17. Falsehood (3)
19. You and I; us (2)
20. While (2)
21. Salt / Sodium (2)
23. Touching, boundary (7)
25. Glancing slyly (7)
26. Biblical you (2)
28. Chemical symbol for Copper (2)
29. Near; beside (2)
30. Type of varnish (7)
32. In olden days (3)
34. What a raised hand signifies (4)
35. Raptor reintroduced to the UK (8)
36. Hill, especially to Liverpool (3)
37. With the first lieutenant instead (4)
39. Decorates a cake (4)
40. Quasimodo's girlfriend (9)

Down

1. Hatred of marriage (8)
2. Young thug (7)
3. Sorry to lug ferret about (9)
4. Be outstretched (6)
5. Handle of a tool or weapon (5)
6. Exists (2)
8. Copied, imitated (4)
9. Citrus fruit (5)
10. Married women, for short (3)
14. Household fuel (3)
16. Janitor (9)
18. Tagged player (2)
22. Island off Wales (8)
24. Turning on a pin (7)
25. Aristotle's teaching place (6)
27. Short stabbing sword (5)
28. Porcini mushroom (3)
29. Reveals all (5)
31. Have optimism (4)
33. US army soldier (2)
34. Move over snow (3)
38. That is to say (2)

Rearrange the yellow squares to spell out the answer

Clue - A summer sporting event (5,5)

Answers in next issue



Answer for last issue

Clue - What spring brings (7,3,7,4)

warmer and sunnier days

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Now, what was I doing 50 years ago ...

July

- 1st: **Charles, Prince of Wales**, is invested with his title at Caernarfon.
- 3rd: **Brian Jones**, musician and founder of The Rolling Stones, drowns in his swimming pool at his home in Sussex, England.



Illustration courtesy of Katie at Shelswell Graphics.

- 8th: **Vietnam War**: The very first U.S. troop withdrawals are made.
- 18th: **Chappaquiddick incident**: **Edward M. Kennedy** drives off a bridge on his way home from a party on Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts. **Mary Jo Kopechne**, a former campaign aide to his brother, dies in the early morning hours of July 19 in the submerged car.
- 31st: The **old halfpenny** ceases to be legal tender in the UK.

August

- 8th: **The Beatles** at 11:30 have photographer **Iain Macmillan** take their photo on a zebra crossing on Abbey Road.
- 9th: Cult Leader **Charles Manson** and a group of his disciples murder five people including **Sharon Tate**, in her Los Angeles home.
- 9th: Violence erupts after the **Apprentice Boys of Derry** march in Northern Ireland, resulting in a three-day communal riot known as the **Battle of the Bogside**.
- 12th: **British troops** are deployed in Northern Ireland as a response.
- 17th: **Category 5 Hurricane Camille**, the most

powerful tropical cyclonic system at landfall in history, hits the Mississippi coast, killing 248 people and causing US\$1.5bn damage.

- 30th: **First internet connection** on the ARPANET between UCLA and Stanford University.

September

- 1st: 1969 Libya: A bloodless coup ousts **King Idris** and brings **Colonel Gaddafi** to power.
- 2nd: **Ho Chi Minh**, the president of North Vietnam, dies at the age of 79.
- 5th: **ITV** makes its first colour television transmissions in the UK.
- 13th: **Scooby-Doo** airs its first episode on the CBS network in the United States.
- 20th: At a meeting between **The Beatles** (minus **George Harrison**) and business manager **Allen Klein**, **John Lennon** announces his intention to quit the group.

What were you up to while these momentous events were happening in the summer of '69?

Do you have a story or memories of that time that you'd like to share with us. We'd love to hear them ...

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