

# Rowell Heritage

*the magazine of*

**ROTHWELL ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE**



IN THIS ISSUE:

## **Plague & Pestilence in Northamptonshire**

*How locals fared in the past when we had real plagues to deal with!*

## **John Smith: Rothwell's Missionary**

*... and martyr, who gave his life trying to end the slave trade*

*and much more ...*

**No: 33**

**April ~ June 2020**

**£2.50**

# *This edition of* **Rowell Heritage Magazine**

We are having a reduced print run for this edition, which will be provided to subscribers only due to the centre being closed, rendering sales from there impossible.

However, we are placing the magazine in its entirety online for people to read much earlier than usual, so other regular purchasers do not miss out completely.

*(For further information see page 27.)*

***Please bear in mind that certain advertised events may have already occurred or been cancelled.***

***We have not omitted them to allow the magazine to be shown in it's original format.***

***Please check with the relevant organisations to see how they have been affected.***

Finally, keep yourselves safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you all again once things return to as normal.

Best wishes from

***The Editor***  
***and all Heritage Centre Staff***

# Rowell Heritage Magazine

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our second quarterly offering of Rowell Heritage Magazine for 2020.

In this edition we have tributes to the late Rev. Malcolm Armitage, former centre volunteer Kathleen Chapman, and there's a touching memorial to the late Tom Nichols by Ann Jones.

We have the first of two articles from Sylvia Davis revealing how plague and pestilence have affected locals over the years ~ something we can all relate to in the current climate.

There's the final instalment of Leonard Buswell's recollections, which cover pre-TV entertainment (we need to get more memories such as this from our readers before they are gone forever).

Rothwell missionary John Smith is perhaps better known in Guyana than in his home town ~ but he and his fellow slavery abolitionists are still remembered and celebrated to this day.

Our archives sections cover many dates and subjects ~ from 19th Century cricket matches, events of 100 years ago, then more recently from 1962. (I doubt the petty sessions story of the militiaman's alleged robbery would even have made it onto social media today ~ back then it was considered news!)

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.

Best wishes to all ...

The Editorial Team

Please could we remind our Friends of the Heritage Centre that your membership subscription for 2020 is now due and can be paid at the centre.

Membership entitles you to a free copy of the Rowell Heritage (usually £2.50) and reduced admission fees at most of our events.

Submissions etc. to:

[editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk](mailto:editor@rothwellheritage.org.uk)

Deadline for submission of articles or adverts for the July ~ September issue is **June 12th, 2020**

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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# Recollections... by Leonard Buswell (1909-2000)

*Back in 1991 I asked my father, Leonard Buswell, to write down some of his early memories. In the early 20th century he lived at 14/16 Bridge Street ~ where the Heritage Centre now stands (just two stone cottages in those days) ~ and helped his father with the family plumbing and decorating business, based in the yard at the back of the premises.*

*In the last of these recollections he describes how people entertained themselves before the age of television.*

[Explanatory comments in square brackets.]

JEAN BUSWELL

**I**N THE In the days before TV and radio, people were much more friendly and sociable and had to make their own amusement.

At Christmas time my parents' friends, mostly shopkeepers and Church School teachers, used to invite each other to supper parties. They were very ambitious affairs, and there were usually about twenty people invited including Uncle Ted and Aunt Mary [Edward 'Ted' Buswell 1867-1945, who was a Teacher at Rothwell Church School, and his wife Mary], Mr and Mrs Ringrose [who kept a fancy goods shop in the High Street], Mr Messinger [who kept a grocer's shop in the High Street] Mr and Mrs Hall of 'Halls' Market' (the shop next to Derek Newman)

[Bridge Street], Mrs Brading [Widow of Bertram Brading who had been Headmaster at Rothwell Church School until his death in 1918], Mr and Mrs Playford [William Playford, 1879-1959, Teacher at the Gladstone Street School and Lay Reader at the Church], Mrs Barrs [Mrs Mildred Barrs nee Ginns 1876-1965, Schoolmistress at Rothwell Church School and Mother-in-Law to Jack Vickers who later became Headmaster at the school] and Mrs Capp [Mrs Florence Capp nee Whiteman 1868-1956, Teacher, and daughter of Joseph Whiteman who had been Headmaster at the Church School].

Sometimes they would be held in the house, but if there was not enough room they would use the Church House for the occasion.

It was more like a dinner party than supper party, as it was a hot meal including a large turkey, usually followed by sherry trifle and mince pies, etc or Christmas pudding. They usually started at 7.30 pm or 8 pm and went on until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. After the meal they would hold a whist drive with two or three prizes for the best scores and a booby prize for the lowest. This was usually something rather silly to raise a laugh.

After the whist drive someone would play the piano and several of them would sing songs and all join in the chorus. I remember Aunt Mary singing 'All the nice girls love a sailor' and Mr Ringrose sang 'Duckfoot Sue'. Sometimes we were sent to bed before they started but as we got older we were sometimes allowed to stay up.

When they used the Church House, they had the whist drive upstairs and we amused ourselves downstairs. When they played whist they had a card to record their score which had to be initialled by their opponents, and after each hand the winners moved to the next table and

the losers moved round so they had a new partner for the next hand.

I remember one Christmas, Aunts Sally and Polly had a party and the tables were half in the sitting room and half in the parlour [at No 16 Bridge Street.]. While they were playing we went in the passage and tied the door knobs together. When they tried to move they pulled against each other and could not understand why neither of the doors would open. After a little while they heard us laughing and made us untie the string.

When we were in our teens we went to lots of socials and parties at Christmas and I remember one Christmas

I went out somewhere on twelve nights out of fourteen. We sometimes arranged dances and the last one was in the Adult School [in School Lane].

We thought we would have a slap up 'do' and ordered trifles and sandwiches for refreshments, crackers and gave everyone a bag of confetti. The caretaker was Mrs Pell (Dorothy Shortland's mother) and she made the trifles for us.

Unfortunately it was not well attended and I lost about £3. I also got told off by Mrs Pell as the confetti was all over the place and she had such a job cleaning it up. There were about three trifles left and I told her to keep them, in order to placate her, and suggested she could bag up the confetti and sell it at the Fair. She took a very dim view, and what with one thing and another I did not arrange any more dances.

However we thought we would start a dance band and earn a shilling or two. We could not think of a suitable name for the band but when I went into Bernard Brown's shop [Browns Confectioners at 6 Market Place], I happened to see a box of chocolates called Mayfair Selection. So I suggested we call the band the Mayfair Players and the others thought this was a good idea.

We used to practise once a week on Wednesday evenings, and wondered how to get some engagements. Someone suggested that we asked Mr Len Bailey if we could play at Rothwell Cinema before the films started, and he agreed. We got a slide which was projected on the screen, saying that the music was being provided by the Mayfair Players who were now open to engagements.

I joined a music club and paid an annual subscription and they sent me copies of new dance tunes as they were released, and we got a reasonable number of engagements for 25s or 30s between us, according to whether the dance ended at 12 o'clock or 1 o'clock. ■



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# Rev. Malcolm Armitage

22ND NOVEMBER 1937 ~ 17TH NOVEMBER 2019

**Rowell Methodists of a certain age will have been sad to learn of the death last November of Malcolm Armitage, Methodist minister here from 1962-1966.**

During the 50s and early 60s, Rothwell and Desborough Methodist churches had been served by a series of "Supernumerary" ministers ~ elderly eminent gentlemen nearing retirement but still working within the church and part of the Kettering Circuit.

In August 1962 a new recruit arrived: a tall, good looking young man from Yorkshire, straight from college and full of enthusiasm. The chapel folk didn't know what had hit them!

Malcolm Armitage's forte was his work amongst young people. He soon had a vibrant following in Rothwell. As well as a flourishing youth club, many of us every Sunday would attend morning chapel, Bible Class, evening service followed by social hour. It was a full programme! If Malcolm had been preaching he would come along and join us and seemed quite happy for us to dissect his sermon and give our opinions while enlightening us further on his own. He was happy to discuss quite thorny issues and encourage a Christian perspective.

Those were the days of Sunday School Anniversaries and Harvest Festivals when the chapel would be elaborately decorated with flowers and fruits of the season adorning every nook and cranny, including the organ. Malcolm was an accomplished organist and when he set to on a particularly lively Bach Fugue one harvest festival it wasn't just the autumn leaves that were blowing in the breeze; onions, radishes, apples and pears all came tumbling down on the giggling youngsters seated on the stage. The older congregation were not amused!

Poor Malcolm also struggled with the Rowell accent. He spent one long afternoon trying to trace some parishioners whom he was told lived in "Oil Avenue". Only after a tedious tour of Rothwell streets did he realise he should have been looking for "High Hill Avenue". Obviously!

During his years in Rothwell, Malcolm encouraged the very caring fellowship in the Methodist church which

continues to this day. House groups were formed along with a pastoral committee looking at the needs of the elderly and housebound. Visiting rotas and monthly tea-parties were established.

He entered willingly into all aspects of church and Rothwell life, amongst other things performing with the Methodist players and being a very convincing Father Christmas. He also conducted several marriages. He played a pivotal role in the conversations taking place at that time between the Anglican and Methodist communities; this was borne out in Desborough where joint Sunday Services were arranged and are still the norm 50 years later.

After his brief spell in Rothwell, Malcolm's life changed direction. He moved to another church in Doncaster but soon felt he wanted to pursue a different role. Still anxious to work with the young, he went into education, at first teaching but gradually guiding and advising both students and staff across the East Midlands.

Malcolm loved people and had a true passion for encouraging each one to achieve their potential in life as well as work. His life interests were politics, social history, travel and cultural exchange, underpinned with good food and wine and shared with his wife and many friends. He ended his career in the School Inspection Service where he was able to influence on a broader scale. But his influence on those of us who remember his ministry in Rothwell remains ~ with happy memories.

Malcolm died on November 17, 2019 in Lincoln after bravely battling a series of strokes. He leaves his wife, Ruth, two children, Jane (born in Rothwell) and Phillip, and four grandchildren.

JANET SQUIRE



# Memories *of* Tom Nichols

by ANN JONES

I enjoyed reading about Newham Farm in the January-March issue of Rowell Heritage magazine.

Tommy Nichols was one of Rowell's well-known characters. He was always smiling and welcomed us to the Tresham Hall dances. We left our coats with him and he would give us a ticket. He knew all our coats as we didn't get new ones very often, especially during and after World War Two.

It didn't actually matter if you lost your ticket because he would always present the right garment to its owner. I think we gave a small donation which he received on behalf of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Tom sold poppies for Remembrance Day and his knitting was also donated to charity. One of the items he produced was knee socks for people with poorly knees and he told the ladies that they should be measured first to get the right fitting. He caused a lot of giggles at the time. These days he would be told that it was inappropriate behaviour but we all knew it was just a bit of fun.

When Tom was Chairman of Rothwell Council, he was invited by the Queen to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. The occasion called for a new suit which he then wore for special days only. Mostly, he walked around the town in his farm kit from jumble sales ~ trousers tied up with binder twine.

On his visit to London to see the Queen, he walked up the Mall and presented his invitation to the guard at the gate of Buckingham Palace who duly admitted him. Most folk would arrive by taxi but Tom didn't believe in wasting money and he said he enjoyed the walk. He loved speaking about his trip to London where he was praised for all his charitable works.

During my time as District Nurse I often had to visit Newham Farm as the inhabitants suffered from the various ailments which accompany old age. Tom and his sister Emmy lived in the left-hand side of the house while Charlie and Mary lived on the right. It seemed to be an arrangement which suited them all.

Emmy was always cheerful when I visited and one day she told me that she'd had a little visitor in the night who



*Tommy Nichols, leading the procession to bless the fair*

had left his calling card on her pillow. She didn't mind sharing with mice. On the right-hand side of the house, when I came to visit, I found they had a rat who lived in the old sofa. The sheepdog used it as a bed and didn't seem bothered when the rat came out to run behind the fireplace. Everyone was very calm about this arrangement.

I remember asking Tom if I could wash my hands and he took me to the back scullery where there was a pump for cold water and when I needed to dry them he handed me a bit of sacking. On future visits I took my own soap and towel!

On one occasion Tom told me that he had a hole in the roof of his bedroom. We could look up and see the sky where the slates were missing and there was a chamber pot to catch the water when it rained.

I asked why he didn't get the roof fixed and he said that they paid rent so the landlord should do it. He owned

property himself and paid for repairs so his landlord should do the same.

Tom's wardrobe was an old iron bed covered in the clothes and shoes that he got from jumble sales.

Tom was very proud to carry the cross at Holy Trinity Church. When Rowell Fair came he would lead the parade for the Blessing. He was followed by about 30 choirboys who did not relish this tradition because cheeky kids would call them names such as "Polly Long Frock".

Boys who attended the church school (called the Grammar School, built by Owen Ragsdale and situated where the library is now) were automatically given auditions for the church choir. This meant that from the 1930s-60s there was always a good choir at Holy Trinity.

He would give each boy 2d to spend at the fair. They would often buy pea shooters and water pistols to douse the kids who had made fun of them during the parade and Blessing of the Fair.

Tom would organise whist drives to procure funds for his various charities. At Christmas the whist drive would take place above the Ambulance Station at the top of Tresham Street. This was a fur and feather prize event

with the first prize being a turkey still in feathers (though it was dead). The second prize was a brace of pheasants (in feathers) and the third prize was a brace of rabbits (still in fur). During WW2 these prizes were a great attraction because they would augment the meat ration.

Tom was a fully paid up member of the Conservative Party and worked hard for the constituency. The Profumo Affair in the early 1960s upset him very much and his family didn't dare mention the name Christine Keeler. John Profumo had, of course, also been the MP for Kettering from 1940 to 1945.

He never learnt to drive a car and walked everywhere. During his many years on the local council, Rothwell people would always be able to talk to him about their grievances. He would write things down on the bits of scrap paper that he always carried in his pockets alongside the cheques he forgot to take to the Bank.

Many older Rowellians will remember this kindly man walking around the town. He was one of the last of the Rothwell characters and is sadly missed. He was born in 1898 and died in 1982. ■

*Tommy at the blessing of the fair*





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# From The Archives ...

100 YEARS AGO ...

by STUART IRONS

WEEK ENDING 9TH APRIL 1920

## Rothwell's Loss: *Death of Principal Figure in Fair Proclamation*

Many residents of a wide area will learn with much regret that Mr Josh. Hall, of Rothwell, who for seven years has proclaimed the Charter Fair at that town on Trinity Monday, passed away on Easter Monday.

In the early hours of Fair Monday thousands used to assemble to witness a good deal that was interesting in connection with the proclamation. Seated on a white horse and preceded by halberdiers and a band, he read the old-time Charter at various stopping places, ending in each instance with the National Anthem.



For 17 years Mr Hall has conducted parties down to the crypt to see the bones. To many visitors this was a weird, if interesting, business and Mr Hall took it all as a matter of course, in taking a human skull in his hand, for instance, and telling how he found a bird's nest within it, or in taking up a bone and remarking upon its unusual size.

Within the vestry is a representation of Mr Hall descending the staircase with candles, before the days when the bones were arranged like those at Hythe, in Kent. This picture (nicely framed), which appeared in the "Illustrated London News," and also shows the shelves of skulls

and the Vicar at the vestry door, was presented by Capt. Butlin, J.P., C.C., and there is one like it at Mr Hall's house, from the same source.

His knowledge of the ancient Church, from what he had read or picked up from archaeologists - the President and members of the Royal Society having paid a visit some years ago was very extensive, and he used to impart a good deal of interesting information to visitors.

A native of Harrington, Mr Hall was 55 years of age, and a son of the late Mr Thomas Hall. About 30 years have elapsed since he came to Rothwell, and for some years he was employed by the late Mr F. Barlow, J.P., C.C., contractor, and at Messrs. Ball and Sons. Being of a gentle and kindly disposition he possessed many friends, to whom the news came as a great shock.

For 17 years he has discharged the duties of verger. Ever since he came to Rothwell, he, as an ardent Churchman, took a keen interest in the old Church, and he was a regular communicant. In the old days he used to ring the one o'clock bell, which was discontinued during the war. For years he has booked the ground and allotted spaces to the show people at the Fair.

For a long time, he had been ailing, notably during the war, in which two of his sons fought, one of whom (Henry) was unfortunately killed. He was never the same since he fell unconscious in the Churchyard in October last. Mr Hall continued his duties until five weeks ago, and he was downstairs last Saturday. On Sunday, however, he had to keep to his bed, and he never got up again. Dr. More was his medical attendant, and the cause of death was cerebral thrombosis.

Much sympathy is felt for the widow, two sons, and four daughters, who are mourning the great loss.

## Rothwell Wedding: *Union of Two Respected Families*

A charming wedding, in which considerable interest was centred, took place at Rothwell Wesleyan Church on Saturday, the contracting parties being Miss Margery Read, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Reuben Read, of the Home Farm, Rothwell, and Mr Bernard Frederick Goode, second son of Mr and Mrs Fredrick Goode, of Desborough. Both parties are well known and esteemed. The bride is a Sunday School teacher at the Wesleyan Church, and the bridegroom was formerly in the Royal Flying Corps.

Whilst the guests were assembling Mr Walter Smith ably played suitable music on the organ, including "Humoreske" (Dvorak) and "Question and Answer" (Wolstenholme). Many friends of the parties assembled in the church where the wedding service was conducted by the Rev. E. Pomfret, the resident minister, amidst a profusion of palms and flowers. The bride was given away by her father, Mr R. Read. There were five bridesmaids, these being Miss Hilda Culpin, Miss Connie Read (sister of the bride), Miss Lilian Smith (cousin of the bride), Miss Madaline Almond (cousin of the bride), and Miss Mary Sarjeant (cousin of the bride), with Master Ivor Sarjeant (cousin of the bride), who acted as page. Mr Leonard Goode, of Desborough, was best man.

The service was chorally rendered. When the bride, leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church the choir ably led the singing of the nuptial hymn, "The Voice that breathed o'er Eden," and after the happy

couple had been made man and wife all joined in the hymn, "O, Perfect Love." Subsequently the stirring music of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was heard.

The dresses were of a handsome description. The bride was charmingly attired in a white crepe-de-chine dress, with real pearl and silver trimmings, bridal veil and orange blossom, lent by Mrs T. F. Almond (aunt of the bride), and she carried a beautiful sheaf of white lilies. The bridesmaids were charmingly attired as follows: Miss H. Culpin and Miss L. Smith were dressed in mauve crepe-de-chine dresses with silver trimming; Misses C. Read, Madalina Almond, and Mary Sarjeant in shell pink crepe-de-chine, with silver trimming; and Master Ivor Sarjeant in a blue suit with hat to match of pink and white. They carried lovely bouquets of carnations.

Afterwards a reception was held in the Wesleyan Assembly Room, and amid hearty good wishes the happy pair left to travel by the five o'clock train to London, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride's travelling dress was a tailor-made nigger brown gabardine costume with hat to match, with Paisley trimming.

There was a large and handsome array of wedding gifts. Upon their return Mr and Mrs Goode will reside at the Home Farm Lodge.

There was a valuable collection of handsome presents. The bridesmaids carried bouquets, and they also wore necklaces which were gifts from the bridegroom.





# John Smith

— 1790-1824 —

## Rothwell Missionary and Martyr



Researched by **CHERYL EVERETT & STUART EVERITT**

---

*John Smith went to Guyana in 1817 with a mission to work amongst the slaves. His work flourished in the Demerara region where he gathered a church of over 800. He wrote about the appalling conditions slaves experienced and these representations brought changes through acts of parliament. Letters addressed to colonial governors were sent which recommended reform but these were withheld. Despite Smith's encouragement to show restraint, violence broke out and a slaughter of slaves took place. Smith was imprisoned for instigating the riot and condemned to death. During his appeal he was imprisoned in such unhealthy conditions that he died.*

---

**J**ohn Smith was a missionary whose experiences in the West Indies attracted the attention of the anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce. As a result of his actions, trial by court martial and subsequent death whilst under imprisonment, Smith became known as the "Demerara Martyr".

His case, and news of the enormous size of the uprising and the brutal loss of African life, caused a great awakening in England, strengthening the abolitionist cause which eventually succeeded throughout British territories worldwide in 1838.

John Smith was born on 27th June 1790 in Rothwell, Northamptonshire. An orphan, he received a basic early education by attending Sunday school, following which he trained to be a

baker. He then applied to be a missionary and married Jane Godden, being ordained at Tonbridge Chapel on 12th December 1816.



*The John Smith Memorial Church, founded in 1843 ~ 20 years to the day after he was sentenced to death, still stands today in Georgetown, Guyana*

Smith arrived in Demerara under the auspices of the London Missionary Society on 23rd February 1817. He lived at the 'Le Resouvenir' plantation, where he preached at Bethel Chapel, primarily attended by African slaves.

On the morning of 18th August 1823, in what became known as the 'Demerara rebellion of 1823', about ten to twelve thousand slaves ~ drawn from plantations on the East Coast of the Demerara colony ~ rebelled, under the belief that their masters were concealing news of the slaves' emancipation.

Smith was subsequently charged with promoting discontent and dis-



*An illustration of the hanging of John Smith in effigy by slave-owning colonists, who felt cheated by his death in prison whilst awaiting sentence, even though a Royal reprieve would ultimately have saved him*

satisfaction in the minds of the African slaves, exciting them to rebel, and failing to notify the authorities that the slaves intended to rebel.

At his trial, defended by William Arrindell, John Smith was arraigned in court-martial before Lt. Col. Goodman on 13th October. The trial concluded one month later, on 24th November. He was found guilty of the principal charges, and given the death sentence, following which he was transferred from Colony House to prison.

Officials claimed that a pre-existing illness was the cause of Smith's demise on 6th February 1824, before the intended Royal reprieve arrived. They asserted Smith had been ill for some time and that his accommodation was *airy and spacious* and he had been looked after with "*utmost attention and kindness*".

Others, however, state that Smith died of consumption in a damp prison ~ which seems more likely, as the colonists interred him at four in the morning in an unmarked grave, for fear of stirring up slave sentiment and further unrest.

Once published in British newspapers, news of John Smith's treatment and subsequent death provoked outrage and garnered 200 petitions to Parliament, signalling a major step forward in the campaign to abolish slavery. ■

**The Demerara rebellion of 1823** was an uprising involving more than 10,000 slaves that took place in the colony of Demerara-Essequibo (Guyana).

The rebellion ~ which took place on 18th August 1823 and lasted for two days ~ was led by slaves with the highest status.

In part they were reacting to poor treatment and a desire for freedom ~ in addition, there was a widespread belief that Parliament had passed a law for emancipation, but it was being withheld by the colonial rulers.

Instigated chiefly by Jack Gladstone, a slave at "Success" plantation, the rebellion also involved his father, Quamina, and other senior members of their church group. Its English pastor, **John Smith**, was implicated.



*Illustration depicting the retreat of the military forces led by Lt. Brady, overwhelmed by the number of slaves standing against them*

The largely non-violent rebellion was brutally crushed by the colonists under governor John Murray. They killed many slaves ~ estimates of the toll from fighting range from 100 to 250.

After the insurrection was put down, the government sentenced another 45 men to death and 27 were executed. The executed slaves' bodies were displayed in public for months afterwards as a deterrent to others.

Jack was deported to the island of Saint Lucia after the rebellion following a clemency plea by Sir John Gladstone, the owner of "Success" plantation.

**John Smith**, who had been court-martialled and was awaiting news of his appeal against a death sentence, died a martyr for the abolitionist cause. News of Smith's death strengthened the abolitionist movement in Britain.

Quamina, who is thought to have been the actual leader of the rebellion, was declared a national hero after Guyana's independence. Streets and monuments have been dedicated to him in the capital of Georgetown, Guyana.



*Statue of Quamina in Georgetown commemorating the rebellion*





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The following poem was written by Jayne Austin, from Rothwell but now lives in Nottingham. She is the daughter of Brenda and Norman, who used to own the shop near Crown Yard.

### Rothwell

And did those feet, in time gone by  
Walk upon Rothwell's fields so green?  
And did the factories, making shoes  
Give jobs, the like, is now not seen?  
Now all is gone, and in its place  
Many restaurants, the town now grace  
But Rowell folk stand, proud and call  
Their town in Northants, the best of all!

There's much to like, and much to do  
See the churches, visit Rowell Fair  
Bring on the rum, and milk, oh yay  
Meet at the Waltzer, Market Square  
Get up on Monday, at six a.m.  
Walk round with others, hear the band  
Rejoice in being, part of history  
In Rothwell's green and pleasant land!

*With a nod to William Blake and Hubert Parry!*

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# Kathleen Chapman

Kathleen, who died at the end of last year (2019), was a volunteer on the front desk of the Heritage Centre for several years, after moving from her home in Oxford Street to Gloucester Court.

She enjoyed coming to the Centre on her mobility scooter, meeting with other volunteers and visitors. Being a true Rowellian she could often answer queries about the town's history, and its past and present inhabitants.

She was born in the Coffee Tavern which was kept first by her grandparents and then her mother from 1920s until the 1970s, and it was her home until her marriage to Ron in 1951.

Her grandfather was the Mr Stone who was awarded a commendation from the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of a young boy from a water-filled pit. That story was told in this magazine in the October-December 2019 issue, No 31.

The Coffee Tavern was a teetotaler's answer to the many pubs in Rothwell, a place where non-drinkers could meet and socialise over a meal in the café, over a game of billiards or simply relax with a newspaper.

Kathleen would have been well-known to these customers. Others would call in for an Evening Telegraph, or a few sweets. The shop was an agent for the evening paper, which would be delivered to many homes in Rothwell, and if the paper boys didn't turn up, Kathleen would be seen doing their round.

Schooldays began at the Infants School in School Lane under the headship of Miss Green, before progressing to Gladstone Street under Mr Briers. Then having passed the scholarship, it was off to the High School at Kettering (now the present Council Offices in Bowling Green Road).

Schooldays over she went to college and trained as a teacher. On returning home, her first job was at a drama school in Kettering before she went to the R.N.I.B. School at Rushton Hall, teaching drama,

elocution and speech training. Later she moved to the Technical College in Kettering teaching foreign students.

Kathleen also used her gifts in elocution, drama and singing in Rothwell passing them on to many of Rothwell's children and entering them in the Kettering Eisteddfod.

Sundays were spent at the Congregational Church (United Reformed Church from 1972) where she went to Sunday School as a pupil and later as a teacher, again using her talents singing in the church choir and as a pianist in the Sunday school.

The Mission Band from the church used to go to surrounding villages and as a child Kathleen would often accompany her father, who was the band's conductor.

Following her marriage, she and Ron had three children and they lived in Oxford Street.

Kathleen maintained her interest and support of the church in Fox Street until the later few years when she went to live in a home nearer to her son. She served the church as an elder for several years, took part in community life as a member of Kettering Choral Society, and enjoyed gardening and needlework.

As you will see she was known by many people in Rothwell and in spite of her quiet personality will be remembered and missed. Thank you Kathleen for all you gave to the town of Rothwell and its inhabitants.

ANN ROWLETT



# Plague and Pestilence

**E**PIDEMICS developed from the time people started to live together in communities. When travel to other countries began, infections were spread more widely which resulted in epidemics becoming pandemics. An infectious disease can spread to a large number of people relatively quickly and this has never been clearer than it is in today's inter-connected world when we face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak.

The lives of our ancestors were greatly impacted by recurrent diseases, the most devastating of all being the plague, which in addition to killing large numbers of people also played a part in changing the face of the landscape. A morbid fascination for the afflictions of the past can be clearly seen in a synopsis that was published in Northampton Mercury supplements during January 1890 to promote a series of stories about Medieval times. These were written by James Skipp Borlase under the heading 'The Crone's Curse':

*'Strange and terrible diseases stalked in our midst such as leprosy, (Northampton had a hospital on the south side of the town solely for the treatment of that one affliction), elephantiasis, the "barking" sickness, the "sweating" sickness and although coal had been lately discovered in Rockingham Forest, it was forbidden to be used as fuel because deemed to be the decomposed bodies of those who had been carried off in past ages by the Black Death.'*

*Franciscans treating victims of the bubonic plague - miniature from La Franceschina, ca 1474, by Jacopo Oddi*



Historically, plague was responsible for widespread pandemics with high mortality. The Black Death which swept across Europe during the 14th century was responsible for killing more than one third of Britain's population. It is believed to have entered England through the Dorset seaport of Melcombe Regis (now Weymouth) during May or June 1348, brought over by an infected sailor on a ship from France. Some historians have estimated that up to half the inhabitants of Northampton might have perished as a result of this plague.

The first person to call it 'The Black Death' was a British historian, Elizabeth Penrose, in 1823. Previously it had been known as 'The Pestilence' or 'The Great Mortality'.

The three variations of plague were named after the different ways the disease can be spread.

In bubonic infections, plague-causing bacteria can be transmitted between animals and fleas, with infected fleas then passing the disease on to people through bites. Infected people may go on to develop pneumonic plague once their bubonic infection becomes advanced. Lung-based pneumonic plague can be transmitted to others through the air.

Following a pneumonic or bubonic infection, people can develop septicaemic plague which occurs when the infection spreads through the bloodstream. The mortality rate of the bubonic plague was 50%, pneumonic plague 90%, and septicaemic plague 100%. Most victims lived for three to ten days after initial infection although in the case of pneumonic and

# in Northamptonshire

septicaemic plague they died very quickly, within one or two days.

Clergymen were particularly vulnerable to infection because of the ministering nature of their work and there was an ordination at the parish church in Rothwell in 1349 when 11 acolytes (assistants) were ordained to benefices in order to cover the shortage of local vicars. Catherine of Isham, Prioress of Rowell Nunnery, died of the plague and as it raged through Northamptonshire 146 out of a total of 281 of the beneficed clergy of the county perished. Seven of the then nine vicars in Northampton lost their lives as did a high proportion of monks, friars and nuns.

Northamptonshire had been a key arable farming area during the early Middle Ages but faced difficulties during a series of famines and bad weather from 1315-1322. A partial economic recovery was then hampered by this first wave of the Black Death in 1348-9 when the reduction in population meant that there was not such a demand for wheat and barley etc. The second and third outbreaks of the plague in 1361 and 1368-9 resulted in even more deaths, and many villages and small towns shrank in size. Markets, which had been a common feature in villages prior to the Black Death, had mostly closed by then and trade was concentrated in the larger towns including Rothwell.

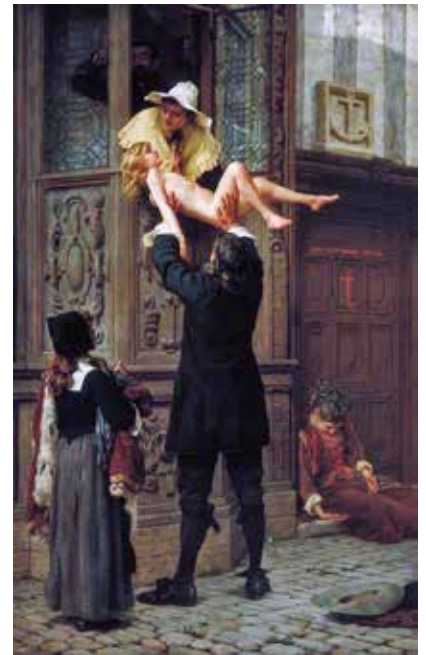
The effects of the plague continued to hit the economy systematically for over a century and in the 1400s there was a move from intensive arable to sheep farming because wool held its value whereas wheat prices fell. Open Field parishes began to be enclosed for sheep pasture and the landscape changed. In Raunds, the Duke of Lancaster's auditor added a footnote to his summary of the annual accounts for the estate, remarking that rents of 1349 were diminished because of the pestilence. There were still many empty properties and untenanted, uncultivated land at Raunds in 1464.

There were so many occurrences of the plague in

Northampton that it wasn't practical for all the burials to take place next to All Saints Church, in the very centre of activity and business, so a burial ground for victims was enclosed on a vacant space between College Lane and Horsemarket. A chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, was built here for mortuary purposes and to provide services for the benefit of those living in infected houses.

The area was set aside for the burials of those who died of the plague or who experienced any other "extraordinary or infectious death". This particular chapel was demolished in 1631. There are reports that the bones of a large number of plague victims were discovered on the construction site of the current Chalk Lane Car Park.

Northampton town was subject to a steady flow of people and goods moving north from the London area which made it vulnerable to infectious diseases. It was hit by the plague again from 1570 to 1579, and on October 13th 1578, the Northampton Assembly ordered that all infected houses were to be shut up and that placards with the words "*Lord have mercy upon us*" should be put on the doors. Three purveyors were appointed to buy food for those confined in the plague-stricken houses, and this was to continue "*until it please God that the town be clean of the sickness*".



*"Rescued from the plague" - by Victorian artist Frank William Warwick Topham*



The mortality rate in All Saints parish rose from 47 to 134 in 1578. There was another outbreak in 1603-5, resulting in 500 deaths and once again, infected people were ordered to be quarantined in their houses.

The plague returned with a vengeance in 1638 and as a result the market was moved to Northampton Heath (a large open area which ran from the upper part of the Racecourse to Kingsthorpe) and the town's inhabitants were not permitted to attend without a certificate from the mayor. Between March and September 1638, 533 people died from the pestilence and a manuscript on the history of Northampton written by Henry Lee (town clerk from 1662-1715), includes the following anecdote:

*"There died so many in All Saints parish that one Malyn, the under-sexton, working hard one day and in the evening to make graves, being asked why he worked so late, replied he was resolved to dig enough to serve, and the next day, he himself was buried in one of them".*

The Sheriff of the County reported in September 1638 that the plague had been so great and so long

in Northampton that the county was still giving the town £148 a week for plague relief. Presuming that this sum had been distributed at the customary rate of one shilling per head each week, at least 2,960 people were in receipt of relief in a population that wouldn't have exceeded 5,000.

The mayor described the dire economic effects of the outbreaks, with outsiders afraid to come to Northampton to trade, so that the markets had decayed and provisions were scarce. The tradesmen too, even when they had certificates of health, were hardly allowed to attend fairs or markets outside Northampton. A further problem was that townspeople had fled the area which meant that the day-labourers they had employed were now out of work as well.

The regular spectre of the Black Death affected the whole county. Norman Groome researched its impact on Higham Ferrers and recorded that in April 1348, 35 cases were to be tried in Higham Court but only six defendants arrived. A total of 61 people were involved in the cases but just three weeks later only 12 were still alive.

In medieval times there were up to 41 houses in Canons Ashby village on a site near to the castle but by 1348 the community had declined dramatically due to the impact of the Black Death and land enclosure. Nowadays there are just some small mounds on the ground to indicate the previous position of the main street.

Small villages that also recorded a high death toll from plague were Marston Trussell where there were 31 burials in 1604, Eydon where there were 16 in 1605 and Holcot where instead of the usual average of seven burials a year, there were 60 due to plague deaths in 1638.

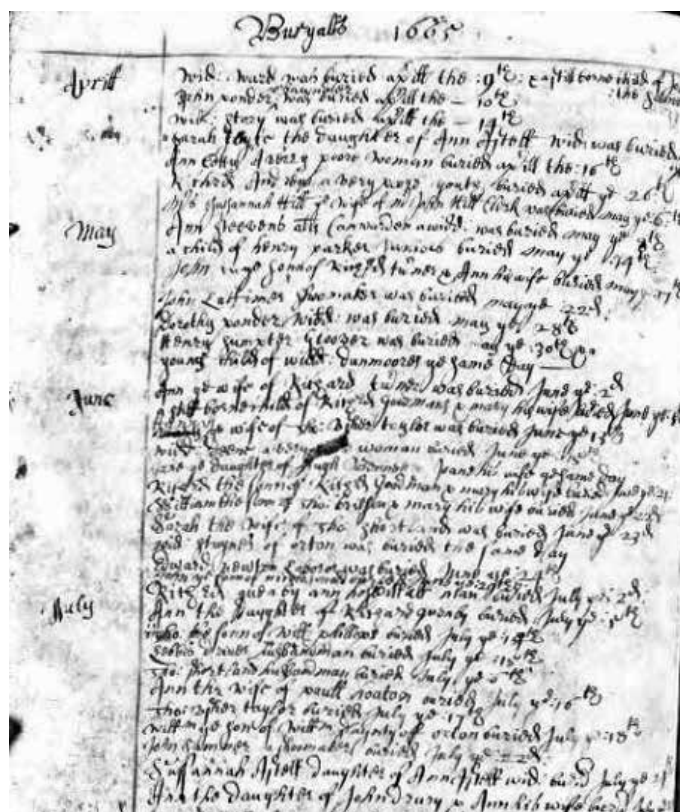
During the late 17th century, the Black Death spread from London and in 1666 claimed 200 lives in Wellingborough. Kettering had suffered too in 1665 when 80 people died. As a result of this, the justices of the peace presented a petition to the Bishop of Peterborough, calling attention to the distressed condition of the town by reason of the plague and asking for relief funds to be paid from money collected.

In many areas where markets had been suspended altogether, plague stones were used as somewhere people could leave food in return for payment. The stones would contain vinegar or some other agent to disinfect the coins.

The following appears in a report published by the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society



*This 16th century wall painting, discovered during restoration work in the 1920s at the parish church of the Blessed Virgin Mary & St Leodegarius at Ashby St Ledger's, is of a man with a pick and a grave digger's shovel and is a commemoration of the Black Death.*



Scan of the burial register for Holy Trinity, Rothwell April to July 1665.

in 1867. It describes a temporary museum that had been set up in the Cornmarket, Kettering, where Mr Eldred had exhibited “a huge stone, with a square hollow in the centre, used for washing money during the plague by persons coming from Rowell to Kettering”. Further details follow: “The depot for provisions during this period seems to have been in what we now call Gas Street, but which was then known as Goosepasture Lane. In order to prevent all possibility of contagion, the money paid for the provisions had to be passed through water”.

This street is now known as Meadow Road and John Stanley wrote that the plague stone used to be in Kettering Library and was being used to display flower arrangements.

I contacted Kettering Museum and received the following response: “We have no evidence the stone we have is the plague stone described. The stone is not accessioned into the collection (hence we have no photographic archive I can share with you). In fact, a previous curator was so convinced that it was not authentic that it was not kept within the museum and its collection. We do however store it and look after it today under the industry standards”.

From the burial entries for Holy Trinity, Rothwell in 1665, it is apparent that there were considerably more during the summer months than would normally be expected. It is quite likely that some of them would be the result of the Black Death which was prevalent in Kettering at that time.

These are the monthly figures for the 1665 burials: JAN: 2; FEB: 4; MAR: 3; APR: 7; MAY: 8; JUN: 11; JUL: 11; AUG: 4; SEP: 2; OCT: 2; NOV: 1; DEC: 1.

Significantly, during the following year, 1666, there were no burials in June and there were only 4 in July.

It was interesting to discover that John Ponder, a notable figure of Rothwell and the first elder of the Rowell Independent Church, was buried on April 10th 1665 so he might have been a victim of the plague. His wife, Dorothy was buried soon afterwards, on May 28th 1665.

*The plague impacted the lives of Northamptonshire people for a great many years. It wasn't however, the only disease that had devastating consequences. The next issue of this magazine will cover other dreaded scourges including smallpox, typhoid and consumption and will outline how they affected Rothwell and the surrounding area.* ■

Sources: The World Health Organisation; A History of the Bubonic Plague in the British Isles (JFD Shrewsbury); The Making of the British Landscape (Francis Pryor); The Open Fields of Northamptonshire (David Hall); A History of the Church of All Saints, Northampton (Rev Robert Meyricke Serjeantson); The Black Death in the Hundred of Higham Ferrers (Norman Groome); Rowell alias Rothwell (John Stanley); The National Trust; Transactions of the Leicestershire Architectural & Archaeological Society 1867; The Northampton Mercury; parish registers.

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# Janet Bassett Gallery

## Northants Open Studios is coming

The Janet Bassett Gallery has its next exhibition starting in mid April. Looking forwards to September – we will be hosting Northants Open Studios, with artist Jayne Creer working in the Gallery.



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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](http://rothwellheritage.org.uk) | T: 01536 711550 | E: [rothwellheritage@gmail.com](mailto:rothwellheritage@gmail.com)





# Janet Bassett Gallery

In this month's edition we're promoting the return of the Northants Open Studios – the Janet Bassett Gallery has been chosen by **Katie Boyce**, Arts and Heritage Freelance Consultant, to be one of the events' host venues. She has worked tirelessly to bring the N.O.S back to life, so here is a short background to Katie and the work that she has been involved in over the years:

"I was born and bred in Rothwell and lived here for 26 years before moving to Weldon. At first, being a curator was never on my radar. Even though I enjoyed my Fine Art Degree, which I studied at Coventry, I found that I was more interested in how art was exhibited and positioned in space rather than creating it myself. My Master's degree in Gallery Studies with Curation at Leicester was an intense year of learning, but I was able to combine my love of art with my passion for exhibition design and curation and it set me up for considering curatorial positions.

My real foot in the door came when I secured a Gallery Officer role at the Alfred East Art Gallery. I managed the exhibitions and events programme, collections management of almost 1000 works of art and the education programme for adults, as well as other activities and events. In the last few years here I became a Freelance Consultant for the East Midlands, supporting museums in the region, encouraging them to work with artists on various projects. Alongside this I was the Senior Curator at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum where I secured loans from National galleries and acquired prestigious works for their permanent collection. A particular favourite was a set of portraits by Turner Prize Winner Lubaina Himid.

I have now continued with my consultancy, currently Project Manager at the Heseltine Gallery near Banbury where I am supporting them to grow their audiences, build their reputation and make more people aware of the great venue. More recently I have started work on Northants Open Studios, which has laid dormant for a few years now. The event which is the largest Arts Festival in Northamptonshire will begin in September, where it is hoped that artists and art venues around the county will open up their doors and allow you 'backstage' in to their 'creative spaces'."



**Katie Boyce**





# From The Archives ...

by **STUART IRONS**

**NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 21st JUNE 1873**

The annual fair was held here last week. There was a large supply of horses, but the show of beasts was rather limited. The animals sold realised very high prices. The Market Square, as usual, was filled during the week with shows, gingerbread stalls, &c., which were liberally patronised by the children.

A few months since a Good Templars' Lodge was founded at Rothwell, and on Fair Wednesday the members held their first public meeting. The event was celebrated in the afternoon by a tea, to which about 150 sat down. The meeting in the evening, which, together with the tea, took place in the British School-room, was also largely attended.

**NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 26th JUNE 1875**

**ON THURSDAY LAST**, being the anniversary of the wedding day of Tebbutt Maunsell, the lord of the manor, the bells of the parish church struck a merry chime at five o'clock in the morning, and pealed gaily at intervals throughout the day.

**Cricket Match** - An exciting match between the Market Harborough Kites and the Rothwell cricket club was played on Saturday last, in a field near the Desborough road, belonging to W. Attenborough, Esq. The weather was exceedingly favourable, and the play to those who witnessed it was a spectacle of much enjoyment. The play was very good on both sides. If we may take special notice of any, we would mention the steady playing of Messrs. Taylor and Northern on the side of Rothwell, and the splendid batting of Messrs. Betts and Symington on that of Harborough. The bowling of Messrs. Burdett and Austin was very admirable, nor must we omit mention of the capital fielding, which was excellent all round.

The following is the result: Rothwell, 1st innings, 31; 2nd, 25. Harborough, 1st innings, 51; 2nd, 62.

**Grammar School** - A vestry meeting was held on Thursday last week (the Rev. R. Morton, vicar, in the chair,) to decide as to what steps should be taken for raising a fund to defray the expense of the alterations to the Grammar School required by the Education Department. Rumours had been rife during the week of an intention to levy a rate and the subject was casually mentioned at the meeting, but all present agreed that no legal rate could be imposed for the purpose and it was resolved that a personal canvas should be made to obtain voluntary subscriptions.

**NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 8th MAY 1875**

## **KETTERING PETTY SESSIONS** **ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A MILITIAMAN**

Henry Pridmore militiaman, was charged with having, on the 2nd instant stolen from the person of William Clendon, two half-sovereigns, two florins, and a half-a-crown.

The prosecutor, a shoe finisher, of Desborough, said that on Sunday evening he went to Rowell with three companions. They visited the Red Lion, and had some drink, and afterwards proceeded to another public-house, called the Chequers. Here they had more beer, and then returned to the Red Lion. This time Pridmore was present, and witness asked him to drink. He accepted the offer.

Shortly afterwards the prosecutor's companions left, but he and the prisoner remained there drinking. Between nine and ten he came away, and the prisoner, with two others, followed. They all joined, and went together on the road to Desborough. About half-a-mile from Rowell the prisoner said he should have him "on the ready," meaning, the prosecutor thought, that he intended to rob him.

Immediately afterwards he put his arm round the prosecutor, and placed his hand in his right-hand trousers' pocket, and ran away. He at once missed his purse, containing the money above mentioned. The other money, which he had been dealing with at the public-house, was in old purse in his left-hand pocket. Prosecutor called out that he had stolen his money, and the prisoner came back, felt on the left-hand side, and said, "You have a purse there now." He did pull it out, but there was nothing in it; the prisoner, however, got hold of it, and said, "There's half-a-sovereign in it." This he found to be so, but said he saw the prisoner put it in, and that "wasn't good enough."

Pridmore declared that he had no money on him, and offered to be searched, but witness said he did not wish to do that, as he had probably handed the property to his two companions. The next morning he gave information to the police, and the prisoner was apprehended. Replying to the Clerk, Clendon said he could not say whether he was drunk; he could walk straight.

**By the prisoner:** He did not remember falling down in the street, and calling upon him to pick him up. P.C. Sanford apprehended the prisoner, and charged him with the theft. He searched him, and found in his pocket two florins, a penny, and a halfpenny. When asked how he accounted for the possession of the florins, he said he had borrowed them from Daniel Marlow's wife, and this the policeman ascertained to be true. He denied having taken the money from the prosecutor.

Prisoner said the man was so drunk that he was obliged to assist him home, but he declared that he took no money from him. He called witnesses, Samuel Warr and Henry Bugby, who stated that prosecutor was drunk, and accused them of taking his money. They denied it, and he then begged their pardon. Prosecutor said he did not remember accusing them.

The Bench said there was no doubt the man was drunk, and he could not be sure who robbed him. There was no doubt that if the prisoner was sent for trial he would be acquitted, and therefore would be discharged at once.

# From The Archives ...

by **STUART IRONS**

**NORTHAMPTON MERCURY 25TH MAY 1894**

## ~ ROWELL FAIR ~

**Frost** - A very severe frost was reported on Sunday evening; the ice being stated to be a quarter of an inch thick. The early potatoes and kidney beans have been nipped off and lay black the ground on Monday morning.

**The Fair** - Notwithstanding that the Fair closely follows the Whitsuntide festivities, the inhabitants of this old market town are always ready to celebrate the mandates of James I, who licensed the annual holding of "ye ancient lair of Rowell" for the five days following every Trinity Sunday.

The advent of this long-established fair was again signalled by a steady influx of visitors to the ancient town on Saturday afternoon and evening, and on every hand the townspeople were busy preparing for the fair week.

Merry peals rang out from the church bells early on Sunday morning, and at all the places worship special services were held. At the parish church anthems were rendered morning and evening by the choir, and two appropriate sermons were delivered by the Vicar (the Rev. W. S. Parker). Mr J. Whiteman presided at the organ in the morning. Miss Whiteman fulfilling the duties in the evening service.

Special collections were made in aid of the day-schools. At the Oddfellows' Hall the Wesleyan choir gave a cantata, entitled "Little Minnie," in the afternoon, a collection being made on behalf of the funds for the String Band.

Throughout the day the town was thronged with people, the attendance of visitors in the evening being especially large. The weather at times was threatening, but a short shower about five o'clock did not continue long enough to mar the Sunday festivities.

Favoured by lovely weather, the annual custom

of proclaiming the fair took place on Monday in the presence of an exceptionally large number of people, many whom journeyed from Kettering, Desborough, Rushton and the other surrounding villages.

Shortly before six o'clock the members of the Albion Band assembled outside the Manor House, and, after playing the National Anthem, Mr Isaac Willis, bailiff to Capt. J. B. Tibbitts, read the time-honoured proclamation.

From the Manor House, the "herald," preceded by six men-at-arms bearing spears, and followed by the Albion Band, under the leadership of Mr T. Hill proceeded to the field on the belonging to Mrs. Slow, where the horse fair was being held. There the proclamation was again read.



After this the procession wended its way through the main street, nine or ten stoppages being made at given places for the proclamation to be read. The procession wended its way back to the Manor House, and the Band, having again played the National Anthem, the "herald" dismounted, the horse was led away, and the people quickly dispersed to their homes to partake of the morning meal.

Scarcely had the procession disbanded before droves of cattle were driven into the town and located in the streets, but up to nine o'clock scarcely any horses had arrived. After that hour, however, there was a steady influx of horses and ponies, and everything bid fair for a good day's business.

The Market Hill is again crowded with fair paraphernalia, and as early as nine o'clock organs were to be heard playing "The Man that Broke the Bank" and a multitude of other catchy songs. The attendance of beast and horses was about as usual on Monday, but trade was very slack in both departments.



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# From The Archives ...

by **STUART IRONS**

**KETTERING LEADER 13TH APRIL 1962**

## DINNER AND SOCIAL



The chairman of Rothwell Urban Council, Mr G. C. Austin, and his wife gave a dinner and social on Saturday to raise funds for the WVS "meals on wheels" service. Here are some of the members and guests who helped make the occasion a success. With donations, about £20 was raised.

**KETTERING LEADER 11TH MAY 1962**

## DEATH OF MR A. TYLDESLEY

The death occurred at his home at Rothwell on Wednesday of Mr Addin Tyldesley, Clerk to Rothwell Urban Council from 1910 until his retirement in 1946. He was also Clerk to Desborough Urban Council for 21 years until he retired because of the war in 1939.

He had a great interest in local affairs and among his many voluntary positions he was a worker on the War Pensioners' Welfare Service, a trustee of the Northampton and County Trustee Savings Bank and a member of the finance committee of Rothwell Congregational Church.

He was in his day one of England's foremost amateur swimmers and water polo players. He participated in many international swimming events throughout Europe, including the Olympic Games held in 1908. Locally, he held the Midland Counties championship in 1911 and his record in 1922 for the men's 50-yards free-style remained unbroken at Kettering Baths for 27 years. He retained a keen interest in swimming until his illness.

A widow and two sons are bereaved.

The funeral service will be conducted by Rev. S. Ernest Copp at Rothwell Congregational Church at 9.45 am tomorrow followed by cremation at 10.30 am at Kettering.

**KETTERING LEADER 18TH MAY 1962**

## PLANNING TO RETIRE

Mr W. R. Burditt, of Rothwell, who was 88 on Wednesday, plans to retire from the work he has done Sunday by Sunday for 72 years as a Methodist lay preacher.

Mr Burditt believes that his length of service constitutes a national record. It certainly is a local one.

It is remarkable, not only for its length, but for the number of engagements he has packed into it.

For one period of 30 years he preached on 50 out of the 52 Sundays. Mr Burditt will preach his last sermon on the last Sunday in October but he doesn't know yet in which church.



## KETTERING LEADER

**Friday 22nd June 1962**

## ROWELL FAIR

No band, no white horse and a smaller crowd than usual made this year's early Monday morning opening of the traditional Rowell Fair a quieter occasion than on most previous years. Eggs and bags of flour sailed through the air. An occasional crunch signified a direct hit. A local lad, his face covered in egg sunny side up, rushed towards his assailant and rubbed raw eggs into his face. It was all in good fun. Police kept a watchful eye from positions on the outskirts of the crowd.

About 500 people, young and old, followed horseman Mr Tom Johnson as he stopped outside local pubs and read the ancient fair charter, which goes back to James 1.

A civic service was held on Sunday. The five-day fair is due to end today.



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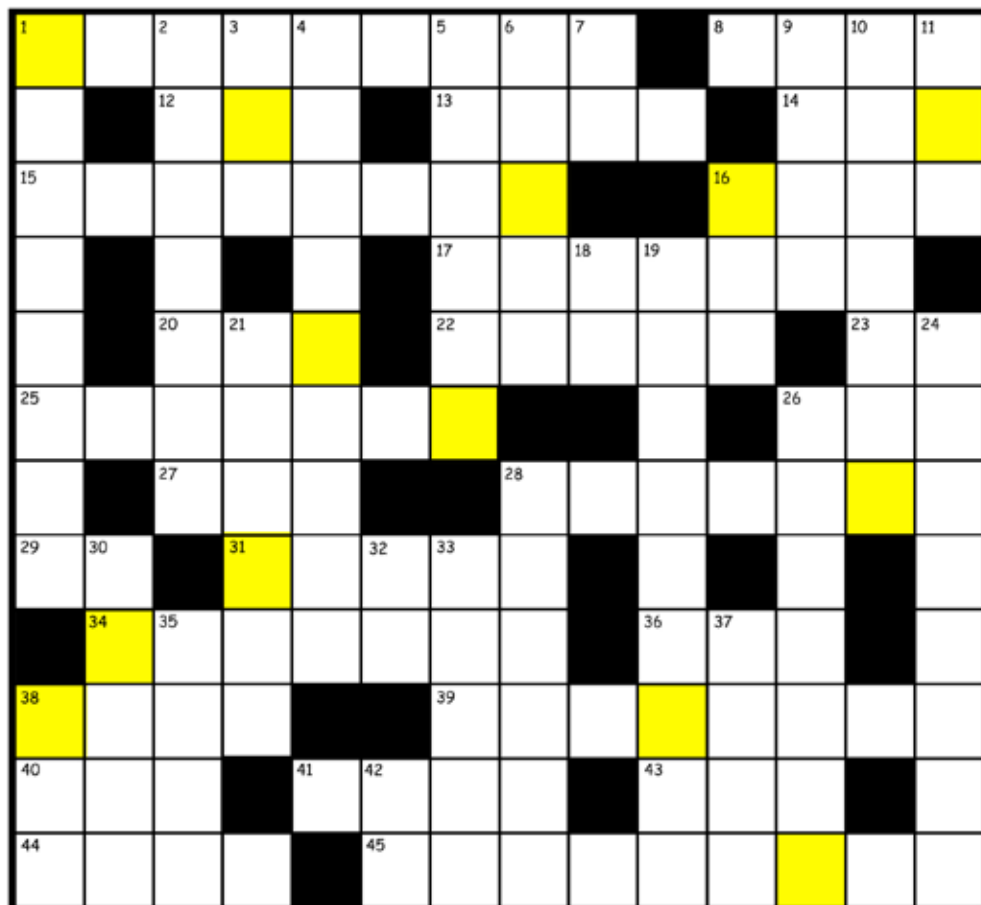
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## Across

1. Bobby pins (9)
8. Door's side post (4)
12. Nothing (3)
13. Gloomy, dismal (4)
14. Fluffy scarf (3)
15. Having the wrong idea (8)
16. Be overly sweet (4)
17. Ardent fan (7)
20. Garland of flowers (3)
22. Fatty sort of cake (5)
23. Short laugh (2)
25. North and South poles (7)
26. Grown-up boys (3)
27. Rested for part of the weekend (3)
28. Newborn lamb or goat (7)
29. Sound surprised (2)
31. Thesaurus writer (5)
34. Surpass, very loudly (7)
36. Highest mountain on Crete (3)
38. Ticket price (4)
39. Chute openers (8)
40. Easter basket filler (3)
41. Backless slipper (4)
43. Scottish fo one (3)
44. Sized up (4)
45. The worship of fire (9)

## Down

1. Murder (8)
2. shoe linings (7)
3. Slower in music (abbr) (3)
4. He fought in the arenas (9)
5. Lofty ambitions (6)
6. Bamboo eater (5)
7. Junior's dad (2)
9. Competent (4)
10. Small black aquatic bird, (7)
11. Parking slot (3)
16. Weep (3)
18. Man's title (2)
19. Completely alike (9)
21. A card game (6)
24. Ynys Mon (8)
26. Mosque tower (7)
28. Mountaineer's rope ladder (5)
30. Subway sandwich (5)
32. Leave; depart (2)
33. Before the due time (5)
35. Impulse (4)
37. Lady of Spain (4)
38. Agent's charge (3)
42. Out of bed (2)

Rearrange the yellow squares to spell out the answer

Clue - Who plays at Seargeants Lawn (11,1,1)

Answers in next issue



## Answer for last issue

Clue - Christian festival of lights (9,3)

Candlemas Day





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# Rothwell Ladies Thursday Club

THURSDAY CLUB



We are a non-denominational group but generally meet in The Methodist Church, Market Square, Rothwell NN14 6BW every Thursday evening during school term time at 8pm.

*Admission: £2 for members and £2.50 for non-members, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.*

Ladies of all ages are welcome to come along – we offer you a warm welcome and a variety of speakers and events to suit all tastebuds! *Come along one Thursday and give us a try!*

*For further information contact: Barbara Farmer 07759 167994 (patbarfar@gmail.com) or Janette Rowland 07708 229060 (janetterowland@hotmail.com)*

## 2019/2020 COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Janice Constable ~ 01536 710938

Secretaries:

Barbara Farmer ~ 07759 167994

Janette Rowland ~ 07708 229060

Treasurers:

Dorothy Rudkin & Pauline Toseland

Committee: Tricia Butcher & Pam Hill

*The group recently enjoyed visits from*

*Amy's Vintage*

*and The Street Pastor*



23RD APR **Sulgrave Manor** ..... MARTIN SIROOT-SMITH

MON 27TH APR ..... **Fashion Show ~ 1.30PM**

30TH APR **Local Crime Author** ..... JANE ISAAC

7TH MAY **Visit to Library** ..... *Presentation of cheque to* FRIENDS OF ROTHWELL LIBRARY

14TH MAY **Secrets of Northamptonshire** ..... PETER HILL

21ST MAY **Saints, Sinners, Stars & Scandals** ..... DEREK BLUNT

28TH MAY **HALF TERM**

4TH JUN **Visit: Hostellerie, 78 Beakleys Road, Desborough ~ 7PM**  
*£5 for charity inclusive of tea & cake*

11TH JUN **Market Harborough Golf Club ~ Meal**

18TH JUN **Visit to Warkton Church Monuments** ..... PAULINE/ALAN TOSELAND

25TH JUN **Hambleton Bakery** ..... ROB HILL

2ND JUL **Butler to Royalty ~ "Open Evening"** ..... WILLIAM FRENCH

9TH JUL **Gartree Prison ~ Volunteer (and goods for sale for CHAD)** ..... CHRIS SHEPHERD

16TH JUL **A Musical Love Story with Refreshments** ..... GRAHAM KINNERLY

SAT 13TH AUG ..... **Coffee Evening ~ 8PM**

## Greetings from everyone at Rowell Arts & Heritage Centre

Due to restrictions relating to the Covid-19 outbreak, we have had to close the centre for the safety of both staff and visitors. We do hope this will be only a short-term measure, so please keep checking our Facebook page and other local outlets for updates.

We are having a reduced print run for this edition, which will be provided to subscribers only due to the centre being closed, rendering sales from there impossible. However, we will be placing the magazine in its entirety online for people to read much earlier than usual, so other regular purchasers do not miss out completely.

Our next edition (July to September) will now not go ahead, but we hope to be back with our October to December issue. Current subscriptions will be extended into next year to cover however many are missed.

**Where they are still open/working, please continue to support our local advertisers, who themselves support us.**

Finally, keep yourselves safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you all again once things return to as normal ~ or as normal as anything ever gets in Rothwell!

Best wishes from

**The Editor and all Heritage Centre Staff**



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