



# KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

Autumn 2018

Registered Charity 1131165

## 2018 THE SILVER ROSE BOWL AWARDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF WARKTON VILLAGE HALL

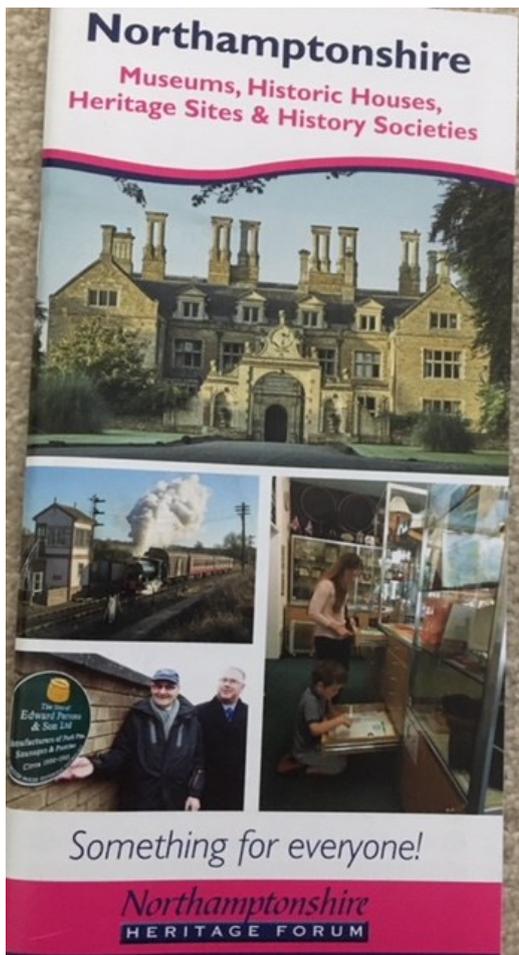


The Civic Society's annual Rose Bowl Award took place on 17th July when by kind invitation the Duke of Buccleuch invited Civic Society members, community users of the hall with the villagers of Warkton to celebrate the completion of the £30,000 restoration project. The renovation was funded by the Duke's Boughton Estate with some funding from Kettering Borough Council.

Dr Freeman, the Society's President made the presentation to the Duke who commented, "This award is in recognition of the estate's building team's work for their attention to detail in sympathetically modernising the hall to a high standard whilst maintaining its character. This is not only a hub for the immediate community but the perfect venue for all manner of events and activities".

Paul Ansell, The Duke Of Buccleuch, Dr Jenny Freeman, Hazel Woolsey; Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Mayor Cll. James Burton and Mayoress





**Kettering Civic Society** was delighted to have won this prestigious award at a wonderful ceremony hosted by Earl Spencer, the Patron of the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, at Althorp on 5th June.

Competition was strong from all members of the Forum and it was good to meet with like-minded people who all work hard to promote our wonderful county.



**BEST SPECIAL PROJECT submitted by Kettering Civic Society: Description 2016-2018**

**Making a difference at Kettering Station** has been an ongoing project that began with the offer in November 2015 of a room at the station. Kettering Civic Society's interest in Kettering station dates back to 1978 when it successfully campaigned to save the ironwork and canopies above the platforms.

There are unused rooms at the station which are mostly derelict and the general fabric of the station is in need of restoration. Working with East Midlands Trains, it is the aim of the Society to see that the fabric of this Grade 2 listed station is sympathetically restored, that the rooms be used either for commercial or community benefit and that the environment around the station provides a welcome to commuters and visitors, thus encouraging tourism to the area.

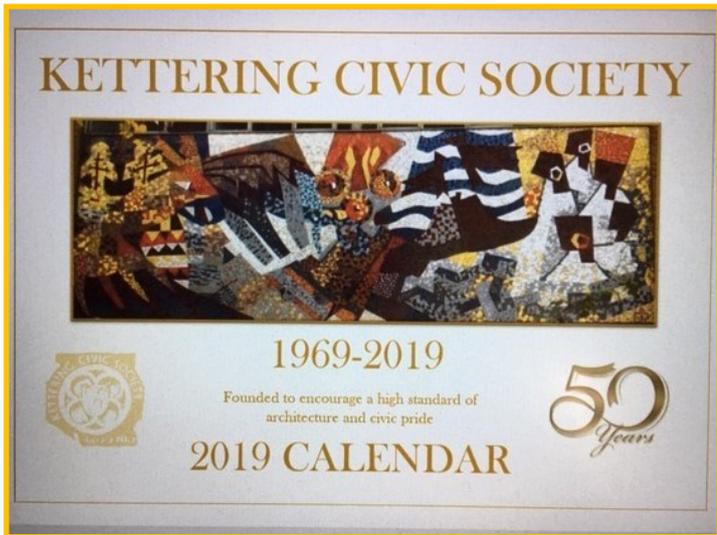
The Society named the room 'Time Travellers' and the project is as follows; *Time Travellers* was decorated by volunteers from the Civic Society, East Midlands Trains and Network Rail.

A garden and planting at the station was created by engaging a Prince's Trust Team who designed and create a garden on a piece of derelict land at the entrance to platform 1 and the car park.

We approached Kettering Borough Council and a variety of businesses who sponsored the planting and invited Rotary to join the Civic Society's Station Adopters who continue to tend the plants after Prince's Trust Team had completed their project.

Time Travellers is a small multi-functional room where; Civic Society hold regular meetings, U3A holds a monthly French class, the room is used for mindfulness sessions, art exhibitions during Northamptonshire's Open Studios, craft workshops and exhibitions. Time Travellers is open when steam trains come to the station and this is always very well attended by hundreds. The society has merchandise for sale and promotes activities and events in the area. We organised blue plaque celebrations in 2017 to mark the opening of the station 160 years ago together with the unveiling of a plaque for H.E. Bates. Following on from the station celebrations a talk was given "When the Railway Came to Kettering" hosted by The Friends of the Alfred East Art Gallery. A special train/station themed art and photographic exhibition continued from May 2017 throughout year. The Society has a blue plaque trail around the town and we joined in with KETTFFEST, creating a trail through the town ending with the two plaques at the station.





Throughout fifty years Kettering Civic Society has experienced the pleasure of working with many individuals, voluntary organisations, Kettering Borough Council, East Midlands Trains, Wicksteed Trust, Boughton House, businesses and places of interest. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, members and friends of the Society who together have strived to make Kettering a better place both in the built environment and through civic pride. We hope the images portrayed in this calendar will inspire continued exploration into our fascinating town and surrounding villages. Over the years the Society has had connections with each.

The Society can boast many achievements and we endeavour to ensure that our aims and objectives continue to be fulfilled with renewed support. We are able to interact with our community through events held in our community space which we call *Time Travellers* at Kettering Station. Throughout the year we hold exhibitions, meetings, organise trips, give presentations, coffee mornings and work in partnership with like-minded organisations.

Annually the Society presents a Silver Rose Bowl Award recognising good architecture, environmental projects and civic pride.

The blue plaque heritage trail around the town contributes and records its culture and the social heritage of the town as the trail chronicles events, highlights buildings and prominent people.

Any profit made from the sale of calendars will support further Kettering Civic Society Blue Plaques.

Calendars can be purchased  
at Toller **Coffee Mornings** on  
2nd November , 7th December  
**Time Travellers** , Kettering Station  
from 9am-10am  
20<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> November,  
**Barton Seagrave Village Hall**  
At monthly meetings  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Or by placing your order by phoning:  
01536 723682  
*SPECIAL PRICE FOR MEMBERS*

**£5 + £1.65 p+p**



## PLANNING IN THE TOWN

The Civic Society is informed every week of new Applications. Many are for small projects which need no comment from us but periodically several that are of special interest come at once.

East Midlands Trains are extending the electrification of the lines coming from London and will pass through Kettering to Corby and toward Leicester. The station will undergo work to the platforms which will be followed by work to the overhead canopies. Our original interest began when the Society successfully prevented the ironwork being removed in the 1970s. Apart from having our Time Travellers room at the station, we continue to retain a keen interest in promoting and protecting the grade 2 listed station.

The old Liberal Club (Gotch designed), now a public house, has made an Application to convert the upper floors to flats. Visually, this will not have an impact on the Horse Market.

An Application has been made to demolish the garage at the Station Road end of Queensberry Road and build flats on the site. The proposed appearance and layout are far removed from the houses along the road therefore we have objected to the layout and appearance. The owners who sell very special motorbikes would relocate.

There have been ongoing proposals to bring the Poppies back to town and plans are being made to build on the Council's land in the Brambleside area. Whilst we are pleased to see the Poppies return, we remain concerned about the social impact.

Most recently, the Council's acquisition of the Police Station could prove to be a valuable opportunity to re-establish the historic quality that the Court and Police Station site once had.

The Society continually take an interest in the town and specifically the Royal Hotel.

Paul Ansell

## BRING TOURISM TO TOWN

The demise of shopping in town centres is topical and over time we will see how our town centre evolves. In the meantime, we cherish what we have, the people who make the town tick, events that take place and the towns rich heritage. Kettering people have much to be proud of but often we do not see or appreciate what we have until it is gone. Sometimes we have to look hard to see what the town has to offer or even how we can help to make a difference.

This year Fuller Church Museum, dedicated to the missionary work carried out in Jamaica will have received 400 visitors from around the world. A further exhibition dedicated to William Knibb and William Carey of the Baptist Missionary Society can be seen at the Manor House Museum.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July Kettering Civic Society joined Kettfest by opening our community room, Time Travellers, at Kettering station. For those interested in exploring the towns heritage there is a blue plaque trail starting from the Alfred East plaque in Morrison's garden, through the town via the museum, art gallery and down to the station. Along the way a different aspect of Kettering can be explored.

Although a Rushden man, author H.E. Bates, known famously amongst his other work for 'The Darling Buds of May', has a blue plaque at Kettering station. Another well known author is mJ.L. Carr whose plaque is in Milldale Road. D.J. Watkins-Pitchford (known as BB) of Sudborough is world renowned with over 300 members in the BB Society. A weekend was dedicated in July to Northamptonshire's 'Ideal Countrymen' at Lamport Hall. Northamptonshire really does have a rich literary heritage this was described by Ian Addis when he recently gave a wonderful talk about his well-researched book.

**President** Dr J. M. Freeman OBE

**Chairman** Paul Ansell Dip. Arch RIBA

**Vice Chairman** Philip Evans MA. BA. RIBA

**Secretary** Monica Özdemir

**Committee:** Erika Beecher, Sandra Clipstone, Malcolm Harris, Eleanor Patrick, Andrea Pettingale, David Rose.

**Contact:** Chairman Paul Ansell

1 Headlands, Kettering NN15 7ER

Tel: 01536 312272 [ketcivic@gmail.com](mailto:ketcivic@gmail.com)

## TOLLER MEETING ROOMS

### COFFEE MORNINGS

10 am-12 noon. All welcome!

### 2018

1st Friday in the Month

2nd November

7th December

### 2019

1st February

4th April

7th June

2nd August

4th October

6th December

CONTACT: 01536 723682

[ketcivic@gmail.com](mailto:ketcivic@gmail.com)

## FUNDRAISING for The Society

Every penny counts, here are some ways of making a contribution;

- Membership £15
- Come to Coffee Mornings
- Join the 100 Club, £12 a year
- Support Events
- Gift in Wills
- Mosaic donations
- Gold Certificate £300
- Silver Certificate £60
- Bronze Certificate £15
- Place an advertisement in our newsletter
- Purchase from our shop
- Introduce friends to the Society

## Kettering's Heritage Blue Plaques

Kettering Civic Society's blue plaques recognise people who have made a civic contribution to the town. The first plaque was placed in Bath Road in the 1990s for Frank Bellamy the world-renowned cartoonist and continued with artists T.C. Gotch, and Sir Alfred East, who bequeathed the art gallery to the town; J. L. Carr, author and artist; William Knibb, missionary and emancipator of slaves and Tony Ireson, author who recorded Kettering's social history. Last year the Society placed blue plaques for The Great Meeting, H.E. Bates, author and Kettering Railway station to mark its opening enabling industry to flourish and bringing employment to the town in 1857.

Charles Wicksteed, benefactor of Wicksteed Park, was primarily an inventor and engineer who designed the first playground equipment and established his thriving business in Digby Street 100 years ago. A plaque will soon recognise this achievement as well as a dedication to J.A. Gotch, founder of GSSArchitecture. He designed many buildings in the town including the HSBC bank which became a model for many other banks around the country. J.A. Gotch was Kettering's first Charter Mayor in 1938.

We have enjoyed monthly meetings with entertaining and informative talks given by Stuart Wetherell of Wicksteed Playgrounds and Dr Roy Hargrave.

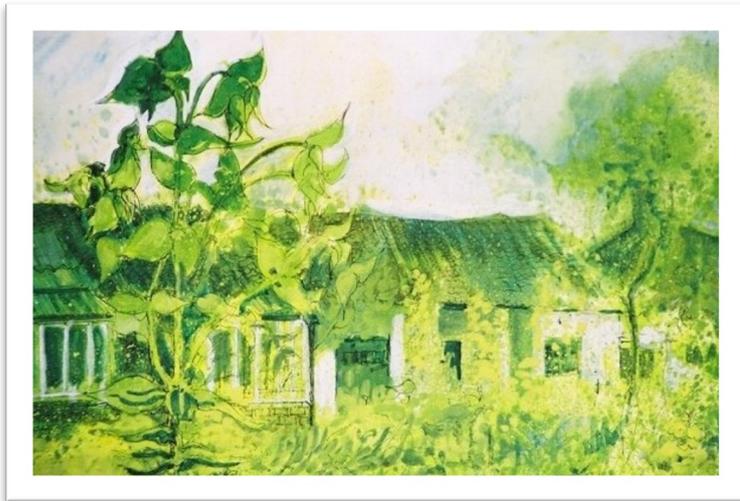
We discovered the many inventions of Charles Wicksteed and were delighted to learn that playground design for both adults and children continues to thrive and develop technologically and Wicksteed playgrounds and equipment are in demand around the world.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September Dr Roy Hargrave gave an in-depth insight to the life and the many great achievements of John Alfred Gotch. The evening was very well attended and it was a delight to see the amazing models of Rothwell Market House and the former Gold Street Post Office building which Mark Draper has built and brought along for all to see.

Blue plaques help to keep our history alive, educate and encourage tourism and we have a long wish list for more plaques which include prominent women.

Mark Draper with his model of Rothwell Market House a design by J. A. Gotch





**The Garden At Beech Cottage by Nina Carroll**

The Society purchased this painting and notelets and cards have been made which are available for sale from the Civic Society.



Westhill, off Northampton Road has roads named after prominent women artists.

## What's in a name?

Names are fascinating and important. They are given to people and places; sometimes places are named after people and people after places. For example, take a name from a building, road sign, or plaque in the town and with a little bit of research, you could be absorbed by the lives of those people synonymous with our town whose footprints still surround us many years later.

Names often evolve over the years, for example the old Anglo-Saxon name of our own town "Kettering" was originally "Cytringan". The meaning is: a tribe or clan of cottars. A sort of club, according to F.W. Bull's History of Kettering. Kettering in Jamaica is named after our town, birth place of William Knibb a Baptist missionary and emancipator of slaves, who went to live and work in Jamaica.

Kettering's sister city in Ohio, America, is named after the American inventor; Charles F. Kettering. Should you look into the origin of the family name "Kettering", it will take you on another dimension of exploration.

Some names get lost in time, take Henry Gotch School for example, this is now The Science Academy and Montagu School was renamed The Buccleuch Academy, but still has the connection to the same family of Boughton House.

Names may remain, but the memory of their origin or associations may be forgotten. Greenfields was once called "Highfield School" where the famous author, artist and conservationist, J.L. Carr, was once its head teacher. One of his books, 'A Month in the Country' was made into a film starring Colin Firth.

In keeping with schools being named after influential local men; the once Principal of Kettering Technical College, Mr McKinlay, had a theatre named after him. This has now been replaced with new homes on the former site of the theatre and college in St Mary's Road.

With an increase in population come new homes. The Society was approached to name new roads for the Westhill development. Together with the Kettering and District Arts Society, the decision was made to name streets in honour of prominent local women artists.

Hanwood Park, on the east side of Kettering will grow to accommodate 5,500 homes. This time, the Society took inspiration from Kettering town centre. In recognition of the connection between the two, we suggested the names of some thirty-five businesses that hold memories of past and present generations who influenced the town.

If, on a cold winter's day when boredom sets in, you may be inspired to research names, people and places that have been mentioned, why not visit Kettering Library? It may take you on a trip down memory lane, or, as a 'incomer', gain a deeper insight to the town and it's past.

















