

Inside this newsletter

1. Award
2. Pimms & Pudding
3. Two Temple Place
4. Northampton Society of Model Engineers
5. New Ways

78 DERNGATE NEWS

: WE'VE BAGGED ANOTHER AWARD! :

The winners of the UK Heritage Awards 2019 were announced on Monday 25 March during a prestigious ceremony held at Grocers' Hall in London. Apparently the standard of entries was high this year, particularly in the Hidden Gem category, where the illustrious panel of judges chose joint winners as they felt both properties were deserving of recognition... and, yes - 78 Derngate was joint winner of this category! We won an engraved glass trophy and a framed certificate which are now proudly displayed in the reception area. The other winner in this category was Harvington Hall, a very old, moated manor house in the depths of Worcestershire.

The event, held in such sumptuous surroundings, truly was a celebration of the UK Heritage industry and both Les Patterson and I felt honoured to be representing 78 Derngate. We were in excellent company, with many



other heritage establishments such as Blenheim Palace, Hever Castle, Althorp and Stonehenge, also shortlisted in their various categories, to name but a few! The award, and the recognition that goes alongside it within the industry, will help to further promote 78 Derngate to a wide-reaching audience and, you never know, could also assist in boosting the fund-raising campaign! Cheers!

Liz Jansson

: PIMMS AND PUDDING IS BACK! :

FRIDAY 14 JUNE, 7PM – 9PM

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the official founding of the Friends of 78 Derngate. Although, prior to this date, several members had been active in lobbying and raising the profile of 78 Derngate, the Friends' organisation was formally created in March 1999. It's wonderful to note that many of our original members are still with us today.

Always keen for a celebration, you are invited to join us for a 'Pimms and Pudding' evening on Friday, 14 June between 7pm and 9pm. This will be a fund raising event with all proceeds going to the 78 Derngate Extension Fund.

The event is open to Friends, Volunteers and anyone who has a sweet tooth! Tickets cost £9 each and will be on sale from 1 April up until 31 May. All monies raised up to £1,000 will be match funded by Barclaycard thanks to one of our committee being an employee of the bank.

There will be a glass of Pimms (or a non-alcoholic alternative) for all and a choice from over 10 different puddings. You will have the opportunity to view the exhibitions in our galleries and listen to live music, hopefully in the garden, if weather permits.

Book early to avoid disappointment. You can reserve and pay for your place:

- in person at 78 Derngate,
- by card over the telephone during house opening hours by calling 01604 603407,
- by sending a cheque payable to The 78 Derngate Trust to, **82 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1UH.**



: TWO TEMPLE PLACE :

It is only recently I became aware of Two Temple Place, virtually opposite the Temple Tube station in London and described as a 'hidden gem' as in so many other buildings that one may not have heard of. However, in this case it is a hidden gem as it is only open to the public for a few months each year from January to the end of April. Normally the opening coincides with an exhibition of some sort and in this case the exhibition until 22 April is a John Ruskin retrospective with over 190 drawings and paintings on show including daguerreotypes, metal work, and plaster casts to illustrate how Ruskin's attitude to aesthetic beauty shaped his radical views on culture and society. However, apart from the splendid exhibition, the reason for any visit is to see the house itself. Two Temple Place was completed in 1895 as the estate office of William Waldorf Astor by the Gothic revival architect John Loughborough Pearson. Astor's life-long love of literature and art are clearly visible in the interior design and decoration.

One of the most striking areas for the first time visitor is the grand staircase in walnut dominated by seven carved wooden figures as newel posts from Alexandre Dumas's *The Three*

Musketeers, and from the first floor gallery looking down there is a stunning floor of marble, jasper, porphyry and onyx. Equally the Great Hall, used mostly as the main exhibition area, has a high barrel roof with a frieze of fifty four characters famous in history and literature including some other carved figures from Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*.

At each end of this 'hall' there are two floor to ceiling stained glass windows representing Swiss landscapes – one Sunrise (east) and the other Sunset (west) and depending on the time of

day you might visit really resplendent in colour.

Visits to the house and exhibition are 'free' and the house is open every day other than Tuesday and there is no need to book (though on the day I first visited there was a coach load of WEA visitors and also school children taking drawing inspiration from the Ruskin paintings - I went back two weeks later for a more personal and less crowded look). As I say, the Ruskin exhibition was excellent, but seeing the house too was more than an added bonus.

Rob Kendall



Main Staircase, Two Temple Place

: NORTHAMPTON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: VOLUNTEERS EVENT :

Northampton Borough Council invited volunteers from venues who participate in the Heritage Days to mark its 25th Anniversary and to thank volunteers involved. Nine volunteers from 78 Derngate took up the invitation to the event that was hosted at the Guildhall, and had a very enjoyable day.

The day offered three different activities and we started with a tour of heritage sites in and around the town centre on a classic double decker red bus. The tour included a souvenir guide that pointed out all the highlights so we didn't miss any of the town's many heritage attractions. After our bus tour we were given a

tour of the Guildhall though the eyes of Margaret Bondfield and women's suffrage performed by the Looking Glass Theatre, which really brought the building alive in a imaginative way. Next was a fashion show that took us through 100 years of Northampton from 1880 to 1980.

The show was outside in the courtyard, and as the weather was not kind (extremely cold!) they kindly squeezed it into 15 minutes. It was great fun and well worth braving the elements for. This was followed with short but interesting speeches, a buffet lunch and lastly a piece of anniversary cake that featured a picture of 78 Derngate front door.

Back to the speeches, I thought I would share a couple of the interesting statistics we were given by Sarah Holloway, Operations Manager for the Heritage Open Day organisation. In 2018 over 3 million visitors attended Heritage Open Day events. Approximately only 1 in 3 of these had not visited a heritage property in the previous year, with 85% of them saying they are now likely to visit another heritage property in the year ahead.

The organisers seem keen to repeat this event next year so fingers crossed this becomes a regular event.

Graham Malpas

: NORTHAMPTON SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS LTD :

The Northampton College of Technology Society of Experimental and Model Engineers was founded under the auspices of The Northampton College of Technology in November 1933. The first lecture meeting in March 1934 heard a talk on models and model making given by WJ Bassett-Lowke. In the lecture he traced the progress of commercial model making in the town by several firms including his own. Bassett-Lowke was one of the inaugural members and so it is good that we keep the link with them. I am sure Bassett-Lowke would approve.

After the Second World War the society was re-formed as the Northampton Society of Model Engineers in October 1945. In September 1947 they held their first exhibition in the Guildhall, Northampton, and although it was only open for a few days it

had nearly 5,000 visitors. Prizes were awarded in different sections, including locomotives, ships, aircraft and for general models. A silver challenge bowl was presented to the Society by Messrs. Bassett-Lowke Ltd., to be awarded to the most original model showing good design and workmanship. This award was revived in 2012 and is now awarded on an annual basis for outstanding engineering projects worked on over the winter. All members who are present have the opportunity to vote for their favourite model. Whoever wins is then awarded the Bassett-Lowke bowl for the year.

The site they now use is in the corner of Delapre Park in Northampton, and we were invited to their last running day of the 2018 season. It was a lovely sunny autumn afternoon and we were amazed at the amount of people who

had come for a ride on one of their locomotives. I was informed that at the end of the day over 2,000 rides had been purchased. There were 10 locomotives running, a mixture of steam and diesel engines. As you can see there are two tracks, one raised which measures 533 metres and a ground level track which measures 853 metres. The first incorporates a tunnel and the second has two tunnels and a bridge. They also have a 16mm garden railway track for gauge one locomotives. The society is run by a group of volunteers whose enthusiasm is plain to see. A visit is well worthwhile for young and old alike. In their archives they have a collection of The Model Engineer Magazine and have been very generous with their time in letting me research through them on the never ending quest for information about Bassett-Lowke.

Christine Sanderson



L-R: Geoff Watts Secretary of the NSME with the locomotive 'Fagan'. Track Layout

: RETURN TO NEW WAYS :

Many of you will be aware that New Ways, the second home of Mr and Mrs Bassett-Lowke, recently came up for sale. This is the first time in 33 years that the house has come onto the market. The sale of New Ways created a lot of local interest, so much so that BBC Look East featured the house in one of their broadcasts. This gave Jane Preston, the great niece of Mr and Mrs Bassett-Lowke, the

chance to return to New Ways for the first time in almost 50 years.

The Bassett-Lowkes moved to New Ways in 1926. The house is the only one in Britain to be designed by the German architect, Peter Behrens.

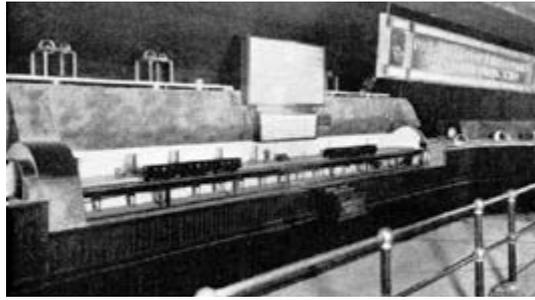
Barbara Floyer

Jane Preston at New Ways



: THE POSTAL MUSEUM :

In 1924 Bassett-Lowke Ltd made a model of The Post Office Underground mail delivery railway, which was exhibited at The British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. In 1927 ten years after work had been started on the underground mail rail it was finally opened. The delay had been due to the First World War and work had been halted. This railway continued working until 2003. In September 2017 a museum was opened called The Postal Museum in London (www.postalmuseum.org). On a hot sunny day in July we visited the museum and were amazed at the information and exhibits. From the birth of the mail in around 1512 to many exhibits which included the history of stamps, the post boxes and also the various phone boxes. Do you remember pressing button A to continue with your call or button B to get your money back? If you passed a phone box many a child would push button B just in case the previous caller had forgotten to get their money back.



There was so much to see but the biggest thrill was to go on the underground mail rail, which once upon a time would have only held mailbags. Your journey (which takes about 15 minutes) takes you back in time as you travel through the original tunnels and station platforms under Mount Pleasant, with some surprises along the way. It is well worth a visit and would be enjoyed by the young and not so young. Unfortunately the model made by Bassett-Lowke Ltd was not there and it is not known if it still exists.

Chris Sanderson

: AUCTION NEWS :

A Mackintosh designed dining table sold for £35,000, plus auction costs and VAT, at Sotheby's in February. The table had been in the ownership of The Fine Art Society of Bond Street, London. Originally produced for Harry Franklin, director of W.J. Bassett-Lowke Ltd., this table is a close variant of the oak dining room suite designed by Mackintosh for Bassett-Lowke's own country home, Candida Cottage, Roade. It is made of red walnut, inlaid with mother-of-pearl and, like the other furniture from 78 Derngate, was

manufactured at the Knockaloe Internee Camp on the Isle of Man.

Barbara Floyer



: MACKINTOSH GETS THE GLASGOW CONE TREATMENT :

A statue of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, unveiled last year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his birth, has been given Glasgow's 'highest honour' with a traffic cone being placed on his head. The statue features Mackintosh sitting on one of his famous Argyle Street tea room chairs and it didn't take long for Glaswegians to give it the cone treatment, made famous by the Duke of Wellington statue in the city's Royal Exchange Square. The Duke's conical hat dates back to the 1980s and plays testament to the Glaswegian sense of humour.

Barbara Floyer



: CALENDAR : OF EVENTS 2019

78 Derngate Booking

01604 603407

The Dining Room

01604 230166

: GALLERY : AND EVENTS LISTING

Antoinette Jackson, Sculptor 'Awe and Wonder, Joy and Love' 1 Feb – 7 April

Angela Stanbridge, Artist 'The Power and Beauty of Flowers' 13 April – 30 June

: BASSETT-LOWKE ROOM :

Tom Osborne Robinson

Poster Collection

1 Feb - 22 April

Ion Severin, Artist

'Regeneration'

27 April - 7 July.

We also have on display the Ward Carnival Glass Collection

: EVENTS :

Day trip to visit 49 Glebe Place, Chelsea - designed by Mackintosh in 1920
Wednesday 22 May 2019. Cost £32 pp. Full details with attached flyer. Contact Ann by 24 April to secure a place. Tel: 01234 781648 or 07940 319050 or email: ann.ray.mayhew@btinternet.com

Pimms & Pudding Evening at 82 Derngate, Friday 14 June 7-9pm. £9 pp.

Book early in person at 78 Derngate, by card over the telephone during house opening hours by calling 01604 603407, or by sending a cheque payable to The 78 Derngate Trust to, 82 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1UH.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Receive your newsletter in colour and help us save costs. E-mail us at: friendsof78derngate@gmail.com to add your name to our e-mail recipient list.

NEWSLETTER COPY

Contributions from members are always welcome. Details from the editor, Anna Love, by e-mail to annaontravels@hotmail.com or through friendsof78derngate@gmail.com

While we welcome articles which are of interest to our members both the Trust and The Friends of 78 Derngate do not necessarily uphold any of the opinions expressed by our contributors.

