

Rowell Fair Society

In 1968 there was a real danger of the festival dying out. But a few townsmen, realising drastic action was needed to keep the Proclamation of the Royal Charter Fair alive, held a town meeting on Thursday 29th February - from which the Rowell Fair Society was formed.



The Society was charged with preserving the traditions of the Ancient Charter Fair, a task in which it has definitely succeeded, judging by its growing popularity ever since - especially whilst celebrating the 800th year in 2004.

For many families Rowell Fair is still a time of homecoming. The traditional fare of home cured ham and Rowell Fair tarts are prepared to welcome those from far and wide who return to be at home with their families and friends.

Rowell Fair is one of those medieval customs the tides of progress and modern living have failed to submerge. Some say the Fair is not what it used to be, but the simple answer is that it never was - for an event to survive for over 800 years it must change with the times.



So Rowell Fair lives on and remains unique ... long may it continue to do so.

For further information on the work of the Rowell Fair Society visit their website at www.rowellfairsociety.co.uk or on facebook.

The Proclamation

CHARTER OF KING JAMES THE FIRST

WHEREAS, heretofore, His Late Majesty King James the First and his progenitors, Lords of the Manor of Rowell, had and used to have, one fair in the year to be holden within the said Manor, which said fair is now by good and lawful means come to Zandra Maunsell Powell. She the said Zandra Maunsell Powell doth by these presents notify and declare that the said fair shall begin this Monday after the Feast of the Holy Trinity, and so to continue for the space of five days next, after the holding and keeping of it and no longer, during which time it shall be lawful for all her Majesty's subjects to come to go to buy and to sell all manner of cattle, merchandise and other stuff being saleable ware and allowed to be bought and sold by the laws of this Kingdom. No toll for cattle, stakes for horses, sheep-pens shows and stalls are charged for as heretofore. And she further chargeth and commandeth all manner of persons within the liberties of the said fair to keep the Queen's peace in all things, upon such penalties as the laws and statutes of this Kingdom are now provided.
God Save the Queen and the Lord of the Manor.

LINKS OF LOCAL INTEREST:

www.rothwelltown.co.uk
TOWN WEBSITE WITH COUNCIL NEWS

www.rothwellheritage.org.uk
LOCAL ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTRE
14-16 BRIDGE STREET, ROTHWELL, NORTHANTS, NN14 6JW
TELEPHONE 01536 711550

Visit for further information on the town and the local area.

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YOUR GUIDE TO

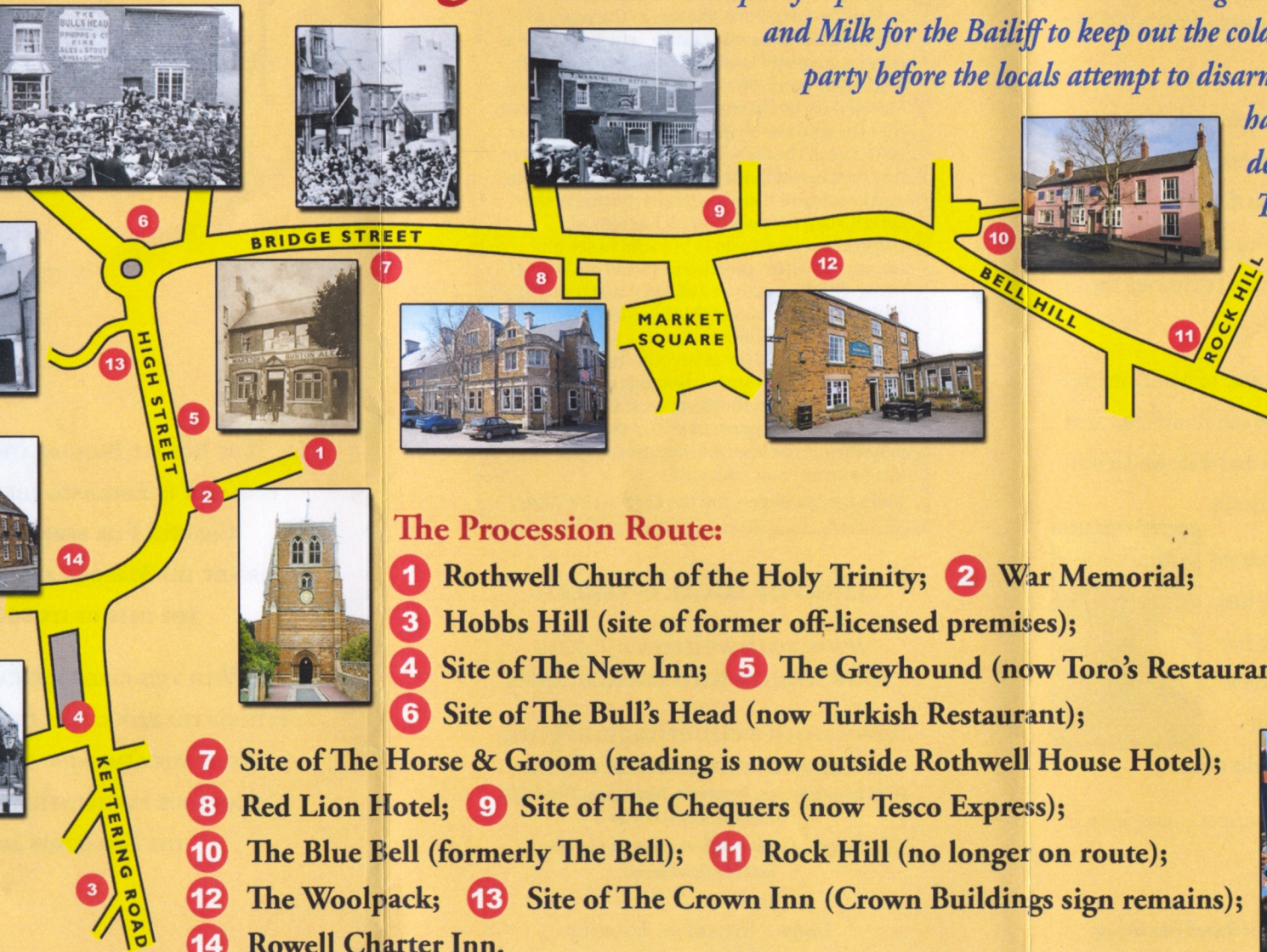
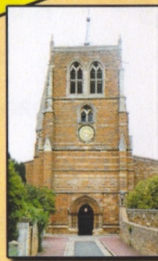
Rowell Proclamation & Fair

THE ROWELL PROCLAMATION CEREMONY IS UNIQUE IN ENGLAND, THE RIGHTS FOR THE CHARTER FAIR BEING OWNED BY THE LORD OF THE MANOR - AND THE SAME FAMILY - FOR HALF OF ITS 800 YEARS.

WITH THIS GUIDE YOU CAN TRACE THE PATH OF THE PROCESSION THROUGH THE TOWN, VISIT THE REMAINING LANDMARKS AND PLAN YOUR PARTICIPATION THE NEXT TIME THE FAIR COMES AROUND.

Procession & Ceremony

At the stroke of six o'clock on the first Monday morning after the Feast of the Holy Trinity, the Proclamation Ceremony begins. At the west door of the Church, crowds gather round the Bailiff on his horse, surrounded by his Halberdier bodyguards and the Rowell Fair Society Band. The Charter is then read aloud by the Bailiff and the masses give a rousing cheer of "God Save The Queen and the Lord of the Manor" before the National Anthem is played by the band. The party is presented with drinks - including the traditional Rowell Fair Rum and Milk for the Bailiff to keep out the cold - and beers for the rest of the party before the locals attempt to disarm the Halberdiers. Once order has been restored the procession departs for its next destination. The same process is repeated at each stop on the route until everyone reaches the Rowell Charter Inn where festivities begin in earnest ...



The Procession Route:

- 1** Rothwell Church of the Holy Trinity; **2** War Memorial;
- 3** Hobbs Hill (site of former off-licensed premises);
- 4** Site of The New Inn; **5** The Greyhound (now Toro's Restaurant);
- 6** Site of The Bull's Head (now Turkish Restaurant);
- 7** Site of The Horse & Groom (reading is now outside Rothwell House Hotel);
- 8** Red Lion Hotel; **9** Site of The Chequers (now Tesco Express);
- 10** The Blue Bell (formerly The Bell); **11** Rock Hill (no longer on route);
- 12** The Woolpack; **13** Site of The Crown Inn (Crown Buildings sign remains);
- 14** Rowell Charter Inn.

