

Kettering Civic Society Annual Rose Bowl Awarded to Kettering & District Art Society & The Friends of Kettering Art Gallery & Museum 2026



Jonathan Badger; Chairman of the Friends of the Alfred East Art Gallery & Museum, CI Mayor Lauren Glanfield, Ian Luck; President of the Kettering & District Art Society, Barbara Lewis, Richard Barnwell; President of Kettering Civic Society, Chris Dickenson, Tessa Bellamy.





ARTworks: Celebrating Seven Years of Creativity in Kettering

ARTworks opened seven years ago when the Newlands Shopping Centre approached Emma Buckler, then Manager of the Alfred East Art Gallery, with an offer of space for workshops and exhibitions. Emma invited the *Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum (KAGAM)* and *Kettering and District Art Society (KDAS)* to create a temporary pop-up gallery. Initially planned to run for just a few weeks, the project aimed to support the Alfred East Art Gallery and Manor House Museum by contributing towards conservation work and new acquisitions.

KDAS quickly brought together sixty artists, while exhibition screens were generously loaned by All Saints Church. The first exhibition was an immediate success. With the support of the Friends' charitable status, a favourable lease was negotiated with the Newlands Shopping Centre, allowing ARTworks to continue.

From the inception, KDAS President Ian Luck managed the participating artists, regularly introducing new exhibitors and artwork. He has remained a constant presence, overseeing the shop throughout its seven-year history. Barbara Lewis, then Secretary of the Friends, organised countless workshops and events for adults and children while maintaining close links with the Alfred East Art Gallery.

They were later joined by Jez Carlisle, ARTworks' in-house carpenter, who created many of its displays, and Maddie Meninick, who coordinated the volunteer rota for many years. More recently, Sarah Yeomans joined the team, while Daniel Kelly organised specialist workshops and supported Ian with the gallery's day-to-day operation. Opening on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays a team of faithful volunteers staffed the shop.

ARTworks survived the challenges of Covid-19 and became a popular, permanent fixture in the shopping centre. During the six-year closure of the Alfred East Art Gallery and Manor House Museum for restoration, it has been Kettering's only gallery dedicated to showcasing the work of local artists.

Kettering Civic Society Winners of the Silver Rose Bowl
Environmental & Civic Pride Award

- 2026 Kettering & District Art Society and The Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum for Artworks
- 2025 Daniel Kelly, for his paintings of William Knibb
- 2024 North Northamptonshire Council and Kettering Town Council gardeners, Richard Kibble & Emma Murphy
- 2023 Ian Addis local author and historian
- 2022 Wicksteed Park to volunteers for their longstanding service
- 2021 Green Patch, Groundwork Northamptonshire
- 2020 Dr Peter McCormick for his humanitarian work with children
- 2019 To Wicksteed Park for restoration work of the 'Historic Heart'
- 2018 To the Duke of Buccleuch for the restoration of Warkton Village Hall
- 2017 Not awarded
- 2016 Katie Boyce Alfred East Art Gallery Manager
- 2015 To Averil Philips for the restoration of Northampton House
- 2014 Barton Hall for the restoration of the Orangery
- 2013 Not awarded
- 2012 Kettering Borough Council for the Northampton Road roundabouts
- 2011 Avery Health Care for the restoration of Elm Bank
- 2010 Chris Prout for his illustrations of Kettering for Kettering Borough Council
- 2009 Kettering Borough Council for the restoration of Chesham House
- 2008 Dave & Eric Atkinson for Kettering Conference Centre
- 2007 Not awarded
- 2006 For the restoration of Toller Meeting Rooms
- 2005 Historian and author Ron Greenall for his book 'A History of Kettering'
- 2004 EKTA (Hindi meaning for unity) for the William Knibb mosaic in Newland Centre
- 2023 Restoration of 2003 Bowling Green Road by David McKay
- 2002 The Darby Building Company, Wellington Works
- 2001 The Quaker Meeting House, Northall Street
- 2000. Kettering Borough Council Improvement to Townscape of Horsemarket
- 1999. The Chapel, Pytchley
- 1998. Not awarded
- 1997. Not awarded
- 1996. East Midlands Housing Association Conversion and Extension of Westfield Museum to Provide Homes
- 1995. AA Thornton Jeweller No 1 High Street
- 1994. Restoration of Sawyer's Alms-house by Kettering Borough Council & Orbit Housing.
- 1993. 'Old Kettering A View from The Thirties' by Tony Ireson
- 1992. Kettering Parish Church Restoration of Tower and Spire
- 1991. Kettering Borough Council Gardeners
- 1990. British Rail Booking Hall
- 1989. Lawes Cycles Market Street Mews Kettering
- 1988. KBC Cornmarket Hall Extension
- 1987. Kettering Library Extension - Smith & Taylor Limited (Builders) Gotch Saunders & Surridge (Architects)
- 1986. HB Pearce (Developments Ltd)
- 1985. Kettering Borough Council Manor House Museum
- 1984. Lockley's Restaurant Kettering (Drover's Hall)
- 1983. JM O'Halloran & F O'Reilly House in London Road
- 1982. Kettering Scouts, Army Cadets & Manpower Services Commission for work at Kettering station.

2025



In 2025, the Society was delighted to invite Oliver Wicksteed, Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, to present the Society's Rose Bowl to artist Daniel Kelly in recognition of his outstanding civic pride.

Over the past four years, Daniel has shown unwavering determination to preserve the memory of one of Kettering's heroes. Drawing on extensive research into the life of William Knibb, he produced more than twenty paintings in 2025 charting Knibb's remarkable story. Daniel worked tirelessly to create a feast for the eyes, considering every detail with care. Each atmospheric painting contains rich symbolism, alongside portraits of people he met during the project.

Daniel's project began in 2021, when Kettering's coat of arms was changed following the town's incorporation into the new unitary authority. Earlier versions had included a reference to William Knibb, the Kettering-born Baptist missionary who travelled to Jamaica and, after witnessing the horrors of slavery, campaigned tirelessly for emancipation.

Knibb was omitted from the new design. While this angered many local people, others were unaware of the significance of the broken chains that had previously appeared on the coat of arms. Determined to keep this important history alive, Daniel - a member of Kettering and District Art Society - resolved to ensure that Knibb's memory and contribution to the abolition of slavery were not forgotten.

Daniel approached Kettering Civic Society for support, and together they secured funding from Kettering Town Council and the Society for a major exhibition, to which Daniel also contributed financially. Held on 19 and 20 September 2025, his solo exhibition traced the trials and triumphs of Knibb's life. Appropriately, it was staged at the Toller Meeting Rooms, where Knibb himself had attended Sunday school as a child.

Despite a full day of torrential rain, many people joined us to celebrate Daniel's remarkable achievement and view his work. Fuller Café provided a fitting venue for the exhibition, and we extend our sincere thanks to David and Carol Milner Deacons of Fuller Church for kindly offering for the event to be held there.

2024



The 2024 Rose Bowl was awarded jointly to the two councils responsible for Kettering's floral displays - and to the two gardeners who planted and cared for them.

Richard Barnwell, President of Kettering Civic Society, presented the Rose Bowl to representatives of Kettering Town Council (KTC) and North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). Engraved glass trophies were also presented to gardeners Richard Kibble and Emma Murphy in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

Mr Barnwell said: "I know first-hand the enormous amount of work involved in planting, watering and maintaining the planters, hanging baskets and barrier troughs, often in the face of vandalism and misuse.

"The thoughtful choice of plants and colour combinations has produced wonderfully uplifting displays. They have brought much-needed cheer to otherwise dreary parts of the town, including the Rothwell Road roundabout. The displays attracted many positive comments throughout the year, particularly from people travelling to and from the hospital, who spoke of the joy and comfort they provided."

Accepting the award on behalf of both councils, Councillor Lloyd Bunday - Leader of Kettering Town Council and North Northamptonshire Council's Executive Member for Finance and Transformation - thanked the Society for the recognition.

Mr Kibble and Ms Murphy put down their trowels long enough to attend the ceremony and receive their trophies.

Mr Kibble, who has worked for the council for 37 years, said: "It is nice to be recognised. We receive many compliments from members of the public as they pass by.

"The displays are important for people's mental health. They brighten the town, lift the mood and make people happy. We are both quite humble - we simply get on with the job in the background."

Ms Murphy joined the grounds team 16 years ago, seeking a complete change after working in an office. She said: "I really enjoy my job. We get to know the people who regularly walk around the town, which is lovely."

2023



Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Air Vice-Marshal Luck CB MBE, Ian Addis

The Rose Bowl was awarded to Kettering author and historian Ian Addis in recognition of his outstanding contribution to recording and preserving Northamptonshire's history through his many publications.

The award was presented by the Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Air Vice-Marshal Luck CB MBE, on 16 September at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. The ceremony followed Kettering's inaugural Festival of Literature, which provided a fitting setting in which to celebrate Ian's many years of meticulous research, writing and dedication to education.

A highly respected author and popular public speaker, Ian is well known throughout the county. His contribution to preserving Kettering's past has been particularly significant. He has written numerous books on local history, many inspired by his love of sport, literature and his native county.

In 2020, Ian also researched and wrote the script for *The Lost Mosaic*, a documentary in which he appeared alongside co-presenter Victoria Wicks.

Born and raised in Kettering, Ian spent most of his life in the town before moving to Market Harborough in 2013. He continues to return regularly to Kettering to deliver his popular and well-attended talks.

Ian pursued a distinguished career in education, working as a classroom teacher, headteacher and teacher educator at the University of Northampton.

Presenting Ian with the Silver Rose Bowl before an appreciative audience was a fitting tribute to his remarkable contribution to local history, education and the civic life of Kettering.

2022



Lord Lieutenant Sanders-Watson, Chairman Paul Ansell, CI
Mayor Keli Watts & volunteers

The 2022 Rose Bowl was awarded to a group of long-standing volunteers at Wicksteed Park in recognition of their exceptional dedication and service.

The presentation took place in the newly restored Garden Room. Through their work to preserve the park's archives and keep its grounds welcoming and attractive, the volunteers have made an invaluable contribution for the benefit of the whole community. Their commitment reflects the philanthropic ideals of the park's founder, Charles Wicksteed.

Ruth Rignall, the park's Volunteer Organiser, paid tribute to each recipient. Pat and Bernard Fensome are long-standing volunteers and an invaluable source of knowledge and stories about the park. They undertake a wide range of gardening tasks, including weeding and litter-picking, and regularly assist with daytime shows by welcoming visitors and sharing their knowledge of Wicksteed Park. Sandra Lewis approaches every task with energy and enthusiasm. She warmly welcomes new volunteers and is always ready to help when deadlines are tight - especially when a tent needs to be erected. An expert vegetable grower, Sandra also ensures that the park's crops are properly rotated. Ivor Watson has played a vital role in developing the park's digital archive for more than ten years. He has probably seen more photographs of Wicksteed Park than anyone else and has shown remarkable patience in overcoming the technological challenges involved. Rosalyn Stewart has supported many areas of the park's work, including education days and daytime shows. She has welcomed visitors, catalogued newspaper cuttings in the archive and helped ensure that activities in the volunteer cottage run smoothly. With her keen eye for detail and accomplished sewing skills, Ros has also produced items ranging from yards of bunting to vintage aprons.

The ceremony was held on the afternoon of 26 November and attended by Oliver and Jane Wicksteed; the Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Keli Watts; members of the Civic Society committee; and invited guests. The Society was honoured that the Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson, presented the awards on its behalf.

2021



The Silver Rose Bowl Award was presented on 26 October to Green Patch in Margaret Road, recognising its outstanding contribution to the local community.

During the presentation, Stuart Bonham, Chairman of Groundwork Northamptonshire, and Paul Ansell, Chairman of Kettering Civic Society, spoke about the importance of Green Patch and the remarkable progress made since Groundwork took over the site in 2007. Manager Grey Lindley, Nigel and a dedicated team of volunteers have created a warm and welcoming environment enjoyed by many different groups.

Over the years, the once-plain allotment has been transformed into a thriving 2.5-acre environmental treasure. Volunteers grow flowers, herbs, vegetables and much more. Indeed, the emphasis is on *growth* in every sense of the word - nurturing not only plants and wildlife, but also skills, confidence and community spirit.

Green Patch hosts a wide variety of events and workshops throughout the year, welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds. Activities include after-school clubs, health and wellbeing sessions, and arts and crafts. These opportunities enable participants to learn valuable new skills while developing a closer connection with the natural environment.

Exploring the site reveals an enchanting garden full of surprises. Beehives stand beside a bee-friendly garden, while wildlife ponds and corridors provide valuable habitats. Orchards contain heritage varieties of apple and pear trees, leading to a health and wellbeing garden, grass paddock and play areas. Rabbits, ducks and chickens - whose eggs are sold - are also cared for with great affection.

Visitors and participants are always made to feel at home, making Green Patch a truly special place and well worth visiting. Its success is a tribute to the wonderful people who work, volunteer and take part in its activities. Congratulations to everyone involved.

2020

The 2020 Silver Rose Bowl Award was presented to Dr Peter McCormick in recognition of his humanitarian work with children in Africa and the publication of his memoir, *To Be a Pilgrim: Memoirs of a Kettering Doctor*.

The presentation took place on the 5th September in the beautiful setting of Warkton village. The Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Keli Watts, presented the award during her final official engagement. In accordance with the COVID-19 restrictions in force at the time, the ceremony was attended by a small gathering.

Dr McCormick served the Kettering community with distinction as both a GP and a hospital consultant. His medical knowledge and extensive experience later became central to his humanitarian work in Africa, particularly in The Gambia, Ghana and Cameroon. His memoir, which the Society warmly recommends, recounts many remarkable and deeply moving experiences.

Among them is the extraordinary story of a three-week-old baby rescued from a deep sewer after being abandoned. Although the identity of the child's mother remains unknown, the baby survived and went on to grow up safely.



2019



The Silver Rose Bowl was presented to Oliver Wicksteed, Chairman of the Wicksteed Charitable Trust, by Paul Ansell on behalf of the Society. The presentation took place following a lunch on the 16th June.

Members of the Society's committee had attended the opening ceremony for the Historic Heart, where the Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, David Laing, unveiled a commemorative plaque. They were greatly impressed by the quality of the restoration, particularly the carefully chosen paintwork, planting and outdoor furnishings, all of which complement the historic character of the site.

The award also recognised the consistently high standard of care given to the park's grounds and gardens. Their year-round beauty and colour continue to bring enormous pleasure to visitors.

The £2.5 million Historic Heart project has transformed the original centre of the park, restoring its elegant Edwardian pavilion, central piazza and surrounding precinct. The original park cottages, constructed using an innovative early form of prefabrication, have also been restored. They now accommodate an information centre and the Wicksteed ice-cream parlour, alongside a new purpose-built learning centre.

Funded by the Wicksteed Charitable Trust, the project has revitalised the park's historic social hub while creating a more attractive and welcoming entrance for visitors.

2018 The Restoration of Warkton Village Hall



Paul Ansell, Duke of Buccleuch, Lady Freeman, CI Mayor James Burton & Mrs Burton

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".



2016 Awarded to Katie Boyce



The 2016 Award Winner is Katie Boyce

Kettering can also boast philanthropists, one of them being Sir Alfred East who bequeathed the art gallery to the people of Kettering. Wonderful exhibitions can be found here that are ever changing. The colours of the walls will be black for one exhibition, purple for another and even, for one exhibition, 'Comics', cartoons were drawn directly onto white walls. This, all due to the imagination of Katie Boyce the Gallery Manager. Needless to say that such inspiring work needed to be recognised and during the launch of Northamptonshire Open Studios the Society presented its Annual Silver Rose Bowl Award to Katie for her inspirational displays of artists' work and the organisation of the Northants Open Studios Trail.

2015 Award winner was Averil Philips & Family Funeral Directors for the restoration of Northampton House



Cl June Derbyshire, Averil Philips, John Coleman Vice Chairman

The civic scene during the past twelve months has benefitted from the Grounds Maintenance team's hard work and shown the town in a very good light. This isn't the first time that comment has been made and, indeed, the Rose Bowl had been awarded in a previous year for that. By total contrast, the care shown by the Housing Department in having house insulation upgraded is again worth mentioning. In particular, the houses along Stamford Road at the junction of Naseby Road with little porch roofs, double glazing and exterior insulation well decorated, well illustrate that care.

The project which has attracted most of our attention has been the complete repair and refurbishment of Northampton House. Originally built by James Payne as management offices for his businesses being a link with the Railway Station. This was in 1890. Since then, the building has had a number of uses until it finally stood empty in anticipation that BB Developments would include it within their Station Road proposals. This of course never happened. It was during this time that it was vandalised, lead stolen, windows broken and it became a home for pigeons. A vagrant slept in the lower room. The Society campaigned to have the building saved.

Now beautifully restored, it has become a very special Funeral Parlour which Averil Philips and family carefully run. The buildings plan readily lent itself to the new use with only a garaging extension needed.

2014 Barton Hall Orangery



Eleanor Patrick, CI Mayor Duncan Baines, Mrs Baines, Andrea Pettingale, Jenny Freeman; President, Barbara Lewis, Caroline, Rachel Aldridge, Monica Ozdemir, John Coleman Vice Chairman, Paul Ansell.

The 2014 Award winner was Barton Hall for their tasteful restorations. The Award was presented by the Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Duncan Bain, at the Society's Annual Dinner at the Vines, Barton



2012 The twin roundabouts in Northampton Road



CI Mayor James Hakewell, Paul Ansell

In 2012 the following achievements were considered. Firstly, we commend the Council landscape and maintenance team for their hard work and the quality of the landscape and gardens which were at their peak when the Olympic torch came through the town and remained for the summer. Secondly, the new housing development in St Mary's Road, the choice of materials make it fit perfectly into the town's colour character and echoes the houses around.

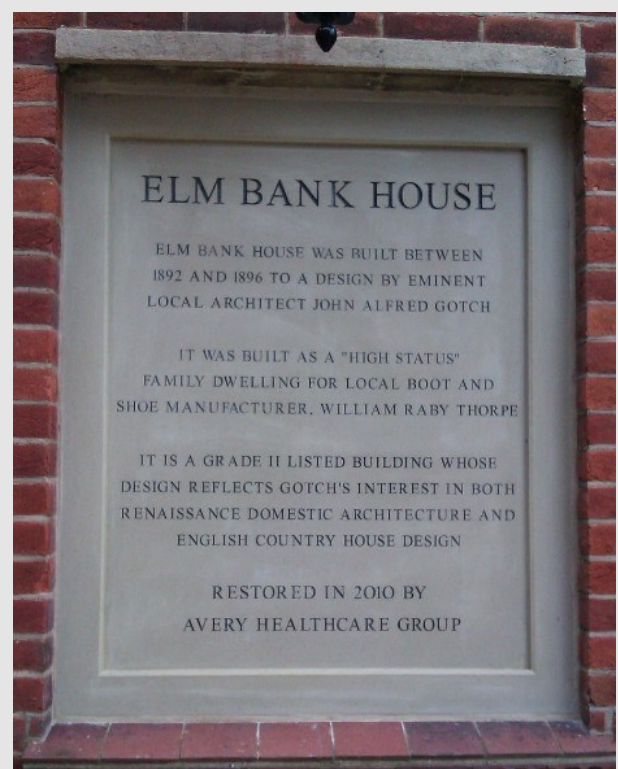
Congratulations to Kettering Borough Council for the way it has included into the Council Offices a whole selection of Civic Functions, including the Registrar, Customs and Excise, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Blood Testing, Accommodation Concern and the Kettering Tourist Information Centre. The 2012 Rose Bowl winner was presented on 12th December, at a Full Kettering Borough Council Meeting. for the development of the town's road networks to improve access to town and the flow of traffic, the twin roundabouts in Northampton Road make an excellent contribution to this.

2011 Avery Health care for the restoration and development of Elm Bank



The 2011 winner Avery Health care for the restoration and development of Elm Bank

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dr Ahmed Mukhtar presented the Rose Bowl to Avery Health care on behalf of the Society for the restoration and development of Elm Bank in Northampton Road Kettering.



2010 Artist Chris Prout for the illustrations that he has provided around the town



Chris Prout with Chairman Paul Ansell - Chris Prout presented Kettering Civic Society with this impression of how the Alfred East Art Gallery might be extended.

The committee felt that his illustrations gave the town character.

The Rose Bowl was presented at the Executive Council Meeting in December by Mayor Councillor Shirley Lynch.



2009 Kettering Borough Council & Northamptonshire Enterprise



PRESENTATION by Dr Mukhtar Deputy Lord
Lieutenant of Northamptonshire on the
25th November 2009

Councillor Ruth Groome, Mayor of Kettering
Received the Award on behalf of Kettering
Borough Council.

The Civic Society was impressed by the
restoration of Chesham House. Its history is
important within Kettering as the home for
very many years of the Gotch family who over
time played a big part in the town's life.

Looking at the building now, it is not possible
to see the role it played as a part of the family
tanning business, a key part of the towns boot
and shoe industry. Little more than two years
ago, it stood empty and in need of serious
restoration. Through the good auspices of
Kettering Council and Northamptonshire
Enterprise Limited, they were able to buy the
property and with generous funding,
refurbished it.

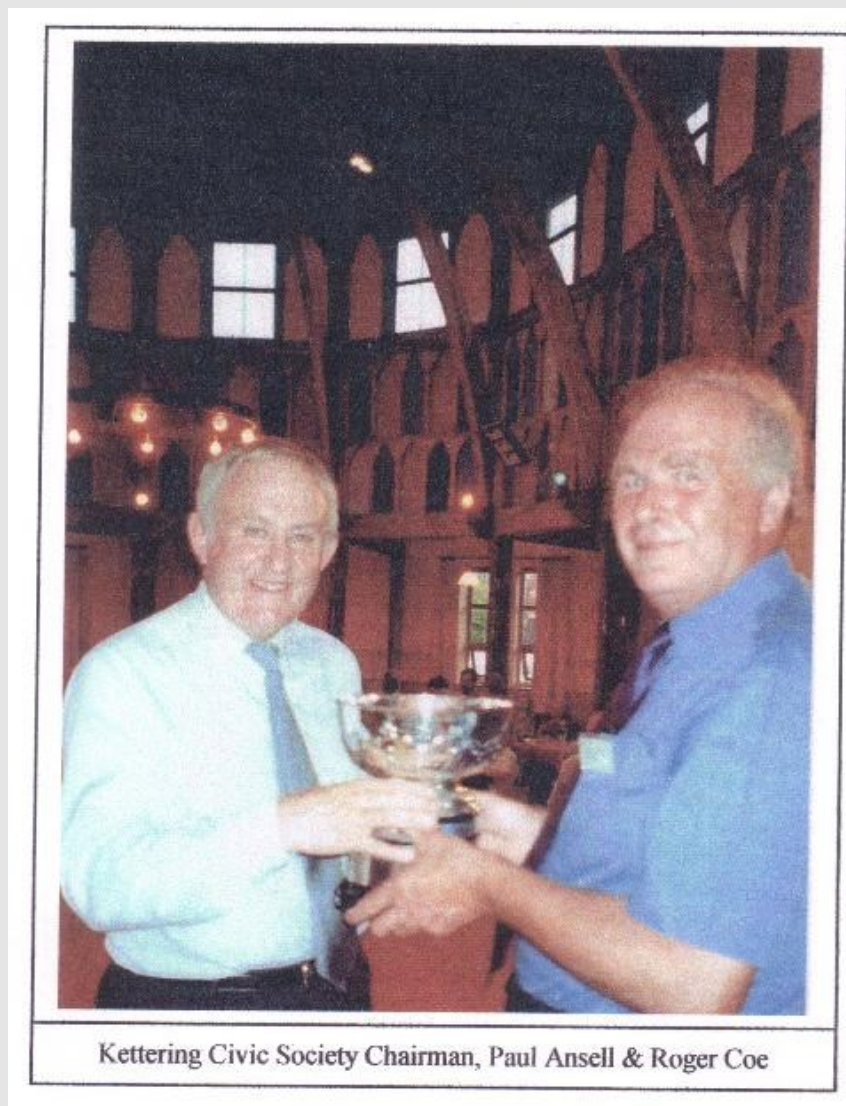


2008 - Dave Atkinson and Eric Atkinson For Kettering Leisure Village



Dave Atkinson and Eric Atkinson were presented with the Rose Bowl by the Duke of Buccleuch on behalf of Kettering Civic Society, pictured with chairman Paul Ansell.

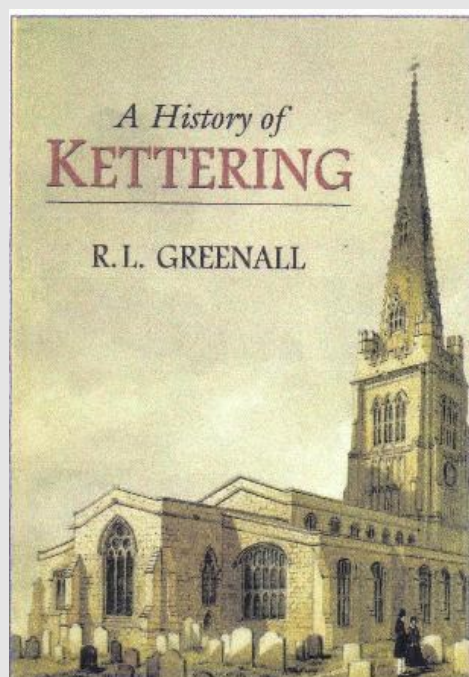
2006 Restoration of Toller Meeting Room



2005 Winner, Ron Greenall



Pictured from left: Paul Ansell, Susie Corke, Mary Page, Monica Ozdemir, MP Philip Hollobone, Andrea Pettingale, Sandra Clipstone, Ron Greenall, Mayor Cll Matt Lynch, Cll Shirley Lynch, John Coleman in Kettering Library.



Presented to Ron Greenall for his services to the community, for inspiring a curiosity in local history, and for the books that he has written, particularly for his book "The History of Kettering".

2004 Winner EKTA



Celebrating the bicentenary of William Knibb, the William Knibb Mosaic in the Newland Shopping Centre by EKTA. Pictured: Paul Ansell, Mrs Brace EKTA group, Mayor Cll. Eddie Brace. The name "Ekta" which means "unity" in Hindi.

2003

Restoration of 29 Bowling Green Road by David McKay



From left: Andrea Pettingale, Ted Wright, Arthur Heath, Dr Wigglesworth, David McKay, Mayor Cll Pote, Mrs Pote, Monica Ozdemir, Paul Ansell.

2002 The Darby Building Company



Darby Building Company who converted the old Bryant Factory into 20 town houses. Richard Darby received the Rose Bowl from the mayor, Sue Holmes, presenting it on behalf of the Kettering Civic Society. Many of the factories internal features remain. The properties sold very quickly indicating the success and popularity of this type of conversion.

The Darby Building Company, Wellington Works the conversion of a factory into apartments.

2001

Extension of the Quaker Meeting House



The Rose Bowl was presented to Mr Alf Bond, a partner at Stimpson Walton Bond of Northampton. GAME Construction carried out the work.

Pictured: Committee members, Ted Wright, Mary Page, Arthur Heath, Paul Ansell, Richard Barnwell, Mayor Cll Bob Civil and Mrs Civil House.

photo by Kettering Evening Telegraph