

# The Gotham News

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## The Village Sculpture unveiling by

The Rt. Hon. Earl Howe PC

Sunday 29th September at 2.00pm  
from the British Legion Corner



Artwork by kind permission from Don Charlesworth ©

2pm - Welcome and unveiling

2.15pm - King John arrives on horse back with Washington Irving to inspect possible land site for his magnificent hunting lodge.

2.30pm - King John rides down the Brick Yard to find Cheese being rolled down the hill and pigs being dropped down a well!!!!

2.45pm - King John rides on to the Railway walk to find a very fast hare taking the rent to Nottingham and can not catch him on horseback.

3.00pm - King John see's villagers in the school playground being taught how to drown an eel and rake the moon from the pond!!!!!!

3.30pm - King John has had enough and heads off to the local hostelrys for a drink near the village pump to find the locals trying to fence a cuckoo in and two villagers desperately trying to collect water with a bucket with holes.

3.50pm - He turn's around to escape and finds the local egg man expecting people to read his mind!

4.00pm - The Morris Men Dancers arrive to finish the days activities.

Now we have all convinced King John that we are completely mad and successfully staved off taxes for another year, we can spend our hard earned gold coins in the local taverns!!!

# Chairman's Report

I would like to thank everybody that has been involved with this unique village sculpture and they are as follows:-

Don Charlesworth - Designer.

Manufacturing - Lunn Engineering.

The unveiling committee - Sue Lymn-Brewin, Mike Sheppard, Gary Trickett and Andrew Vickers.

Sue Lymn-Brewin who has been very supportive of the days events and has worked tirelessly on this project due to it being very close to her heart.

Mike Sheppard - who has put an enormous amount of hard work into the organisation of the days events and must be commended on his successful invitation to The Rt. Hon. Earl Howe who will unveil the sculpture.

John Anderson for finalising the budget and all his past work while in the Chair towards the Sculpture.

Ben Anderson, Artistic Director re-enacting the village tales on the day.

Andrew Vickers and Barry Dabell for the Heritage board that will be added to the site shortly after the unveiling.

Karen Steed and family for the synopsis on the tale board.

Martin Raven for his engineering experience and liaising between parish council and manufacturers and also his negotiation with DC comics for permission to use the Batman and Robin images.

British Gypsum, Lynn Sykes and Andrew Brown (N.C.C.) for their generous donations towards the sculpture and many individual parishioners who have also financially supported this project.

Charles Walker for sponsoring the insurance for the days activities.

Russell Davis who had the foresight to see the potential of this unique village sculpture and re-invigorate this exciting project. It sometimes takes an injection of new blood on the parish council to help bring projects on and come up with fresh ideas.

I don't know how many of you are aware that the idea for a village sign was originally thought of many years ago by the Gotham Parish Council in 1998, way before my time, and had been put on hold many times. It has been a much debated project over all these years and therefore it has not always had a unanimous vote but has been democratically voted on and received the majority vote for it to go ahead. Not all parish councillors have seen the potential of this project and the benefits it could have for the village i.e. it will link our unique historical past with today's village, attract visitors and hopefully bring more trade to our local shops and pubs, it will also allow us to have an identity that will stand out from our neighbours and help put Gotham on the map. Gary Trickett has worked hard during his time on the council and as Chair to endorse this.

The original designs for the sculpture have been shown and discussed at many of our village meetings, Parish council meetings reported on in the Gotham News, advertised on our agendas posted in the Parish Council notice board. Public and press are welcome to all meetings, should parishioners wish to express their views on agenda items. To date, no one in the parish has written a letter or attended any of the meetings to oppose the council's plans for a heritage sculpture, leading to the assumption that this exciting project has general support. Therefore I am proud that during my time as Chairman the sculpture was commissioned and is finally due for unveiling and we can all finally see this magnificent piece of artwork.

I have also been privileged as chair to witness many other projects that have been a success in this village. Last year I contacted all the groups in the village to form a committee to organise "The Picnic In The park" to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a huge success and a good family day out. The village Christmas tree and carol singing which is a project Mike Sheppard can be proud of. Also the parish council formed two new trusts for the village and worked hard to seek committee members to form the Gotham Nature Reserve and The Countryside Trust (*this is initially being funded by David Logan*). Both these committees work hard to improve our environment. Other improvements have included the entrance to the village at Bidwell Crescent and the area outside the old post office being repaved, a project that Gary Trickett, Terry Green and Mick Frankish worked hard on. Thank you to Mick Frankish and other residents on Bidwell Crescent for maintaining the floral planters which are a credit to them. Well done!! The flower planter in the Square which doubles as a holder for the village Christmas tree is a credit to Arthur Howick who made this and the Howick nursery for the wonderful floral arrangements throughout the year in both the planter and the village pump. Cemetery improvements since the parish council has taken over the maintenance renewing boundary fencing and railings and general maintenance.

The Parish council are working hard with the Memorial Hall Trust to re-new drains, re-surface and white line the car park. There will be some inconvenience over a 4 week period from Monday 7th October but we are working to keep this disruption to a minimum, so please bear with us.

Due to my new business commitments, I will be announcing my retirement from the Chair as from October. I would like to thank parish councillors past and present for all the voluntary hard work they have put in over the years, they have done so much more than I have been able to mention here. I wish to thank all those that have continually supported me and worked as a team during my time in the Chair. Also thank you to Judy Raven our clerk who puts many more hours in than she is actually paid for. Judy spends many more hours picking up litter and walking round the village to check everything is in order and not looking unsightly and reporting problems to R.B.C. and N.C.C.

This is an exciting time to serve on Gotham Parish Council and I would like to remind parishioners that there is currently a casual vacancy to be filled. Applications to Judy Raven (Clerk) 9830 863.



**Rebecca Muir**  
**Chairman**