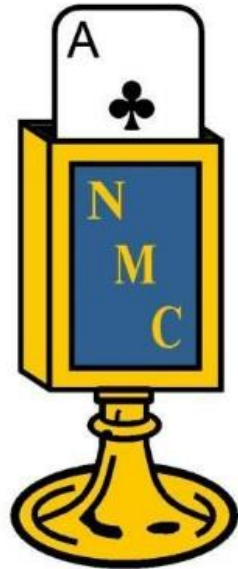
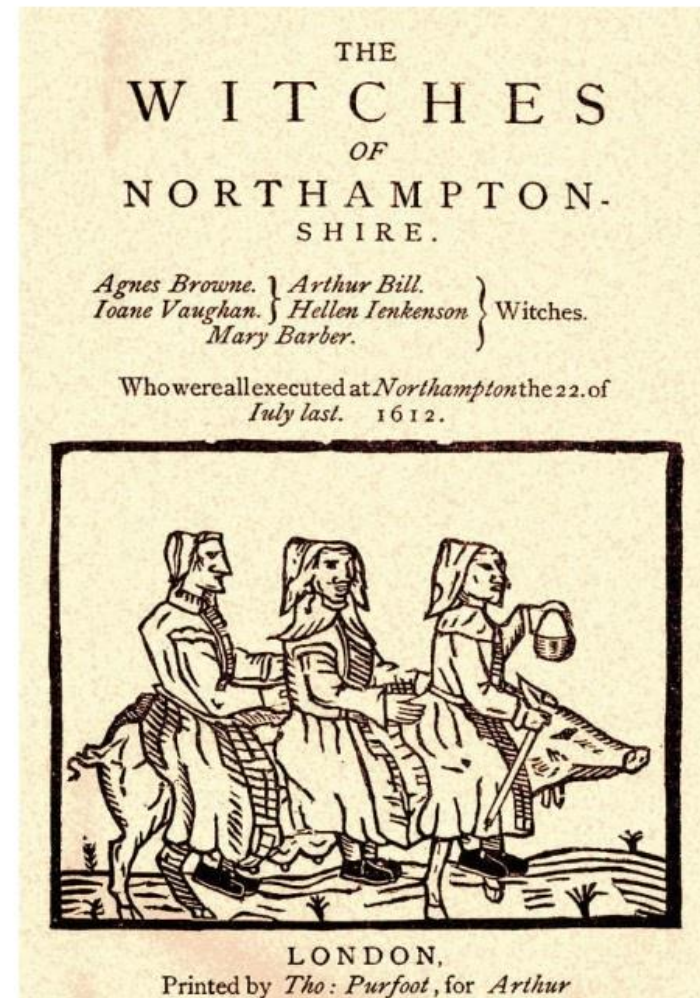


THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Magicians' CLUB



Celebrating 90 Years

1926 - 2016



We begin 400 years ago, with our first printed documents of magicians of Northamptonshire.

The Northamptonshire witch trials mainly refer to five executions carried out on July 22, 1612 at Abington Gallows, Northampton.

"The alleged witches were gathered together in Northampton Castle, which was also where the trial was held."

There were six accused, two of these were a mother and daughter, Agnes Browne and her daughter, Joan Browne (or Vaughan).

(A coincidence as one of the founding members of NMC was also named Vaughan).

Mistress Belcher took a dislike to Joan and accused her of putting a curse on her. After that she is said to have fallen ill and was reported to have sent her brother to try to lift the curse. As William approached the cottage he said an invisible force held him back.

"They were kept in prison until July 22 when they were taken to Abington Gallows (now in Abington Park) and hanged.

Northampton has the dubious boast of having the first recorded use of water ordeal to test witches.

The last official witch execution was at the gallows in Exeter in 1684, when Alice Molland was hanged in Exeter.

However, the last executions for witchcraft in Northamptonshire are said to have taken place in 1705. There is some controversy surrounding them.

Allegedly two women: Elinor Shaw and Mary Philips, were burned at Northampton in 1705 for witchcraft. Their crimes were made by a jailor who had threatened to put them in irons, they reputedly made him dance naked in the courtyard for a full hour.

The Witchcraft Act was a law passed by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1735 which made it a crime for a person to claim that any human being had magical powers or was guilty of practising witchcraft.

July 2, 1770.

We hear from Ivinghoe, (Buckinghamshire) that one Horse and two Sheep, belonging to a Farmer, in the Parish of Slapton, near that Place, having died, the Farrier who had them under his Care, not having sufficient Skill to recover them; yet had the Sagacity to discover the Cause of their Death, which he declared was owing to their being bewitched, and named the Witch, a Widow about 55 Years old. This ridiculous Assertion made the poor Woman a Terror to her weak Neighbours, and very unhappy in herself; and, as she was not conscious of being a Witch, was willing to undergo the usual Method of Trial, viz. by Water-Ordeal and weighing against the Church-Bible, and a Miller in the Neighbourhood was pitched upon to perform the Ceremony. On the 18th past, every Thing being got ready for the Trial, the poor Woman went to the Mill, where a great Number of People were assembled, in order to prove her Innocence; but the Miller recollecting the fatal Consequences of a similar Affair, about 18 Years ago *, declined performing it before so great a Concourse of Spectators, but promised that he would do it in private the first Opportunity.

This article is taken from The Northampton Mercury in 1770.

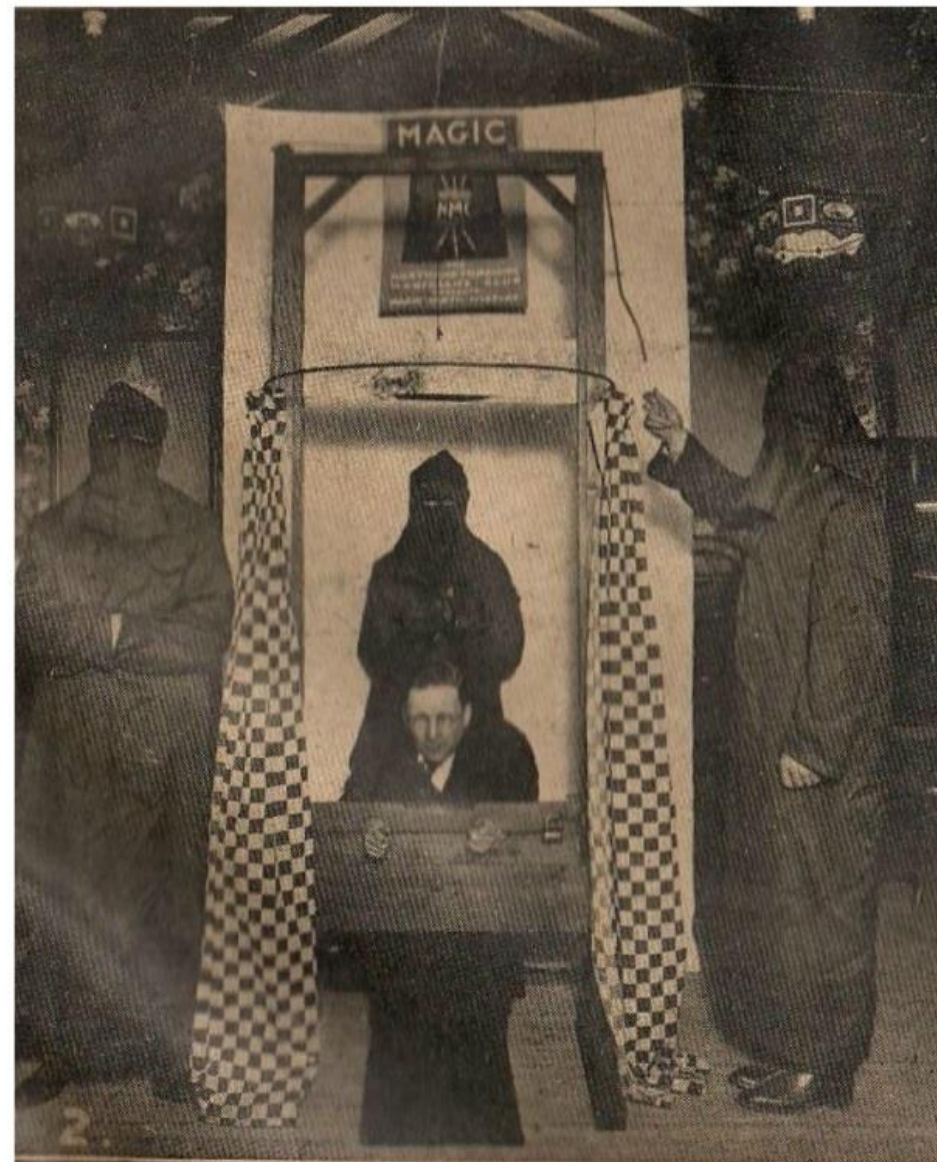
Thankfully by this time mentality had changed and the accusation of witchcraft is here described as being a ridiculous assertion.

THE NORTHAMPTON MERCURY, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1851

MAGICIANS AND WITCHES—DISTINCTION BETWEEN.—The difference established by popular creed between magicians and witches is pretty generally understood. The former were the masters, the latter the slaves of the demons with whom they were leagued. The magician was a man of learning and science, who had subdued to his will the powers of darkness. His tampering with forbidden things imperilled, but did not preclude his ultimate salvation. If his greed of temporal advantages at last led him to make over his soul to the fiend, it was from choice, not by necessity. His position was dignified; his pursuit was recognized as a science. In the early ages schools of magic were established in various parts of Europe. Of these the one at Toledo—then on the debateable land between Moor and Christian—was celebrated and eminent. With the flowing robe and lofty brow, and mystic tiara of the magician, how great the contrast of the witch's rags and degradation! In her whole nature and attributes there is something so utterly illogical that one wonders how her existence can so long have been credited, even by the most ignorant and superstitious.



1929 - Northampton Magic Circle at the Town Hall for the General Hospital.
 Left to right are: Will Vaughan ("The Spirits are here"), Archie Tear (manipulative magic), Phil Scott and W. R. Austin (electricians), Ken Hanning (stage manager), Chass Lewis and "Joie" (ventriloquism and paper magic), Rev. Trevor Lewis, R. D. (magic introduction), Norton Wilward, W. Roberts, S. Burdett and Steward Norman (vocalist). Seated: Miss Marshall, Mr. A. Valentine (President), and Mr. C. L. Malone produces a lady from a chocolate box, M. P. Below (left) is Mr. Valentine's piece de resistance - the guillotine trick.



Arthur Valentine
 The Guillotine Trick - February 1929
 President of The NMC from 1926 - 1945
 Died June, 1952

A Brief History of the Origins of The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club

By the late Archie Tear

(NMC President 1946 - 1947, 1958 - 1959, Hon. Life Member of
the NMC, and Past President of the I. B. M. British Ring)

"The idea of an association of magicians in Northampton was first born around a table in the newly-opened cafe attached to the Exchange Cinema, sometime in 1925. The late Arthur Valentine was manager of the café and an enthusiastic amateur conjurer and delighted in amusing customers with some of his favourite pocket tricks. I remember him performing the well-known "Cap and Pence" effect with a stack of half-crowns and changing them into gold sovereigns which were common currency in those balmy days.

I was then a young and very keen amateur magician and spent a lot of time in the café and became very friendly with Arthur Valentine. It was customary for local businessmen and office staff in those days, to leave their places of business and indulge in 'elevenses' each morning at one of the cafés in the centre of the town. The prowess of Arthur Valentine as a magician at the Exchange Café soon became known to the regular customers and he spent a lot of time entertaining them, whilst they refreshed themselves with a morning cup of coffee. He must have been one of the original 'close-up' magicians and was an expert in handling the 'De Land Dollar Deck' and mystified us all with the clever effects obtainable with that pack of cards. He once told me he would rather leave his wallet at home than be without his pack of De Land cards.

Valentine suggested that we form a Club and invite local magicians to join and requested me to act as Honorary Secretary and to contact all interested parties. Two of the best known local magicians refused to take an interest, preferring to keep their secrets to themselves. Eventually we called a meeting at the Exchange Café and the **Northampton Brotherhood of Magicians** came into being sometime in 1926. The original members were - Arthur Valentine (Pres.), Archie Tear (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer), Ken Hanning, Phil Harris, Harold Howard, Percy Rushton, Will Vaughan, Rev. Trevor Lewis, Syd Burdett, Ronald Austin and Billy Dooley.

Sometime in 1926, the late Alfred Summers of Wellingborough heard of the club and applied for membership and thus became our first county member. We received applications from other interested magicians in the county and it was Alfred Summers that suggested that the name of the club should be changed to include the county and in 1927 the title of the club was altered to the **Northamptonshire Magicians' Club**.

Since those far off days, the Club has gone from strength to strength and has a record membership and reputation second to none in the magical world. It is particularly pleasing to me to note the flourishing condition of the Club and the happy atmosphere obtained at meetings. The recent influx of young magicians and the advice and assistance so readily given to them by the older and more experienced members, augurs well for the future of the Northants. Magicians' Club in particular and Magic in general."

HOW IS IT DONE? The Northampton Magicians' Club present one of the most baffling mysteries of modern times.

Would you like a blindfolded member of the above Club, to return your application to your home, together with a voucher to the value of £1 1s. 0d., to be exchanged with any member of the Chamber of Trade.

If so, send your name and address in an envelope, marked in the top left hand corner,

"B.W." to the Chamber of Trade, 19, Gold Street, Northampton, by Saturday, October 19th. On Friday, October 25th, at 7p.m., from the Fountain Steps on the Market Square, His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Burrows, will select from all the envelopes received, the lucky one.

The selected envelope will be placed still unopened, under the hat of a member of The Magic Circle, who previously has been blindfolded with a pad of cotton wool over each eye, stuck on with adhesive tape, and again blindfolded by a prominent Northampton Doctor,

How can he deliver the voucher, how can he find his way through the streets of Northampton, and perhaps deliver your application and voucher?

This daring experiment has baffled the people of five Continents.



Northampton Festival October 21-26th 1935
Blindfold Walk

by Ken Hanning

NMC Presidents

2017 - 2018	Matthew Garrett
2010 - 2017	David Miller
2008 - 2010	Kevin Burke
2006 - 2007	Roy Gilbert
2004 - 2006	Steve Dimmer
2000 - 2004	Richard Stupple
1999 - 2000	Mark Farrar
1998 - 1999	David Penn
1996 - 1998	Richard Stupple
1995 - 1996	John Shaw
1994 - 1995	Simon Green
1993 - 1994	Anthony Owen
1992 - 1993	Mick Hanzlik
1991 - 1992	Ron Massey
1990 - 1991	Roy Gilbert
1989 - 1990	Charles Bridgewater
1987 - 1989	Ric Ellam
1986 - 1987	John Lee
1985 - 1986	Pete Savage
1984 - 1985	Alan Norman
1983 - 1984	Ken Hawes
1982 - 1983	Bruce Bellringer
1981 - 1982	Maurice Phillips
1980 - 1981	Jim Adams
1979 - 1980	Neville "Pip" Ayris
1978 - 1979	Richard Stupple
1977 - 1978	Graham Wilson
1976 - 1977	David Parriss
1975 - 1976	Ken Hawes
1974 - 1975	W E Middleton
1973 - 1974	P Biseker
1972 - 1973	Reg Gayton
1970 - 1972	Ceril Ayres
1969 - 1970	Keith Nicholson
1968 - 1969	Colin Hooton
1967 - 1968	N K Woodger
1966 - 1967	Colin Hooton
1965 - 1966	Walter Ashdon
1964 - 1965	John Lee
1963 - 1964	Reg Gayton
1962 - 1963	Vernon W Jackson
1961 - 1962	Geoff T Hull
1960 - 1961	B Brown
1959 - 1960	D B Hopkins
1958 - 1959	Archie Tear
1957 - 1958	A E "Sandy" Webster
1956 - 1957	Frank Jones
1955 - 1956	Reg Gayton
1954 - 1955	Rev L A Ewart
1953 - 1954	John Poole
1952 - 1953	J E Powell
1951 - 1952	Walter Ashton
1950 - 1951	Arthur Valentine
1949 - 1950	E E Newell
1948 - 1949	H H Howard
1947 - 1948	P L Harris
1946 - 1947	Archie Tear
1945 - 1946	Will Vaughan
1926 - 1945	Arthur Valentine



Goodliffe performs The Leg Chopper
with Bronwen Jones 31st October 1946



Archie Tear 1906 - 1986

NMC President 1946 - 1947, 1958 - 1959

Archibald Edwin Tear was born on October 28, 1906. He was a founder member of the NMC, and had held every office including President from 1946 - 1947 and again from 1958 - 1959.

He was one of the first magicians to be televised, performing on a programme from the Baird Television Studios in 1932. He also appeared in the Panorama television programme in 1958 and then in an experimental colour television demonstration in 1959.

Tear was made an honorary life member of The I.B.M. in 1950 and was Past President of the I.B.M. British Ring No. 25 in the years 1958-59. He was also a member of The Magic Castle and The Inner Magic Circle. Following his move, he joined the Lincoln Society of Magicians.

Archie Tear
an entertainer of distinction
presents
MAGIC · MIRTH and MYSTERY

SUPERB AFTER-DINNER ENTERTAINMENT—AMAZING AND AMUSING MAGIC
SPECIAL "FUNIURING" SHOW FOR CHILDREN'S PARTIES
REFINED AND NOVEL ENTERTAINMENT FOR MASONICS, CONCERTS, CABARET, BANQUETS, SCHOOLS, &c.

Mr. Archie Tear is a Member of the Inner Magic Circle London (Gold Star), Past President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (British Ring) and Past President of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club, and has the distinction of being one of the first magicians to televise, performing in a programme televised from the Baird Television Studio in 1932. He appeared in the Panorama television programme in 1958 and an experimental colour television demonstration in 1959.

SOME RECENT PRESS OPINIONS

"One of the leading stage-stand experts and manipulative conjurers in the country".—*British Evening World*.

"Mr. Tear is the man with the most wonderful hands in the country".—*Observer and Herald*.

"This man did not make a million of cards that I have ever seen and it is always leaves his audience gasping with admiration".—*Chronicle and Echo*.

"It is long while you've watched such a good exhibition of the ancient art of Magic".—*Advertiser, Wednesbury News*.

"Some of the finest conjuring and card manipulating I have ever seen".—*Star, The London Advertiser*.

"Mr. Archie Tear is a really clever and delightful conjurer".—*Express*.

"WELWYN": 84 NORTHAMPTON ROAD, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants Telephone Wellingborough 3040

a name to conjure with . . .
ARCHIE TEAR
of
LONDON, PROVINCIAL & TELEVISION CONCERTS



Billy Dooley (1899 - 1991)
who performed as Benson Dulay

was in the 1930s the only professional magician at NMC. He designed and built illusions and was a star illusionist.

By the 1950s he was playing the London Palladium almost annually.

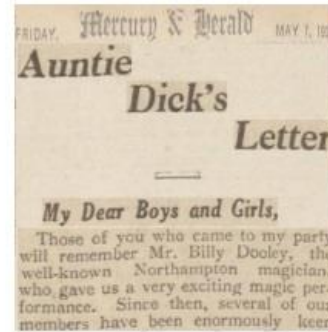
Right Hand Photo: Benson Dulay
12th June 1936
with his **Stop, Caution, Go Illusion.**

A trick which he invented, and performed for the first time at the magicians' matinee on behalf of Mansfield Hospital on 27th June, arranged by the British Ring of the I.B.M.

Benson Dulay was very successful and worked on bills with George Formby, Sophie Tucker and Max Miller.



BILLY DOOLEY, the Northampton illusionist (third from left) and assistants at the Brackley performance.



on magic and I know they will be delighted to hear the good news I have to tell them this week.

Mr. Dooley has kindly promised to write one or two articles about some simple tricks which Merry Comrades can try for themselves. These tricks are those Mr. Dooley did when he first started conjuring, and he feels sure that boys and girls will manage to do them quite well if they follow the instructions carefully. You must look out for these "Magic" articles, which will appear in the "Mercury and Herald" shortly. I am sure you will all want to thank Mr. Dooley for this kindly offer. It is not often magicians give away their secrets, and we are very grateful indeed to him.

**MAGICIAN HELPS
COT FUND**
"WONDER" SHOW AT
BRACKLEY
NEW TRICKS

Rarely has the Town Hall at Brackley been so crowded as it was when on Friday night "Billy" Dooley's show was given in aid of the Merry Comrades "Mercury and Herald" Cot Fund.

The high light was, of course, Mr. Billy Dooley's repertoire of humorous magic which included "the flight of time," "the vanishing rabbit," "the cabinet of Fu Man Chu," "the pagoda," "the chest of Wong Lung," "the trunk call," "the guillotine" and "the trunk of all nations." Mr. Dooley was equally clever with his smaller illusions, and the youngsters from the audience who went on the platform to give him a hand were delighted. Several new tricks were performed.

Hi Quong, in his act called "magic of the mandarins," was only second to Mr. Dooley in the art of magic, and he cleverly presented his act.

Peter Dooley, assisted by Phyllis and Gladys, showed that he is fast following in his father's footsteps.

The supporting programme was equally popular, and the items of Jack Pitts, the Yorkshire comedian, were greatly appreciated.

Clement, "the wizard of the concertina," played some melodious numbers. The vocal items of Marguerita were well received.

The Four Mystic Maids in songs and dances completed a particularly attractive programme.

During the interval Mr Dooley introduced "Auntie Dick," of the Merry Comrades' Circle.

"Auntie Dick" expressed thanks to Mr Dooley for giving the programme and to all those who helped with promoting the "Mercury and Herald" cot from time to time. She said that Mr. Dooley would be at Towcester on Dec. 3 and at Rothersthorpe in January. He would also be giving a show at the Northampton Town Hall on Jan. 15.



MAGICIAN... Benson Du Lay

COMIC magician Benson Du Lay of Ashton and Brixworth has died after a long career which saw him top variety bills, appear at the London Palladium and create impressive illusions for colleagues.

He was 92.

During the thirties, forties and fifties he trod the boards around Britain with George Formby, Sophie Tucker, Max Miller and other twice-nightly variety stars. When television arrived Mr Du Lay, whose real name was Billy Dooley, turned his hand to devising tricks for the new generation of small screen magicians.

But he remained an entertainer long after retirement, as his daughter Molly Short remembered. "He loved the life at the old folk's home in Brixworth, where he lived for a while, because he could get up and perform his tricks for the other residents. He had a wonderful life and he would always enjoy putting on a show for friends and relatives."

His two daughters and son appeared in the shows for years. His son Peter Dulay became an actor and, later, a TV producer responsible for bringing Candid Camera to

British screens.

His grand-daughter Sue said: "He was a most inventive person and when, at the International Brotherhood of Magicians Annual Convention in 1934, he presented his most recent product The Guillotine to the magical fraternity, he received orders for over 300 models the next day.

As Billy Dooley he started out in variety before the First World War.

During the thirties, one Tommy Trinder gave him his stage name, Sue said. Billy Dooley wasn't French sounding enough for a trip to France, Trinder had said.

"So as he was lighting a cigarette, Trinder suggested Billy call himself Benson and Dooley be changed to Du Lay. Billy often commented it was a good thing Trinder wasn't smoking a Woodbine at the time as Woodbine Dulay didn't exist."

He knows his way around blindfold



MAGICIAN Jeffrey Atkins is prepared for his blindfold shopping trip.

A MAGICIAN travelled over 100 miles yesterday to go shopping for the Mayor of Northampton - blindfolded and wearing a black hood.

Mr. Jeffrey Atkins arrived at Northampton's Guildhall from Southampton and was met by the Mayor, Alderman Gen Pearson, watched by a large crowd of shoppers.

Pearson blindfolded Mr. Atkins with olivewood and tape, and placed a hood over his head. Alderman Pearson then

handed a sealed envelope to Mr. Atkins containing instructions - and off went the hooded magician to carry them out.

Followed by several shoppers and accompanied by Alderman John Poole, Mr. Atkins found his way through the busy town-centre via Wood Hill to a stationary shop in Abington Street where he purchased a packet of Christmas cake decorations - handing over the exact money.

He then returned to the

Guildhall via Fish Street and St. Giles Street where the sealed envelope was opened. Inside was a note written and signed by Alderman Pearson asking the magician to buy - cake decorations from the stationer.

During the walk - organised as part of the Northampton Festival of Arts - Mr. Paul Graham, who did a similar blindfold walk on the pavement of Waterloo House, in 1934 gave a running commentary in which he referred to Mr. Atkins as the "man with X-ray eyes."

A touch of magic for Northampton's Festival of the Arts



THREE of the top guest magicians at yesterday's "Night of Magic," held at Northampton College of Technology are, from left, Tony Shelley, Billy McComb and

OCTOBER 26, 1935.

"SEE WITH THE FINGER TIPS"

BLIND-FOLDED WALK TO HIDDEN ADDRESS

FESTIVAL FEAT

A MAN walked blindfolded through Northampton last night to present a prize to a successful entrant in a competition, the address of whom he had not been told.

It was the Festival Week demonstration of a feat of magic. A large crowd witnessed the performance.

Mr. Arthur Valentine, who announced it, referred to the feat as "seeing with the finger tips." Mr. Ken Hanning was blindfolded by Mr. A. E. Tear (secretary of the Northampton Magicians' Club), on the Market Square. The entries for the competition, numbering nearly 80, were placed in a hat, and the Mayor of Northampton (Alderman A. Burrows) selected one. This was placed, still unopened, in Mr. Hanning's hat.

He then set off, blindfolded, to find the lucky applicant. After a preliminary circuit of the Market Square, he walked up Abington-street, followed by large crowds. Reaching Abington-square, he turned up the Mounts, and stopping outside 38, Upper Mounts (Aircraft Studios), knocked at the door. This was opened by Mr. F. H. Bastick, the successful man, who was presented with a voucher valued at a guinea, to be exchanged for goods from any member of the Northampton Chamber of Trade.

OF U.S.A. ORIGIN

The Northampton doctor who, it had been arranged, was going to blindfold Mr. Hanning, was unable to do so.

Prominent Northampton magicians were present, including Mr. Billy Dooley and Mr. W. Vaughan.

The feat, which had never been performed in Northampton before, originated in the United States. It was arranged by the Northampton Magicians' Club and the Northampton Chamber of Trade acting in conjunction.

The entries were sent to the Chamber of Trade office in Gold-street, and were in the possession of the secretary (Mr. E. A. Woods) from the time that they were received until they were placed in the hat.

Mercury & Herald JUNE 16, 1937

A Great Afternoon of Magic for CHILDREN

Town Hall, Northampton
SATURDAY, June 24th, at 2-45 p.m.

All the proceeds, without any deduction, for the "Mercury & Herald" Cot Fund for Manfield Hospital.

Here are the Magicians and Illusionists who will provide a bumper Programme.

Stanley Cable in Chinese Magic	George Blake (Ventiloquist)
Will Blyth in "Magical Nursery Rhymes"	Archie Byford with his famous "Punch & Judy"
Billy Dooley, one of Northampton's own Magic-makers	W. G. Stickland, the Wiseman Wizard, the Kindergarten Magic
John Gambling (Conjuro)	
CONFESE WALTER KEMP	

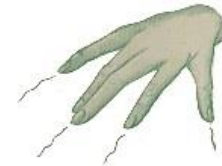
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR A WONDERFUL SHOW

Admission—Children 6d. & 1/-, Adults 1/- & 2/-

TICKETS on Sale at the "Mercury & Herald" Offices, The Parade.

The Matinee is in connection with the Annual Conference of the British Boys (No. 24) of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. An Evening Performance for Adults is also being arranged.

The Mystic Hand
Northampton Mercury
18th June 1937



There were numerous attractions, including "The Mystic Hand," presented by Mr. S. R. King, Professor L. Goff, Mr. P. L. Harris, Mr. Billy Murdin, and Mr. Archie Tear, under the auspices of Northamptonshire Magicians' Club. Miss Beryl Evans, the English Shirley Temple gave impressions from Shirley Temple films; Billy Williams, the boy illusionist, presented escapes from trunks and boxes; Miss Vera Pettit appeared with her ballet dancers, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Percy Bullock, and Mr. Ernest Milton gave a short concert of songs. Earls Barton Silver Band was under the direction of Bandmaster W. Groomer.

Stalls and stallholders were: Vicarage stall, Mrs. Ewart; congregational stall, Mrs. Ben Houghton, Mrs. William Tucker; Mothers' Union, Mrs. J. E. White, Mrs. H. Barton, Mrs. B. Sheffield; cakes, Stalls and stallholders were: Vicarage stall, Mrs. Ewart; congregational stall, Mrs. Ben Houghton, Mrs. William Tucker; Mothers' Union, Mrs. J. E. White, Mrs. H. Barton, Mrs. B. Sheffield; cakes, Mrs. W. L. Knight, Mrs. M. Sturges, Miss M. White; lemonade, Nurse Clifton (who also organised a cushion competition), Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Piggott. Teas were served by the Mothers' Union.

Sideshows were arranged by Mr. T. Partridge, Mr. A. Simpson, Mr. F. White (skittles), Lieut. L. Mills and members of the Church Lads' Brigade, Captain E. Welch, and Lieut. P. Pearce and members of the Girl Guides (bubbles and spinning wheel). The C.L.B. also had charge of the darts. Mrs. N. Sturges sold buttonholes. The gate-keeper was Mr. H. Barton. Mr. Eric Pettitt and Miss F. Simpson arranged parties for "The Mystic Hand."

Mercury & Herald NOVEMBER 10, 1937

SCHOOLBOY MAGICIAN

NORTHAMPTON'S 16-years-old boy magician, Billy Williams, is again in the news. Following his success with his "Coronation" and other illusions, his inventive brain has devised fresh mysteries for the winter evenings, among them an improvement on his well-known "trunk escape."

Although most of his evenings are spent in either fulfilling engagements or constructing new apparatus for his illusions, he is careful that his hobby does not interfere with his work at the Northampton Town and County School.

The youngest member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Billy comes of a theatrical family, being related to the famous Billy Williams, "The man in the velvet suit," who created that popular song of pre-war years "The Taxi-meter Car."

Mercury & Herald MARCH 3, 1933
MAGICIANS' CONFERENCE
 The third annual Convention of the International Brotherhood of Magicians will be held at Northampton this year. The Town Hall has been booked for June 22, 23 and 24. The first Convention took place in America in 1926. The first two in England were held at Cheltenham in 1931 and last year. Mr. G. H. Turner, of Kettering, is one of the seven Fathers of the British Ring of the Brotherhood.

FRIDAY, **Mercury & Herald** MAY 26, 1933

THE "ENTERTAINING MAGICIAN"

The amusing little caricature given here represents Mr. Harry Kaye, known as the entertaining magician, who will be one of the artists at the Afternoon of Magic which the members of the British Ring, No. 25, of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, are giving specially in aid of the "Mercury and Herald" fund for endowing a cot at the Manfield Hospital.

The British Ring is holding its annual conference at Northampton, and some of the most famous conjurers and illusionists in the world will appear at the matinee, which is to be given at Northampton Town Hall on June 24.

Mr. Kaye, who was recently in Northampton, is a hard-working member of the Ring Committee, and the stage direction both at the matinee and the evening performance will be under his supervision.



Mercury & Herald MARCH 29, 1935.

NO CHARGE FOR BOOKING **NEW THEATRE** **PHONE 646**
NORTHAMPTON

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, 1st April **Mystery Week I**
 First visit to Northampton of the Royal Command Magician
Jasper Maskelyne
 in Mysteries of the East and West.

Maskelynes—the house that Magic built. This week celebrates its SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY. Supported by an amazing programme, including
 Harold Walden, the Footballer Comedian. "Only me Knows Why."

Mercury & Herald 30th June 1933
 Magic Matinee

My dear Boys and Girls,

I expect that those of you who were unable to come to our Magic Matinee last week are longing to hear how we got on. Well, we had a wonderful afternoon. The Town Hall was packed and before the performance started we had to turn people away as there were no more seats!

The Magicians gave us a splendid programme, and from 2.45 to almost 5.30 we all sat spellbound! Perhaps the most thrilling item of all was when a little girl was put into a box. The lid was closed—the magician muttered a few magic words—and when the box was opened, she had completely disappeared! As the box was on legs and in full view of the audience all the time, we were all very amazed indeed.

Another very popular number was the appearance of Tom Thumb. He belonged to the ventriloquist, and he made us all laugh with his tiny squeaky voice. Ventriloquists are really very clever indeed, for of course they do all the talking for themselves and the dummy. If you watch them when the dummy is "talking" you will see their lips do not move, and you would never believe the voice was theirs. Try a little ventriloquism, and you will see how difficult it is.

PUNCH AND JUDY.

It is many years since I had seen a Punch and Judy. The show we had at the matinee was enormously popular, and proved that boys and girls still enjoy this entertainment as much as ever. Punch as usual was a very bad man, and at last the police got him. "Did I do it?" wailed Punch. "Yes you did!" roared the children at the matinee. They loved taking part in the show, and I wish you could have seen the rush there was for the stage when boys and girls were asked to assist the magicians.

I am sorry I have not space to tell you more about the lovely programme. Every item was delightful and crammed with thrills and excitement. We are very grateful to the magicians for giving us this wonderful afternoon, and as a result of the matinee, the splendid sum of £22 17s. has been added to our Cot Fund. There is now little doubt that we shall be able to have our Merry Comrades' Cot at the Manfield Hospital soon. You Merry Comrades have been wonderfully kind the way you have helped with money-boxes, scent cards, etc. I feel sure you will keep on helping and doing your best until we have completely paid for our Cripples' Cot.

6th August 1937

BLISWORTH GARDENS
GALA
 2,000 WATCH VARIETY
 SHOW

A variety show under the direction of Mr. Arthur Valentine was given at a gala at Blisworth Gardens on Monday, with over 2,000 spectators.

The programme was as follows: Madame Zanette and her 30 assistants in a dancing and novelty display; Professor Goff, conjurer; Ernest Elliott with his marionettes in songs and sketches, his compere being Mr. W. Wandham, of Birmingham; members of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club demonstrated a chocolate box illusion.

**JUDY IS 10,
SHE SURPRISED
THE MAGICIANS**

**GREAT FUTURE
PREDICTED**

EVEN magicians can be surprised. When members of Northampton Magicians' Club were getting ready to leave the annual meeting at the Grand Hotel, a surprise item was announced.

Then on the stage walked Judy King, 10-years-old daughter of Mr. George King, of Northampton, who delighted veteran magicians with her sleight of hand tricks. They predict a great future in the magical world for Judy.

Mr. Archie Tear, who with Mr. Arthur Valentine, president and founder, inaugurated the club in 1927, was presented with a clock engraved with the club's good wishes, to mark his retirement after 12 years as hon. secretary.

Mr. Tear, in thanking the members, pointed out that his retirement was prompted wholly by his removal to Wellingborough and the consequent difficulty in carrying out executive work. He promised his full support in the future and agreed to retain the position of treasurer.

The vacancy was filled by "Alexander," while Mr. Arthur Valentine was re-elected president.

Other business included discussion of visits to the Leicester and Coventry Magic Circles, and their return visits to again entertain Northampton audiences. The probability of a big magic show for Northampton in the coming autumn was also considered.



Edward Pearce with his new car.

Mercury & Herald AUGUST 4, 1938

PRISON AUDIENCE LIKED

ARCHIE TEAR

WHEN the International Brotherhood of Magicians was invited to give an entertainment of magic in Maidstone Prison, seven members were chosen, and one of them was Mr. Archie Tear, of Wellingborough.

Maidstone is a gaol for long term first offenders, and the entertainment was seen by some 300 prisoners, 80 of whom are serving life sentences.

The entertainment was the first magician's show to be given in prison, and Mr. Tear says the audience was most appreciative, although he found it depressing to give his act inside grey stone walls.

TEA WITH GOVERNOR

The stage was made and decorated by prisoners, and Mr. Tear was full of praise for the work of a talented prisoner who had painted the backcloth and wings with magical signs. The door in the centre opened and closed apparently of its own accord, this being done by an ingenious arrangement of wires.

Mr. Tear has a wide reputation for sleight of hand, and it was his card manipulation act that he was called upon to perform.

The party also included Levante, whose appearances at Northampton and Kettering will be remembered. He staged his famous escape from a steel trunk, much to the astonishment of the prisoners, one of whom was heard to remark, "I should like to get out of my cell just as easily."

The magicians had tea with the Governor after the show, when they were invited to perform again on a future occasion. The Governor explained that the problems presented gave the men something to think about, and they had a good psychological effect.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

THE BUDGET

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BRITISH RING . . .
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



JUNE, 1944.

President: OSWALD RAE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: Herbert J. Collings, Wm. G. Stickland, Gus Fowler, Jasper Maskelyne, Les Levante.

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer: W. G. Stickland, "The Wand," Dunsbury Crescent, Ferndown, Wimborne, Dorset.

Hon. Editor: ERIC P. WILSON
9 Harold Road, Upper Norwood,
London, S.E.19.

Committee: Ralph Chart, Harry Kaye,
L. Boleys, Eric P. Wilson, Walter Kemp.

W. L. WALDING

For your portrait gallery this month we present Member W. L. WALDING, of Northampton . . . "Wally" to his friends in the I.B.M.

"Wally" is assisted by a boy of 14, who must surely be one of the youngest Escapologists in the country, and features the Sack Escape Trick.

"Wally" presents a really varied magical programme, and has performed at many troop shows during the past few years.

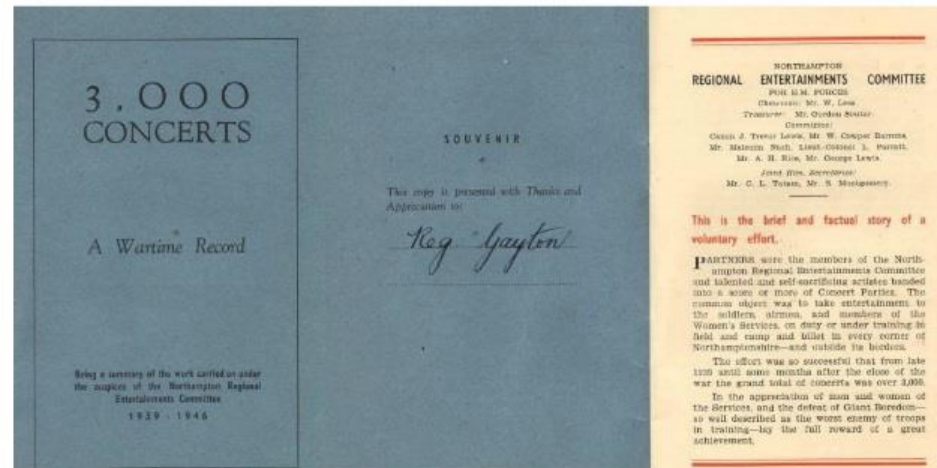
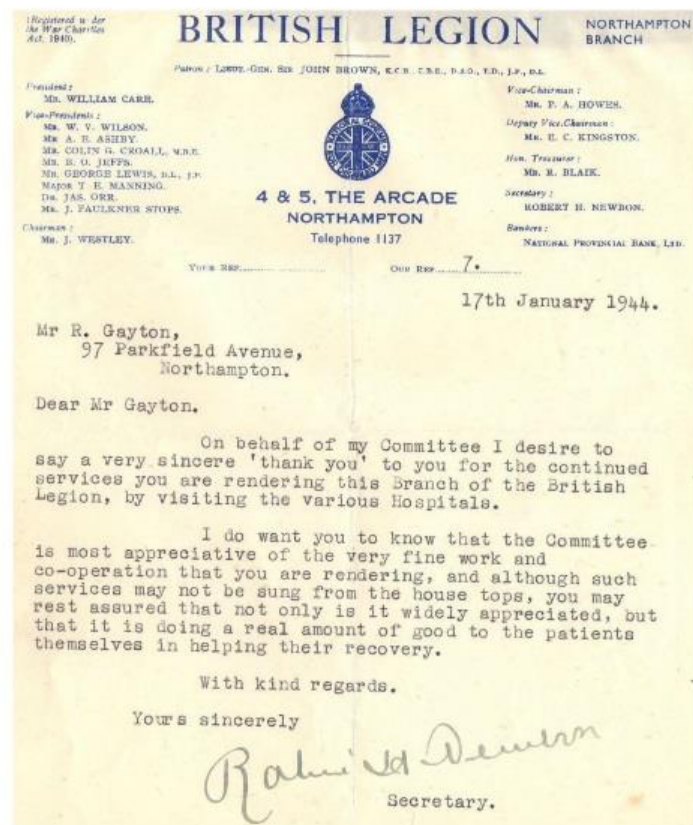
Concert platform, children's party, social party — all come alike to "Wally" with his happy and cheery personality.



Central Printing Co. (Chas. Sowden) Ltd.,
Burnley, Lancs.

Christmas Children's Show by Reg Gayton

The NMC disbanded during World War 2.
but magicians including Reg Gayton performed magic during the war.




With the outbreak of War, several members went to the Forces so the Club was temporarily suspended. On July 30th, 1945, old and new members met to recommence the Club and since then the Club has grown in numbers and strength.

The Club meets monthly at the Roadmender Club in Broad Street by the courtesy of the Roadmender Trustees and the Warden. An Annual Supper and Entertainment is held; also an Annual Night of Magic in which members display their abilities to the Public; also once a year a Contest is held for the Eric Lewis Cup, awarded to the member who gains the highest marks in the Annual Contest.

In April, 1945, the Club made application, and was admitted to the National Association of Magical Societies, and they are proud to act as hosts to the Association on this occasion when their Quarterly Meeting is held in Northampton, and to welcome their many friends to the representative Magical Entertainment put on by members of Clubs affiliated to the N.A.M.S.

THE
Northamptonshire Magicians' Club

PRESENTS
A
Magical Matinee
BY



(THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAGICAL SOCIETIES)

AT THE
Roadmender Club, Broad Street, Northampton
On Saturday, November 17th, 1945.
at 3 p.m.

**The National Association of
Magical Societies.**

President—
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SOMERSET, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., J.P.
Chairman of the Committee of Management—
DR. H. PAUL SHACKLETON, O.B.E.
Secretary to the Committee of Management—
WILFRED JONSON, 105, Palace Road, London, S.W.2.

The National Association of Magical Societies was founded in February, 1944, to bring together the magical societies of the British Isles in their work of the art of Magic. The following Societies have joined the Association:—

- THE ABERDEEN MAGICAL SOCIETY.
- THE BARNSELY CIRCLE OF MAGICIANS.
- THE BRISTOL SOCIETY OF MAGIC.
- THE BRITISH MAGICAL SOCIETY.
- THE COISWOLD MAGICAL SOCIETY.
- THE EXONIAN MAGICAL SOCIETY.
- THE GUILD OF MAGICIANS.
- THE HULL MAGICIANS' CIRCLE.
- THE LEEDS MAGICAL SOCIETY.
- THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE.
- THE MAGIC CIRCLE.
- THE MYSTIC SEVEN.
- THE NORTH WALES MAGIC CIRCLE.
- THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB.
- THE ORDER OF THE MAGI.
- THE SHEFFIELD CIRCLE OF MAGICIANS.
- THE SOCIETY OF IRISH MAGICIANS.
- THE ULSTER SOCIETY OF MAGICIANS.
- THE WESSEX MAGICAL ASSOCIATION.
- THE YORKSHIRE MAGICAL CLUB.

Souvenir Programme, Sixpence

Members of NMC directly after World War II

Members of The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club

- MR. WILL VAUGHAN, 47, Lorne Road, Northampton.
 MR. ERIC C. LEWIS, Magikraft Studios, 32 Vernon Street, Northampton.
 MR. P. HARRIS, 110, The Drive, Northampton.
 MR. ARCHIE TEAR, White Lodge, 75, Wellingborough Road, Rushden.
 MR. A. VALENTINE, Daulby House, Duston, Northampton.
 MR. R. GAYTON, 97, Parkfield Avenue, Delapre, Northampton.
 MR. H. HOWARD, 20, Newland, Northampton.
 MR. G. KING, 19, Birchbarn Way, Whitehills, Northampton.
 MR. G. TURNER, 24, Grange Road, Kettering.
 MR. IVAN FOWLER, 25, Willoughby Place, Rugby.
 MR. STUART O'NEILL (*Serving in H.M. Forces*).
 MR. W. WALDING, 6, Cedar Road, Northampton.
 MR. E. C. PEARCE, 11, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford.
 MR. R. E. BLIGHT (*Serving in H.M. Forces*).
 MR. LLEW JONES, 25, Wellington Street, Bedford.
 MISS BRONWEN JONES, 25, Wellington Street, Bedford.
 REV. C. AYTON-WILLIAMS, Chelveston Vicarage, Higham Ferrers, Northants.
 MR. J. E. POWELL, 86, Brunswick Street, Leamington Spa.
 MR. B. BROWN, 56, Water Eaton Road, Bletchley.
 MR. W. ASHTON, 32, Brunswick Street, Northampton.
 MR. H. FRUSH, 36, Cranford Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton.
 MR. F. MOORE, 32 Alexandre Road, Northampton.
 MR. J. POOLE, 21, St. Edmund's Road, Northampton.
 MASTER G. HUTLEY, Liberal Club, St. Giles' Street, Northampton.
 MR. L. BARROWS, 88, Balmoral Road, Northampton.
 MR. GEOFFREY HULL, 39, Elmhurst Avenue, Northampton.
 MR. S. BURDETT, 76, Loyd Road, Northampton.
 MR. N. WYN-TAYLOR, 172, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
 MR. E. E. NEWALL (*B.A.O.R.*). ▶



Above: Mr Will Vaughan NMC President 1945 - 1946
 Below: Eric C Lewis 1908 - 1993



The Magician Moderne

Conjuring need not be old-fashioned, suitable only for children. Eric C. Lewis presents Magic in the modern way; a clean artistic performance, full of delightful humour. Magic streamlined to meet modern conditions of entertainment.

"Eric C. Lewis entertained in his charming whimsical manner" was a recent report which neatly epitomises the act. Skilled in sleight-of-hand, quick of wit, his performance is appreciated everywhere.

If you hold children's parties or school entertainments, Mr. Lewis can adapt his style to the occasion. Also, if you desire, he can, by special arrangement, compere your concert, introducing specialised novelties and giving continuity to the show.

A Sophisticated Conjuring Act

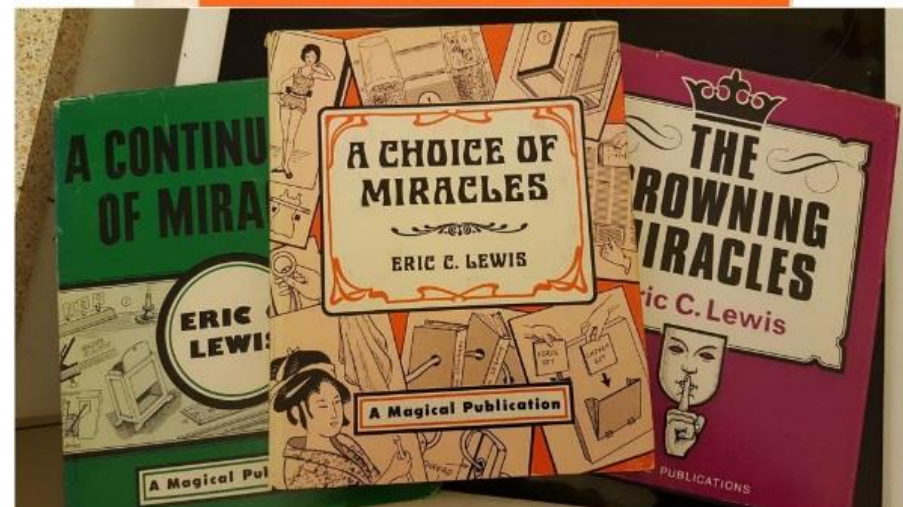
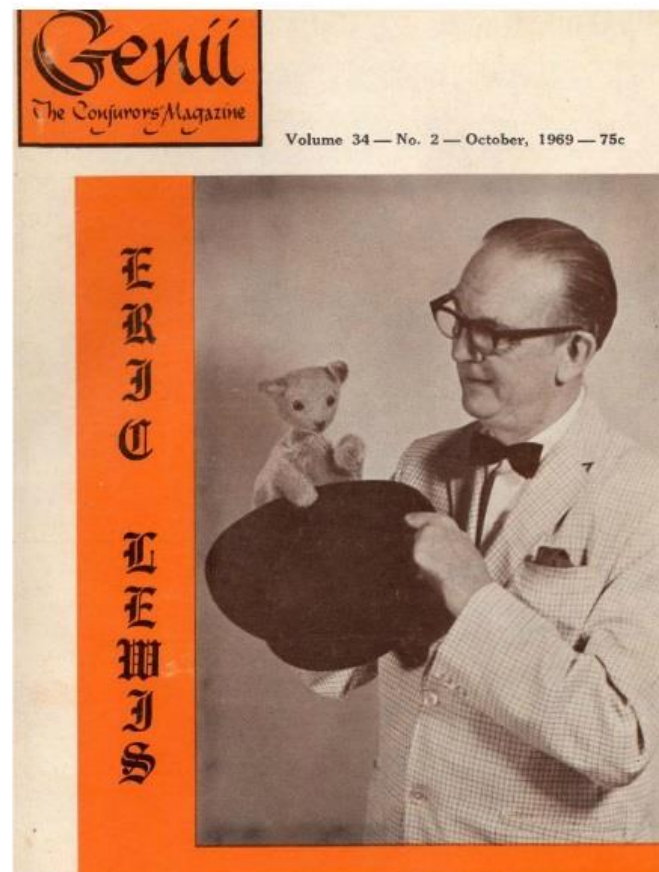


Eric Lewis (1908 - 1993) with Robert Harbin (1908 - 1978)



Robert Harbin (born Ned Williams) is noted as the inventor of a number of classic illusions, including the Zig Zag Girl. He also became an authority on origami.

Peter Warlock writes of Eric Lewis, "A man of so many talents, a fine artist, craftsman supreme, inventor, historian, and performer. Generous in giving to others so much from his bounty of knowledge... Just prior to his death Eric was able to see in Huntington Beach California the re-opening of the Eric Lewis Magikraft Studio with his son Martin carrying on the creation of quality magic apparatus."



OUR COVER

Forty - Eight Years A Nut

Or, "The Eric Lewis Story"

By Eric C. Lewis

November of 1908 was an auspicious (be sure to use the initial "A" and not an "S") occasion for the magic world, for in that month I was born. The second fateful year which should be celebrated was 1920, because it was during that year that I first saw a magician (of sorts). This was an apostate cowboy, dressed like an escapee from a Western Series; an itinerant performer who travelled the market places of England, spinning ropes, sharp-shooting, and performing escapes and magic. The latter he exposed, showing exactly how the tourniquet and other sleights were done. He came to Northampton, my home town that year. I gaped, went home and practiced and soon another magic nut was born. Another nail to hammer into the coffin of the exposé, for exposing foisted me amongst unsuspecting magicians!

I saved my pennies and soon bought Will Goldston's "Simple Tricks and How to Do Them," for one shilling (12 cents) from a local bookstall, and my first performances consisted entirely of effects from this book, apparatus when necessary being improvised by myself.

I had little money in those days (delete the last three words — it's a chronic condition), and what bit I could scrape together went to pay admission to the wonderful old "New Theatre" (now a Supermarket) whenever a magician appeared, which was in those days very frequently. Here I saw the greats, Lafayette, Chung Ling Soo, Carlton, Carmo, Horace Goldin, Chris Charlton, Gus Fowler and many, many others. I can only name them by looking back and remembering tricks which impressed me. The man who rode on the stage in Indian costume on a white horse could have been no one but Lafayette. The Chinese who caught a bullet must have been Chung Ling Soo. Carlton is remembered by his Bengal Tiger and how he did a marvelous bare-hand production of silks and then a girl from them. Horace Goldin I remember by the way he pushed his arm visibly through a tall character in an Arab costume.

There was also a man who fooled around with ice, and I knew later this must have been Frank Van Hoven. But the list is long: Carl Hertz, Dr. Walford Bodles, David Devant, Chevalo, and dozens of lesser lights. All passed through this theatre and sent me scampering home to try to work out how they did their wonders. I had no other way of finding out. No experienced magical friends, no magicians' club. And so I began to invent my own tricks. Day-dreaming, I would visualize some marvelous trick; then set to work to find a way of doing it. There were impossible pipe-dreams galore, but every now and again something reasonably useful would emerge.

In 1931 I began a new thing for me. I began to write my ideas on magic. The very first thing I wrote appeared in the "Magic Wand" in the March-May issue of that year, and several others followed.

In 1945 the next major step in my career was taken. The war was over and the government job finished, so I bought a house with workshops, coined the name "Magikraft" (spelled with a K), and set up as a full-time manufacturer of magic. Soon there were four of us working away: Reg Gayton, a local amateur magician and experienced engineer, a stenographer who dealt with the mail-order side, a youth for odd jobs, and myself doing a bit of everything. We manufactured only new effects, and to a high standard, which was not easy because materials were in very short supply. One had to have a license, issued yearly, to buy plywood, and only a small yearly quota was allowed. As a result I had constantly to scour the country for plywood cut-offs which could be bought without license.

In 1950 I decided to "call it a day," closed down the business and went in for magic as a professional performer. For this I developed a comedy magic act in South American costume under the name of "The Great Zonzo."

This name was a private joke because it happened that the word "zonzo" was a South American slang term which meant a "nut." I used this act for regular stage performances, but also did my usual style for normal functions and for kid shows. This period lasted four years, then because music-halls were beginning to close down and the profession got tougher, I left the profession to restart Magikraft Studios, but not this time for magic. It became "Magikraft Display Studios" and I turned my experience as an artist, designer and craftsman to the building of display units and screen-printing, magic performing again becoming a side-line.

This outline has, of necessity, been brief. I could write a book on the interesting characters I have met in magic and of my various — adventures. Bob Harbin early became a friend and we worked out many effects between us. Very early we worked out how we thought sawing a woman in half should be done, using any girl from the audience, and Bob built a model. But we were forestalled, and quite independently by Abbott's. One of those true coincidences that do happen. I also worked with him and discussed step by step the various stages of his famous Zig-Zag illusion, so blatantly and badly copied by a magician in this country. I was also one of the first magicians to ever meet John Ramsey — this was at the first I.B.M. Convention in Cheltenham, and we became good friends. I learned much from John in those days, particularly of the art of misdirection.

But enough. These few columns are not sufficient for a lifetime of magic, only for a general sketch. Maybe I'll write that book, there have been so many interesting characters I have met: Ellis Stanyon, Will Blyth, Louis Histed and his friend Dave Scott, George and Gus Davenport, Brunel White, Willane, Stanley Collins and a host of others. Perhaps no one will publish it, but the original could at least be bound and go into the Magic Castle library! Right! I'll do it!

Eric Lewis and Reg Gayton began **Magikraft Studios**, manufacturing and selling tricks. Magikraft is run today by Martin Lewis (Eric's son), in the USA.



Reg Gayton

(NMC President 1955-56,

1963-64, 1972-73)

(pictured with Mab Gayton)

Was a member of the club directly after its reformation after the wartime break. During the war with "Stars in Battledress" he gave his shows under all kinds of conditions. He developed an impressive mind reading act with his wife and stage partner, Mab. He was an Associate of The Inner Magic Circle. He died in 1989.





Above: 31st October 1946
4th from Right Reg Gayton, 3rd Right Wally Ashton,
Far Right Archie Tear, 4th from Left Eric Lewis
Below: 19th October 1948
NMC Night of Magic at Central Hall, Kettering



Reg Gayton 7th February 1948



Reg Gayton 1958



July 1958
Actual Billboard displayed in the foyer of
The New Theatre Northampton
just one month later the theatre closed its doors.



The New Theatre 84 Abington Street, Northampton, NN1 2AP was opened on 9th December 1912, and was designed by noted theatre architect W.G.R. Sprague. It was first operated as a variety theatre and famous ilusionist 'Ramases' topped the opening bill.

The New Theatre was demolished in 1960.

Today, a branch of the clothing store Primark stands on the site.



Reg Gayton

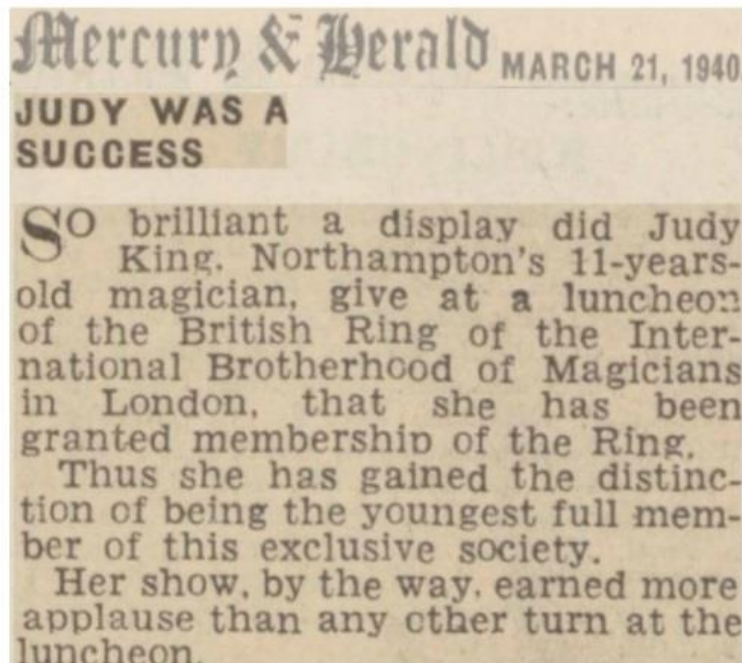
Who was the first female member of NMC?

Judy King of Northampton became a member of the IBM back in 1940, but she was not a member of NMC at this time.

Lucy E Copson - joined in 1949. Lucy may be the first 'woman' member as she joined the senior part of the club.

Bronwen Jones, daughter of Llew Jones, won the senior stage competition (normally open to over 21s) in 1947.

Therefore Bronwen Jones was the first female member having won the stage competition in March 1947, (she was also listed as a member of NMC on the 'Magic Matinee' programme of 1945), the earliest membership list which shows her and Lucy Copson is for 1948-49.



MRS. COPSON
FIRST WOMAN JOINS
MAGICIANS' CLUB

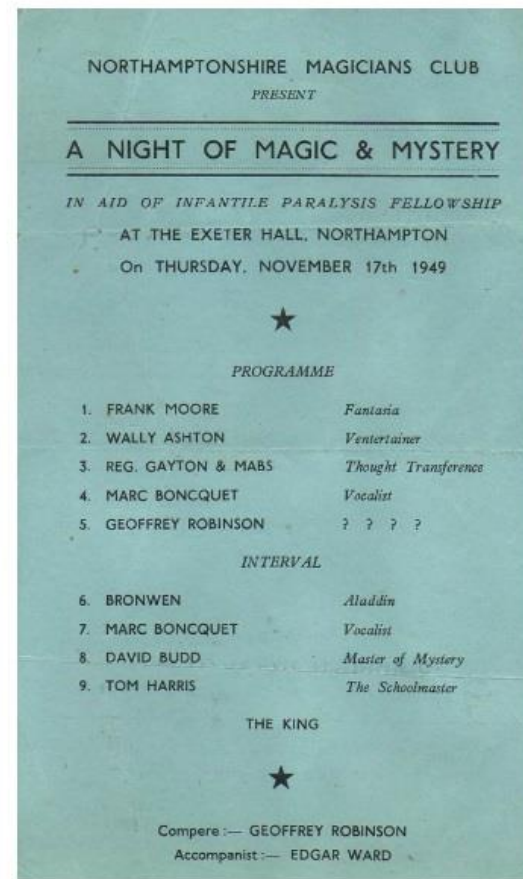
First woman in Northamptonshire to become a member of Northampton Magicians' Club is Mrs. Lucy E. Copson, of 35, St. Matthew's-parade.

Mrs. Copson is already well-known in the town and county as an accompanist and it was through this that she first became interested in magic.

As well as playing for Mr. Wally Ashton, the magician and ventriloquist, she began acting as his off-stage assistant. "Later," Mrs. Copson told me, "I bucked up enough courage to poke my nose round the edge of the curtain, and eventually helped on the stage."

Her first solo display of magic was at Bethany Homestead in February and was followed by another four days later for an Auntie Dick (of the "Mercury and Herald" Merry Comrades) concert at Holdenby. Each proved a great success.

On Saturday 1st March 1947, "Bronwen" just 16 years old beat all the senior competitors to win the Annual Stage Competition Cup. Bronwen Jones later to become Bronwen Golding was the daughter of long-time member Llew Jones.





THERE'S MAGIC IN THE AIR as Mr. P. L. Harris, President of Northamptonshire Magicians' Club (right) shows his wand of office to the Mayor of Northampton (Alderman Mrs. H. M. Nicholls) at the club's annual dinner at the Masonic Hall, Northampton. Also seen (left to right) are Mr. Archie Tear, the Mayor's (Mrs. L. M. Vorse), Mr. Wilfred Tyler (Chairman National Association Magical Societies), Mr. Arthur Valentine, "Bronwen" and Mr. Eric Williams.

MERCURY & HERALD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1948
MAGICIANS SHARE CUP

The Northamptonshire Magicians Club held their annual competition for the Eric Lewis Cup at the Roadmender Boys' Club on Saturday. The first place was a tie between last year's winners, Bronwyn Jones, of Bedford, and Reg Gayton, of Northampton, who will each hold the cup for six months. Third was Leslie Brooks, of Northampton, and fourth John Powell, of Leamington. Judges were Mr. Wilfred Tyler, of Bath, chairman of the National Association of Magical Societies, Mrs. Burdett, and Mr. John Miller.

**Women are the mysterious sex—
but here men get a look in . . .**

WHAT makes magicians "tick"? What makes people from a wide variety of jobs want to set out to prove to others that seeing is not always believing? The place to find out in Northampton last night was the little theatre of King George Community Centre, where a television engineer, a bus driver, a school teacher, a newspaper compositor, an insurance agent, a refrigeration representative, an advertising representative, and a factory manager were among those gathered before an invited audience to see who was best at the art of deception. They are all members of Northamptonshire Magicians' Club who were competing for the annual award of a silver cup and shield. The first thing that emerges is the absence of three amateur winners. To take part in the contest, Walter Ashton travelled from Wellingford, Botsley, Keith Nicholson from Ragsdale, and David Pearce from Blebbey. They make similar trips to attend the club's fortnightly meetings.



Ecscipism
For an insight into the mentality of the magician, I turned to Mr. Geoff. Hull, of Duxton, who at 21, is the youngest president in the club's 46-year history. He incidentally, is a leather representative. **Magic is their common interest**

I suppose it is a form of ecscipism," said Mr. Hull. "We get a kick out of it because there is something fascinating about watching by deception. And, after all, women are quoted as being the 'mysterious' sex, so why should not the men get a look at it?" The club's 28 members dabble in all sorts of magic—from cards to prestidigitation. Mr. Hull is also quite an expert as a manipulator of "tricks and jugs." Other occupations in the club ranks are a solicitor, a retired engineer, a hairdresser, a sanitary inspector, a college student, and a Bookers tobacconist. **MANY CALLINGS** were represented at the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club contest last night. The competitors (left to right) included an ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE (Mr. Colin Hodson, Wollaston), a TEACHER (Mr. Keith Nicholson, Ringstead), a BUTCHER (Mr. John Lee, Earls Barton), an INSURANCE AGENT (Mr. Walter Ashton, Wellingford), a FACTORY MANAGER (Mr. David Pearce, Blebbey), a REFRIGERATION REPRESENTATIVE (Mr. Reg Gayton, Northampton), a NEWSPAPER COMPOSITOR (Mr. Bill Middleton, Northampton), and a TV ENGINEER (Mr. Norman Woodger, Northampton). Seated is club president Mr. Geoff. Hull, a LEATHER REPRESENTATIVE, from Duxton, who did not compete, conferring with club tradition regarding the president.



ANNUAL
Dinner and Show

Angel Hotel, Northampton
Saturday, March 5th, 1955



President - Rev. L. A. EWART

TOASTS LIST

To Propose THE PRESIDENT
"HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN"
COUNCILLOR JOHN POOLE
"THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF NORTHAMPTON"
THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (Alderman J. V. Collier)
REV. C. AVTON WILLIAMS
"THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB"
THE PRESIDENT
PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES
N.M.C. Cup .. W. MIDDLETON
Llew. Jones Cup .. W. ASHTON
P. L. HARRIS, Esq.
"THE VISITORS"
R. W. FORD, Esq.
Master of Ceremonies—H. HOLY HOWARD

MENU

- GRAPEFRUIT
- OF
- CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP
-
- FRIED FILLET OF PLAICE
- TARTARE SAUCE
-
- ROAST CHICKEN
- BREAD SAUCE STUFFING
- CHEMOLATA SAUSAGE
- CAULIFLOWER WHITE SAUCE
- ROAST AND CREAMED POTATOES
-
- CHERRY PIE AND CREAM
- OF PEACH MELBA
-
- CHEESE AND BISCUITS
-
- COFFEE
-
- DESSERT

PROGRAMME

- PROF. WILLIE TWISTEM - Cup Winner, 1955
- EDDIE WARD - - - The Official Deceiver
- GEOFFREY SANDERS - - - - - Tenor
- ARCHIE TEAR - - - - - and His Magic
- INTERVAL
- RAM DAS AND KIM L.L.M. Cup Winners, 1955 (Brighton Convention)
- VERNON JACKSON - - - - - Entertainer
- GEOFFREY SANDERS - - - - - Tenor
- FRED WILES - - - - - The Comedy Conjuror
- Comperes—
- TOM HARRIS, The Magical Schoolmaster
-
- "HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN"
-
- Pianist—EDGAR WARD



NO MYKOMATOSIS HERE. An "off-the-record" display prior to the annual dinner of the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club, held at the Angel Hotel, Northampton, on Saturday. Left to right are the Mayor of Northampton (Alderman Walter Lewis), Canon Louis A. Ewart, Mr. Reg Gayton (president), the Mayoress (Mrs. Lewis), Mrs. Gayton, and Mr. Frank H. Jones (president-elect and secretary).

DECEIVE, BUT STAY HONEST!

MAYOR'S TIP TO MAGICIANS

"DECEIVE to your hearts' content, but remain honest men to the end," said the Mayor of Northampton (Alderman Walter Lewis) in his reply to a toast to himself and the Mayoress at the annual dinner and show of Northamptonshire Magicians' Club, at the Angel Hotel, Northampton, on Saturday.

"It has always been a secret desire of mine to be a conjuror," he said. "as I feel sure that many of the audiences I speak to would have rather seen a conjuring trick."

He said he was delighted to hear that the magicians' wives thought their husbands mad, for without a little madness the world would be very dull indeed.

The toast was proposed by Mr E E Newell, a past president of the club.

REWARDING

The toast to the club was given by Mr. Gilbert Gordon, who said that although magicians took their art very seriously they lacked nothing in comedy.

Any organisation which provided an escape for the audience from the certainties of life—and this club certainly did that—deserved every encouragement, he said.

In reply, Mr. Reg Gayton, president, said the enjoyment which a magician got from the enthralled look on children's faces, or the enthusiasm with which each completed trick was received, was ample reward for the hours of practice which each one needed.

TROPHIES PRESENTED

Two trophies were presented by Mrs R Gayton, one to Mr W Middleton (Northampton), for the best magician in the club this year, and the other for the most original trick to Mr John Lee (Earls Barton), who has only been with the club a year.

A presentation was made to Mr H Holt Howard, a past secretary who was recently married.

The visitors were welcomed by Mr. Middleton, and Mr. Eric Beeston responded.

Magic and conjuring items were given by John Lee and Professor Willie Twistem (Mr. W Middleton) both members of the club; Alfred Gabriel, a member of the Inner Magic Circle, assisted by Cecilia; Roy Johnson, of Leicester; and Devolyn and Irene International Brotherhood of Magicians Cup winners of 1955.

Mr Vernon Jackson presented "Mental Intuitional Divination," and David Greaves (tenor), sang three songs. The pianist was Mr. Edgar Ward.



Mr Walter Ashton
President 1951 - 52, 1965 - 66



President D Hopkins 1959 - 60 with Reg Gayton

This Was REALLY ★ ★ ★ A Wizard Party!



The Christmas party given by members of the Northampton Magic Circle at the Wedgwood Rooms, Northampton, was as "wizard" an event as one might expect. Above, Mr. Archie Tear (past president), on left, is greeting this year's president, Mr. Frank Jones.



Professor Willie Twist mystified and delighted the children by producing all sorts of things from all sorts of places. Above he is finding an egg in Kathleen Osbourne's ear.



Above, Mr. Neville Arvis is fascinating Robert Middleton with a little "on the side" juggling, and, below, a peep behind the magician's "curtain" of Mr. Will Vaughan preparing his "props" for a show.



After receiving the guests the president relaxes in the Jig-Saw game with his wife and son.



MAGICIAN "SANDY" WEBSTER, who raises his own "disappearing" birds. (See "The disappearing trick").

Magicians, he began as a school-boy with the proverbial pocket-tricks. He gave his first "proper show" eight years ago to 200 patients at the Coventry City Council-sponsored Corley Moor

Children's Hospital, where his daughter, Joyce, was an inmate. Through being in hospital, "Sandy" was unable to take part in the Northamptonshire Magicians' Club cup competition, held last night.



MEMBERS of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (British Ring) who attended a summer "picnic" at Overstone Restaurant, interested in a coloured dove act performed by Devolyn (left) and Irene. Others (left to right) are: Mr. Archie Tear, Mr. W. G. Strickland (secretary), Mr. Geoffrey Robinson (president), and Mr. Reg Gayton (president, Northamptonshire Club).



Above: Mr "Sandy" Webster
President of NMC from 1957 - 1958
with the Mayor and Mayoress of
Northampton

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MAGICIANS' CLUB
PRESENT
A NIGHT OF MAGIC
AT THE
EXETER HALL, NORTHAMPTON,
ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27th, 1950.

PROGRAMME.

1. CLIVE ELLIOTT "It's Magic"
2. GEOFFREY HULL Ventriloquist
3. FRED, FRANCESCA & MARIANA .. . Speciality
4. ARCHIE TEAR Manipulative Magic

INTERVAL.

5. LUCY EVELYN Magicienne
6. REG. GAYTON & MAB. .. . Magic of the Mind
7. FRED, FRANCESCA & MARIANA .. . Speciality
8. TOM HARRIS The Schoolmaster Magician

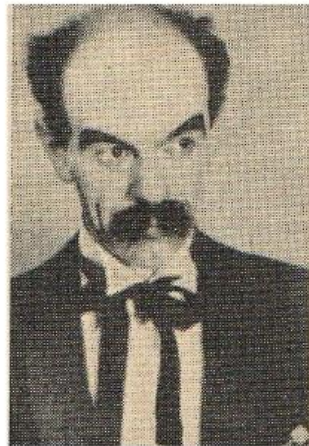
THE KING.

Accompanist—EDGAR WARD.

PROGRAMME, 3d. Lucky Number **95**

© BY PROFESSOR HULL & CO., LTD., NEWLANDS, NORTHAMPTON.

Below: Mr William Middleton aka
Professor Willie Twistem.
President of NMC from 1974-1975



Past Presidents of NMC



Cup Competition at Kingsthorpe Community Centre,
on 20th February 1962.

From Left to Right:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Colin Hooton | President 1968 - 69 |
| Keith Nicholson | President 1969 - 70 |
| John Lee | President 1964 - 65 |
| Wally Ashton | President 1951 - 52 |
| David Parriss | President 1976 - 77 |
| Reg Gayton | President 1955 - 56, 63 - 64, 72 - 73 |
| Bill Middleton | President 1974 - 75 |
| Norman Woodger | President 1967 - 68 |
| Geoff Hull [seated] | President 1961 - 62 |

Charles Goodliffe Neale (1912 – 1980)
created the weekly magazine Abracadabra and was a supplier of
church furniture and a magic creator



Left to Right:
Goodliffe with Ken
Savage



Left to Right:
Des King, Wally
Ashton, Mr & Mrs
Goodliffe



Above: **1965 NMC Club Meeting at The Franklins Gardens Hotel**

Left to Right: Alan Fraser, Cyril Ayres (President 1970 - 72) , Bill Middleton,
Ken Hawes, ..., Ray McClellan (in straight jacket), Will Vaughan, Wally
Ashton, Norman Woodger, Reg Gayton, Ken Savage, Vernon Jackson
(President 1962 - 63)

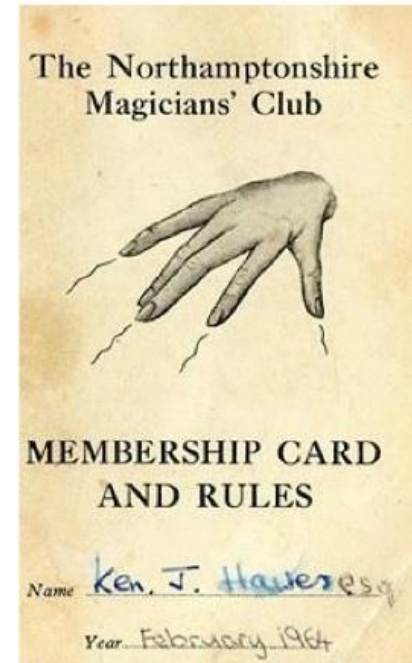


NMC Show at Rushden 1966

Left to Right: Ray McClellan,
Alan Fraser, Colin Hooton, Bill
Middleton, Keith Nicholson,
Ken Hawes



Norman K. Woodger
NMC President 1967 - 1968





THE SOLARIUM, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON

Above:
The Overstone Solarium was the venue used for many of The NMCs annual dinners.



At the Annual Dinner of the Northampton Magicians' Club a feature of the programme was the act of John Poole seen here performing the guillotine illusion. Alderman Poole is probably one of the first Mayors who is also a member of The Magic Circle, and we wish him a happy and successful term of office.



NMC Annual Dinner 1969

Fogel presents the Bullet Catch



Mr & Mrs Archie Tear
at The Overstone Solarium



Above: Photographs from 1971 in The Overstone Solarium
Left Side, Left to Right: Richard Stupple and Ken Hawes
Right Side, Left to Right: George Hills and Ken Hawes
Below: 1973 Pub Gig
Left to Right: Alan Jones, Ken Hawes, Wally Ashton





Left: NMC Pub Gig
Left to Right:
Maurice Phillips (President
1981 - 82), Ken Hawes
(President 1975 - 76, 1983 - 84)

Below:
NMC Dinner at Overstone
Solarium
with Bob Lunn



Ken Hawes

performing the Okito Box at Overstone Solarium c1974



Left to Right: Roy Johnson, Irene Devolyn, Mabs Gayton,
Reg Gayton, Ted Devolyn (Roy and Ted doing cabaret(1973)



Jim Adams (President 1980 - 81)

Winner of The Magic Circle
Close Up Magician of The Year Competition in 1979



AN empty evaporated milk can, a pack of cards and some coins all helped a Northampton conjurer to pull off a hat-trick and win a top magic competition.

James Adams, above, was one of 14 people to enter the Magic Circle annual close-up competition in London, and he walked away with a cash prize.

It was second time lucky for Mr. Adams (48) of 5 Hartwell Close, Boughton Green, Northampton. He entered the contest two years ago and came second.

His tricks involved cards, coins, a watch and a can, with the audience observing closely.

Mr. Adams, the divisional engineer for Anglian Water Authority, has been a member of the Magic Circle for about four years and he is also secretary of the Northamptonshire Magic Club. In his spare time he does cabaret acts and adults' and children's shows.

He first became interested in magic when, as a youngster, he saw a man perform a card trick.

"I bought the special pack for seven shillings and sixpence (37 1/2p) and I found that I could do the trick too. It started me along the road," he said.



The NMC has a good track record at The Magic Circle Close Up Competition.
Past winners from our club are:

- | | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2010 | Matthew Garrett |
| 1994 | David Penn |
| 1979 | Jim Adams |
| 1976 | Ken Hawes |



Top Left: Ric Ellam
(President 1987 - 89)



Top Right: Ken Hawes in the 1974 Stage
Competition.



Bottom Right: David Parriss (Devaris),
(President 1976 - 77), was an honorary life
member, and an
Associate of The Inner Magic Circle.



Above and Below:
Left: Ken Hawes Right: Alan Norman



Above: **5th November 1974 Harold Taylor Lecture**
Left to Right: Alan Jones, Ken Hawes, Harold Taylor, Reg Gayton, Ric Ella

Below Left to Right: Ken Hawes, Gary Smith (Cassidy)





Above, Left to Right: Wally & Bess Ashton, Mrs Middleton, Bill Middleton

Bottom Left: Eddie Rodwell

Bottom Right: Roy Gilbert aka Royston. With his touring Care Bears show



Left to Right: Bruce Bellringer (President 1982 - 83),
Bob Wooding, Pip Ayris (President 1979 - 80),
Maurice Phillips (President 1981 - 82), Chris Hall

Jonathan Neal

Cruise Director and former owner of Studio 9 Magic



Jonathan Neal
Cruise Director

17 Past Presidents of The Northamptonshire Magicians' Club



Front Row Left to Right:

Gary Smith (Cassidy), John Lee (President 1986 - 87),
Archie Tear (President 1946 - 47),

Reg Gayton (President 1955 - 56, 1963 - 64, 1972 - 73), Les Nottle,
Sandy Webster (President 1957 - 58), Wally Ashton (President 1965 - 66),
Vernon Jackson (President 1962 - 63),..., Ken Hawes (President 1975 - 76,
1983 - 84) , Graham Wilson (President 1977 - 78)

Back Row Left to Right:

Bruce Bellringer (President 1982 - 83), Pete Savage (President 1985 - 86),
Mick Hanzlik (President 1992 - 93), David Parriss (President 1976 - 77),
Richard Stupple (President 1978 - 79, 1996 - 98, 2000 - 04,
Alan Norman (President 1984 - 85), Pip Ayris (President 1979 - 80),,,,,,
Keith Nicholson [in the corner](President 1969 - 70), Ray Cooper,
Roy Gilbert (President 1990 - 91)

Show and Lecture Reports

The Northampton Magicians' Club

By STEPHEN BLOOD

ENTERTAINMENT was provided for members of the Magic Circle on 21st October by the Northampton Magicians' Club. This was an evening for Richard Stuppel again to grace our stage, this time wearing the hat of the Secretary of the N.M.C. In between acts he gave us an account of the club from its founding in 1925 by Archie Tear and his friends. Before the start of the performance, he introduced from among the audience the President, Peter Savage, and also John Lee, President-Elect.

Pip Ayris opened with an act in rhyming patter. Essentially a children's entertainer, he performed the Monkey Bar, Spotted Hanks and Spotted Bag, Rabbit Reverse, Knots That Are Not (reminiscent of Walter Blau), Ring and Silk on Rope, and the GoKum Car (I've always wanted to see someone else do this, since I made it up from an *Abra* article many years ago). With his pleasant personality and assured manner he won a warm response from the audience.



L to r: Richard Stuppel, Pip Ayris, Caroline Parriss, Alan Norman.

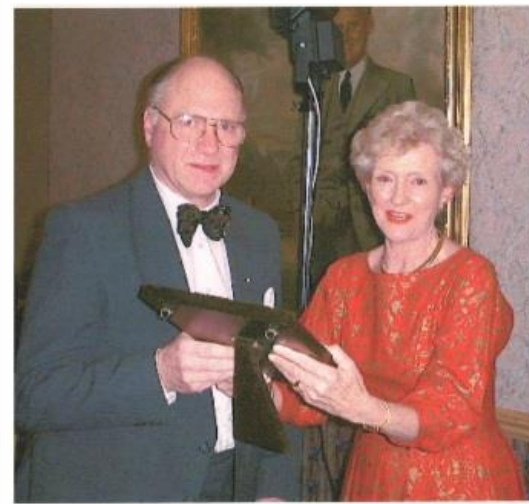
So, too, did the next performer, a young lady, Caroline Parriss, in her 16th year. With a rather crowded table, she worked a silent act effectively, with Wonder Box, Colour Change Records, a sequence of Silks to Box, Rainbow to 20th Century (with Mirror Glass), and then Silks, Cylinders and Liquids (using taller and more effective glasses than most performers of this item). She concluded with Coloured Records to Giant Record. We were told afterwards that she was very nervous at the prospect of appearing again on the Circle Stage (she had competed in the Young Magician of the Year contest), but she covered her feelings well. A costume better suited to the stage would help to dress her act more

effectively, but it was encouraging to see so competent and promising a presentation.

Alan Norman had bought a box that needed no box to put it in, for the box contained a box that could contain it, so that the box inside the box became the box outside the box (if you see what he meant... we did!). Having steered his way through that explanation, he produced Coke from a tube, had a (Professor's) Nightmare with his Pyjama Cord, and then gave a very doubtful explanation of how a silk handkerchief could change colour by merely pushing it through his closed fist.



L to r: Ken Hawes, David Parriss, Des King.



Top Left: David Parris and Angela Bailey Top Right: Angela Bailey with Matthew Duggan. Below: Graham and Steph Sargeant, Alan Norman, David Miller on 20th October 2007

Tricks of the trade at club's contest



THE cream of Northamptonshire's magic circle came together at an annual toast of their talents.

Members of Northamptonshire Magic Club showcased their skills at the organisation's annual magic competition, which featured an array of classic tricks and illusions.

The club has been going for 85 years and is one of the country's oldest.

Club president Roy Gilbert said: "I think magic is something you latch on to. It's something that grabs you. I still love watching it and being baffled and entertained."

Performers at the club's competition, held at the Quality Hotel, Weston Favell, saw dice jump into boxes, cut skipping ropes repaired and illusions performed with money. Magician Roscoe Birchmarie performed an illusion which saw his assistant Steph suspended from the back of a chair. The competition was won by magician Malcolm Chase, who is known in Northampton as Mr Crumble.

Mr Gilbert, who has been a professional magician since 1978, added: "I don't think the judges have an easy job."

The club's members are a mixture of professional, semi-professionals and keen amateurs, who meet twice a month.

Although new members are welcome to the club, they must audition in order to join.

"My interest in magic goes a long way back," Mr Gilbert added.

"I had an uncle who was a member of the magic circle and it went from there - I haven't stopped since."

■ Graham and Steph Sargeant work their magic with the help of an audience member. Below left and right Alan Norman's box of tricks and magic sticks and middle David Miller on 20th October 2007





Left:

Anthony Owen with Bob Read (1940 - 2005) at Anthony's Surprise 21st Birthday Party that NMC organised for him.

Below:

Ken Hawes through the years. Ken joined in 1964 and has currently been a member of NMC for 54 years.



Matthew Garrett



David Penn



Stephen Baker

John Lee



NNC President 1986 - 1987
Photographed in 1956

Fire-eater John Lee performed as the oriental Yen-Si. He was by trade a butcher. His interest in magic began when he was just 15 and later his fiancée Miss Lilian Miller joined the act. Later John was to host NMC meetings at The Square in Earls Barton.

Ron Massey



NMC President 1991 - 1992
Photographed 1991

Anthony Owen writes: "Ron Massey is our resident club 'genius'. If you want a problem solved with regards inventing, constructing or improving a piece of apparatus, Ron is the gentleman to see."



Alan Martell 1944 - 2015
(both Top and Bottom photos)

Alan was an Associate of The Inner Magic Circle. He entertained with ventriloquism, Punch and Judy, balloon animals, magic shows for children and close up magic. His comedy cabaret act was polished and highly entertaining.



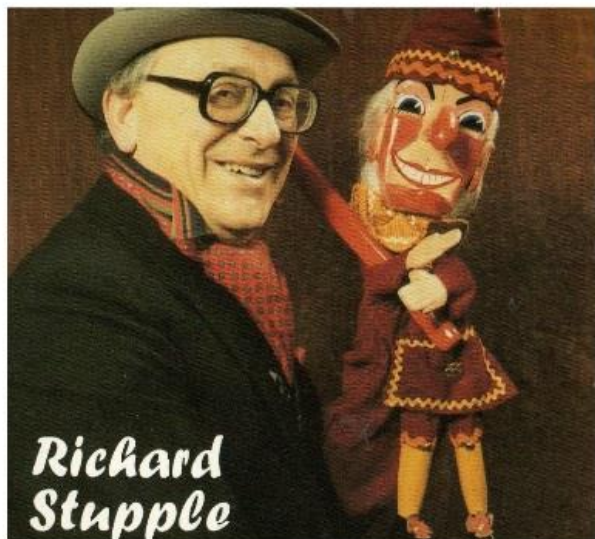
Clive Fletcher

is an actor and magician. Top left shows him playing the part of a white-faced French magician called, Jean-Pierre.

Top right shows an earlier photo of Clive as an escapologist. Below is Clive's best known magician character, "The Great Le Broc."

Clive performed this act at The Magic Circle, as part of the NMC stage show, and also won The NMC Stage Competition performing as The Great Le Broc.





Richard Stupple 1934 - 2007

Richard was President of NMC from 1978 - 79, 1996 - 98 and again from 2000 - 04, he was a regular on the committee and was also made Honorary Life Vice-President of the club.

He was not only a well known entertainer in the area but was also a Member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, a former Chairman of The Magic Circle, London and a former President of The IBM British Ring.

Richard maintained high standards, and contributed to NMC greatly over a number of years.

He was my mentor in magic and a friend.
- Matthew Garrett



Top: Joyce Lee, Charles Bridgewater (NMC President 1989 - 1990) and Richard Stupple

Below: Mark Paul, Henry Hound and Richard Stupple





Colin Hooton 1936 - 2016
(both top and bottom photos)

NMC President 1968 - 1969

"I joined the Boys Magicians' Club, which was advertised in comics, and that was the start of it."

He joined the NMC in 1959.

Colin regularly attended Magic Circle meetings in London and performed locally at children's parties.

He has performed internationally in Lapland and Bahrain.



Mick Hanzlik 1947 - 2015

Mick was president of the NMC from 1992 - 93 and he was a highly respected member of the Magic Circle.

He was a professional locksmith and a great collector of Houdini memorabilia.

His death came one day after the anniversary of the death of his hero, the legendary escapologist Houdini.

Among Mick's many achievements was creating a replica of Houdini's mirror handcuffs, and he helped with the Water Torture Houdini display at The Magic Circle Headquarters. Mick also created popular magic effect called "Supalok" which involves a padlock.



Back Row Left to Right:

Mark Farrar, Alan Martell, John Percival, Mick Hanzlik, Ed Stivala, Alan Astra, Andrew Gilmore, Steven Levitt

Front Row Left to Right:

Malcolm Chase, Ken Hawes, Phil Banks, Graham Wilson, Dallas Salsbury-Newman, Richard Stupple, Barbara Astra, Eddie Chapman, Brian Caswell, Bobby Carey (aka Michael Carducci)



Ken Hawes

(President 1975 - 76 and 1983 - 84)

Ken has won both The Magic Circle Close-Up Competition in 1976 and The Zina Bennet Cup for winning The IBM British Ring Close-Up competition in 1979. He has been a keen member of NMC and has taught junior members including Anthony Owen and David Penn.

Paul Daniels 1938 - 2016

In 1992 Paul Daniels performed his stage show in Northampton, with Debbie and his son Martin.

After the show members of The NMC, including president Mick Hanzlik, Anthony Owen and Richard Stuppel met Paul, who was pleased to accept his new title of Honorary Life Vice President of The NMC.



● YOU NEED HANDS - Paul Daniels (top), with Richard Stuppel and Mick Hanzlik

own field accept me and give me a reward like this it makes it all worthwhile." The club is believed to be the oldest surviving magic circle in the country and many of its members have gone on to join the highly acclaimed Magic Circle and International Brotherhood of Magicians. Other members have appeared on television in their own shows and one member is a leading expert in balloon modelling. President of the club Mick Hanzlik said the club was proud that Paul Daniels accepted the position. "He will be invited to all our social activities and knowing him the way we do we know he will come because he likes to get himself involved," he said.



Left Side Photo
From Left to Right:

Ken Hawes, Anthony Owen, Simon Green (President 1994 - 1995 and Honorary Life-Vice President)

Below

From Left to Right:
John Shaw, Anthony Owen, Mick Hanzlik, Colin McCrory, Richard Stuppel, Mark Farrar, Matthew Garrett



Sean Heydon



Jamie Docherty



Left Side Photo
From Left to Right:

Angela Bailey (wife of
Magic Circle President Michael Bailey)

Dallas Salsbury-Newman, shown here
collecting NMC awards at the annual
dinner in 2000.

Dallas won The Craig Trophy for The
Best Female Magician at The IBM
Convention in Llandudno in 1999.

Right Side Photo
From Left to Right:

Steve Nixon, Jayne Osborn, Kevin
Burke, David Miller, James Griffin

The NMC raised funds for
The Cynthia Spencer Hospice by
putting on a
Golden Gala of Magic Show
on 2nd October 2015
at The Royal & Derngate Theatre
in Northampton, in fond memory
of member John Goldsborough.





Anthony Owen

Joined NMC as a junior member and by the age of 15, he had reached the final of The Young Magician of The Year in 1987. He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming President of The NMC from 1993 - 1994.

Today he works as a television and multimedia executive at Objective Productions in London.

He is the Executive Producer of all of Derren Brown's television projects around the world, and of The Real Hustle. He Executive Produced and created Help! My Supply Teacher is Magic on CBBC and BBC1.



Brian Caswell
(left: Brian Caswell, right Peter Nardi)

Brian is an inventor of magic having created many successful effects including Trilogy and Cataclysm.



James Harrington is the stage name of Aaron Langley. Originally from Milton Keynes and a member of NMC he is now a successful magician working in Dubai, working at top venues and performing for Royalty.



Sean Heydon is currently the co-host of the popular Internet "Wizard Product Review" programme with David Penn. He works as a professional magician.



Steve Dimmer

NMC President 2004 - 06
Steve is a magic lecturer and creator, known for "Screen Test."
He is a popular magician specialising in children's entertainment, working as Mr Bubbles.



Jamie Docherty
Left to right: Pres. David Miller, Jamie Docherty

Jamie is the current winner of The NMC stage competition, he is a Member of The Magic Circle and an accomplished stage and close up performer. He has created the magic effect "Transition."



Matthew Garrett

is a Member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, a Member of Obie's 4Fs and The Magic Circle Close-Up Magician of The Year 2010, and creator of the magic effect Ninja+.

Mark Paul

is a Member of The Magic Circle who performs all types of magic ranging from Punch and Judy to Stage. He is a keen collector and magic historian.



Mark Farrar

Left to right: Mark Farrar, Michael Bailey, Alan Martell.

Mark was NMC President 1999 - 2000, he is known for his work on Magic Squares, which through thesis gained him Associate Member of The Inner Magic Circle. He improved the NMC standards through his work on the website and as secretary.



Alan Norman

Is a Past President of NMC from 1984 - 1985.
He is Member of The Magic Circle, and performed there as part of the NMC show in 1986.





John Shaw

NMC President 1995 - 1996

Freelance broadcaster and radio presenter.



Mark Shortland

is a Member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, who performs Comedy Magic on the top Cruise Lines around the world. He has performed on TV's Penn and Teller Fool Us.



Kevin Burke

NMC President 2008 - 2010
His skills include fire-eating, lying on a bed of nails and fight choreography, as well as being an accomplished magician. He is a Member of The Magic Circle.



David Penn

NMC President 1998 - 1999

David joined NMC as a junior member and quickly won all of the awards in the club. He is now a seven times national award winning magician and illusionist.

His large scale illusion show won him the title of 'British Magic Champion' and also secured him a place in the Britain's Got Talent live final stages.

David is The Magic Circle Close Up Magician Of The Year 1994 and the IBM Close Up Magician of the Year 1995.



The Address Hotel Fire December 31st 2015



Matthew Garrett performed at The Address Hotel in Dubai actually during the fire that made worldwide news.

"The party began at 7.30pm, I was performing on the balcony around 9.30pm and saw a couple of people looking up. I looked and saw a bright yellow blaze coming from a window a few floors above us.

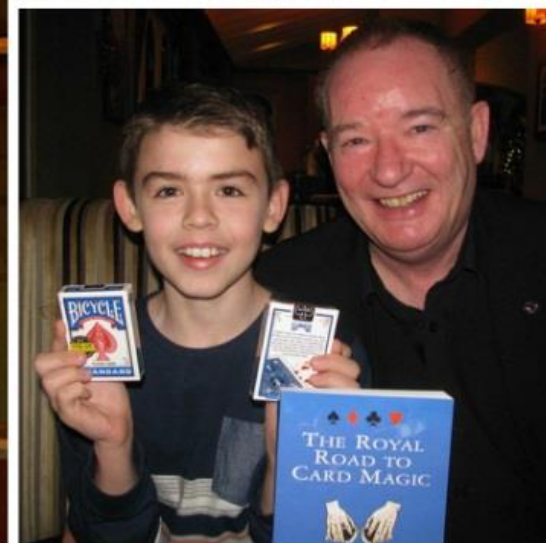
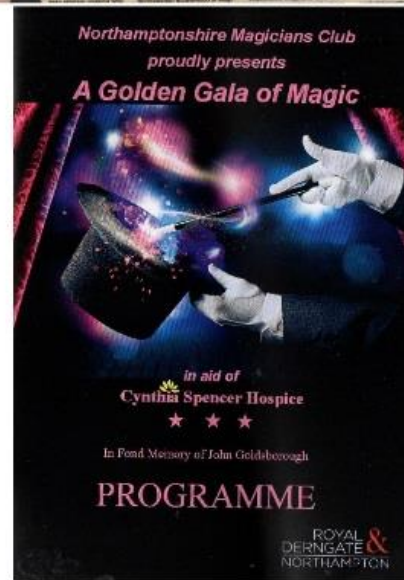
It took a few seconds to process, then I asked why they were not leaving - they said it'll be out in a minute. I decided to leave and very politely invited others to do the same.

Surreal as it sounds it was a VIP party and I didn't want to make a big deal....I was told by one person, 'we can't leave we've just got here', no one at all made to leave. I told the main security guy at the party reception desk, I asked where the fire exit was, and he directed me to the lift! I made my way down the staircase, and on exiting was met with strange looks as if to say, why did you come out of the emergency exit?

But just 2 minutes later the fire had spread greatly, pieces were falling off the building and I quickly backed away. In just 3 minutes from the time I had left the fire had spread from one window to 15 floors of flames.

Crowds were gathering to watch, but backing away as debris was falling too near for comfort. I saw TV cameras arrive from Sky News and other stations.

[Amazingly the fire had not directly killed anyone, one person sadly died on the staircase of a heart attack. The photo of the cello player shows where we were entertaining, the same spot is shown in the photo after the fire.]



Top: Lewis Joss

Left: Roscoe Birchmore

Bottom: Left to Right
 Kieran Bowers, James Docherty

PRESENTED BY EVENTS ON
Billy de Laine
 Vocalist & Comedy Entertainer

Songs from the 50's onwards
 with a few jokes thrown in for
 good measure!

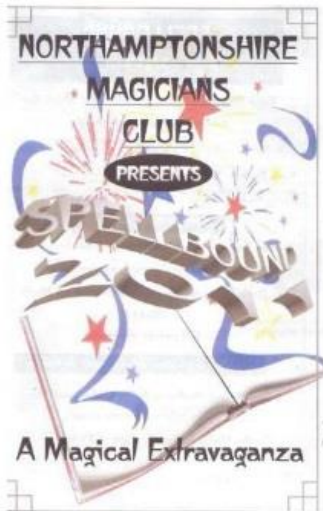


"I laughed every time he opened his mouth"
 Billy's Dentist



Appearing Here On
SATURDAY 17th
DECEMBER **WILBY WMC**

Magician and singer
 Steve Butler performs
 under the name of Billy
 de Laine



SPELLBOUND 2011
 Your Show Compere **Rosslyn the Magician**
 introduces Part one featuring
Colin Daines :- A Wile of a Wizard
Kevin Burke :- Northampton's official Jester
 (Kevin being part of all our children's magic shows in the "spellbound" shows... includes all the best bits
 from Kevin's 20th Birthday, his 50th Birthday, his 60th Birthday, his 70th Birthday, his 80th Birthday, his 90th Birthday, his 100th Birthday...)

WRITTEN (by Steve H. Smith)
Graham Sargeant featuring **Stephanie** :- Partners in mystery
SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTE
Uncle Zashoe & Company :- Verfrivolous & Magic
FINALE
THE ENTIRE COMPANY
 Pts show and informal entertainment... performances
Steve Nixon & Feather :- Brilliant balloon modelling
 (The inflation everyone enjoys)
Douglas Maddy :- Cheesy magic at it's best

PERFORMING CAST PROFILES

Rosslyn, a professional Magician for over 30 years. An Associate of the
 Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star. Rosslyn has been entertaining children
 in Northampton at birthday parties, family occasions, Playgroups, Schools
 etc. and in the 80's toured the country with the popular **Come Beers Show**

Uncle Zashoe has now been entertaining children for well over
 12 years. His passion for his art has taken him all over the UK and
 even abroad entertaining children and adults alike. His clear mix
 of entertainment provides to engage the audience like no other
 resulting in a party that's remembered for a very long time

Kevin Burke has worked as an actor, magician, entertainer for
 over twenty-five years, during which time he has performed to
 countless thousands of happy audiences throughout this country
 and abroad

Colin Daines specialises in children's magic.

If you are looking to add a little extra sparkle and ensure you make your
 special event memorable then look no further than **Douglas Maddy**

Steve & Heather, full time professional entertainers
 that have been entertaining both children and adults
 for 20 years with their children's magic shows, clown-up
 magic, balloon models, face painting and much more.

Graham Sargeant

Stephanie



Above: The NMC 2017 Close Up Competition entrants.
 Left to Right: Lewis Joss, David Rogers, Ken Hawes, Kieran Bowers,
 Roscoe Birchmore, Phil Golsby, Tony White, Miguel Alcón

Bottom Left: Neil Henry proposing to his girlfriend Charlie live on
 stage. Fortunately she accepted.

Bottom Right: Left to Right Ted Mc Crickard, David Miller, Lewis Joss





Roy Gilbert
(known as Royston)

NMC President
1990 - 1991
and from
2006 - 2007

Royston has worked as a professional magician for over 35 years and he is an Associate of the Inner Magic Circle with Silver Star.

Royston has appeared in sell-out shows in most major theatres throughout the country. He has had a licensed touring Care Bears theatre show.

In recognition of his continued work for the club he is an Honorary Member of NMC.



David Miller
NMC President 2010 - 17
Photographed with Safi Miller

The NMC at Brafield on the Green Working Men's Club
on 29th November 2016 at **The David Stone Lecture**



Front Row (Left to Right) : Steve Nixon, David Allen, Nick Price,
Ben Newman, David Stone, George Scholey,
David Miller (President), Roy Gilbert

Tables on left (Front to back): Andrew Wookey, Jonathan Farr, Katerina
Villiotis, Sarah Chandler, Mark Shortland, Noel Qualter, Ashley Turner,
Richard Buzzoni

Middle Row Left to Right: David Penn, Mark Paul, (behind) Charlie James ,
(front) Richard Coppins, Lewis Joss, David Tomkins, Steve Butler, Steve
Dimmer, (behind) Mark Chavush & Luke Moore, Brian Caswell, Clive
Fletcher, Alan Norman, Roscoe Birchmore, Adrian Ward, Ken Hawes,...,
Dinesh Jacob

Table on right: Jayne Osborn, Carl Elliott

Back Row (Left to Right): Mrs Scholey (seated), David Rogers (Senior),
David Rogers (Junior), Richard Smart

The Brafield on the Green Working Men's Club



In November 2016 The NMC moved its HQ from
The Yeoman Of England Pub, High St., Wootton to the
Brafield Working Men's Club, Bedford Road, Brafield on the
Green.

Today the club has 50 members, and meets fortnightly on a
Tuesday from 8 - 10pm.

The committee consists of David Miller (President), Roy
Gilbert (Honorary Life Member & Sec.), Matthew Garrett,
Steve Nixon, Jayne Osborn, Jamie Docherty and
Ted Mc Crickard (Treasurer).

Meetings are mainly lectures by touring professional
magicians. The club also has competitions for Children's
Magic, Close Up-Magic, Originality, Mentalism and Stage
Magic.

The club still holds annual dinners consisting of a meal,
close-up performances around the tables and after dinner
cabaret.

NMC



NMC owned an illusion that was about the size of an old telephone box, called the 'Hand of Karma'. Crowds would stand to watch a disembodied waxed hand which would occasionally move.

This illusion inspired Ronald Austin to design the logo shown above which is the club's original logo.





Sustinere Res Occulta

Outside Back Cover