

East Northants Run 30th September 2018

Sparrow Hall ~ Pailton ~ Harborough Magna
~ Churchover ~ Shawell ~ Swinford ~ Stanford
Hall ~ South Kilworth ~ Welford ~ Sibbertoft ~
Naseby Battlefield (*stop: 15 mins*)

Haselbech ~ Cottesbrooke ~ Brixworth
Pitsford res'r ~ Holcot ~ Old ~ Lamport Hall ~
Harrington (*stop: 5 mins*) ~ Rothwell
Desborough ~ Rushton ~ Pipewell
Carlton Park Café (*stop: 45mins, breakfast*)

Cottesbrooke ~ Rockingham ~ Geddington
Grafton-Underwood ~ Brigstock ~ The Benefields
Deenethorpe War Memorial (*stop: 5 mins*)

Weldon ~ Deene ~ **Spanoe** (*stop: 5 mins*) ~
Harringworth ~ Seaton ~ Uppingham ~ Calde-
cott ~ Neville Holt ~ Medbourne ~
Market Harborough (*stop, fuel, tea, 45mins*)

Gartree ~ Lubbenham ~ Theddingworth ~
North Kilworth ~ Walcote ~
Lutterworth ~ Magna Park ~ Pailton ~ **FINISH**

Fascinating Facts!

Ansty ~ The main landowner was Lady Godiva. Ansty Hall, just outside the village, was built in 1678 for a Richard Taylor, who had been on the Parliamentary side in the Civil War. It is now the Ansty Hall Hotel. Ribbon weaving gave employment until the 1830's but then declined due to cheap imports. The Oxford canal has run through the village since 1771, and in 1963 a 30' embankment gave way spilling 10,000 tons of clay and debris across adjoining land. Rolls Royce had a factory nearby which was originally Armstrong Siddeley and the whole area is now being developed for manufacturing including electric versions of London Taxi's.

Shawell ~ The Roman town of Tripontium on the A5 was the basis of today's village

Lutterworth & Sir Frank Whittle Memorial ~ Dating from the time of the Danes, it was the parish of John Wycliffe between 1374 & 1384, and it was here that he translated the Bible into English for the first time. A replica Gloster E28/39 jet aircraft sits in the middle of the roundabout, as a memorial to Sir Frank Whittle, who developed the jet engine while he worked in the town between 1936 and 1943.

Stanford Hall ~ Home to the Cave family since 1430, the Hall now standing was built in the 1690's, in the style of "William & Mary". The River Avon flows through the grounds with a weir downstream to form a lake. Now open to the public, car rallies and club gatherings are regular summer activities. There is a small car and motorcycle museum housed within the hall, and a replica of a 19th century glider built here in the 1890's by Percy Pilcher but was never actually tested.

Coventry Gliding Club & Sibbertoft ~ RAF Husbands Bosworth was opened in 1942 as an operational flight training unit and all manner of aircraft were deployed during WW2 including From Spitfires flown from the factory at Castle Bromwich to Wellington Bombers and Dakotas. Decommissioned in 1946 the site became home for over 500 displaced Polish families. The Gliding Club took over the airfield in 1965, and the road we're on was originally No1 runway. The Police helicopter station was opened in 1996 and is home to two units covering Leics, Northants and Warwickshre.

Naseby ~ Famous for two reasons, the source of the River Avon and the last major battle of the English Civil War.....

§aturday 14th June 1645. The two armies of Englishmen faced each other in a grassy meadow in central Northamptonshire, the sun was warm even at 9 in the morning, and the shouted taunts echoed over the village of Naseby. A Royalist scouting party chanced upon a company of Parliamentary scouts and after a fantastic uphill charge by Prince Rupert's cavalry, which broke Fairfax's lines, instead of consolidating, they chased after their quarry to attack the "Roundhead's" baggage train at the rear. Seizing their chance, Parliamentary horse and foot soldiers ran down the hill and took on The King's troops man to man (before Charles had chance to deploy his cannons) in a vast melee of swords, pikes, musket butts and blood.

The Royalists fought hard and began to push the “rebels” back up the hill but Cromwell’s dragoons had been held in reserve and attacked the King’s flanks as one. This proved decisive, and as The King escaped to Hereford, what was left of his army surrendered, but their officers were chased and butchered all the way to Leicester. Cromwell’s New Model Army commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax, had out fought and out manoeuvred the Royalist forces through a combination of greater numbers and better discipline.

The fledgling River Avon emerges from a well in the garden of Manor Farm opposite The Fitzgerald Arms. It is culverted under the road, through the pub cellar and emerges again in a private garden behind, before making its way towards Stanford Hall, Rugby, Stratford upon Avon and onwards.....

Haselbech Hall ~ Dating from 1652 this estate was eventually bought by Charles Ismay, Chairman of The White Star Shipping Line, builders of the infamous SS Titanic.

Cottesbrooke Hall ~ Built in 1702 it was the inspiration of Jane Austin’s “Mansfield Park.” Now a popular tourist attraction, the flower gardens are world renowned.

Brixworth ~ “All Saints” is the oldest Saxon church in England and one of the best preserved in northern Europe. The Pytchely Hunt was originally based here until moving in 1966, Iron Ore was mined here from the 1890’s until just after WW2. By contrast the engine development workshops of Mercedes Benz Formula One Team and Illmoor Racing are based here.

Pitsford Reservoir ~ Built in 1956 to supply Northampton which is about 6 miles to the south. The water is the 34th largest in the UK, with a surface area of 2.85 square miles.-The northern half of the reservoir is designated as a nature reserve, but Pitsford Water is also used for sailing, bird watching and fishing. The causeway replaced Holcot bridge which is submerged approx. ¼ of a mile north.

Lampton Hall ~ the home of the Isham family from 1560 to 1976 and a Grade I Listed House. It is open to the public. The 10th Baronet, Sir Charles Isham (1819–1903), is credited with beginning the tradition of garden knomes in the UK when he introduced a number of terracotta figures from Germany in the 1840s.

Harrington Airfield ~ From 1942 to 1945, home to the O.S.S. (the war-time U.S secret service) the American “Carpet Baggers” who flew agents and supplies to The Resistance in France and occupied Europe. We will stop here for a cuppa and a look around. The museum café is famous for large slices of home made cake!

Rothwell ~ Originally a bronze age burial place, then settled by the Romans, the Danes came here and named it *Rodewell* because the abundant local iron ore stained the streams red. Granted a market charter by King John in 1204, the town thrived until the railway arrived at nearby Kettering. Several buildings of note – including The Market House built by local merchant Thomas Tresham. It’s built in the shape of a cross to symbolise his Catholicism at a time of persecution.

Rushton Hall & Triangular Lodge ~ A triangular building was designed by Sir Thomas Tresham (father of one of the Gunpowder Plotters) and constructed between 1593 and 1597 as testimony to his Roman Catholicism.

Rockingham Castle ~ Built by William the Conqueror, and still owned by his descendants. Open to the public at week ends.

Geddington ~ hosts the best surviving Eleanor cross. The monument dates from 1294. Crosses were raised as a memorial by Edward I (1239–1307) to his late wife, Eleanor of Castile (1244–1290). There were originally 12 monuments, one in each resting place of the funeral procession as they travelled to Westminster Abbey. Three now remain; the other two being in Hardingstone (near Northampton) and Waltham Cross, with a more recent replica at Charing Cross in London.

Boughton House ~ Originating as a monastery the house and land were bought by Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice to Henry VIII in 1529, just prior to the dissolution. It has passed down the ancestral line to the present day and is said to be the finest original stately home in Britain. The armoury, the gardens and the house itself are open to the public most week ends.

Grafton Underwood ~ Home to several USAF bomber units from 1941, the airfield sent American daylight raids all over Europe during WW2. One unfortunate B-17 crashed on the approach and the remains of the aircraft are still in the woods near Geddington

Brigstock ~ Evidence of a bronze age settlement followed by the Saxons and the Romans. A tower attached to the church dates from the 10th century.

Deenethorpe Airfield ~ Base for the USAF's 401st Bombardment Group from Autumn 1943 to Spring 1945. Amongst the hundreds of B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombers stationed on this base was the famous *Memphis Belle*.

Corby ~ A former Roman and Danish settlement, iron working has always played a part in the town's history. The famous Corby Steelworks originated in the early 1930's with a massive influx of Scottish workers, many of whom walked for days to find a job in "The Works." It was these workers who constructed the pipeline under the sea (PLUTO) a cross channel link from The Isle of Wight that supplied The Allies in Normandy with fuel following the D-Day landings. Steel making ended here in 1980 with around 12,000 workers redundant within 6 months of the closure announcement. Modern industry and warehouses have been built over much of the 400 acre site, including the UK's latest full sized motor racing circuit Rockingham Speedway which itself is set to close at the end of 2018.

Deene House ~ home to the Brudenell family since 1514, the 7th Earl of Cardigan is probably best remembered for leading The Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava.

Spanoe Airfield ~ Opened in 1943 as the USAAF Aero Transport base Spanoe had a short life as a wartime station. Many of the D Day paratroopers and gliders were sent from here.

Welland Viaduct ~ Part of the 19th century Manton to Kettering line, originally intended to take coal from the Leics / Notts coalfields to London. It has 82 arches, is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long and carries the railway 60 feet above the valley floor. Mostly unused these days it never the less acts as a shunting line for the Peugeot car trains that arrive daily in Corby from Calais. In the summer months tourist trains pulled by iconic engines are a regular sight.

Eyebrook Reservoir ~ It was built between 1937 and 1940 by Stewarts & Lloyds to supply water to the Corby steel works nearby. During WW2 it was used in May 1943 as a practice site by “The Dambusters”; a plaque commemorates this.

Neville Holt School ~ Original buildings date back to the 13th century and several “noble” families built a succession of homes here. In 1876 the estate was bought by the Cunard family (of shipping fame) and then in 1919 became a prep school for boys. A sexual abuse case resulted in the arrest of one teacher and the suicide of another – the school closed in 1998. It’s now owned by David Ross, founder of Car Phone Warehouse.

Medbourne ~ Dating from ancient times, and standing on “The Gartree Road” the village was an important market during the Roman occupation. There is a “bottle kicking” contest with the nearby village of Hallaton each Easter Monday during which locals try to kick or carry wooden barrels between two streams 1½ miles apart. There are no rules except “no eye gouging, no strangling and no weapons!”

Market Harborough ~ Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the town was established as an important market from 1204 and became a key staging post between London and the Midlands. Charles I used the town as a base prior to the Battle of Naseby, but subsequently Cromwell housed prisoners here. The canal arrived in the 1820’s and various industries sprang up, including a glue works which still operates today. In 1841 a local wood turner – Thomas Cook – organised a trip on the new railway to Leicester. He changed careers and went on to be quite successful. The local hunt organised steeplechases in 1860 and these races were the foundation of “The Cheltenham Festival”.

Gartree Prison ~ Formerly a maximum security establishment, Ronnie Kray was housed here for several years. It was downgraded in the early ‘90’s following a daring escape by two inmates. A hijacked helicopter hovered over the exercise yard and a rope ladder was thrown down. The escapees grabbed it and were whisked away to freedom. These days wire netting covers open spaces where prisoners are present.

Sources:- Wikipedia, English Heritage, AA Travel Guide & Every Boys Handbook 1971!