



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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<http://www.lawrencesherriffschool.net/weekly-word>

First Word ... from David Howe, Governor and local historian

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## From School to Hart Field: A Journey through history

History is not just a school subject. It surrounds us all of the time. The journey from school into town is a walk through history. This time, I want to write about the journey from school to Hart Field. It is a journey most pupils do weekly. Once it was twice weekly. (Games: Tuesdays and Thursdays).

As you get out, you cross Whitehall Road, originally just Whitehall Lane. The roundabout to your left once housed a row of small cottages. Entering Lower Hillmorton Road, one enters a sustained tribute to the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887: the Victoria pub, Queen Victoria Street with 1887 emblazoned on the brick wall at the top of the street, and Victoria Place. Until Queen Elizabeth set a new record, Queen Victoria was by far the longest serving British monarch.

Morton Gardens, a road on the right was once the main drive to St Luke's Hospital. At the top of the drive was a small, anonymous brick building which served as the hospital mortuary. Its site, tactfully, has no house on it, just a tree adjacent to a car park. Do the neighbours know?

Across the road, the large house with a white door (no. 7 with 5 large windows) was a nurses' home. To the right of the house is a property called Stonemason's Yard. That is exactly what it once was, its front garden full of newly made gravestones. Was it convenient, or tactless to have a gravestone maker working opposite

the road leading to the hospital mortuary?

Further on the right, is a hedge, fronting Lloyd's Pharmacy. The entrance to the right (a gap in the hedge) once led to Rugby's Union Workhouse, part of the homes and lives of hundreds of the poor.

We should not ignore 'Mr Chips', the fish and chip shop. 'Shops' like this have a long history, dating back to World War Two and before, with one difference. Once, fish and chips shops sold fish and chips and little else. Now they parade a plethora of culinary temptations.

Street names are nuggets of history. We have passed Queen Victoria Street. Next on the left is Paradise Street, so named it is said, because of the proximity of the houses on the eastern side to the cemetery, their back gardens separated by an eminently climbable wall and I should know. Temple Street on the right honours Archbishop Temple, once Headmaster of Rugby School. The cemetery is full of historical stories and Commonwealth War graves, the burial places of members of the Rupert Brooke family, the Arthur Ransome family (he of 'Swallows and Amazons' fame) and so many more, including well known Old Laurentian, Trevor White.

The road crosses over a peaceful, rural, tree-lined walkway far below, once the track bed for the Central Line railway. Hard to imagine now the regular freight and passenger trains that with their enveloping clouds of steam and smoke sped through: coal from Nottingham, fish from Grimsby and express trains linking towns as

disparate as Newcastle and Poole. The line had opened as late as 1899, sixty years after Rugby Midland. The plan had been to run the line from the East Midlands and the North through London to the Channel. Work had begun on a cross-channel tunnel. Michael Portillo visited the preliminary excavations on the Kent coast, which remain clearly visible today. Just think, one could have stopped en route to Hart Field to watch a cross channel express.

The line never prospered. It duplicated too much existing provision in places like Leicester and Nottingham. Of Rugby's own Central station, John Betjeman unkindly wrote:

*'Quite where Rugby Central is – does only Rugby know'.*

Not all of Rugby either!

We are only half way there, but the rest of the road passes the site of the Lodge Plug factory, the games field of the former Rugby Technical College, close to the games field of the erstwhile Rugby High School, all on the left, and past the B.T.H. 'Rec', on the right, which once housed big athletics meetings.

In one stretch, we have been reminded of royal occasions, life and death, nineteenth century homes for the poor, travel, education, sport ... Nearly all human life was there.

**David Howe**

## Parent Consultation Evenings

Insight is now used for parents to book appointments. If you experience any login issues please email; [Issinsight@lawrencesherriffschool.com](mailto:Issinsight@lawrencesherriffschool.com)

### Year 12 Parent Consultations - Thursday 8th November

Booking is currently open to parents and will be closed on: **Monday 22nd October**. Appointments may then be added by Subject Leaders or Mrs Halestrap, Head of Sixth Form. Once finalised the schedules will be emailed out to parents by **Friday 26th October**.

### Year 7 Parent Consultations - Thursday 15th November

Booking will be opened to parents on **Monday 22nd October**, and will remain open for one week. After half term, appointments may then be added by Subject Leaders, the Pastoral department or Mrs Poppa, Head of year. Once finalised the schedule will be emailed out to parents by **Friday 9th November**.

## Memorial Service

to celebrate the life of

### Roley Davies

**(passed away on 13 August 2018)**

Former Deputy Headteacher and Head of Mathematics at Lawrence Sheriff School (1953 -1989)

An open invitation to join family members and former colleagues on

**Sunday 21st October 2018**

**2.30 pm**

St. Andrew's Church  
Church Street  
Rugby  
CV21 3PT



PRESS RELEASE

## WW1 ARMISTICE FESTIVAL

RUGBY & DAVENTRY

NOVEMBER 2018



A collection of world-class performances and community events inspired by The Great War.

Funded by  
Heritage Lottery First World War: then and now  
Arts Council England  
Daventry District Council  
Produced by [www.thewheelsondebussy.com](http://www.thewheelsondebussy.com)



Please refer to the attached 'Armistice Press Release - the wheels on DEBUSSY' for full programme details

Lawrence Sheriff School is involved in the following three events:

**Be Brave and Come Home Safe  
Poetry Performances  
A Soldiers Tale**

# Don't throw those old clothes out!

The Parents' Association and Eco Committee are collecting for



**What can I donate?** High street and designer women's, men's, babies and children's clothing, outerwear, underwear, pairs of shoes (tied together), accessories including hats, belts and bags, put in Clothes Aid bags.

Besides clothing, we also collect the following items of household goods and bric-a-brac:

Sports equipment  
Jewellery  
Ornaments and trinkets  
Children's toys and games  
Paired curtains

Duvet covers and pillow cases  
Mobile phones and tablets  
Books  
CDs and DVDs  
Pots and pans

Digital cameras  
Towels and bath mats  
Stationery and notepads  
Paintings and antiques  
Hand tools

Cutlery and crockery  
Board games  
Kitchenware  
Pet accessories  
Household linen

Collection bags will be sent out by the school this week.  
Full bags can be delivered into school from November 5th  
**Collection will be morning of November 9th**

For more information email [parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com)



Lawrence Sheriff School

**Parents' Association**

Lawrence Sheriff School  
**Christmas  
Fayre**

Saturday 24th November  
12 - 3pm

We need your support to make this year's Fayre the best ever!

Donations of cakes, as well as bottle and chocolate tombola prizes are very welcome - donations can be brought into the school office, or into the Griffin Centre by Friday 23rd November in the evening, or on the day of the Fayre.

Students interested in running a stall can email [parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com)



THE  
**200 CLUB**  
IS HERE!

**CASH PRIZES TO BE  
WON EVERY MONTH**

**JUST £12 PER YEAR**  
**ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TOWARDS  
FUNDING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES &  
EQUIPMENT FOR THE STUDENTS**

**GET YOUR NUMBER NOW!**

To register your interest and get a number just email  
[parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com)  
We will then send you your number and payment details

No limit to how many numbers you can buy!

**Deadline 24th October**

Cash prize amounts pro rata with number of participants



Lawrence Sheriff School

**Parents' Association**

**Don't throw those  
old clothes out!**

We are collecting for



The Eco Committee will be helping us collect your old unwanted clothes, fabrics and textiles at the end of this term.

**Watch this space for  
date of collection!**

For more information email  
[parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com)