

Thursford Church Windows
PART 4
THE CHAD CHAPEL
part 2



The East Window of The Chad Chapel from the Churchyard.

This shows the circular form of the leading uniting the individual designs with the cross surmounting the circle giving the impression of a Globus Cruciger – an orb.

STAT CRUX DUM VOLVITUR ORBIS
The Cross stands while the World turns


The Latin quotation is the motto of the Carthusian Order, founded in 1084 by St Bruno; their symbol, a globus cruciger, is indicated to the right. The stars represent the seven gifts of the Spirit. The interpretation is: the Cross (Our Lord Jesus Christ) is the eternal hope for humanity through changing times.



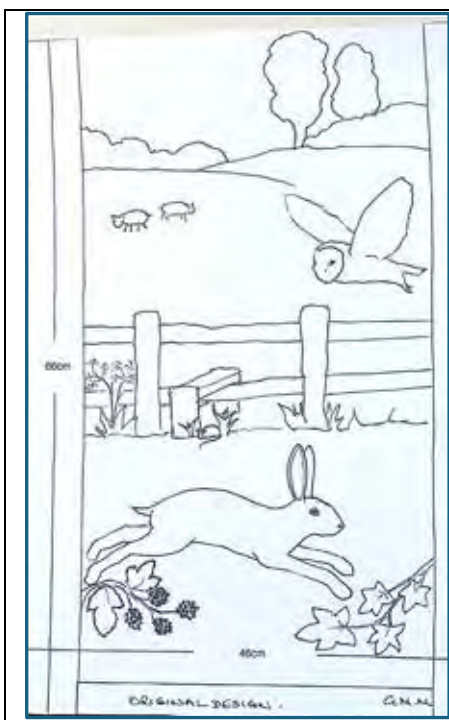
LEVEL 3 – MARKWELL

Peter Nicholas Markwell (b.1948), born in Cambridgeshire on 10 July 1948, *Farmer, Block Fen Farm, Chatteris*; son of Philip Allpress Markwell (1924-1998) *Farmer (Fenmarc and Fengrain Farming Cooperatives)* and Violet Mary née Peacock (1922-2003) *Teacher*; 1974 married Gillian Mary née Heckford (b.1953); Moved to Thursford 2007.

Gillian Mary Markwell née Heckford (b.1953), born in Cambridgeshire on 29 September 1953, *Farming Partner*; daughter of Captain Geoffrey Brittain Heckford FCA (1926-2021), *Finance Director and Company Secretary, Ciba Geigy* and Vera née Hodgson BA (1927-2012).

<p>Four rays through the sky Note 1</p> <p>Trees Note 2</p> <p>Sheep Note 3</p> <p>Hare Note 4</p> <p>Bramble Note 5</p>		<p>Owl Note 6</p> <p>Fence and stile Note 7</p> <p>Ivy Note 8</p>
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Gillian Markwell who submitted a design, which has been followed by the artists, writes:



Our design was inspired by one of our favourite dog walks in the village. It depicts the pastoral view from the woods at the top of Clark’s Lane across to St Andrew’s Church and Thursford Hall, which on a sunny day one can imagine hasn’t changed for hundreds of years. Over the years we have seen sheep and cattle grazing, hares boxing in the spring and the ghost-like barn owl searching out mice and voles in the grass, as seen in the original design (below). The brambles and ivy just added interest to the foreground but are to be found in the local hedgerows. Obviously the original design had to be adapted for the stained glass process and the trees and bushes were replaced beautifully by the ‘Heavenly Rays’ and a cloud linking the panel to the Cross above.



NOTES

Note 1

These beams of light link the content of the window below to the cross above.

They are not the beams of light which decorate the night sky in Thursford during the staging of the Christmas Spectacular.



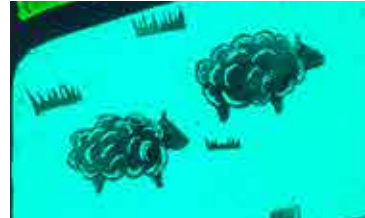
Note 2

The trees



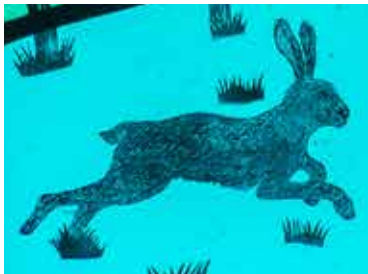
Note 3

The sheep



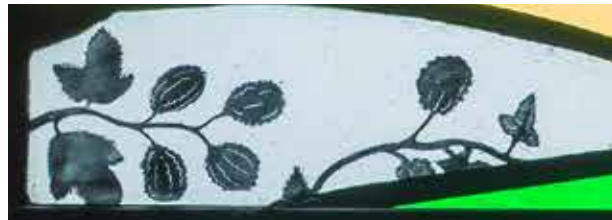
Note 4

The hare



Note 5

The bramble



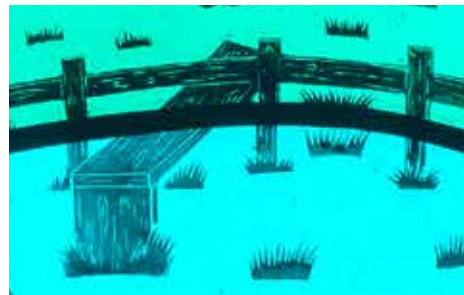
Note 6

The owl



Note 7

Fence and Stile



Note 9

The ivy



LEVEL 4 Light Ch.2 – GEDNEY

Felix Geoffrey Gedney (b.1966), born in Chainhurst, Kent on 18 November 1966, son of Roger Gedney (b.1939) Farmer and Lynette née Fuller (b.1941); *Army Officer – late Commanding Officer Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (2006-2009), now Major General*; lived in Thursford since 1999.

Polly Elisabeth Woodruff Gedney - née Sansome (b.1970), born in Leicester on 1 October 1970, daughter of David Sansome (1932-2023) *General Medical Practitioner* and Susan - née Archer (b.1940); *Artist*.



NOTES

<p>Note 1 <i>The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, wear a distinctive yellow-on-blue zigzag pattern on their hats, known as the ‘van Dyke’, as a nod to their cavalry heritage. This pattern originates from the traditional horse-hair plume holders of dragoon regiments and reflects the regiment’s lineage, which includes the Royal Scots Greys. The van Dyke design is both a practical and ceremonial feature, helping distinguish the regiment visually while preserving an historic element of British cavalry dress.</i></p> <p>The regiments Tactical Recognition Flash, worn on the right arm of combat uniform, also has the van Dyck pattern – ‘V’-shaped like the beard of Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641) <i>Artist</i>.</p>	
	



Note 2

The surname Gedney was first found in Lincolnshire at Gedney, a village and civil parish in the South Holland district that dates back to the Domesday Book of 1086 where it was listed as Gadenai. The crossed fish (fish in saltire) on the Gedney family coat of arms are believed to symbolize the family's historical ties to the fishing industry. A Ged (also spelled Gedd) is a large freshwater predatory fish known for its speed and ferocity. The word "Ged" comes from the Scottish and Old English word for pike. The pike is commonly used in heraldry to represent determination, courage, and a fierce nature.

Note 3

Acorns are most widely recognised as a symbol of strength, potential, and growth. For us they symbolise love, great things growing from small beginnings, fertility and new life, and longevity. They have often been used as decoration and were a key feature atop the cake at our wedding in 1997.




The Gedney Arms but not specific for this family. The 'crossed-fish' will be noted.




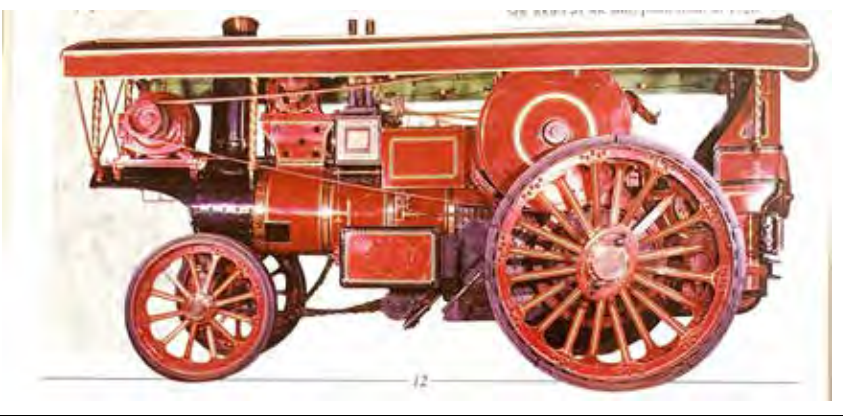
The Gedney's wedding cake in 1997 with the acorns (Note 3)

LEVEL 5 – G. T. CUSHING

John Ronald Cushing (b.1939), born in Thursford on 20 November 1939, son of George Thomas and Mini Cushing; married Barbara Petronella née Scott (b.1959), born 12 September 1959 daughter of Thomas and Mika Scott; *Chief Executive Officer, Producer and Director of Thursford*; lived in Thursford all his life, developed Thursford to the enterprise it is today with the largest Christmas Show in Europe employing over 350 local and international staff and cast each year. He plays a positive role in raising money for St Andrew’s Church and other village events.

<p>Show-girl Note 2</p>		<p>Traction Engine Note 1</p> <p>Four Doves – the left hand one does not show well Note 3</p> <p>Horse from a round-a-bout Note 4</p>
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NOTES

<p>Note 1 The picture is of a Showman’s Traction Engine named <i>Victory</i> number 3827. It was built in 1920. It was used for traction of show ground vehicles and for power generation. It is steam driven. It was bought by G T Cushing in 1947 having had a very short working life, for the Thursford Collection.</p>	  <p>A photograph from THURSFORD – Stem restored into a living past</p>
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Note 2

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular, which does not forget to include significant reference to the Christmas Story, has twenty dancing girls in a variety of outfits. This illustration takes its origin from the label on a locally produced, Thursford owned gin bottle.



Note 3

Towards the end of the Christmas Spectacular doves are flown across the auditorium. These four doves represent that moment. The fourth dove on the left may be seen in Note 1.



Note 4

A detail from the Savage 3-abrest set of Gallopers dating back to 1896. It was added to the Thursford Collection in 2002.

Reference

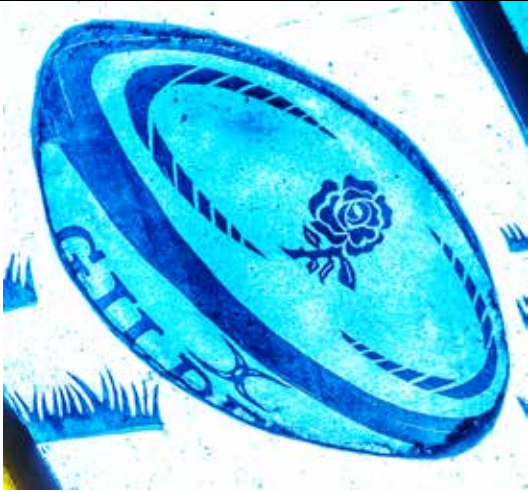
THURSFORD – Steam restored into a living past



NOTES

Note 1

Swallows used to nest in the stable at the farm and Cara developed a great interest and love of these *wonderful little birds*.

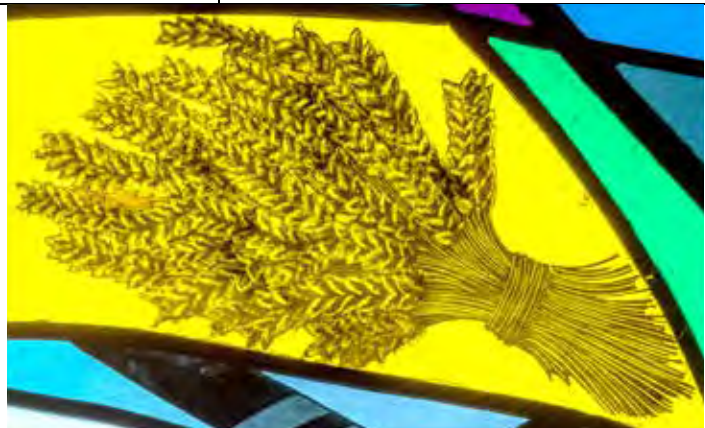


Note 2

In addition to Farming, John's other passion was Rugby Football. Initially he played for Norwich and then was a founder member of Holt Rugby Club of which he became a director. He was a debenture holder at the Allianz Stadium in Twickenham, the home of England Rugby. The company, Gilbert Rugby, is mostly known for its rugby union balls, having been official supplier for every World Cup since 1995.

Note 3

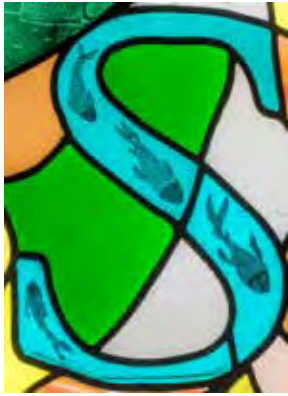
The Ross family have farmed in Norfolk since 1920. Andrew Ross, son of the late John and Cara, is the 4th generation at Norton's Farm, Thursford. This sheaf of wheat signifies arable farming.



Note 4

Cara was a member of Evergreen's Hockey Club in Fakenham. Before her Margaret Ross, an aunt of John who lived at Norton's Farm in Thursford, together with her friend Peggy Ellicott were founder members of Evergreen's.

The hockey stick was bought for Margaret by her father in 1940.

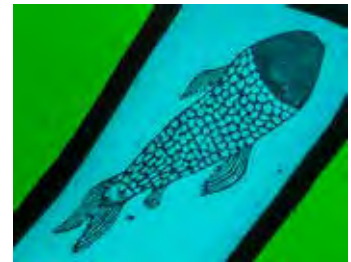


Note 2

The 'S' is in the same font as that used in the business signage – see A. It was specially designed and is a modified version of Times New Roman.

The 'S' is filled with water containing four fish. This represents the short moat in the garden of Thursford Hall – see B.

The fish look similar and are probably Carp – see C.



A – Signage of Sowerbys

B – Garden moat, with boat

C - Carp

Notes 3 and 4

Thursford Old Hall, a 17th century building upgraded in the 19th, once the home of the Scott Chad family is now that of the Sowerby Family.

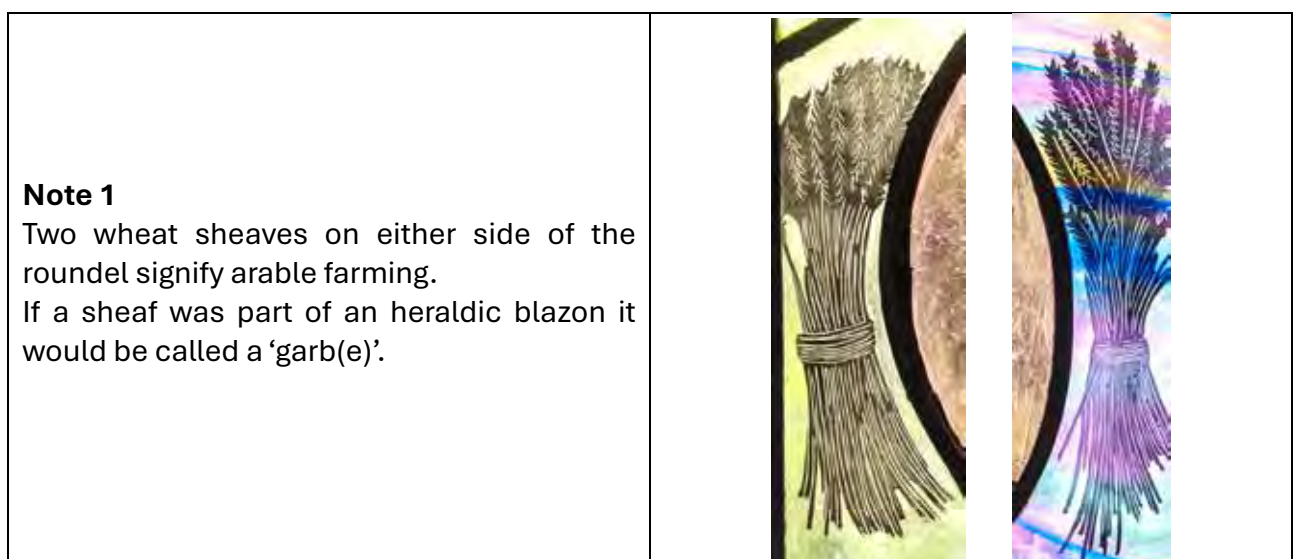
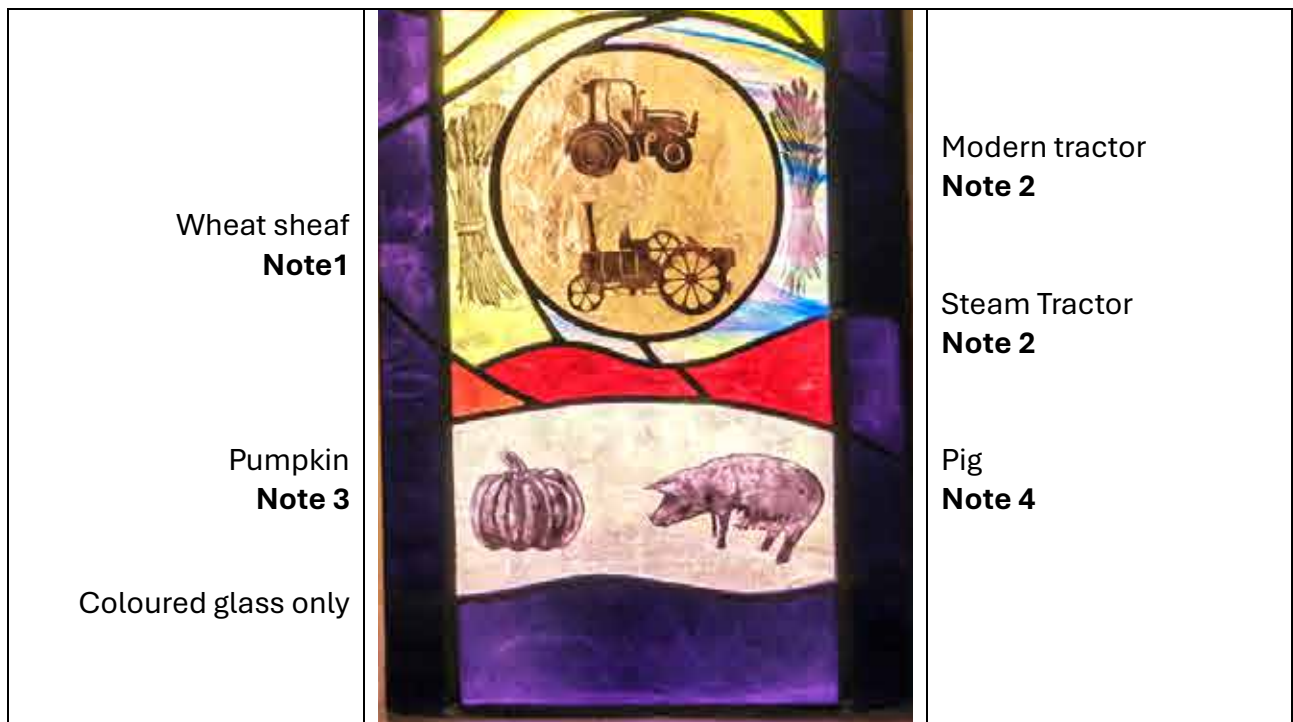
The classic sports car, a 1937 Talbot Lago T150C, is owned and raced by MJS.

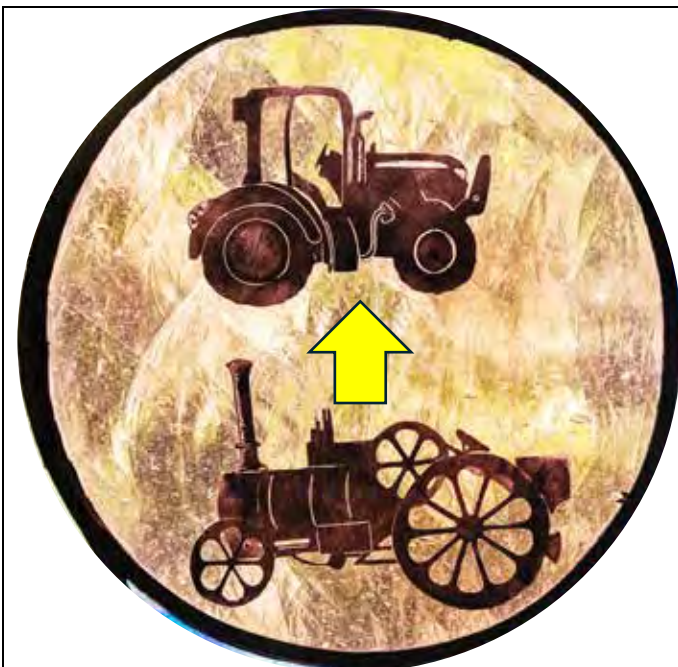


LEVEL 5 – G. E. CUSHING

George Edward Cushing (1933-2020), born on 10 April 1933, Farmer, son of George Thomas Henry Cushing (1904-2003), *Farmer and Contractor*, and **Minnie Cushing**; married Maureen Ann née Coker (b.1940); lived in Thursford 71 years; involved in District and Parish life. They had two sons: George Spencer Cushing (b.1971) who served in The Army and Henry Charles Cushing (b.1974) who is a Farmer and married Victoria née Elms.

These depictions take the viewer to the farm – Brookhill Farm, Thursford, owned now by Henry and Victoria Cushing. They grow wheat, barley, sugar beet, pumpkins and look after pigs. They opened The Pumpkin House at the Farm in 2018 and are adding to its attractions with mini golf and a maize maze.





Note 2

Fuel tractors were introduced in the 1920s. Some fifty years later a safety cab, as illustrated here, was added for safety and is a legal requirement.

A steam tractor was commonly seen in the 19th and early years of the 20th centuries until replaced by tractors powered by internal combustion engines.

Note 3

A large pumpkin is illustrated. It is a gourd and the biological name of the family is *Cucurbita*. There are many different types. Diversification led to their introduction to this Farm. The Pumpkin House, opened in 2018, is at the Farm and open to visitors, with other attractions.



The Pumpkin House
photograph -

<https://www.pumpkinhouse.co.uk/gallery?pgid=l3mwb8tf-04ec2388-1994-4f18-9d66-65a477d6e573>



Note 4

This pig represents Brookhill Farm as a pig farm.

A RECORDER'S THOUGHTS

The stained glass East Window in The Chad Chapel, donated by people living within the parish of St Andrew, Thursford at a definite time (2020) has been named, appropriately the *Time Capsule*. However, there is possibly more than that. The designers have united the three lights and thus the donor's contributions, with an overall circular pattern of the leading. This has been surmounted with a plain Latin Cross and the words TO THE PRAISE OF GOD. Seeing this immediately suggested a *Globus Cruciger*, an orb, with a globe surmounted by a cross! It brought to mind the summit of the East Window in nearby St Martin's Church, Hindringham with the depiction of Christ in Majesty holding a *globus cruciger* in his left hand (*Salvator Mundi*). In the main East Window here, at St Andrew's Church, in light 3 Christ in Majesty is depicted but the globe is not surmounted by a cross. Even if that thought was not that intended it is also interesting to analyse the individual items depicted in the designs. Some of them were immediately recognised as also having a meaning in Christian Art. An analysis of the depictions was undertaken.



There are forty-eight depictions in the ten areas donated by the people of Thursford. This is an attempt to gather them all together, attempting to categorise them. It is possible to divide them into two main groups, those that are created and those that are manufactured (developed): 29 (60%) are created and 19 (40%) manufactured. Those created may be divided into two groups flora and fauna; they are more or less equally divided at 15 and 14 respectively.

Created - Flora

Cut flowers are shown two times, one as a bunch and the other with the flowers displayed in a trug. Both are representing those passionate about gardening and plants.

In nine there are a variety of plants and / or their produce: wheat sheaves and a vine, and grapes with wine occur twice. There is one example each of a sprig of bramble and of ivy, a sunflower plant, acorns and a pumpkin.

There are two individual trees together with an area of woodland.

Created - Fauna

There are four animals, sheep, a hare, a dog and a pig together with one female dancer from the Thursford Show.

The two examples of fish are pike (crossed) and four carp, in water.

The types of bird number six, singly or collectively. There are two depictions of doves, and one each of a flock of geese and of swallows, an owl and stylised birds. In total there are 27 birds! The twenty-nine created items depicted in this window are listed in the table; + indicates that their use in art may have an element of Christian symbolism. That symbolism is listed on the next page.

Created - 29	
Flora - 15	Fauna - 14
Bramble +	Dancer
Cut Flowers (2)	Dog +
Ivy +	Hare +
Oak Tree / Acorns (2) +	Pig
Pumpkin	Sheep +
Sunflowers	Fish (2) + / Water +
Vine / Grapes / Wine (3) +	Birds - stylised +
Wheat Sheaves (2) +	Doves (2) +
Woodland / Symbolic Tree (2)	Geese, Owl +, Swallows +

Manufactured (Developed)

The 19 depictions are listed in the table divided into categories. Unlike those created there is no specific Christian symbolism in these items.

Type	Depictions
Transport	Boat, Motor Car, Tractors (2), Traction Engine
Food and Drink	Cheese, Bottle and Drinking Glass
Buildings Structures	Dovecote, House, Fence with Stile
Sport	Hockey Stick, Rugby Ball
Tools	Chisel, Handsaw
Entertainment	Roundabout Horse
Academic development	Music, Heraldic Crest, Badge

Items which may be used in Christian Symbolism

Birds (stylised) – have been used from the early days of Christian art to signify the soul, lifted up, and so resurrection.

Dove – in *St John 1 verse 32* we read - *and John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him* – and so the most important meaning attached to a dove is a symbol of the Holy Ghost (Spirit). The earliest reference in Scripture is when a dove with an olive branch in its beak indicated to Noah that the flood had subsided (*Genesis 8 verses 9-12*).

Owl – has many differing symbolic meanings but with its night-time wakefulness, and its wisdom, being a ‘watcher’ is one. *Ye watchers and ye holy ones* is a well-known hymn by Athelstan Riley (1858-1945).

Swallow – is often a symbol of the incarnation.

Bramble – a rare bramble *Rubus sanctus*, which may spontaneously ignite, is thought to be the burning bush described in *Exodus 3 verses 1-10*, which burned but was not consumed. This is regarded as a type for The Blessed Virgin Mary who bore Jesus Christ yet kept her virginity.

Dog – watchfulness and faithfulness are characteristics of dogs and so may be used as the symbol of these virtues.

Fish – from the early days of Christianity a fish was used as its symbol. The Greek word for fish is:

ΙΧΘΥΣ (iota – chi – theta – upsilon – sigma) **I Ch Th Y S**. (Y is a capital upsilon)

This is used as an acronym for **I**esus **C**hristos **T**heou **Y**ios **S**oter which translates

Jesus - Christ - of God - Son - Saviour



The fish symbol

Hare – a defenceless animal which is sometimes used as symbol of those who put the hope of their salvation in Christ.

Ivy – is always green and is a symbol of fidelity and eternal life.

Sheep – The people of God are sometimes referred to as sheep with Christ as the Good Shepherd.

Tree (Symbolic) –the Tree of Knowledge is mentioned early in the book Genesis, the cross is sometimes referred to as the ‘Tree of Shame’.

Acorns and the Oak – a symbol of growth and power of faith, remembering how the small seed grows into a mighty tree. The Cross of the Crucifixion, *The Tree of Shame*, is said to have been oak.

Vine / Grapes / Wine – The product of the vine is one of the two elements of the Eucharist.

Water – a rich symbol with many meanings such as nourishment, cleansing and spiritual renewal. It is the element of Holy Baptism.

Wheat – is used to bake bread which is the other of the two elements of the Eucharist.

Hopefully these random thoughts of a recorder are helpful to those who look at the *Time Capsule* in years to come. JT.

BEFORE



AFTER

