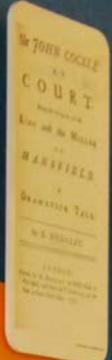


# Helping to bring history to life



### The King and Miller play

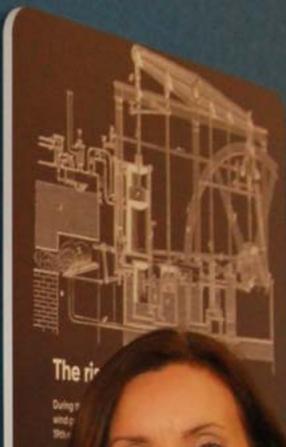
King's Mill takes its name from a fable which involves King Henry II (1154 - 1189) and John Cockle, the miller here at that time. The story goes...

The King got lost whilst hunting with his courtiers in Sherwood Forest. John Cockle comes across the King and questions his character. The King pretends to be one of his own party and offers the miller money to take him to Nottingham. John Cockle informs the hopeless stranger that Nottingham is 12 miles away through thick forest, but as he takes him to be an honest man, he offers him lodgings for the night and promises to take him to Nottingham the following day.

At the miller's home, his wife gives him a bed with her son and, in the morning he is served breakfast, waited upon by his daughter, Margery or 'Caroly Margery'. During the next some courtiers arrive, asking if anything had been seen or heard of the missing King, who they had been looking for all night.

The King then declares himself much to the amazement of Mistress Cockle, who goes down on bended knee to beg forgiveness for her family - not least putting him to bed with her son. The King, however, graciously thanks her for her kindness and hospitality, knighting her husband on the spot, thus making her 'My Lady'.

The legend was made into a play in 1713, 'The King and Miller of Mansfield', by Mansfield-born Robert Dudley, and was very popular both in England and on the continent. It was performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London and spawned a sequel called 'Sir John Cockle at Court'.



### Why are there ponds on mill sites?

...



the reservoir

... mill pond to create a bigger ... Duke



Photo by George Krousti

"I set up Well Read in 2015 to provide communications support to organisations that are committed to improving the health, wellbeing and life chances of communities, as well as those concerned with widening access to the arts and heritage.

I'm passionate about telling the stories of people and places from the past as a means

to help people understand why society is the way it is now and provide communities with a sense of belonging and pride in their local area.

Whether you're looking for marketing or PR support to raise awareness of your museum, heritage centre or project, or you require high quality interpretation materials or learning resources, I'd love to chat about how I can help you."

**Kate Dawson, Well Read**

Well Read's services:

- ◆ History research involving extracting information from the county records offices, history books and other materials held by local heritage groups
- ◆ Oral history recordings and transcripts
- ◆ Heritage interpretation including content for displays, interpretation panels and heritage trails
- ◆ Education resources for schools – drawing upon history to deliver a range of subjects on the National Curriculum
- ◆ Professional filmmaking services working with Large Scale Film media production company, for evidence gathering, advocacy and distribution
- ◆ Marketing and PR to engage audiences with a heritage project or visitor attraction

**Read on to find out about some of the heritage projects I've worked on and what my clients say...**

**The first cataract operation, Samuel Pepys' bladder stone and a collection of vintage nurse dolls all feature in a mini museum at St Thomas' Hospital, London. The collection of artifacts and photographs provide an insight into the 800 year history of the hospital, including how it survived heavy bombing during World War II and how life on the wards has changed over the years.**



I worked closely with the Director of Art and Heritage at Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and the curator to develop the communications materials needed to promote the exhibition to patients and visitors to the hospital and the local community, securing coverage in local media and museums publications.

**Kate is an expert and creative communicator, accomplished in assimilating complex briefs. Kate was a pleasure to work alongside and her energy and commitment to the public and charitable realm is second to none.**

**Geoffrey Shepherd, former Chief Executive of Guy's and St Thomas' Charity (1998 - 2009)**

**The Grade II listed Coalville Memorial Clock Tower has the names of 354 men from Coalville who fell in WWI inscribed at its base. Bruce Dennis and his son, also called Bruce, laid the 57,000 bricks.**



© Coalville Heritage Society

I designed an engaging learning activity around Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower, helping to inspire the next generation of local historians. I also supported Heritage First to create an exhibition and accompanying book about the War Memorials in and around Coalville as part of North West Leicestershire Council's programme of events (funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund) to mark the centenary of the end of WWI.

Kate has a can-do attitude and worked diligently to ensure we delivered on our project – coming up with solutions to the various challenges we faced.

Kate has a natural flair for communications and her knowledge of PR and social media was a great asset to ensuring this project was effectively communicated across the local area.

**Michael Faulkner, Director, Heritage First**



© National Civil War Centre

**The Civil War between 1642 and 1646 split families as they took up sides with the supporters of King Charles I, known as Cavaliers, or the Parliamentarians, nicknamed Roundheads.**

As Interim PR Manager for Experience Nottinghamshire I arranged for journalists and bloggers to visit the new National Civil War Centre in Newark in the run up to the official opening to help publicise this new major attraction.

Kate demonstrated a good understanding of the visitor economy and our core objective of attracting visitors from outside the region. She was able to harness her extensive PR skills and experience to support the organisation's objectives.

I have no hesitation in recommending Kate as an expert communicator, who will respond to any brief with creativity and a commitment to getting results.

**Jennifer Spencer, Director, Trent Bank House Consultants Ltd & Chief Executive at Experience Nottinghamshire from 2009-2015**

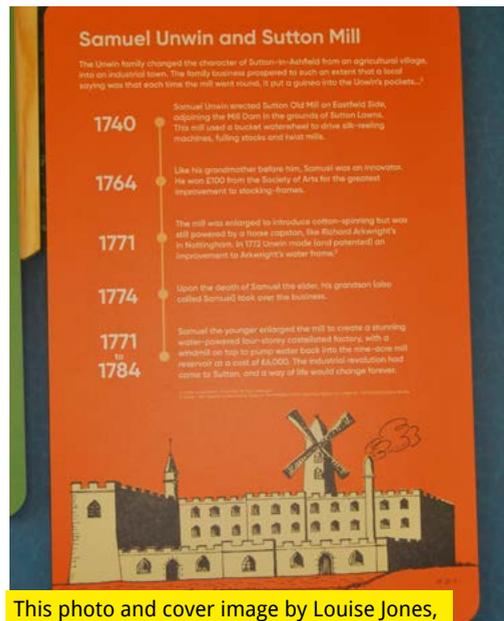
**King's Mill Reservoir in Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire is a peaceful nature reserve, but back in the 1800s the area was a thriving hub of industry with a number of cotton mills fed by the Reservoir and extending along the River Maun towards Mansfield.**

I was commissioned by Ashfield District Council, with funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, to tell the story of Sutton's historic cotton mills for a new heritage centre adjacent to the King's Mill Reservoir. The history includes the dawning of the industrial revolution, as well as how the decline of the cottage industries led to social unrest and rioting in the area. The Mill Waters heritage site also recalls the birth of the railway, symbolised by the Grade II listed Portland Viaduct built in 1817.

I subsequently developed the content for the information displays in the heritage centre and the interpretation around the site, including a heritage trail APP. I also produced a suite of education resources for primary schools focusing on the history, archaeology and wildlife around the site.

“Kate knows how to bring history to life through storytelling, whilst maintaining a keen eye on historic accuracy. She also has a flair for tailoring information for a range of formats.”

**Paul Crawford, Project Manager, Ashfield District Council**



This photo and cover image by Louise Jones, Natural Red.

**St Mary and All Saints in Chesterfield, better known as the Crooked Spire, is the largest Parish church in Derbyshire, standing at 69 metres (228 feet) tall. Construction began in the early 14th century but slowed during the Black Death and it wasn't until 1362 that the spire was added. The use of green unseasoned timber resulted in the spire leaning some 2.90 metres (9 feet and 6 inches) to the south-west.**



© Kate Dawson, Well Read

I was approached by Ashgate Heritage Arts to develop a marketing strategy to help engage audiences with a musical theatre production, The Crooked Spire, which brings to life a murder mystery novel of the same name. My strategy incorporated traditional marketing tactics, as well as scoping media opportunities, social media activities, and a number of potential PR 'stunts' to help boost ticket sales for the show's run at Chesterfield's Pomegranate Theatre.

“Kate has been brilliant at planning a marketing strategy to create interest in our work. She quickly came up with some great ideas based on the historic and current themes of our story.”

**Peter Gray, Artistic Director, Ashgate Heritage Arts**

“History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

**David McCullough, American historian**

**Please get in touch to discuss how I can help you**

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