

2009 Calendar



Dance to the Muzik of Time

A journey through the East Midlands

by John Goto

(Limited edition)

Created out of a
partnership between:



UNIVERSITY
of DERBY





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Dance to the Muzik of Time

An introduction

2009 is a momentous year for art in the East Midlands as it sees the completion of the £130 million arts venue investment programme, which will transform our arts opportunities in the region.

The final of five brand new arts venues will open its doors in 2009 – completing a major investment programme in these and other arts buildings in the region. This represents one of the biggest investments of its kind in any English region.

In 2008 four of the new venues opened – New Art Exchange, Nottingham; QUAD, Derby; First Movement's Level Centre, Rowsley, Derbyshire; and Curve in Leicester.

In 2009 Nottingham Contemporary is due to open its doors. The five bring outstanding architecture and a range of facilities. Other buildings or renovation projects we have funded are The Peepul Centre, Leicester, The Royal and Derngate, Northampton, and Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham.

Laura Dyer, Executive Director, Arts Council England, East Midlands, comments: 'This is one of the most exciting periods for the arts in the region, providing world-class facilities which, together with the region's existing attractions and strong cultural scene, will put us firmly on the cultural and tourism map of England.'

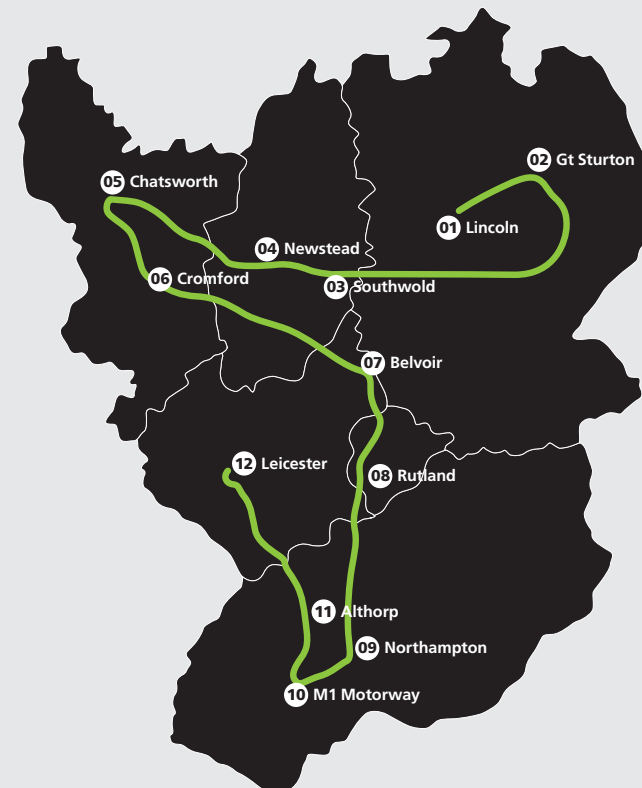
'We wanted to celebrate this success in a unique and special way and commissioned internationally recognised photo-digital artist John Goto to produce 'Dance to the Muzik of Time.' Here you will see the 12 outstanding and amazing images which John has created featuring professional dancers from our region in iconic regional locations, which already attract great numbers of visitors.

John Goto's approach to the project

John has 'set' the images in a toy theatre – the 1960s remake of the Redington Large Theatre designed by John Redington in 1857. In preparation for the project he collected old postcards of the region and read Nikolaus Pevsner's guides to its architectural history.

He came up with the idea of a route through the East Midlands, which would act as a timeline charting historical events.

This echoes the line of development from the medieval pilgrimage, through the 18th century Grand Tour, to modern tourism.



Once he had created the stage sets he photographed the dancers. He comments: 'One of the great things about the present day East Midlands is its vibrant diversity of cultures.'

He chose to work with urban hip-hop group Groundhogs, Kathak dancers Manushi, and Bollywood dancers Desi Masti. The costumes he conceived are deliberately anachronistic, mixing period costumes with contemporary street and club fashions.

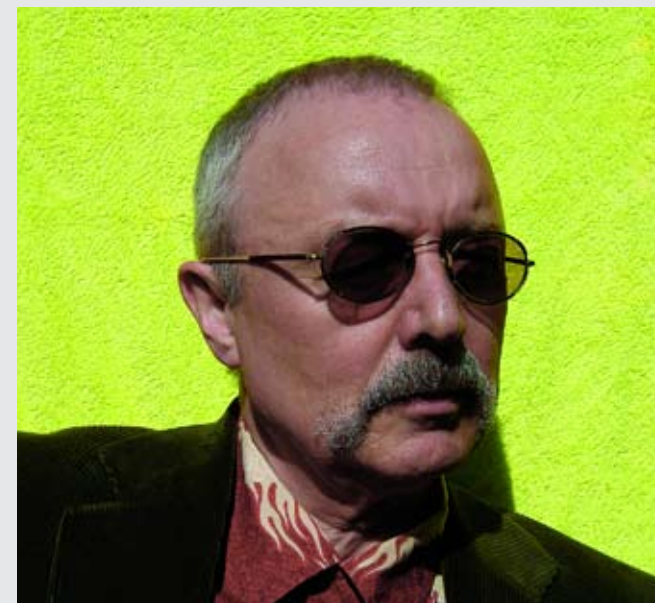
John is Professor of Fine Art at the University of Derby and we are indebted to the University's support throughout this project. John has exhibited his work nationally at Tate Britain, the National Portrait Gallery and The Photographers' Gallery, and shown widely in Europe.

More of his work can be seen at www.johngoto.org.uk



'Arts Council England works hard to get great art to everyone. This calendar blends art and regional culture in a new and wonderful way. We hope you enjoy the images – and also the many arts events organised throughout 2009 which these venues, and others we support, will be staging.'

Laura Dyer, Executive Director, Arts Council England, East Midlands



'It's been tremendous fun making this series – working with great dancers and visiting marvellous locations – and I hope this comes across. The pictures also deal with weighty subjects: time, history and shifting ideas of culture. I feel no contradiction in this – serious is the new fun!'

John Goto, Artist



January

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The Shrine of St Hugh at Lincoln Cathedral 1280

Born in France, Hugh was a Carthusian monk who first came to England to become Prior of Witham in Somerset. In 1186 he was made Bishop of Lincoln, which was then an enormous diocese reaching from the River Humber to the Thames. After an earthquake demolished much of the Cathedral, Hugh took responsibility for its design and rebuilding. The interior would have been colourfully painted and its magnificent towers seen from great distances across the flat Lincolnshire countryside.

After his death in London, Hugh was canonised and in 1280 his relics were enshrined in the Angel Choir of Lincoln Cathedral. Numerous miracles were said to have taken place at the shrine, and after Canterbury, it became the most visited site of pilgrimage in Britain during the middle ages.

Today in Lincoln City Arts Council England funds The Collection and Lincoln Drill Hall. Both venues help to keep arts and culture alive in the city.





A journey through the East Midlands by John Goto

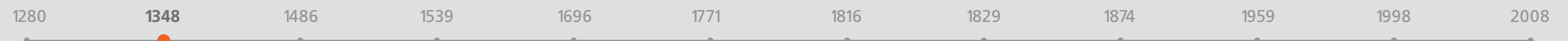
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The Bubonic Plague, a pandemic also known as the Black Death, arrived in Lincolnshire in the summer of 1348, and over the next two years killed 45% of the population. Generally now considered to have been carried by fleas which fed off the blood of rats, the symptoms included delirium, fever and swollen lymph glands.

Today Arts Council England encourages the arts in Lincolnshire by funding rural touring, Lincolnshire Dance, Firebird Trust, Louth Playgoers, North Kesteven Participatory Arts, soundLINC, South Holland Arts Centre, Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham, Stamford Arts Centre, Trinity Arts Centre in Gainsborough and The Hub in Sleaford.





March

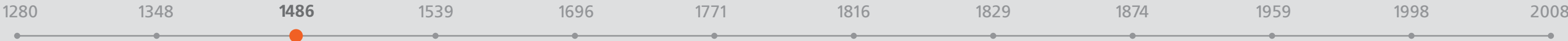
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Choreomaniacs in the Graveyard of Southwell Minster, 1486

Dance epidemics were widespread phenomena in Europe during the Middle Ages. Sometimes they involved hundreds of participants reportedly dancing for weeks on end. These choreomanics favoured churchyards, leading to accusations of bewitchment and heresy. However, poison from a fungus found in bread and grain has more recently been advanced as a possible cause.

Today Arts Council England encourages the arts to thrive in Nottingham by funding new galleries like Nottingham Contemporary and New Art Exchange, plus City Arts, Dance4, Nottingham Asian Arts Council, Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham Playhouse, Retina Dance, New Perspectives Theatre Company, Reckless Sleepers, Cultivate, Theatre Writing Partnerships, My Word - Writing East Midlands.





April

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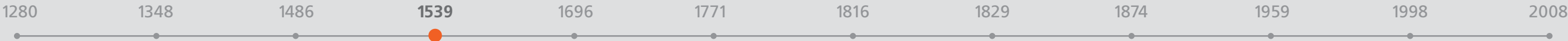
Iconoclasts at Newstead Abbey, 1539

A movement to reform the Catholic Church occurred across northern Europe in the 16th century. In England the central issue was the jurisdiction of the Pope over the country and its sovereign. Henry VIII’s desire for the annulment of his marriage led to the split from Rome, and the establishment of the Church of England, with the monarch as its supreme leader.

The priory of St. Mary of Newstead was emptied of its Augustinian monks in 1539, and sold to Sir John Byron. This was part of Henry’s scheme to raise money and consolidate his power by dissolving the monasteries and taking their lands.

In the iconoclasm that accompanied these events church statues, altars and furnishings were destroyed, paintings were hacked to pieces, and monastic buildings were raised to the ground.

Today Arts Council England funds rural touring events at Parish Halls and other remote venues across Nottinghamshire.





May

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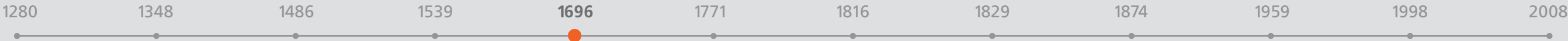


Classical Statues in the Gardens of Chatsworth House, 1696

Aristocrats and their agents, returning from the Grand Tour, brought back to England examples of the great cultural achievements of the Italian Renaissance. In 1687, William Cavendish, first Duke of Devonshire, began to replace the original family house built by Bess of Hardwick on the same site. The first part to be completed in 1696 was the South Wing, which was designed by William Talman along Renaissance lines, and influenced by Bernini.

The revival of interest in Greek and Roman classical culture was central to the Renaissance project. Chatsworth has a renowned collection of sculpture displayed in the grounds and museum, ranging from Hellenic and Renaissance through to Neo-Classical and contemporary works.

Today Arts Council England funds the new Level centre run by First Movement in nearby Rowsley and also Buxton Festival, Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire Rural Touring, Folk Arts England based in Matlock, High Peak Community Arts, Junction Arts, People Express and the Wirksworth Festival.





June

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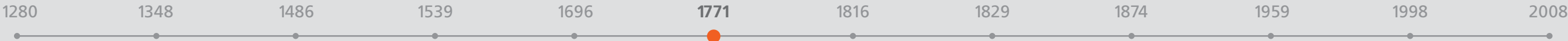
The Night Shift leaving Cromford Mill, 1771

Cromford Mill is a perplexing place to visit, representing as it does some of the best achievements of the 18th century, and some of its worst.

Richard Arkwright began to build the original five-storey mill at Cromford in 1771, and it became the first successful cotton-spinning mill worked by waterpower. He created a model for mechanised manufacturing that was pivotal to the development of the Industrial Revolution.

Whole families worked in the mill, including small children. The mill ventilation was poor, it was dusty and hot, and the working day of 12 hours was on either the day or night shift. The mill ceased in 1840 as production moved to the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia.

Today Arts Council England funds organisations in nearby Derby which include the new QUAD, Derby City Council through Derby LIVE, Deda, Em Jazz, Sintonia Viva and Surtal Asian Arts.





July

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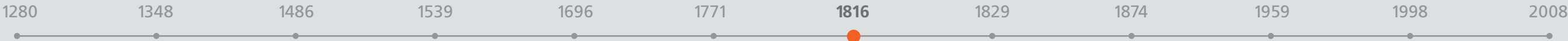
A Rural Idyll before Belvoir Castle, 1816

On first seeing Belvoir Castle it might be imagined to be a castle from a fairy tale. In fact it dates from 1800 when the fifth Duke of Rutland, influenced by Romanticism, decided to remodel his rather austere house into the shape of a medieval castle. Much of the design work was done by James Wyatt and his sons, and later by the Duke’s chaplain, John Thoroton. In 1816 a fire destroyed much of Wyatt’s work.

This was also the year in which JMW Turner painted the castle from across a wooded valley, with Roe deer grazing in the foreground and a rainbow rising from behind it.

The influence of Claude Lorrain’s pastoral landscapes on Turner is well documented. Dancing peasants were often placed by Claude in the foreground of his pictures, giving a reassuring sense that all was well in the countryside, and hinting at Arcadian precedents.

Today Arts Council England funds across Leicestershire, Charnwood Arts, Spark Children’s Arts Festival, Mantle Arts and Leicestershire Rural Touring.





August

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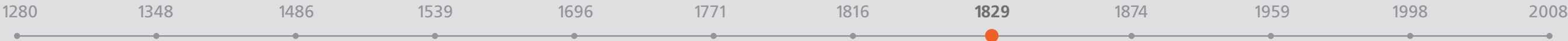
Sunday Promenaders by Normanton Church, Rutland, 1829

The elegant Baroque tower of St Matthews church, with its semicircular portico, was built between 1826 – 9 to a design by Thomas Cundy. The church stood isolated after the great Palladian house it served was later demolished.

Promenading was a fashionable social activity in the early 19th century, and lent its name to a popular dance in which the partners stand side-by-side, and move as a single unit.

Normanton’s present appearance is extraordinary – the church appears to be rising from Rutland Water, or sinking towards its depths. This came about as a result of a scheme in the 1970’s to incorporate the church into the development of a huge new reservoir. The floor was raised by three metres and the walls waterproofed whilst a stone causeway was constructed to connect it to the newly formed shoreline. It is a modern folly.

Today Rutland County Council is aiming to increase engagement in arts and culture. Arts Council England is working in partnership with them and other agencies towards achieving this.





September

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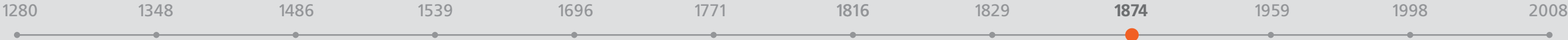


The Bradlaugh Riot in Northampton Market Square, 1874

When the results of the 1874 election were read out in Northampton’s Market Square a riot broke out. Supporters of the radical atheist candidate Charles Bradlaugh shouted ‘Fixed result, re-count!’ and started brawling with followers of the other candidates, the Conservative Pickering Phipps and the Liberal Charles Gilpin. Eventually the Lord Mayor read the Riot Act and soldiers fired shots over the heads of the crowd to disperse them.

Bradlaugh was a founding member of the National Secular Society, which under the banner of ‘challenging religious privilege’, campaigned for the disestablishment of the Church of England. Bradlaugh’s support was particularly strong amongst the working classes, which in Northampton included many shoemakers.

Today Arts Council England funds in Northampton The Royal & Derngate and Threshold Studios, as well as National Lottery support for the Fishmarket.





October

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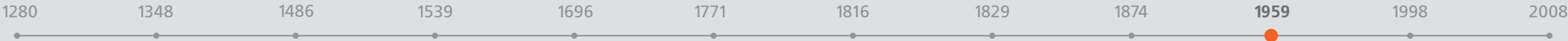
Opening of the M1 Motorway in Northamptonshire, 1959

The M1 runs parallel to the old Roman road Watling Street. The Minister for Transport, Ernest Marples, opened the southern section from St Albans to Birmingham on 2nd November 1959.

The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner took a dim view of its bridge architecture, which he said ‘impresses by a cyclopean rudeness rather than by elegance’. He criticised the abacus that surmounts the supporting columns for trying to impress permanence, which he saw as ‘a doubtful quality in devices connected with vehicles and means of transport.’ Nevertheless, in its heyday the motorway established Northamptonshire as the distribution centre of the UK, and was considered an icon of modernity.

During this period the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had been formed in response to the nuclear threat posed by the Cold War. Maybe because of this darkening cloud, in 1959 popular music continued to produce such exuberant tracks as Eddie Cochran’s ‘C’mon Everybody’ and Chuck Berry’s ‘Almost Grown’.

Today in Northamptonshire Arts Council England funds, Northands Rural Touring and The Castle in Wellingborough.





November

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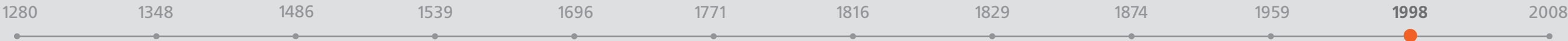
Princess Diana’s Memorial Temple at Althorp House, 1998

Althorp is held in the popular imagination as the birthplace of Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales, who died on 31st August 1997 as a result of a car crash in Paris alongside Dodi Al Fayed and their driver Henri Paul.

The following year her brother, Earl Spencer, created a museum in a converted stable block, dedicated to his sister’s memory. It contains memorabilia, home movies of Diana as a child, a collection of her haute couture dresses, and the first draft of Charles Spencer’s eulogy delivered at the funeral.

The Princess is buried on an island in the grounds, near to which stands a summerhouse of classical design, known as Diana’s Memorial Temple since its dedication to her. It is a site of modern pilgrimage, attracting up to 2,500 visitors a day during the summer months.

Today part of Northamptonshire is included in the government’s Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area. Arts Council England is working hard with partners to encourage investment in the arts in this developing area.





December

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Constructing Curve, Leicester 2008

The construction of Curve was completed in autumn 2008. Situated in Leicester’s emerging Cultural Quarter it is a highly distinctive new theatre building. Designed by architect Rafael Vinoly, Curve consists of two interlocking performance spaces with a shared stage area and a vast open-plan foyer and mezzanine floor, set behind a dramatic glass façade. It has seating for a total audience of 1,100.

Principal awarding partners in the building of Curve were: Leicester City Council, Arts Council England funds from The National Lottery, East Midlands Development Agency, Leicester Shire Economic Partnership. The project was also part financed by the European Union (ERDF) and in partnership with Leicester Theatre Trust and in association with Phoenix.

Today in Leicester Arts Council England funds Curve, Belgrave Baheno Peepul Centre, Leicester Belgrave Mela, the City Gallery, Leicester Print Workshop, Metro-Boulot-Dodo, Soft Touch Community Art, Bathysphere and mainstream.



