

The Kate Greenaway Action Group

In 2019 the property that Kate Greenaway lived and stayed in during many of her childhood visits to Rolleston became empty. Several residents were concerned that the house, 18 Fiskerton Road, ran the risk of being demolished to make way for new housing development as had happened elsewhere in the village. A group of us came together to form the Kate Greenaway Action Group with the dual purpose of:

- Protecting the house.
- Promoting the connection between the village and Kate Greenaway.

Kate Greenaway Country

We are so fortunate to have Kate Greenaway's legacy as part of the history of our village, not only because it is wonderful to have such a close connection with someone known and appreciated across the globe, particularly in the United States and Japan, but more significantly, because her illustrations and her memoirs capture something of what life was like here in Rolleston in Victorian times.

Action taken to date.

Research: Dedicated members of the group have looked into Rolleston in this period (1846+) and mapped out the parts of the village that were an influence on Kate Greenaway's work and developed two leaflets "The Kate Greenaway Trail" and "Kate Greenaway remembered" which are available around the village (Norwood Farm, 18 Fiskerton Road, The Village Hall, The Kate Greenaway Garden, and Station Road.

Community awareness: It is important to inform our community and visitors to Rolleston about our association with this famous Victorian Artist.

- With the permission of Nottinghamshire County Council, a blue commemorative plaque has been placed on the house at 18 Fiskerton Road in which Kate Greenaway lived and stayed.
- The entrance signs to the village, funded by Rolleston Parish Council, ensure that everyone now knows that they are entering "Kate Greenaway Country."
- Kate Greenaway figures and images have been set up around the village.

The Kate Greenaway Garden: This green space in the centre of the village is being developed with a bench, flowers and a tree planted in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Talks and Visits: The group has embarked on a series of talks to local groups to share the information we have with local groups. We are already booked up into 2025!

The Annual Kate Greenaway Tea: To date, and with the support of Holy Trinity Church, we have held two tea parties celebrating the work of Kate Greenaway and encouraging local artists, both young and older, to display some of their own work. This year the event will take place in the church on **Saturday 22nd June** and will focus on the work of some of the former winners of what was the Kate Greenaway Medal (now the Yoto Carnegie Medal)

Plans for the Future

1. We hope to extend the audience for our talks to include schools and to provide guided walks of the Kate Greenaway Trail to both adult and school groups.
2. Our long-term goal is to provide a comprehensive archive to cover the period of Kate Greenaway's connection with Rolleston.

Website & contact points if you would like to know more and/or to join us.

kategreenawayinrollestone@gmail.com

or contact either:

Pati Colman on 07786 937266 or Emma Burnett on 07967 743124