

## Why the two Palfreys?

Whellans Directory of Northamptonshire gives this entry about Thrapston:

*'The Lands belonging to Ralph Fitz-Oger passed into the hands of Baldwin de Wake, who conveyed them to Robert de Vere. His successor, Baldwin de Vere in the 7th year of the reign of King John (1205), gave the King two palfreys for the privilege of a weekly market here, on a Tuesday.*

*In 1247, Robert, his son, obtained from King Henry III the liberty of a fair, to begin on the eve of St James the Apostle, and continue for three days.'*

The market is still held weekly and as well as the cattle market, which is well known nationwide, the High Street, particularly the part known as Market Hill, abounds with stalls trading in a variety of goods. The Fair or Feast of St James ran traditionally as an event to raise money for the local hospital, for the swimming pool and now under the title of the CHARTER FAIR, to raise funds for local charities and principally as a day of fun for the whole town. The Fair is held on the last Saturday in June and the whole of the High Street is closed to traffic for the event. The Thrapston Festival, is now held the week before Charter Fair with the street fair being the climax of the week.

*Baldwin de Vere in 1205 gave the King two palfreys for the privilege of a weekly market*

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Information  
leaflet  
No 04

## THE THRAPSTON BADGE AND FLAG



## The Thrapston Town Badge



**Oppido Servire** means to serve the town

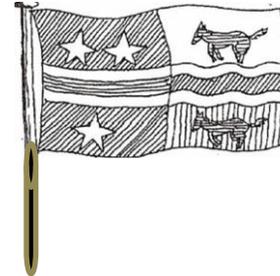
The Badge which is used on all official Town Council notepaper, pamphlets, publications and notices is displayed with the Town Flag in the Thrapston Centre, the official offices of the Thrapston Town Council.

The Badge comprises a simple shield showing, on the left as you look at it, the Washington Arms. The Washington Arms are three white, five pointed stars on a blue field with three horizontal bars of an alternate white and red in the centre.

On the right hand side of the shield are two palfreys (riding ponies), prancing (or rampant), in red on a gold field above and a green field below, with three wavelike bars of alternate white and blue in the centre, representing the River Nene.

Gold and green are Thrapston's traditional colours. The Motto below the shield on a flying pennanted scroll is "*Oppido Servire*" which means, *'to serve the Town'*.

## The Town Flag



*The Town Flag*

The flag shows the heraldic content of the Town Badge expanded to fill the complete field of the flag; it is a "banner of the arms" (badge).

The flag was presented to the Town Council as a gift from Zephyr Pennants of Thrapston.

The presentation was made on the occasion of the formal opening of the Thrapston Centre, on St Georges Day, April 23rd 1994 by Mr Percival, the Sales Director of the Company to the Town Mayor of 1993/94, Councillor Philip Loaring.

## The Washington Arms

The Washington Arms are also to be seen in the Parish Church of St. James in Thrapston.

Sir John Washington, a great, great uncle of George, the first President of the United States of America, lived in 'Montague House', Chancery Lane, Thrapston and died there in 1668.

