

The History of Milton Keynes IN 100 Objects...

...the first 15

Cowper and Newton Museum

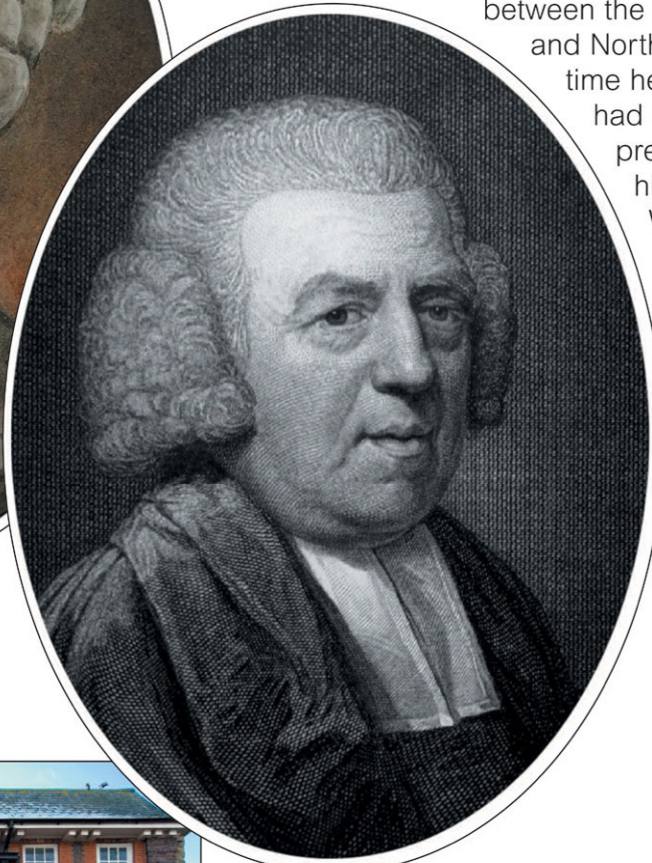
William Cowper and John Newton



William Cowper

Leading 18th century poet William Cowper lived in Olney from 1767 – 1786. His friend John Newton, author of the hymn 'Amazing Grace', was curate at the parish church.

As a young man Newton had been a sailor and ended his career at sea as captain of a ship engaged in the transatlantic slave trade, between the west coast of Africa and North America. By the time he arrived in Olney he had become a popular preacher and was held in high respect by Wilberforce and other reformers campaigning to abolish the trade.



John Newton



The Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney. Originally William Cowper's home



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