



THE CLOCK THAT HOLDS GRANTHAM TOGETHER

By Charlotte Miller

Next time you step into the Isaac Newton Shopping Centre, don't just walk through, look up and you will see one of Grantham's most charming attractions right above your head.

The Lion Clock, just outside of Morrisons, has always been far more than simply a way to tell the time. Since it was installed on 28 February 1984, it has become a landmark, a source of memories and the heart of Grantham's town centre. Built by Smith of Derby and designed by horologist Jim Arnfield, the clock was deeply inspired by the town's connections to Sir Isaac Newton, who spent part of his youth in Grantham. One remarkable detail of the clock is that it was constructed using only materials that would have been available during Newton's lifetime, adding a layer of historical authenticity to this playful piece of engineering. Its defining feature is the hourly animation in which a lion slowly opens its eyes as an apple falls from above. This moment offers a clear nod to Newton's famous work on gravity, inspired by



and its surrounding areas, the clock is far more than simply a clever design. It has become a familiar meeting place that is recognised across generations, much like the market crosses and church towers in earlier times. When the shopping centre first opened, it was celebrated as a major boost for the town as it brought investment and renewed life into the centre. The Lion

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events said to have taken place at Woolsthorpe Manor. The lion itself, deeply entwined with English heritage, enriches the clock's meaning with a powerful symbol of British identity and tradition. For those living in Grantham

Clock was a vital part of this vision, helping to give the space a sense of identity and warmth by welcoming both visitors and residents. Decades later, the clock continues to quietly connect the community, linking people not only to one another but also to Grantham's rich past. It reminds everyone of the town's connections to Isaac Newton and its heritage in the way only something truly familiar can.