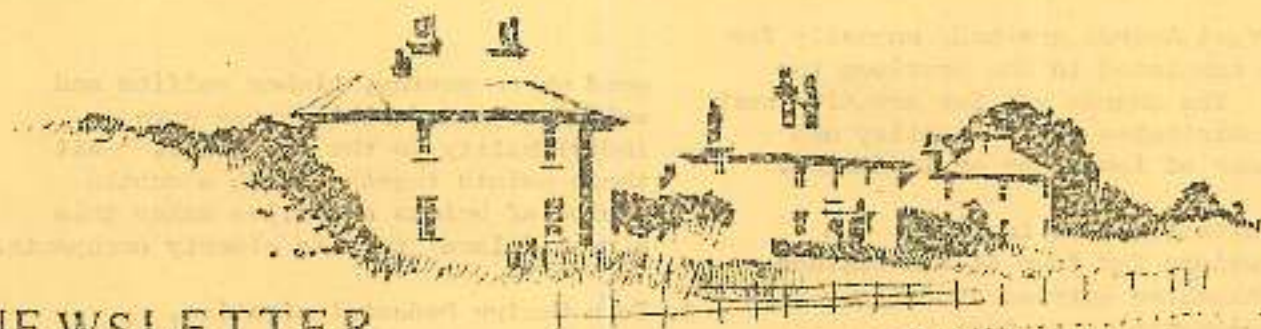


# Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1979.

### FARM BUILDINGS SURVEY

For some time now the Trust has been greatly concerned about the fate of many of the farm buildings which were built in the 19th century and which constitute an important part of Nottinghamshire's built environment.

Often, changing agricultural practices have meant that these buildings are no longer required for their original purpose and one of two unfortunate fates may befall them -

- (i) in areas where there is pressure for commuter housing they may be converted into residential accommodation; while this in itself is not necessarily a bad thing, all too often this conversion is undertaken in a way which pays scant regard to the original beauty and character of these buildings;
- (ii) in the more remote rural areas the more likely fate for these buildings is simply redundancy and decay.

In an attempt to assess the size of the problem, approval has been given by the Manpower Services Commission for the Trust to appoint, through Task Force North, four suitably qualified graduates to undertake a survey of such buildings. The team will be asked to conduct an appraisal, with measured drawings where suitable, of farm complexes, i.e. the house and related buildings.

The first area to be surveyed will be those parishes which may be affected by the proposals to extract coal from the Vale of Belvoir. It is anticipated that the second area to be investigated will be on the eastern side of the district of Bassetlaw.

The survey team has yet to be appointed but it is hoped that the work will be well under way by the Spring of this year.

Bob Middleton, Secretary.

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## CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

1978

Civic Trust Awards are made annually for schemes completed in the previous two years. The awards are for creative work which contributes to the quality and appearance of townscape or landscape.

The results for 1978 include commendations for four of the sixteen Nottinghamshire entries as follows with the assessments as stated:

1. Brewhouse Yard Folk Museum,  
----- Nottingham  
"The restoration of the cottages and the Brew House has been skilfully carried out. The standard of design and presentation in the Museum is of high standard, combined with a scholarly respect for the original structure and fabric. The generous landscape treatment which forms the two approaches to the Museum considerably enhances an otherwise rather bleak area."

2. Regency Court, Regent Street,  
----- Beeston  
"The architects of this scheme (Elsworth Associates) have created an ingenious arrangement of small courtyards and covered entrances to dwellings. The attention to detail around the entrances is particularly

### ASSISTANCE FOR TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE SCHEMES

As a result of the BEC Nationwide Appeal The Tree Council has some funds to assist tree planting and maintenance work during the tree-planting seasons 1978/79 and 1979/80.

It has to make decisions about the allocation of the available budget in the near future and would like to hear from groups with well-planned schemes as soon as possible.

Application forms may be obtained from The Secretary at 110 Mansfield Road.

good where paving, timber soffits and well designed dustbin areas give individuality to the entrances. All these points together with a subtle choice of bricks and tiles makes this a real "place" for its elderly occupants."

3. Town Centre Pedestrianisation,  
----- Retford  
"Removal of the cars, pedestrianisation of some approach roads, and sensitive handling of re-paving and planting has transformed this part of Retford into an area of quality."
4. West Front Paving, St. Mary's Church,  
----- Newark  
"This is an outstanding small-scale example of what a good designer can achieve using the materials at hand to produce a sensitive, practical and modest result."

### UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM/ CIVIC TRUST

#### CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Building on two very successful annual conferences, the Adult Education Dept., University of Nottingham and the Civic Trust are organising a residential Conference to be held at Nottingham from the evening of Friday 6 to Sunday 8 April. It is hoped to attract a wide range of interests, particularly those having experience of practical aspects of conservation area advisory committees. Case studies will be presented by the District Councils of Broxtowe, Nottm. City and West Derbyshire.

Further details and application form are available from Christopher Charlton, Towney House, Matlock Green, Derbyshire, DE4 3BT.

Cost: under £25 inc. meals and accommodation. Early booking advised.



## BUILDINGS AT RISK

by Professor Maurice Barley,  
Chairman of the Trust

Nottinghamshire is not the only county with a Building Preservation Trust. A recent article in Country Life (4th January 1979) served to remind us that we may be overlooking part of the problem of historic buildings. We give grants or loans to owners who already realise that their houses need attention. But what about the buildings that, for one reason or another, are not receiving attention? There are always difficulties with such buildings, and we tend to concentrate on easier problems, where we can see a solution. It would be valuable to compile a list of problem buildings. Then we should know whether the Trust is really tackling fundamental issues.

We must have a list. Even if it has omissions, it would serve as a basis for assessment of what is happening to buildings. The main thing is to be sure that we get the facts right, especially the facts of ownership. Some buildings nominate themselves: Winkburn Hall, a country mansion empty for thirty years or so; The Gables, Little Carlton, a mediaeval timber-framed farmhouse looking for a wealthy purchaser. Putting them on a list would remind us all that they are at risk.

Anyone who drives round the villages with open eyes and an open mind will make surprising discoveries. For instance at Rufford, where the remains of the abbey and house are being repaired as an ancient monument, and where the Victorian stables

are to be the headquarters of the County Council's country park staff and visitors' centre, there are other buildings at risk. One is the early Georgian open air bath built for the Saviles and later converted into an orangery or fig house. The County Council owns it and intends to restore it, but until work is completed, this unique building is at risk. Nearby, and not in County Council ownership, is a large stone building which was the Savile's brewhouse. Nothing is happening to it at present, so it is at risk. Winthorpe Hall is half restored but the work is held up; it is at risk.

The Trust has always put houses first and should continue to do so, but we hope in the near future to get a better idea of farm buildings now unused. And surely we ought to know what Nonconformist chapels are now disused. They are especially a feature of villages in the north of the county (Bassetlaw district). One small one at Evertton was converted long ago into a cottage and carpenter's workshop, when the Methodists built a larger chapel. We ought to keep an eye on it. There is at least one disused chapel at South Leverton. And what about the two tiny lodges across the road from the White Swan at Drakeholes?

Obviously the list should be a long one. If members will keep their eyes open, check their facts and WRITE TO THE SECRETARY, the list will be a valuable instrument for shaping policy.

NOS. 40A, 40, 42 and 44

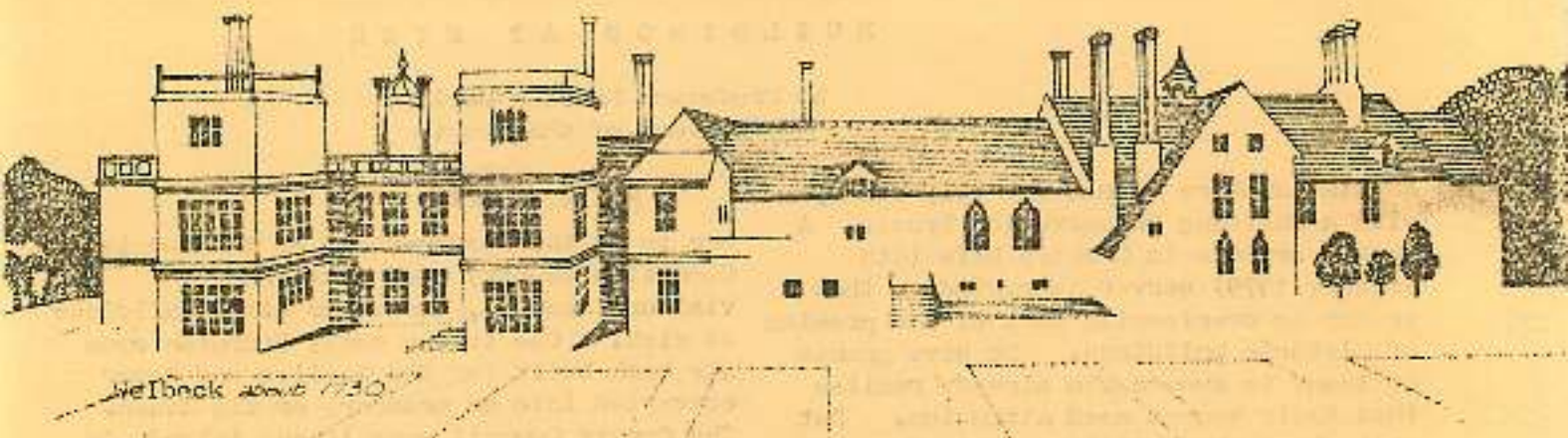
POTTER STREET, WORKSOP

The Trust recently contested an application by the Nottinghamshire County Council, on behalf of the Chief Constable, for listed building consent to demolish the above property.

These Georgian houses form a group dating from the late 18th or early 19th century and vary from two to three storeys in height. They are faced with painted brickwork and roofed with pantiles or slates. Shop windows have been inserted to some extent at ground-floor level. The group immediately adjoins the three-storey brick built Conservative Club which is perhaps the best remaining example of one of the 18th century town houses.

Whilst deploring the fact that these buildings have been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that it is now uneconomic to repair them, the Secretary of State agreed with the Inspector's conclusions and accepted his recommendation. It is with regret, therefore, that we have to report that listed building consent for the demolition of this property was granted.





THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
SIR NIKOLAUS PEVSNER; 2nd EDITION,  
Revised by Elizabeth Williamson (Penguin Books)

It was about thirty years ago that Nikolaus Pevsner embarked on the task of recording England's architectural heritage, in a series of county volumes by Penguin Books. Nothing so comprehensive has been attempted before, but the results began to appear in 1951 with the almost simultaneous publication of the volumes on Cornwall and Nottinghamshire. In those early days Pevsner travelled the county, making personal visits to the buildings he selected for detailed mention, backed up by a research assistant to sift and tabulate published and topographical material. The descriptions, however, were in his individual style, lively and often critical.

The interest in local history and traditional building was less organised in the immediate post-war years, and there were fewer workers in the field to be called on for specialised local knowledge, and it was inevitable therefore that there were many errors of omission and commission in the early volumes of the series. Also, although the intention was to cover all buildings of interest in all periods up to modern times, Pevsner's own approach to architectural history led to some lack of balance in treatment, and an emphasis on churches and great houses with scant attention paid to vernacular building on which in any case very little had been published.

The series was completed in 1974 with Oxfordshire and Staffordshire, but by the late '60's Pevsner was working with co-authors, and revisions were also being produced for counties which had proved most popular in the first editions. Every attempt had been made, and still is, to keep costs down, but the very nature of the subject cannot be expected to produce popular money spinners. Penguin Books have, fortunately for us, regarded publication of the series as a prestige project, and it is to be hoped it will continue for a long time.

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, as he became, retired in September '77. The Derbyshire revision had been completed in 1976 by Elizabeth Williamson under his editorship and was published last year. (The first edition of the Derbyshire volume, No. 8 in the series, was published in 1953). This revision gives a very clear idea of the extremely thorough treatment the counties are now receiving.

Continued on page 5



## THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND

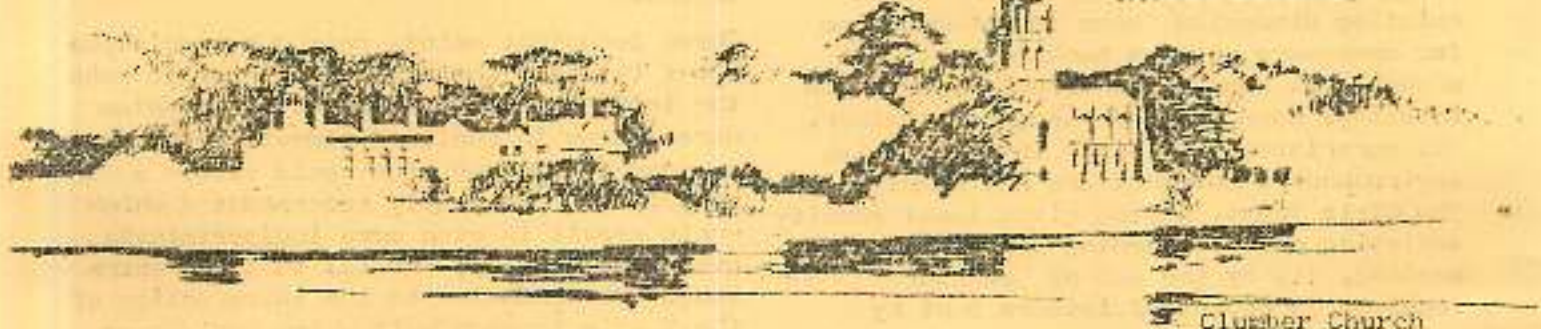
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The balance in the selection of entries is much improved, descriptions expanded without the loss of the Pevsner image, and the presentation is attractive without being extravagant.

Elizabeth Williamson has now completed revision of the Nottinghamshire volume and production has reached the stage of page proofs, although publication cannot be expected before November 1979. Nikolaus Pevsner is acknowledged as Founding Editor, and Bridget Cherry and Judy Nairn who have long been associated with the series are now joint editors. An indication of the size of the task lies in the time necessary for research and investigation for a second edition; this is about three times as long as for the first edition, particularly in these early volumes. Very few entries for the second edition could be repeated without checking, not only the accuracy of the original description, but also to establish that circumstances have not changed since the building was last recorded. New entries must be evaluated. This is a continuing process that is only halted when the text goes for final printing; a sad example of this was the Manor House at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds which was illegally demolished while the galley proofs were actually being checked, necessitating another last minute correction. Also, much more has been written on the buildings of the county in the last thirty years than in the previous fifty; much of it is unpublished, but a list for further reading is included in the introduction. Increasing numbers of people are involved in local history studies from county down to village level; these have been consulted for their specialist interests and Elizabeth Williamson has acknowledged them generously. Finally, official records are more complete, particularly in the lists and descriptions of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest, prepared by the Department of the Environment (formerly the Ministry of Town and Country Planning); these have provided many entries which might otherwise have been missed.

Preface all this with an expanded Introduction, and special articles on Early Settlement in the County, Building Materials, and Industrial Archaeology, and the result is a most valuable addition to the record of the County of Nottinghamshire.

Norman Summers.



Clumber Church



## INCREASED PENALTIES

### FOR SOME OFFENDERS

By altering the penalties which magistrates may impose on offenders, the Criminal Law Act 1977 has the effect of increasing certain penalties for offences under the Town and Country Planning Act 1971. Section 28 of the Criminal Law Act sets a standard maximum penalty of £1000 on summary conviction for offences (with some exceptions) which may be tried either before a magistrates' court or a crown court.

Thus for contravention of a Tree Preservation Order a person could now be fined on summary conviction up to £1000 - or twice the sum which appears to the magistrates to be the value of the tree, whichever is the greater. The previous figure was £400. On conviction on indictment, as before, there is no limit to the fine which a crown court may impose. Similar penalties are imposed for a contravention of the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974 relating to trees in conservation areas.

A person convicted of demolishing or altering a listed building without consent could now be fined £1000 in a magistrates' court instead of a maximum of £250. A prison sentence of up to three months can still be imposed on summary conviction instead of, or as well as, a fine while the more severe penalties on conviction on indictment remain as before - imprisonment for up to a year and an unlimited fine. Similar penalties may be imposed for the unauthorised demolition of a building in a conservation area.

A person failing to comply with an enforcement notice could now be fined £1000 on summary conviction (instead of £400) and, as before, could be fined without limit on conviction on indictment.

Extracts from Civic Trust News

The proposal to 'harmonise' lorry dimensions (December newsletter) was not approved at the meeting of the EEC Council. Reporting to Parliament afterwards William Rodgers, Secretary of State, said 'I reserved the U.K.'s position on a proposal for standardising maximum dimensions for heavy lorries. This would have increased the maximum length allowed in the U.K. We have for some years pressed for higher standards on environmental aspects of heavy lorries. It is important that any proposal for increasing vehicle dimensions is looked at in this context.'

The proposal is not an easy one for anyone concerned with the environment to accept or reject. Given the immense difficulties in persuading any country to reduce an existing dimension there is not much room for manoeuvre and the package must most probably be adopted or turned down in its totality, good and bad elements together. Not surprisingly opinions in the British environmental movement are not unanimous. The Civic Trust, having given local amenity societies advance warning of the Council meeting, had by the end of December received 79 copies of letters sent by

### LORRY DIMENSIONS - latest

societies either to the Secretary of State, EEC Commission or their MP. Of these 41 (inc. one federation) adopted the Civic Trust's recommendation of reluctant acquiescence. The exact degree of reluctance was expressed with more or less force - some very eloquently - and in 14 other letters the reluctance was such that no clear recommendation for the proposal emerged. 18 were clearly against the proposal, and a further 4 (inc. one federation), while opposing the proposal, specifically welcomed the introduction of a height limit. A further 2 societies obviously had not understood the proposal believing it to permit an even greater height.

Three technical points raised by societies were: (a) that the extra length would make the lorries less manoeuvrable so causing more damage in confined streets; (b) that an increase in cab size would enable a bunk to be more easily accommodated which would result in even more indiscriminate overnight parking, and (c) that the extra length is conducive to the introduction of the 3 axle tractor unit which would pave the way to a heavier lorry.



## TRACING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE

The first of a new regular series of short articles by Adrian Henstock, the County Archivist, describing basic documentary sources for tracing the history of smaller houses in Nottinghamshire built before c.1900.

+ + + + +

### INTRODUCTION

Nottinghamshire shares with other English counties an irreplaceable heritage of ordinary houses and cottages built between the later Middle Ages and the early 20th Century, many of them of architectural, aesthetic or historical interest. They include the typical brick-and-pantile cottages of the countryside and the Georgian, Regency and Victorian town houses of Nottingham, Newark and other towns. During the past 30 years a large number of such houses have passed into the hands of new owners, many of whom take a pride in restoring or converting them and who are anxious to seek out details of their history. Other buildings unfortunately pass into the hands of bodies wishing to demolish or to convert them out of all recognition, and in these instances it is important that local conservationists should attempt to discover something of their history to support a case for preservation. It is to assist both these ends that this series is designed.

Tracing the history of any building involves investigating two distinct aspects:

- (a) the architectural, functional and structural history, including alterations and extensions, changes of use, etc., with approximate dates of all the phases;
- (b) the family history and occupations of previous owners and tenants (if any) insofar as they relate to the history of the building.

This series will inevitably be primarily concerned with documentary rather than architectural evidence, but the latter must be mentioned briefly. Although the interpretation of such evidence is often a matter for expert consideration, there are various books which will provide the amateur with guidance as to how to recognise the various architectural styles and structural details and to date them.

The general background is provided by such major works as The House and Home (1963) and The English Farmhouse and Cottage (1961) both by our Chairman, Professor Maurice Barley. Dr. R.W. Brunskill's Illustrated Guide to Vernacular Architecture (1970) is a very useful practical guide. Of particular relevance to Nottinghamshire are Dr. Norman Summers' excellent booklet, A Place to Live : Nottinghamshire Heritage (1975) (available from book-sellers or Radio Nottingham price £1.60) and the county volume in Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's Buildings of England series. This has been extensively corrected and revised (see article on page ). It provides short descriptions of the more important smaller houses. More detailed descriptions of all listed buildings (although sometimes inadequate or incorrect) are to be found in the official lists issued by the Department of the Environment, copies of which will be kept by the district and county council planning departments.

Anyone attempting documentary research into the history of a building is faced with the fundamental problem of identifying it from past records. For example, old maps may not be totally accurate, or the shape of a building may have changed. With written records the problems are even greater. House numbers are a modern innovation, and few houses had names in the past; frequently the only way of identifying a property is through the names of its owners or tenants, hence the emphasis on their family history as mentioned previously. In some cases identification may only be resolved by process of elimination after a detailed survey of the evidence for a whole village or similar unit, especially if there is more than one person of the same name as the tenant.

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It must be emphasised that this type of research, if attempted thoroughly, may take a long time, and there is always the possibility that little or no result may be obtained. Not all records mentioned in this series will exist for any particular property, either because they were never compiled in the first place or because they have not survived.

Most of the records to be referred to will be found at the Nottinghamshire Record Office, County House, High Pavement, Nottingham, although some will be in other record offices, libraries or private hands. The Record Office staff will be pleased to give advice on what records exist and to make them available for consultation, but they are not able to undertake extensive research on an enquirer's behalf other than answering limited and specific questions.

A useful cheap guide to tracing documentary history of houses is David Iredale's Discovering Your Old House (1977), price 70p, obtainable from booksellers or the Record Office. A more detailed publication is John Harvey's Sources for the History of Houses (1974).

#### A. Title Deeds, 16th-20th Centuries

The deeds of any property are the most basic records of its history. They record all past legal transactions affecting the ownership of the property and take the form of conveyances, mortgages, and wills, etc. They provide details of all changes of ownership with the dates and sums of money involved, the names of the tenants (if any) at certain periods, additions to or divisions of the property, and sometimes, details of reconstructions. Some deeds can be very informative, others infuriatingly cryptic. To the layman they often appear dauntingly long and complicated documents, couched in endless legal verbiage and bearing such names as feoffments, leases and releases, recoveries and fines. In practice most of the verbiage can be ignored once the nature of the transaction has been ascertained. Guidance as to the format of deeds can be gained from booklets such as those by Alan Dibben or Julian Cornwall, both on Title Deeds (1968 and 1963 respectively).

It is important to remember that the deeds to a property have a unity as a whole - each transaction refers to the previous one so as to prove the descent of title -

and so they should be examined in chronological order. With most old properties the deeds should date back to the 18th century, very occasionally the 17th century. There are exceptions where a property was anciently owned by an institution or body such as a college, school or charity, or formed part of an old landed estate. In these instances the only deeds will be those which severed the property from its parent estate. For example, a great deal of the property in the Carlton - Burton Joyce - Shelford - Bingham area was owned by the family of the Earls of Chesterfield and later Carnarvon from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. Deeds of such property will only go back to the 1920's or so when the Carnarvon family sold off much of the estate. By way of compensation, however, there may be estate records surviving; these will be mentioned later in the series.

Title deeds belong to the owner of the property to which they relate, but in practice they are usually in possession of the owner's solicitor, bank or building society. This can sometimes make consultation of them difficult, even for the owners! Unfortunately in some cases it may be discovered that the older deeds have not been retained. It is usually only necessary for current legal purposes to prove title back for 30 years or so, and therefore older deeds in effect become redundant. For this reason some solicitors do not hand over all old deeds to the new owner's solicitor when a property changes hands, especially if they are bulky parchments. This means that many old deeds remain in the offices of former solicitors, where they may be either kept, destroyed to make available further storage space, or hopefully deposited in the County Record Office. There are many thousands of deeds deposited by numerous solicitors in the Nottinghamshire Record Office, and there are also Nottinghamshire deeds deposited in other record offices by solicitors outside the county. In cases where properties have been split into two or more parts at some date, the older deeds will naturally be kept only with the modern deeds of one property, with a covenant to produce them for inspection to the other owners if necessary. Land Registration is at present not common in Nottinghamshire, but when title to a property is registered all the deeds become redundant whether old or recent.

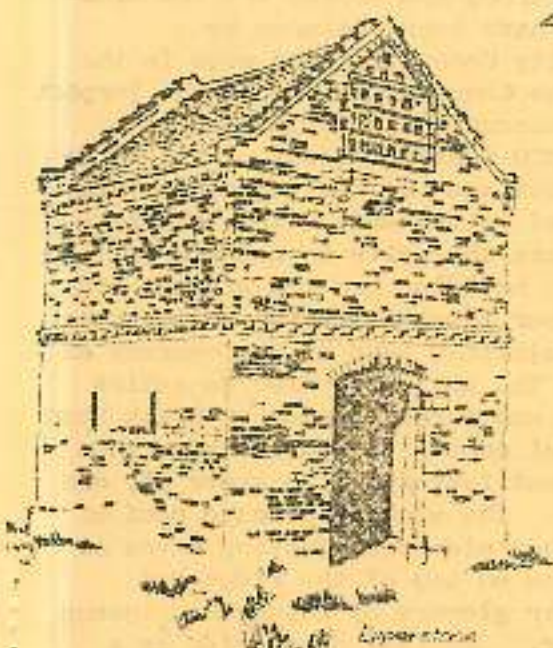
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In the next issue : Maps and Plans.



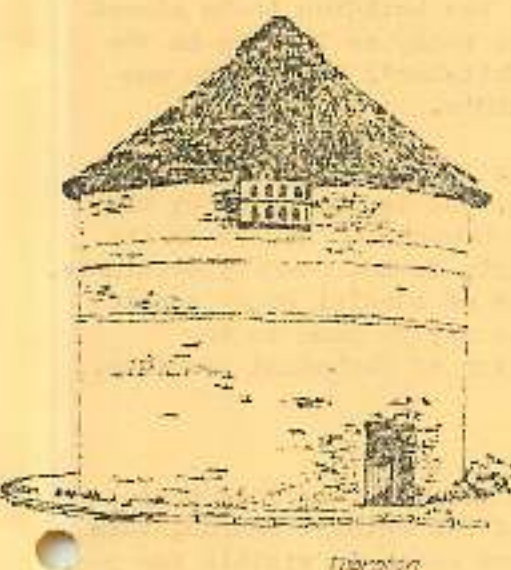
# Dovecotes

by Graham Beaumont



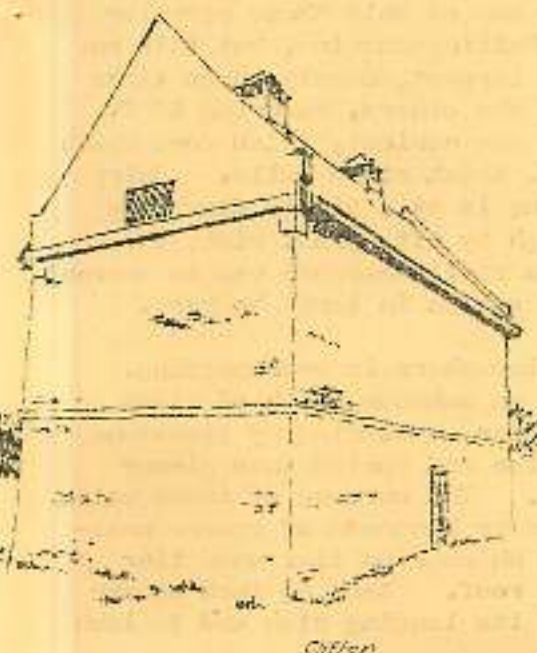
People have always kept pigeons, or to use the more poetic word, doves, from earliest times until the present day. In the story of Noah it was the dove that brought back an olive leaf showing that the great flood was over. In Roman times, Ovid mentioned in verse how doves were attracted to cotes that had been white-washed, and Varro gave detailed instructions on pigeon-keeping and dovecote construction.

Dovecotes are reputed to have been first introduced into this country by the Romans. The object of building cotes was to house and breed pigeons for food. In mediaeval times pigeon-keeping was in its hey-day and the Lord of the Manor and other important people would have a dovecote to provide fresh meat particularly in the winter. In those times at the end of summer when the pastures became poor surplus cattle and sheep were killed and salted down. A prolonged diet of salt meat was unhealthy and very monotonous and pigeon made a welcome change.



The decline in pigeon-keeping was brought about by the break down of the "Manorial System", and changes in farming methods. In the late 17th century the turnip was introduced from Holland and this crop provided a winter food for live-stock. Gradually the idea spread of keeping cattle and sheep through the winter so that fresh meat was available all the year round. So it was that dovecotes began to be neglected until at the present day the cotes that remain no longer resound with the sleepy cooings of doves. However even as late as 1837 Charles Waterton wrote:

"No farmyard can be considered complete without a well stocked dovecote, the contents of which make the owner an ample return and repay him abundantly for the degradations which pigeons are wont to make upon his ripening corn. He has a goodly supply of delicious young birds for his table and the tillage from the cote, which is of great advantage to his barley land. Moreover, the pigeons render him an essential service by consuming millions of seeds that fall in the autumn, which if allowed to remain on the ground, would rise up the following year and take time and money to destroy".



Twenty two of our Nottinghamshire dovecotes have been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest by the Historic Buildings Section of the Department of the Environment and six of these are briefly described in this article. Many other dovecotes remain in the County: several of them within conservation areas and therefore now protected by the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974. For further reading on the subject of dovecotes J. Whitaker's book "Mediaeval Dovecotes in Nottinghamshire" is delightful and informative, describing thirty cotes and giving a picture of life in the Nottinghamshire countryside as it was in the year 1927.

Continued on page 10



## BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS

Mr. Hall of Dovecote Farm kindly gave us permission to carry out a close inspection of this cote which stands a few yards away from the Main Street close to the farm buildings. The building dates at least from the 17th century or probably earlier, and is the smallest of the three circular dove-cotes left in the County. It is only 15 ft. high to the eaves, but has a diameter of 20 ft. The walls are of limestone capped by a conical roof of red tiles. The entrances for the doves are in the walls at eaves level, one facing south and one facing east, and there are twelve holes to each entrance. The interior is just as attractive as the exterior with interesting timber work to the roof and two different types of nesting places in the walls. The original nesting places were in the form of holes in the stonework, but now ones have been added formed from pantiles and bricks. The effect of these later nest-places is that of large bottle racks in a wine cellar, the impression being heightened by the festoons of ancient cobwebs.

## BARTON-IN-PARIS

Mrs. Plowright kindly let me photograph this most attractive and interesting octagonal-shaped dove-cote, the only octagonal one in the County which stands in the farmyard at Manor Farm. It is visible across the fields as you drive into this quiet village which has been designated as a Conservation Area. The building is of red bricks and has a pyramidal tiled roof. The glover (the roof entrance for the pigeons) is unusually shaped and is tiled to match the roof. The cote was built in the 17th or possibly early 18th century. Supposedly by the Sacheverells, whose plaster coat-of-arms once adorned the south side of the building. There were 1200 plaster nesting places inside but unfortunately many of these have now fallen from the walls and broken. However the interior still has a very impressive character with the rows of gleaming white pigeon holes that are left accentuating the octagonal shape of the cote, and the timber members of the roof forming an intricate geometrical pattern. The walls are 16 ft. high and solidly built though it is disturbing to note that some cracks have appeared. It is to be hoped that some restoration work might be undertaken to secure the future of this unique and delightful building.

## CLIFTON

The 12th century red brick Dovecote is attractively sited in the middle of the

Village Green next to the A668 road. The green is within the Clifton Village Conservation Area, and nearby are the Alms-houses which have been restored by Nottingham City Council. The cote is the largest in the County, and one of the largest in England, measuring 38 by 18 ft. and containing 2300 nesting places. The walls are 2 ft. thick and the nesting places are in the form of holes about 6 ins. square which penetrate the walls to a depth of 14 ins. The building has two storeys and the first floor level is marked on the outside by a projecting band of two courses of brickwork. The end walls rise to gables with copings and there is another brick band at eaves level across the gable end with a decorative ventilation grille above it, one at each end. The steeply pitched roof of dark tiles, has widely projecting eaves at the bottom and on top of the ridge two ancient timber glovers by which the pigeons used to enter. On the north side is a small doorway which, for security, has had to be closed by a new metal door. The brickwork, although deeply weathered, has lasted well and the building looks almost exactly the same today as it does in the photograph in Whitaker's book which was taken in the 1920's.

The dove-cote was formerly the property of Colonel Clifton, but is now owned by the Nottingham City Council. Access to the inside of the cote is not readily available, but for purposes of special study application for access may be made to the Council's Director of Technical Services.

## SIBTHORPE

Situated in the middle of a field behind the Yew trees of St. Peter's Church, this striking landmark which is visible for many miles around, is the most splendid building of its type in the County. It is remarkable as being one of only three circular dove-cotes in Nottinghamshire, but this one is by far the largest, nearly three times the height of the others, towering 60 ft. to the top of the conical, tiled roof which caps the 3 ft. thick stone walls. Entry to the building is by a single door only 3ft. 9ins. high by 2ft. 3ins. wide, the idea of such a small entrance was to prevent pigeons being stolen in large hampers.

Inside, the atmosphere is overwhelming. One stands on an unknown depth of black twigs of the ages, encircled by limestone walls which rise and vanish into gloomy heights above. The surface of these walls is honeycombed by hundreds of square nesting apertures which rise tier upon tier from floor to roof. Each  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch square aperture with its landing slab and 16 inch



deep nesting chamber is precisely formed in the stonework and looks as perfect as when it was built some 700 years ago.

The dovecote is said to have belonged to the former mediaeval manor house, which has long since disappeared but of which the moat has been traced. The building is now owned by the County Council. Access to the interior of the dovecote is possible only by arrangement, and applications should be made to the Services Division of the Department of Planning and Transportation.

#### THOROTON

This is perhaps the most picturesque Nottinghamshire dovecote and certainly the only one with a thatched roof. The building is circular with limestone walls 16 ft. high and 3 ft. thick. The diameter of the cote is about 16 ft. There is a typically tiny door, and just below the eaves of the conical thatched roof a wooden entrance with eight holes and alighting boards. Unfortunately the square timber Glover which once surmounted the roof no longer survives. The building is generally thought to date from the 14th century although there are no obvious architectural features by which it can be dated more precisely.

When Whitaker visited Thoroton in the 1920's he stated that the whole cote, which was owned by a Mrs. Ransome, had been put in thorough repair, with the top newly thatched. Half a century later the building is still in the ownership of the same family and when I visited it, once again the roof had been beautifully thatched and repairs carried out, including the encircling of the building by two steel bands to arrest subsidence movement which had cracked the walls vertically in two places for almost the full height of the building. Let us hope that this cote may always receive such care and may long add its charm to the main street of the Conservation Village which gave its name to the County's historian.

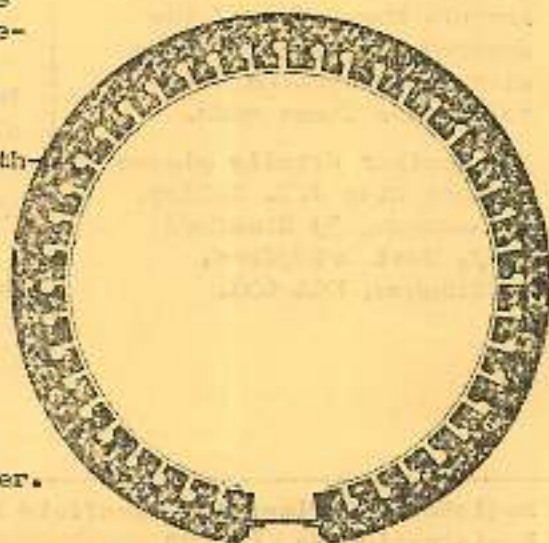
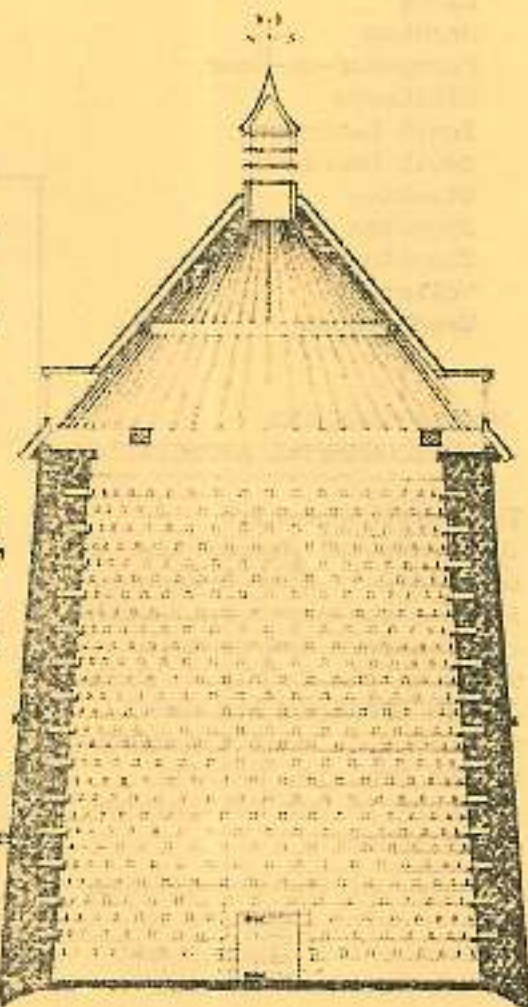
#### WOLLATON

This large and ancient dovecote is situated within the Wollaton Village Conservation Area, at the end of Dovecote Drive. The north face of the building (altered by a later door and windows) is visible to the public at the end of a small grassed area, although the building is privately owned and the front enclosed with a private garden.

The building is reputed to have been erected by Francis Willoughby (who built Wollaton Hall) about 1580, and the initials F.W. appear in dark bricks on either side of the door. The walls are 3 ft. thick and used to contain 590 nesting holes although the brick alighting ledges have long since been removed. It is a tall building, 20 ft. high to the eaves, with a tiled roof which used to have a central timber Glover.

In 1969 the dovecote had a narrow escape; only the prompt action of the Local Authority saved it from being demolished by a builder who was on the very point of knocking it down.

Continued on page 12





## LISTED DOVECOTES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Barnby-in-the-Willows  
 Barton-in-Fabis  
 Bleasby  
 Blyth  
 Bunny  
 Clifton  
 Coddington  
 Epperstone - opposite "The Cottage"  
 Epperstone Manor  
 Fiskerton-cum-Morton  
 Hayton  
 Linby  
 Marnham  
 Normanton-on-Soar  
 Sibthorpe  
 South Leverton  
 South Searle  
 Staunton  
 Syerston Hall  
 Thoroton  
 Vollaton  
 Woodborough

These 22 dovecotes are all on the Statutory List and protected by law to enrich our landscape for the visitor, and to preserve a part of our heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

\* \* \* \* \*

With acknowledgment to Heritage.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Nottinghamshire Environmental Association is organised in four Branches, serving the northern, southern, eastern and western parts of the County. Each Branch arranges its own programme to meet the needs of its members, mainly teachers in our Nottinghamshire schools.

The aims of the Association are to bring teachers of Environmental Studies and others together through meetings, conferences and exhibitions to promote and improve knowledge of the environment, co-operating with the Education Cttee. to further these ends.

For further details please contact Miss J.E. Culley, V-Chairman, 53 Stamford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6GG.

\*\*\* MEMBERSHIP

A P P E A L \*\*\*

Since the last Newsletter we have been glad to welcome 31 new members to the Trust, made up as follows:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Individuals        | 10 |
| Companies          | 1  |
| Amenity Societies  | 6  |
| Parish Councils    | 7  |
| Women's Institutes | 7  |

Enclosed are copies of the membership leaflet which we have been distributing and it would be greatly appreciated if you could hand these to friends or acquaintances who might be persuaded to support the work of the Trust. Additional copies are available from the Secretary if required.

VILLAGE VENTURE COMPETITION

R E S U L T S 1 9 7 8

Details of the above competition were reported in the December Newsletter and we are now pleased to announce the results as follows:

Winners : EAST DRAYTON, for the conversion of their old schoolhouse into a village hall.

Runners : COLLINGHAM, where an old telephone exchange Up : was converted to use as a village museum, and

SUTTON BONINGTON AND NORMANTON, for the development of Swan Court to provide housing for the elderly.