

Nottinghamshire Heritage

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SUMMER 1990

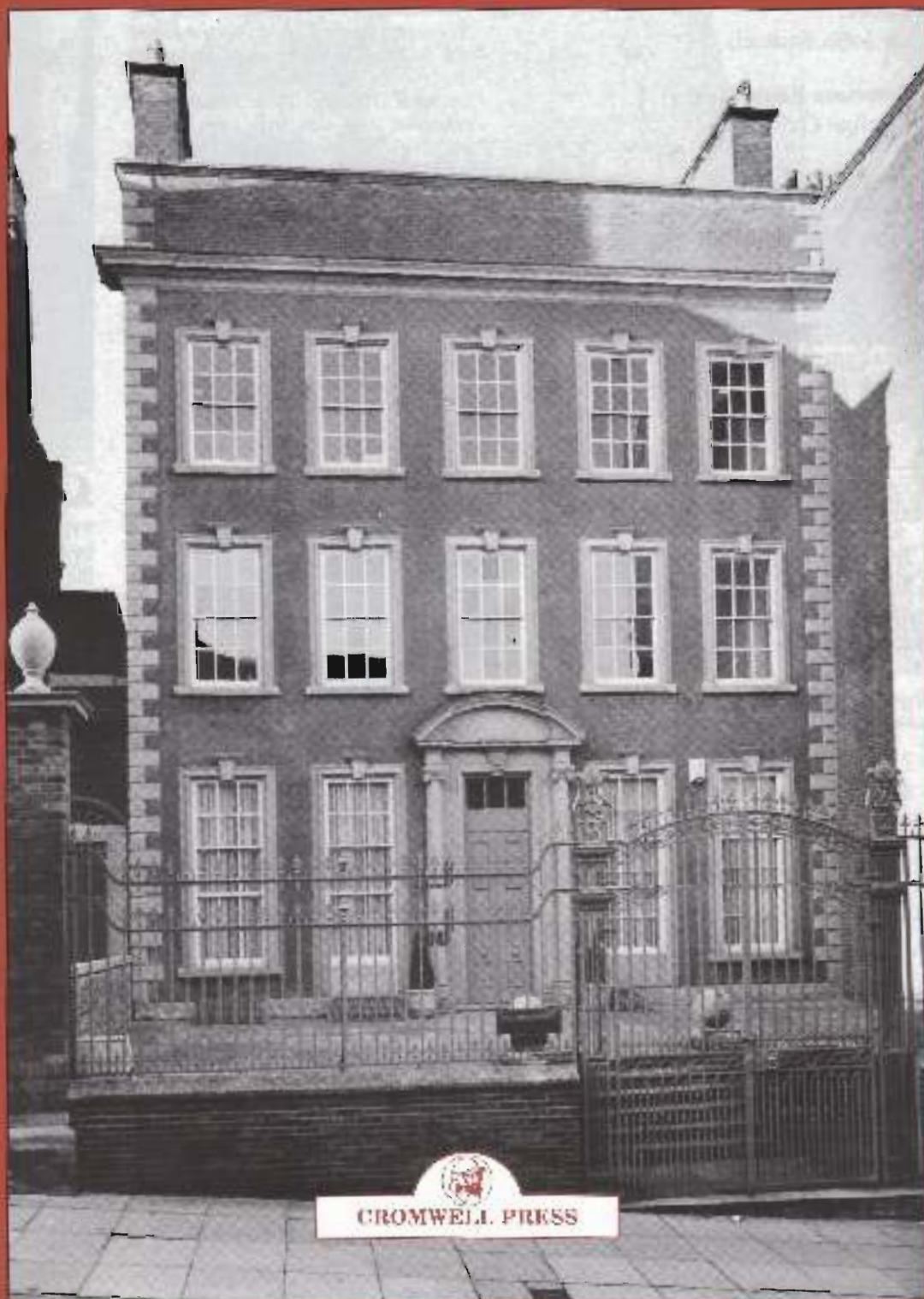
CREATING
A RURAL
IDYLL

SIR
THOMAS
PARKYNS
OF BUNNY
HALL

NOTTS
SPOTTERS

ARTS AND
CRAFTS
—
DIAMOND
QUILTS

25p



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NEWS FROM THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

Summer 1990

Editor:

Dr John Samuels

Associate Editor:

Daphne Oxland

Contributors:

Maurice Barley

John Severn

Geoff Turner

Gilian Elias

David Elias

Graham Beaumont

Mike Bishop

Richard Marquiss

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NEXT ISSUE



- *Our hidden building heritage. More often than you think, earlier buildings lurk beneath a later skin.*

- At Rufford, the only surviving part of the medieval abbey is at last open to the public after years of conservation work. In Rufford Mill there is also an exhibition about the Pilgrim Fathers.
- Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum will be open every Sunday afternoon, 2.00–4.00 p.m. in August and September.
- Nottingham Civic Society and the Thoroton Society have just published an account of the archaeological excavations at Nottingham Castle between 1976 and 1984. Written in a readable style and well-illustrated, it presents the story of Nottingham's royal castle since it was built in 1068. Available price £7.50 from the bookshop in the Castle Gatehouse.
- If you would like to study archaeology in more detail why not apply to join the part-time certificate course run by Nottingham University? It starts in October and applications are being accepted now. For more details contact the Secretary at the Centre for Local History at the University of Nottingham.

Radio NOTTINGHAM

- Dr John Samuels is presenting a new series called "Nottinghamshire Heritage" at 9.30 am on the last Friday of the month on the John Simons' Show on BBC Radio Nottingham.
- Volunteers are invited to help scrape paint from a timber-framed building at Sutton Bonington which was formerly a hardware shop c 1450. Contact Freda Raphael on 0509 673543 or 0509 672175 or Paula Linklater on 0509 672281. Raphael on 0509 673543 or 0509 672175 or Paula Linklater on 0509 672281. Visitors welcome.

HERITAGE DIARY



COVER STORY

THE refurbishment of Willoughby House by Thomas Fish was one of the finalists in the Nottingham Lord Mayor's Awards 1990. The fine 19th century building on Low Pavement, is now restored to its former glory but with all the benefits expected of modern office accommodation.

Thomas Fish were also finalists with the new premises for the Alliance and Leicester Building Society on Clumber Street, described by Terry Crich, Construction Director as, "particularly challenging. We had to keep the existing facade and its shoring was no easy task. I think it's an outstanding building and we're pleased that the quality of our work has been outstanding building and we're pleased that the quality of our work has been recognised."

FINALISTS IN THE LORD MAYOR'S AWARD 1990

*For details contact
Managing Director
Peter Woodhouse on
0602 587000*



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CREATING A RURAL IDYLL —

IMPROVING LANDLORDS OF THE 18th AND 19th CENTURIES

The English village and its pretty cottages with roses trailing up the wall is, to most of us, our idea of rural bliss. It seems to be the very essence of England and its rich historic past.

In fact, the whole appearance is often artificial because many of these cottages, and even whole villages, were designed to create this impression. With their fancy medieval style windows, decorated timberwork and elaborate chimneys, the cottages were harking back to the past but also providing good quality accommodation.

In Nottinghamshire, the best example of a complete estate village is at Budby, a few miles west of Ollerton, built by the 1st Earl Manvers in the early years of the 19th century. Often the same cottage design

By JOHN SAMUELS

would be used elsewhere by the same landowner and at Radcliffe-on-Trent the Manvers design can be seen in the rounded porch and windows of the appropriately named Manvers Arms pub.

Many other examples of estate cottages can be found in the county ranging from simple cottages in Whatton built by Thomas can be found in the county ranging from simple cottages in Whatton built by Thomas Dickinson Hall, the Lord of the Manor to the elaborate lodges on the Saville estate at Rufford. In both cases ownership is clearly marked, by a simple plaque inscribed TDH and the date at Whatton but with a coat of arms at Rufford.

Designs for cottages seem to have been produced by nearly everybody in the 18th and 19th centuries to the extent that it must have been a national past-time for ladies and gentlemen as well as professional architects. In 1848 Nottingham's famous Victorian architects, T. C. Hines won first prize from the Society of Arts for the design for a pair of cottages for agricultural districts. Not surprisingly, after their publication in the *Illustrated London News*, cottages to the same design can be found throughout England.



Above: T. C. Hines's award-winning design for a pair of cottages for agricultural districts.

Top: An elaborate estate cottage at Rufford.

Left: The Manvers design with rounded porch and distinctive windows at Budby.

Bill Foster

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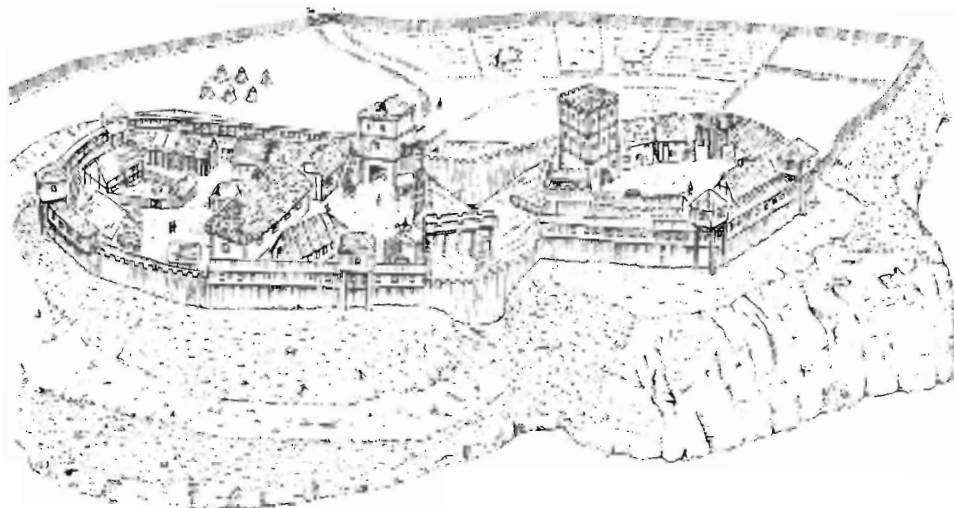
NOTTINGHAM CASTLE: A PLACE FULL ROYAL

By MAURICE BARLEY

HERE is yet another publication about the castle, but this one really is different. It is entirely about the *medieval* castle, and not about the mansion built by the Duke of Newcastle in the 1670s, and which has usurped the name. It shows that although the building has almost entirely vanished, a detailed description of it can be put together.

This is an excavation report with a difference. Most people shy away from reading what archaeologists publish about their work, but it should be possible to present their discoveries as a narrative, and that is what Christopher Drage has done. Here is the story of a royal castle, first built in 1068 and at various times rebuilt in stone, altered, improved and repaired; for five hundred years it was one of the king's strongest castles. Since it was so important, there are plenty of documents about it. There is the well-known plan made by Robert Smythson in 1617, when the castle was more or less intact.

The excavations carried out in 1976-84, and largely funded by the Nottingham Civic Society, proved that Smythson's plan was accurate. They discovered buried remains that could be woven in with the documents to put real facts in place of hypotheses and romantic fancies. A superb model



● A line drawing reconstruction of the 11th century castle seen from the west from "Nottingham Castle: A Place Full Royal."

(illustrated in colour) and perspective drawings show what the castle looked like at various stages of its history. For those who want details of the finds, they are there at the end of the volume.

It has been published jointly by the Thoroton Society and the Civic Society. It is

amply and attractively illustrated; it does great credit to Christopher Drage, the excavator; to Hazel Salisbury who edited it and to Derry and Sons who printed it. And it is cheap, as books go these days: only £7.50, at the Civic Society's shop in the Castle Gatehouse.

REGISTER OF BUILDINGS AT RISK

WORK has continued on compiling a new edition of the register of Nottinghamshire Buildings at Risk. In making the new register, members have been much more objective by covering on the ground by car or register; members have been much more objective by covering on the ground by car or on foot, each town, village, hamlet and isolated buildings where possible.

In addition to inspecting buildings in conservation areas, attention is drawn to the large number of Victorian buildings which are neither listed nor in conservation areas and which need looking at to see if they are at risk if of merit.

NEXT ISSUE

- A fascinating report of the structural dismantling and repair of the timber frame and stone walled extension at Holmegarth House in Blyth.
- The Trust's acquisition of St Leonard's Court.

PARK VIEW COURT



By KEN BRAND

IN the first part of the biography of the Nottingham architect Albert Nelson Bromley (Civic Society Newsletter 77, September 1988, p.4) mention was made of Victoria Buildings and their sad history.

The competition for 'Industrial Dwellings' on Bath Street was set up by the Corporation of Nottingham and widely advertised in 1875. The winning design was by 'Economy', the pseudonym of Bromley and his uncle Frederick Bakewell. The block, named Victoria Buildings in November 1876, is considered to be the oldest surviving council accommodation block in the country.

● The original architect's drawing of Victoria Buildings in Nottingham.

In more recent time some attempt was made to refurbish the flats, but neglected and vandalised they were sold in 1989 to Lodgeday Properties PLC through their Newark Office.

Park View Court, as it is now called, has been totally refurbished and contains 80 purpose built studio and one bedroom apartments. Each apartment comes with new kitchen and cooker, new bathroom, new carpets, TV aerial sockets, central heating on Economy 7 and, of course, completely rewired. If only some of those former residents could come back...

SIR THOMAS PARKYNS AND BUNNY HALL

WE have been retained to prepare an application for planning consent for the conversion of the hall and outbuildings and now that all consultations with statutory and learned societies have taken place, we await the decision of the Borough Council.

Buildings of the size and complexity of Bunny Hall with its vast range of outbuildings cannot be kept up by a single family unless of virtually unlimited means, nor is it practicable unless a full and proper use of all its accommodation can be made.

The main building is capable of conversion into three substantial units of accommodation with almost no alteration to its historic fabric and the trustees who manage the estate at present have encouraged a very sympathetic approach to conversion and change of use.

By JOHN SEVERN

It is to be hoped that those who acquire the properties will treat it with the same regard and carry out the work in a sympathetic way. As architects we can only advise, we cannot dictate and having prepared a sympathetic proposal it must be the statutory authority which ensures the proper implementation of any granted permissions.

Bunny Hall itself is listed Grade I. Its outbuildings are listed Grade II in their own right and as a group they form an extremely pleasant range of vernacular buildings of this country. I use the word vernacular on purpose for it was Sir Thomas Parkyns who



● Above and below: Views of Bunny Hall — a distinctive form of architecture.

devised his own local style and methods of construction using the materials of the area to bequeath to us a distinctive form of architecture peculiar to his estates.

Sir Thomas Parkyns was born in 1662 and died at the age of 78 in 1741. The Parkyns family came to Bunny in 1573. Richard Parkyns having married Elizabeth Barlow who had the manor bestowed on her as a dowry. Whilst the Hall must have been of considerable importance in the seventeenth century, it is to the building work carried out by Sir Thomas in 1723 that we owe some regard.

It was he who, (Pevsner describes the Hall as being "as weird as his personal achievements") put up such a complicated

and unorthodox structure, which has been a talking point ever since.

In 1881 Leonard Jacks in his book "The Great Houses of Nottinghamshire" includes Bunny Hall and describes its builder Sir Thomas as an "extraordinary man. He was a great wrestler, he studied physic for the benefit of his neighbours and he wrote in dead and living languages. He distributed scraps of Latin over the Parish with becoming impartiality and tombstone and house block were alike inscribed with the language of Maro and Placcus."

He was indeed a remarkable man and his buildings are peculiar to his ideas and should be considered of great importance to local styles.

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styles.



THE main thrust of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust must be through its Revolving Fund Policy, which is to acquire buildings under threat, restore them in the best possible manner and then sell them on the open market. The money released is then ploughed back into the Revolving Fund.

The Trust also comments on planning applications, deals with queries and appears at Public Inquiries on all matters affecting historic buildings and the environment.

The Trust keeps in touch with members by holding slide evenings, coach tours and the AGM with an appropriate speaker and, of course, through the Newsletter.

The objective of the Trust is at all times to maintain a keen awareness of what is happening to the county's historic heritage and to protect and enhance it.

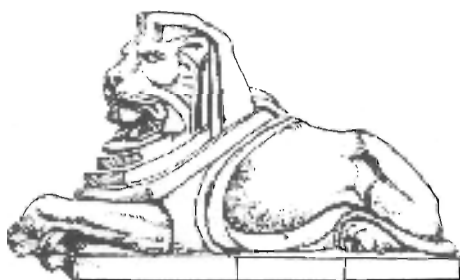
Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Limited



Nottinghamshire Spotters

TEN readers of Nottinghamshire Heritage will be among the first to take up a new hobby which is based on the landmarks of Nottinghamshire.

They will receive a free copy of "Look Out in Nottingham City Centre" — the first title in the "Nottinghamshire Spotters" series



● Score 10 for spotting this majestic lion.

READER OFFER

which is written and illustrated by Gillian Elias and published by the Cromwell Press.

Further books in the series are planned to cover Newark, Farming, Robin Hood, Mansfield and other areas of local interest.

Normally the books, which have 48 pages, cost £1. So if you would like a chance to receive a free copy write to: Nottinghamshire Spotters, Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Newark, Notts NG23 6JE.

● How well do you know Nottingham? "Nottinghamshire Spotters" tells you about



● Score 5 for a public house nestling in the rock.

the history of local landmarks to guide you on your way. And its fun to add up the scores.

● The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Coun. Chris Gibson will officially launch "Nottinghamshire Spotters" on September 17.

DISCOVER NEWARK

MANY delightful illustrations by John Severn are featured in 'Discover Newark', a new guide to the town which has been written by Dr John Samuels for Newark Town Council. Copies, price £1.50, are available from local bookshops or direct from the Cromwell Press.



● A view of Trent Bridge at Newark.

Glorious maps

TWO maps reproduced by Nottinghamshire County Council's Leisure Services Department bring Newark's past gloriously into the present. Samuel Buck's map of 1725, taken directly from contemporary records, gives details of the events of the siege in taken directly from contemporary records, gives details of the events of the siege in March 1644. John Wood's map is one of the earliest large scale charts of the town in 1829 showing the layout of housing and gardens, the features of which can still be seen in Newark today. Copies of the maps are on sale at Newark Library for £2.00 each.

LIFE AND TIMES OF SAMUEL BUTLER

THE name Samuel Butler may not readily spring to mind as one of Nottinghamshire's best known literary figures, but a new spring to mind as one of Nottinghamshire's best known literary figures, but a new booklet published by Nottinghamshire County Council's Leisure Services Department could change all that.

"Samuel Butler of Langer" by Ian Brown, traces the close association Butler maintained with the village which proved such a rich source of material for his works. It is the perfect companion to a day's discovery of Langer and of Butler, highlighting the anecdotal history and points of interest. There is a guide to the Hall, Old School, St. Andrews Church and other places of interest and an excellent introduction to the writer and his works.

Copies of the booklet are on sale at local libraries around the county, from City centre bookshops, country parks or direct from the County Council, priced £1.99 (£2.24 inc. p&p).

Nottinghamshire

TRIVIA

Questions compiled by
DAVID ELIAS

A free copy of John Weller's excellent book 'History of the Farmstead' to the first set of correct answers received at the Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Newark, Notts NG23 6JE.

- 1 Which Nottinghamshire chauffeur's son has run a gossip column and a manor, and been a resident magistrate?
- 2 Which tourist attraction in Nottingham uses an abattoir's transport system in a converted supermarket?
- 3 Which park in Nottinghamshire has a breed of dog named after it.
- 3 Which park in Nottinghamshire has a breed of dog named after it.
- 4 In what unusual building did the mathematician George Green live in Sneinton, early in the nineteenth century?
- 5 Which Nottinghamshire football team won the Freight Rover Trophy in 1987, beating Bristol City on penalties?
- 6 Where in Nottinghamshire is there a pub called "The Air Hostess"?
- 7 In 1955, students at Nottingham's Clarendon College made a giant what, 18 feet long, and cooked it on a barbecue, wrapped around a gas pipe?
- 8 Which Earl opened Nottingham Playhouse?
- 9 Which Nottinghamshire technical college has a violin-making school?
- 10 Which TV programme's titles showed a motorcyclist riding through Nottingham streets, throwing the shadow of a horseman on walls?

Heritage Bookshelf

THE Nottinghamshire Heritage Bookshelf open days start for Christmas on the first Saturday of the month from October 6. For a full list of current titles send a stamped addressed envelope to the Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts. NG23 6JE.



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SITES AND MONUMENTS

INFORMATION on over 6,000 archaeological sites and historic features in Nottinghamshire is now available in the county sites and monuments record.

Dating from the Old Stone Age, 40,000 years ago, through to the 20th century, the sites take various forms; some are standing buildings, others are ruins; others are earthworks — banks, ditches and mounds, the remains of prehistoric burial mounds, medieval villages and other structures.

Copies of a leaflet about the sites and monuments record are available to those who write to the Director of Planning and Transportation Department, Nottinghamshire County Council, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ or by telephoning Nottingham 823823 ext. 4546 or from local studies libraries.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTERS By DR JOHN SAMUELS



● An illustration from the new leaflet

Learning more about historic Newark

NEWARK and Sherwood District Council have begun to implement an archaeological planning policy in Newark. It requires all developers in areas designated of archaeological interest to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site at their own cost. This is a radical step forward and should mean that we can learn much more about this historic town. One of the first sites to be treated in this way is a proposed development in Stodman Mews where Dr John Samuels carried out an archaeological evaluation for Guy St. John Taylor.

out an archaeological evaluation for Guy St. John Taylor.



Above: John Samuels and John Laing carrying out the archaeological evaluation in Stodman Mews, Newark. (Photograph by courtesy of the Newark Advertiser)

A photograph by courtesy of the Newark Advertiser)

APPEAL OF ROMANTIC QUEEN ELEANOR

THE romantic tale of Queen Eleanor and her final journey from Nottinghamshire to Westminster Abbey has become an unlikely best seller.

A rare Victorian book "Memorials of Queen Eleanor", first published in 1864, has been revived to mark the 700th anniversary of the death of Queen Eleanor at Harby on the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire border.

The Harby Village Queen Eleanor Committee planned a series of activities to commemorate the death of Queen Eleanor, and Newark district librarian Rupert Vinnicombe suggested a reprint of the rare book, published with the help of Cromwell archaeologist and publisher Dr John Samuels. The book was so successful that more copies were printed Dr John Samuels. The book was so successful that more copies were printed for the festival which took place in July.

LEGEND

The legend of Queen Eleanor was featured by Dr Samuels in his "History Around Us" series in the Newark Advertiser who wrote: "Throsby, writing in 1793, says little about Harby, but notes that: 'The inhabitants here have a simple tradition that a Queen Catherine resided ages since at this place. Foundations of some capital buildings are here frequently discovered, which foster the tradition.'"

"Folk memory is often based on an element of truth. The queen was not Catherine, but Eleanor of Castille, the wife of Edward I who died at Harby in 1290."

Left: The Queen Eleanor statue at Harby Parish Church.



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DIAMOND patchworks are a real challenge and the pursuit of excellence has fascinated quilters on both sides of the Atlantic. The star cushion pictured right is one of a series made by Nottinghamshire quilter Daphne Oxland.

Arts & Crafts

By DAPHNE OXLAND



DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

A LOVE affair with diamonds — of the fabric kind — was a natural progression from the hexagons which had dominated my early patchworks. Diamonds, with their geometric precision, provided a challenge which the less demanding hexagons no longer met.

I was fascinated by the names of quilts I had seen in magazines, exhibitions and the American Museum at Claverton near Bath, which houses an inspiring collection of quilts and has become a place of near-pilgrimage for British quilt enthusiasts.

Dramatic images were conjured up by names like Texas Lone Star, Star of Bethlehem, Rainbow Star, Star within a Star and Starburst.

Research revealed that the pursuit of excellence has inspired quilters on both sides of the Atlantic since the turn of the 19th century and probably long before.

Fine surviving examples of American star quilts date back to the early 19th Century and a book now available "Collecting Quilts. Investments in America's Heritage" is a serious reference which features a Lone Star patchwork and applique masterpiece quilt dating back to the 1820s which was discovered in a garage sale and is now valued at over £1,000.

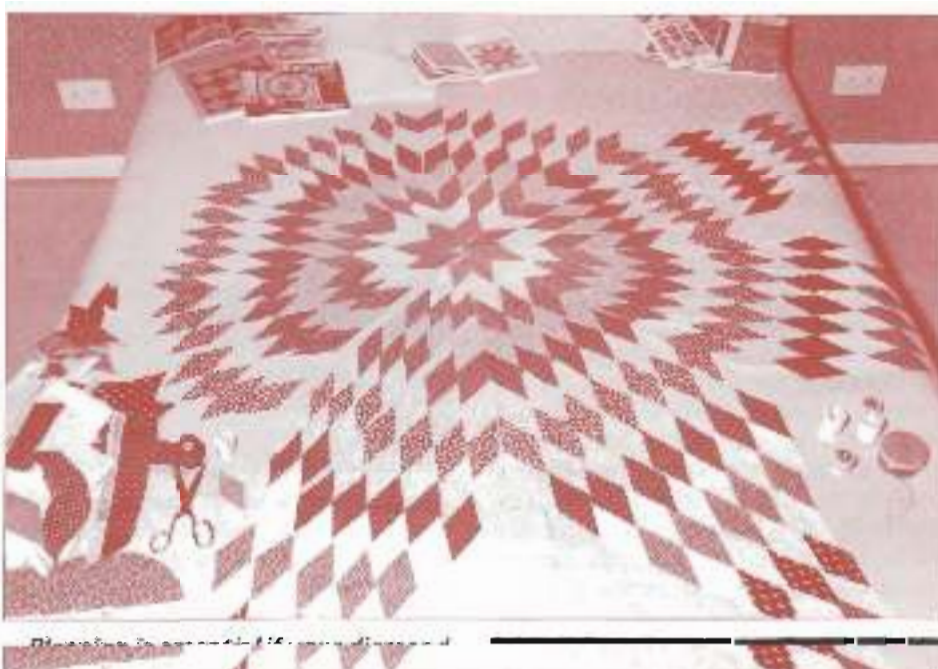
the 1820s which was discovered in a garage sale and is now valued at over £1,000.

Collecting quilts is different to making them — although some makers do become collectors — and few things equal the pleasure of creating your own masterpiece.

It can take years to plan, sew and quilt a full-sized diamond quilt, and you will find that you stitch a whole chunk of your life into that quilt. And however carefully you plan, it is impossible to get every detail right.

But as every quilter knows "Only God is Perfect". So what your masterpiece may lack in precision is compensated by the knowledge that you have not knowingly prejudiced your soul.

■ Daphne Oxland gives talks and demonstrations of diamond patchwork. For details, and a free brochure, write to her at Quince Cottage, Main Street, Oxtun, Nottingham. Telephone 0602 653603.



Planning is essential if your diamond quilt is to reflect the right degree of light and shade. Start by choosing fine, firm cottons of the same weight. This quilt uses Laura Ashley printed dress cottons in shades of red, black and pink similar to those seen in examples of quilts made at the turn of the century. Other essentials include templates, sharp scissors, wadding and a reference library of quilting books for inspiration should you feel daunted by the enormity of the task!

Suggested reading:

- The Quilters, Women and Domestic Art. An Oral History by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Buford. Anchor Press/Doubleday.



Talks, Workshops and demonstrations of Country Crafts

For a free brochure write to:

Daphne Oxland Quince Cottage
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Tel: 0602 653603

