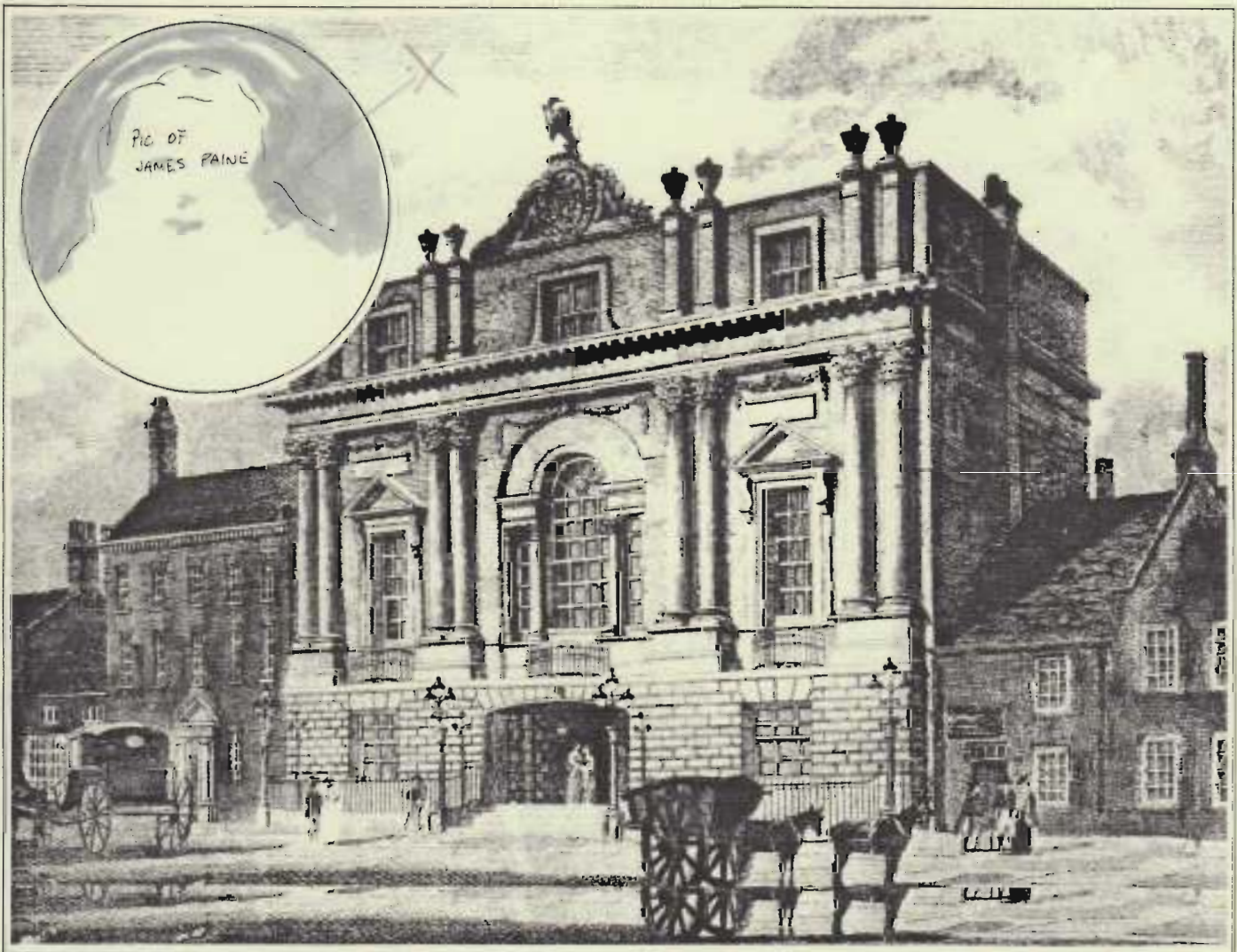


CONSERVATION in Nottinghamshire

The Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Limited



JAMES PAINE – ARCHITECT (1717-1789)

In the years 1745-1770, James Paine was one of the leading architects of country houses, along with Sir Robert Taylor and John Carr of York. He is chiefly associated with some very large houses in the midlands and the north. Only a fragment remains of what would have been the largest of them all: Worksop Manor – but there are three on the Nottinghamshire/Yorkshire border which are near enough to suggest an excursion, assuming that arrangements for access can be made. They are Doncaster Mansion House, Serlby Hall (Nottinghamshire) and Wadworth Hall (South Yorkshire).

Paine was born in Hampshire, probably the son of a carpenter. At the age of 19 years he was engaged as clerk of the works to supervise the construction of a house at Nostell Priory in Yorkshire, for Sir Rowland Winne. Largely on this recommendation he was then commissioned by the Doncaster Corporation as architect for their new Mansion House, which they needed for their business and official entertainment. This launched Paine on to his successful career in architecture.

In the preface to his book of *Plans, elevations and sections of Noblemen*

and Gentlemen's Houses, (Partone, published in 1767), he explains his philosophy on architectural education to embrace a study of Vitruvius, and the five orders of architecture, plus an ability to draw in geometrical form, to sketch the human figure and all kinds of ornament and adds a possession of good taste in landscape. Although he made a tour of Italy, he scorned the advantage, if any, of study and travel abroad. He stated that he had begun to study architecture under a Mr. Thomas jersey, whom he described as 'a
continued on page 2 column 2

Contents...James Paine-Architect 1...Comment 2...Older Buildings and Unemployment 4...Nottinghamshire Farm Buildings Survey Group 5...Nottinghamshire Listed Buildings Resurvey 6...Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny 7...Coach Trip to Rockingham Castle 8...Buildings at Risk and the Revolving Fund 8...Visit by Dame Jennifer Jenkins 8

COMMENT

Members of the Trust who joined us on the Annual Coach Tour to Rockingham Castle will no doubt agree that the visit, beyond the borders of Nottinghamshire, was a most enjoyable excursion and permitted a glimpse of yet another facet of this country's architectural heritage.

The village of Rockingham, situated below the Castle wall, is itself worthy of a visit, being a splendid example of vernacular building using the oolitic limestone indigenous to the area. This stone is not only used on the roof, laid in diminishing courses and giving a wonderful textural quality, but also in the walling, where it is occasionally decorated with bands of orange ironstone, also occurring locally. An account of this visit, together with news of future activities, is included inside.

In Nottinghamshire, the building stone is much less capable of working to such fine detail. Indeed, the blue lias which is also a limestone, found on the eastern side of the County, is more usually finished with brickwork dressings such that the stone might be regarded as an infill. In exposed positions, this local stone has a very short life and is not distinguished by its quality.

However, there is no doubt that the characteristic of Nottinghamshire is perhaps the wonderful rich red brick seen on farmhouse or cottage, together with the bold red pantile roof and steep gable. Some might argue that the Weald clays of the southern counties with their multi-coloured hues, represent a traditional image of English brickwork, yet the writer remains enthusiastic to the form and solid beauty of Nottinghamshire building. As a celebration, this Newsletter begins a series of notes on one of the County's noted architects of the 18th century, Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny, an eccentric yet noted designer of farm buildings in the south of Nottinghamshire or farm buildings in the south of Nottinghamshire.

Although by far the majority of traditional building which now remains was begun in the late 17th century and early 18th century, it is now important not to disregard that often 'new' building conceals a medieval frame or even roof structure. Previous Newsletters have described such buildings. Wiveton Hall and Annesley Hall, for example, are both buildings which conceal an earlier history. As the second phase of the National Listing Resurvey gets underway, it is perhaps even more important to ask members of the Trust to recognise a final opportunity to bring local treasures to the attention of the Inspectors. Above all, do not take it for granted that your building is known, as in the last 18 months many new buildings have been added to the National List which might have been otherwise lost.

Bryan Cather

man of genius' in addition Paine acquired a facility in rococo ornament as a student at the St. Martin's Lane Academy in London. Thus equipped, he practised in the Palladian manner, with innumerable permutations stretched from the link motif between a centre block and pavilions, the use of the piano nobile approached by grand staircase, the employment of the Venetian type of window for emphasis in composition etc.

The Mansion House, Doncaster

Paine was supplied with a suitable brief and building programme by Dr. Stead, instructed by his fellow members of the Corporation and the work was finished in February 1748. From a cost estimate of £4,523 4s 6d, the final sum was nearer £8,000, including furniture. The presentation of the proposal drawings was recorded in a separate publication in 1750, with a series of plates of the first design, and secondly with amendments, as built, of a centre block only without the two linked pavilions first suggested, with separate entrances for the occupation of the Recorder and Town Clerk. The complete drawings include details of the decorative plasterwork described by Paine as 'the ceiling piece of the Banqueting Room'. The ornaments in it, and the side of the room are of stucco (executed by Mr. Rose and Mr. Thomas Perritt) 'inferior to none of the performances of the best Italians that ever worked in this Kingdom'. This refers to the earlier success of the stuccatori who provided exuberant decoration as for example at Ditchley House in Oxfordshire in 1725. Their success was challenged in due course by native craftsmen, many of whom trained in York under Perritt, a principal exponent of rococo practice, eventually the York firm of plasterers, Joseph Rose and Company, was formed who carried out important commissions in

the late 18th Century.

To return to the Mansion House, it was built three storeys in height, with a basement containing a servants Hall, kitchen and offices. The rustic or ground floor with main entrance from High Street leads under an elliptical arch to the Mayor's Parlour and committee rooms adjoining an inner vestibule and stair hall flanked in each instance by an arrangement of two pairs of coupled columns and two in single form, all of an Ionic order. The great staircase, with wrought iron baluster shafts of 'S' shape, rises in a single flight to a half landing under a Venetian window, and thereafter in two arms to terminate on a landing with a screen supported on a Corinthian order, with a door to the piano nobile. The whole of this first floor is dominated by the magnificent Banqueting Room of 60 ft. length and 30 ft width and height, lighted by one large Venetian window and two smaller sashes, with twin chimney pieces between rococo frames on the long inner wall, under a high level minstrel's gallery.

Externally, the building is faced in stone with paint finish, with the front elevation in three bay design over a rusticated ground floor. The piano nobile is carried across the length of frontage, with four pairs of coupled Corinthian columns and central Venetian window flanked by pedimented fenestration. An attic storey was substituted for the original pediment finish by William Lindley, architect of Doncaster (1739-1818), of inferior design. Lindley also added a Supper Room behind the Banqueting Chamber in 1806. It remains in use, with other Mansion Houses only in York and London.

The illumination of the Doncaster Mansion House (from a painting in possession of the author) is taken from the *History and Antiquities of Doncaster* by Edward Miller, 1804.



Wadworth Hall

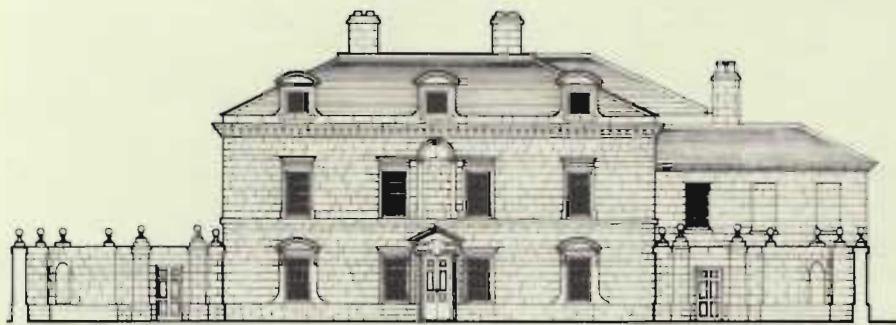
The illustration of an earlier Hall at Wadworth (from an engraving in the possession of the author) is taken from Warwright's *History of Stratford and Tickhill*, 1818, and shows a building of Elizabethan construction belonging to the local family of Copley. It was sold in the 18th century to a Joshua Wordsworth, a member of a family who had prospered as London merchants, and they commissioned Paine to rebuild the Hall which he completed in 1745-1750. Although none of the architect's drawings have been found, or any other documentation, there is no mistaking his hand in plan and detail.

The approach from an outside road is between a pair of Lodges, with stone

facades of recessed arches and rusticated doorways, joined to the Hall by high garden wall to form an enclosed forecourt—a stretched form of a Palladian motif.

The internal planning employs axial direction, with alcoves and recesses in most of the ground floor rooms. It is noticeably effective in the Entrance Hall with attractive rococo design of marble chimney piece and circular wall frame with swags and cornucopia. The Drawing Room, entered from this Hall, contains another similar chimney piece. Next is the Dining Room, distinguished by carved enrichments round door casing of outstanding craftsmanship, also visible again in the balustrade, which carried the height of the wall down across

continued on page 3 column 1



the width of the window opening.

The most attractive internal feature is the elaborately finished staircase, a miniature version of that in the Doncaster Mansion House, with similarly shaped balustrades. The side walls carry plaster frames with swags of flowers, and the ceiling design in low relief has four corner features like shields entwined with garlands containing a smaller oval centre with suspension for lamp. The whole is similar in character to the Dining Room at Nostell Priory (without the *ammoni* figures), completed in both instances by Perritt and Rose.

The front elevation, four bays in width and two storeys in height (with dormer windows added in the 19th century), contains an unusual device employed by Paine here and elsewhere to mark the central entrance, consisting of a wall niche at first floor level with a half round head joined on each side to a flat-headed window, repeated at ground floor with substitution of entrance door in place of niche. The remaining wall space has two flat-headed and two segmental-head windows of the same proportion as the central pair. The garden front is of similar length and proportion and has a canted bay window two floors in height. On the side elevation is the Venetian window to the main staircase, in a recessed frame above the cornice over the garden door.

Wadworth is one example of a comparatively small house of great elegance which anticipates in its compact

plan the ultimate demise of linked pavilions for family, staff, stables, etc., and the incorporation of such requirements within one central block, with the possible exception of stables. The house is now used as an architect's office—Johnson Architects.

The measured drawings in illustration are from the Cooke-Yarborough family, who owned the Hall in the 19th century.

Serlby Hall

The account of Serlby is somewhat confused by Throsby's statement (in *Nottinghamshire* (1790) III, p.433) that the first Lord Galway, when he acquired the estate in 1727, laid the foundation of a new house where the new one now stands. Paine cannot have been involved, for he was only twelve at the time. He may have been in touch with the Galway family from about 1745. According to Throsby, building went on piecemeal over the years 1754-73, according to H. M. Colvin, presumably as income sufficed. He published the design in 1767 in his *Plans, elevations and sections of Noblemen and Gentlemen's Houses* and wrote of his 'clients entire satisfaction he was pleased to express during the time of carrying out his building was such as would not fail of making every person happy who was concerned on this work'.

Paine's design is an example of a centre block of 3 bays width and 2½ storeys in height, given over mainly to family requirements, with single storey links to two pavilions of 2½ storeys and four bay widths

for staff, kitchen, services, etc. For the elevation of the centre block, Paine used double inter-locking and broken pediments. The main entrance on the centre of the south elevation is raised to the level of the principal storey and the plinth level that runs across the whole composition carries the centre windows in recessed arches in end pavilions. Inside the main entrance vestibule is the Dining Room on the right-hand side and the small Drawing Room on the left, straight ahead the circular main stairs. The saloon fills the centre of the north elevation, with slight projections in front of the Butler's Pantry and garden entrance respectively on either side. The large Drawing Room was in the west wing and the Library in the east wing.

Little of Paine's work remained, except the fine Drawing Room with panelled ceiling, after William Lindley was called in to effect a rationalisation of plan, and to condense all the accommodation provided in the wings into one central block. He achieved it by adding two bays at each end of the centre block and an additional floor to form a full attic storey. The long elevations were changed in appearance with a small pediment in the centre. The entrance elevation was emphasised by adding four pilasters between the central five bays, rising from a rusticated base to carry the pediment, and a porch with two pairs of Tuscan columns with ironwork balcony on top.

Internally, a new flight of cantilevered stairs was substituted for Paine's circular arrangement, with inferior result. The small Drawing Room was enlarged as a Library with wall painted insets by Flaxman. The original Library became the Drawing Room, with entrance screen of Corinthian columns and imported chimneypiece.

If it had remained in this form it would have represented a typical Lindley rehabilitation of sterm appearance. Unfortunately, a further alteration in the 20th century moved the main entrance to the eastern side without due regard for internal circulation.

Harry Johnson ■



OLDER BUILDINGS & UNEMPLOYMENT



Work has recently commenced on the restoration of this 18th century boathouse adjoining the lake in Wollaton Park, Nottingham. This project is being carried out by Family First Trust Projects Agency on behalf of the Nottingham Civic Society and the City Council. When completed it will provide a shelter and resting place for visitors to the lakeside, from which there is a very impressive view of Wollaton Hall across the water.

Even given the will to preserve some of our older buildings and adapt them to serve new and useful purposes, there remains the problem of cost. Righting the effects of decay and neglect, quite apart from any conversion operations, can be very expensive indeed and often prohibitive in the ordinary way.

Yet, during recent years there have been many instances of the financial hurdle being lowered to an attainable level by the use of the free labour available from organisations such as the Family First Trust Projects Agency. This is made possible by the substantial funding provided by the Manpower Services Commission under the Community Programme.

The Programme enables men and women aged 18 to 60+, who have been out of work for long periods, to be employed for up to a year each on a tremendously wide range of projects which would not otherwise be undertaken but produce a worthwhile benefit to the community at large. They are paid the full hourly rate for the job and gain valuable work experience and training which can do a lot to enhance their prospects of securing and retaining regular employment. All projects are carried out with the prior approval of a relevant trade union and, where appropriate, by the employer's body concerned.

Of course, there are many cases where the sponsoring organisations—usually voluntary and non-profit making—could not fund, unaided, even the material costs. Sometimes there are other financial implications such as the engagement of contractors for specialist work or of

professionals for architectural or other essential services. It is right, therefore, to point out that a high proportion of projects using Community Programme labour would never have been mounted but for grant-aid from the Department of the Environment, local authorities and other finance providing bodies.

There are a number of Community Programme agencies at work in the county of Nottingham, including Community Task Force and those run by the County Council, City Council and district and borough Councils. The Family First Trust operates several agencies in and around Nottingham City, the major one of which is the FFT Projects Agency which currently employs getting on for 300 men and women; this organisation is unique in the area in having the capacity and expertise to undertake quite substantial reconstruction and renovation projects.

Members of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust may be interested in the following examples of work which are being, or have been in recent years, undertaken in Nottingham by the FFT Projects Agency.

London Road (Low Level) Station

The restoration of this architecturally and historically interesting (Grade 2 listed) building built in 1857 to the design of local architect, T. C. Hine, has been going on since November 1983 and will continue until the summer or autumn of this year. In this case the very high material, specialist contractors' and other non-labour costs, amounting to £90,000, are being borne by

the Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and British Rail. The terminal station was built and operated as a joint venture by the Great Northern Railway Company (absorbed into the LNER by the 1923 re-grouping of the country's complex railway systems) and the short lived Nottingham, Ambergate, Boston and Eastern Junction Railway Company. As soon as the Victoria and London Road (High Level) stations opened in 1900, the Low Level station lost most of its passenger traffic; the buildings are now redundant.

Level station lost most of its passenger traffic; the buildings are now redundant.

With the restoration project moving towards completion, British Rail and the City Council are now turning their attention to the future of another derelict building adjacent to the station—the railway warehouse—also designed by T. C. Hine and also listed.

All Saints Church Institute, Raleigh Street

This is another example of a Victorian listed building (1864—again by T. C. Hine) which fell into disuse and disrepair. The former Church Board School, closed in 1906, has been converted into six small craft business workshops, whilst the Headmaster's house was adapted to provide offices for community workers. The school hall is now refurbished to house a range of community leisure activities, and the gymnasium has become a sports hall. Other parts of the old buildings were transformed to provide a kitchen, reception/dining area and the usual conveniences. The whole complex is now the hub of a wide network of enterprises by which the church is able to reach out into the wider community and put

to good use a suite of premises which was previously a liability

Green's Windmill and Science Museum, Sneinton

Following the recent restoration work on the windmill, cottages and associated buildings by other organisations, Family First are now putting the finishing touches to the Science Museum with an attractive courtyard and car park by dressing and laying reclaimed granite sets supplied by the City Council.

Congregational Centre, Castle Gate

Following the merger of the former Congregational Church with Goldsmith Street Presbyterian Church, to form the St Andrews-with-Castle Gate United Reformed Church, the Castle Gate premises became unwanted and dilapidated.

These buildings, erected in 1862/1864 to the design of another local architect (R. C. Sutton) were brought by the Congregational Federation, a body created by those 300 congregations which chose not to become part of the United Reformed Church. Under the direction of the consulting architect, Family First's Projects Agency undertook the major part of the local renovation and conversion programme over a three year period.

Steel stanchions were erected to carry a new floor at balcony level and the upper part refurbished and adapted to provide a combined place of worship and concert-conference hall to a high standard of decor. The ground floor was then converted to provide a bookshop, coffee room, kitchen, library, offices, toilets etc.

The second phase of this large undertaking is now in its second year. This began with the gutting of the interior of the next door lecture hall and substantial roof repairs, now being followed up by the construction of 35 individual study bedrooms on three levels. An indoor sports and conference facility will complete the conversion of a decaying and unused Victorian building into a national residential study centre. Work was brought to an abrupt halt when the restored roof was completely destroyed by an overnight fire in February of this year. However, within less than a month the Agency's workforce had resumed operations and is now working to an amended design produced by the architect and approved by the client within a fortnight.

As a spin off from this project, the Agency within a fortnight

As a spin off from this project, the Agency is also carrying out exploratory work on the opening up of several caves which are known to exist beneath the former lecture hall. It is hoped that eventually they can be made accessible to the public.

Common Factors

Not all Family Trust community construction projects involve listed buildings or adaptations of premises for new uses. Alterations, extensions and refurbishments of existing buildings for existing purposes for-

churches

scout groups

youth clubs

arts groups

sports clubs

community centres

ethnic organisations

charitable homes

and many other kinds of voluntary organisations.

All projects have two vital common factors. Firstly, they result in new or improved facilities being made available for the benefit of the community. Secondly,

they provide paid work and invaluable enhancement of future job prospects for men and women who probably would otherwise still be unemployed. As important as investment in the preservation of buildings is, the investment in people-made through the Community Programme-

is even more vital. Combine the two and we have a facility of immeasurable value to society.

*A. E. Woolrich
Manager*

Family First Trust Projects Agency



Interior of the completely re-furbished first floor of the Congregational Centre, Castle Gate, Nottingham, now in regular use as combined place of worship and Concert Hall.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARM BUILDINGS FARM BUILDINGS SURVEY GROUP TREASURE TROVE AT SMITH-WOOLLEYS

John Severn wrote in a recent issue of this newsletter about the research aims of the Nottinghamshire Farm Buildings Survey Group. As a result of that article the Survey Group was contacted by Smith-Woolley at Collingham. They felt that some of the 18th century material in their archives might be of interest to the group—and this proved to be the case. In the 19th century, Smith-Woolley, acting as land-agents for a number of estates both large and small, had been responsible for many farm surveys. These included detailed plans of existing farm buildings, proposed alterations and even the construction of completely new farmyards. Farmhouses, cottages, field drainage and gates were also covered and the amount of detail supplied was of exceptional interest.

The Survey Group was permitted to make photo-copies of all material in which it was interested which affected Nottinghamshire farms. The material has been listed and the next step is to locate the sites and examine them on the ground. This collection of documents has proved a veritable treasure trove for the work of the Nottinghamshire Farm Buildings Study Group. If there are any similar collections of documents in the county the Farm Buildings Survey Group would be pleased to hear of them.

John Samuels

Nottinghamshire Listed Building Re-Survey

The Editor apologises for the omission of the timetable referred to in the Spring edition of the Newsletter, and the order in which parishes have been or are to be surveyed is given below.

Look for the date when your parish is to be visited, and let us have that extra information in advance.

1984 FIRST YEAR FIRST QUARTER

A
Broadholme
Thorney
Harby
Wigsley
North Clifton
South Clifton
Spalford
Girton
Meering
Besthorpe
South Scarle
Collingham

B
Langford
Holme
Winthorpe
Coddington
Barnby-in-the-Willows
Balderton
Hawton
Cotham
Staunton
Kilvington
Alverton

SECOND QUARTER

A
Misson
Everton
Misterton
West Stockwith
Walkeringham
Beckingham
Saundby
Gringley-on-the-Hill
Wiseton

B
Scaftworth
Scrooby
Ranskill
Torworth
Ranskill
Torworth
Barnby Moor
Babworth
Sutton
Lound
Mattersey
Blyth

THIRD QUARTER

A
Worksop MB
Shireoaks

B
Harworth Bircotes
Styrup with Oldcotes
Hodsock
Carlton-in-Lindrick
Carburton
Norton
Welbeck
Cuckney
Holbeck
Nether Langwith

FOURTH QUARTER

A
Bole
West Burton
North Wheatley
South Wheatley
Clayworth
Hayton
Clarbrough
Sturton-le-Steeple
North Leverton with
Habblesthorpe
South Leverton
Cottam
Grove

B
Treswell
Rampton
Stokeham
Laneham
East Drayton
Dunham
Ragnall
Darlton
Fledborough
Marnham
Normanton-on-Trent

1985 SECOND YEAR FIRST QUARTER

A
Weston
Grassthorpe
Sutton-on-Trent
Ossington
Carlton-on-Trent
Norwell
Cromwell
Caunton
Bathley
North Muskham
South Muskham
Kelham
Averham
Upton
Averham
Upton

B
Eaton
Headon-cum-Upton
Askham
Gamston
Elkesley
Bothamsall
Houghton
Bevercotes
West Markham
West Drayton
Tuxford
East Markham

SECOND QUARTER

A
Walesby
Ollerton
Boughton
Kirton
Egmont
Laxton
Kneesall

Ompton
Wellow
Kersall
Maplebeck
Eakring
Besthorpe
Rufford

B
Staythorpe
Rolleston
Farndon
Thorpe
East Stoke
Elston
Syerston
Fiskerton-cum-Morton
Bleasby
Holloughton
Thurgarton
Hovingham
Gonalston
Gunthorpe

THIRD QUARTER

A
Warsop UD
Mansfield Woodhouse UD
Clipstone
Edwinstowe
Perlethorpe cum Buddy

B
Hockerton
Winkburn
Kirklington
Farnsfield
Edingley
Halarn
Oxton
Haywood Oaks
Blidworth
Lindhurst
Epperstone
Lowdham
Bulcote
Bulcote

FOURTH QUARTER

A
Flawborough
Orston
Shelton
Sibthorpe
Thoroton
Hawksworth
Aslockton
Scarrington
Whaiton
Bingham
East Bridgford
Car Colston
Screveton
Flintham
Kneeton

B
Shelford
Saxondale
Radcliffe-on-Trent
Holme Pierrepont

Gamston
Tollerton
Plumtree
Cotgrave
Clipstone
Normanton-on-the-Wolds
Keyworth
Bunny
Bradmore
Ruddington
Barton-in-Fabis

1986 THIRD YEAR FIRST QUARTER

A
Beeston & Stapleford UD
West Bridgford UD

B
Thrumpton
Radcliffe-on-Soar
Kingston-on-Soar
Sutton Bonington
West Leake
Gotham
East Leake
Costock
Wysall
Widmerpool
Willoughby-on-the-Wolds
Thorpe-in-the-Glebe
Rempstone
Stanford-on-Soar
Normanton-on-Soar

SECOND QUARTER

A
Carlton UD
Arnold UD
Stoke Bardolph
Burton Joyce
Lambley
Woodborough
Calverton
Bestwood Park
Papplewick
Bestwood Park
Papplewick
Linby
Newstead

THIRD QUARTER

A
Eastwood UD
Brinsley
Greasley
Nuthall
Kimberley
Strelley
Trowell
Cossall
Awsorth

FOURTH QUARTER

A
Sutton-in-Ashfield UD
Kirkby-in-Ashfield UD
Hucknall UD
Annesley
Felley
Selston

SIR THOMAS PARKYNS OF BUNNY

COUNTRY SQUIRE AND AMATEUR ARCHITECT 1662-1741

PART ONE

At the age of 21, on the death of his father, Thomas Parkyns inherited the family estate and became second Baronet of Bunny. The estate, which included the Parishes of Bunny, Bradmore and part of East Leake, had been the property of the Parkyns family for some years, although for a short period was confiscated by Parliament as a penalty for Colonel Isham Parkyns' heroic defence of Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, during the English Civil War.

In 1671, as a reward for his loyalty, Colonel Parkyns was awarded a peerage which continued with the estate.

The young Sir Thomas had received a good education, having been admitted to Westminster School, London, and later to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he attended lectures given by Sir Isaac Newton. It was usual at that time to be introduced to fashion and manners while mixing with influential people, and evidently the family were able to afford his continuing education at Grays Inn, London, where he studied law. While at Grays Inn, he relieved his studies with an interest in wrestling, a sport which he pursued in later life.



In 1685, he gave up his small house on Farmer Street, Bradmore, and took his inheritance of the family home at Bunny Park, where Sir Thomas married Elizabeth Sampson of Breaston. He had two children by her, Sampson in 1686 and Thomas in 1687, although he outlived both. An inventory taken in 1626 described Buny Hall, which showed that the house had generous accommodation:

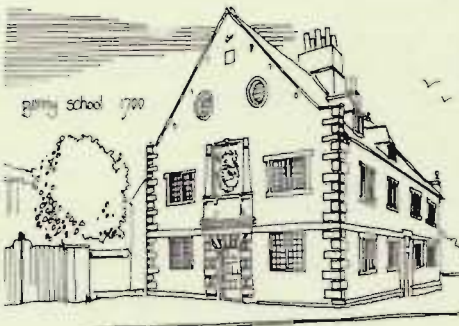
"A great chamber, a dining-parlour, about 6 bedrooms, a great chamber, a dining-parlour, about 8 bedrooms described as 'a yellow velvet chamber', 'a chamber next yellow chamber', 'a green chamber', etc., kitchens, a dairy and several out-buildings"

The estate was good farmland, although both villages were known widely as a source of natural reed, used for thatching, rush seating and also for loose strewn flooring. Bradmore was also once known as Broadmere (a broad lake), which might relate to the low-lying ground to the north of the village where reed would be cultivated. Gypsum, for which the area is now known, was not discovered and dug-out until 1751, although this material was available from other sources.

In 1700, Sir Thomas began his first major building work, 17 Main Street, Bunny. This house is two storey with an attic lit by full-size gable windows at each end. The plan is a traditional lobby entrance with massive central chimney stack dividing the service room to the right and living rooms to the left. A rear out-shot gives additional ground floor space. All elevations are in brick with simple stone dressings to each window opening. Each storey is defined by a projecting string, 3 brick courses deep, curved around all

elevations. The end gables are finished with a stone coping capped with ball finials as decoration. As a vernacular building, this house is an accomplished piece of architecture exhibiting touches of classicism seen in the better houses of the period. By contrast, however, Cranfield House, Southwell, (the most beautiful house in the County?) is of similar age, yet exhibits the contemporary fashion of Queen Anne elegance, not seen on any of Parkyns' work.

In the same year, he also began the School House, Bunny. This building is the only truly symmetrical design Sir Thomas carried out, yet has a curious proportion when examined in detail. The form is not unlike 17 Main Street,



being two storey with attic range lit by end windows and also dormers. The central stack forms a lobby entrance with two rooms on each side. Each gable end has stone copings and ball finials seen previously. The stone dressings are much finer, being used on window openings, as a string course and also rusticated quoins. The south gable has been altered by the insertion of later ground floor windows, although it is probable that they replaced elliptical lights as seen on the north side. This elevation also carries a huge rusticated stone surround to a relatively small doorway. The stone-work is extended to the upper storey to frame the Parkyns crest and a memorial tablet relating to the charitable status of the school. When first seen by the writer, this building had a Swithland slate roof laid in diminishing courses, although subsequent repair has been carried out in a much thinner blue Welsh slate. This material is quite incorrect, being introduced into the subsequent repair phase but carried over into the much thinner blue Welsh slate. This material is quite incorrect, being introduced into the County no earlier than the second half of the 18th century and is an example of an inappropriate material being selected in restoration work. Swithland slate is indeed a noble roofing material, being cut approximately 1 inch thick and was used in both green and purple hues. It was said that this material was in great demand for the better building works in Leicestershire and also the surrounding Counties, including the south of Nottinghamshire. The School was the only Parkyns building to use this expensive material.

It was about this time that Sir Thomas Parkyns wrote the book *A Practical and Grammatical Introduction to the Latin tongue*, which was subsequently reprinted in 1716 and finally in the following year. A brief inscription in Latin can be seen cut into the string course on the school at first floor level.

In October 1701, the church wardens recorded that the Vicarage was in disrepair. Although no other reference is made to this, the Parkyns tomb-stone states: "He built y Vicarage house..." and it can be presumed that effective repairs took place. The original three bay building, near to the church in Bunny, can be readily identified and features a Venetian

window with arched central light and narrower square-headed lights on each side on the garden elevation.

It is recorded that in the Autumn of 1705, there was a serious fire in Bradmore which spread rapidly through the dry thatched roofs. Twelve houses were lost as well as the church, stables and effects valued at £6,000. Only the church spire remained on the original building, causing the village population to walk to Bunny for their worship until 1881 when the Mission Hall was built next to the tower. The loss was so great that collections were made for relief of the suffering.

The Parkyns family had been patrons of Bunny church since 1593, ensuring its maintenance by generous contributions including the provision of bells. In 1711 the roof to the nave was carried out, followed by a new chancel roof in 1718. This work, supervised by Sir Thomas, lowered the pitch and required the east window to be altered with a flat head and removing the Gothic arches above the original rook shafts.

From 1715, it is known that Sir Thomas had a pre-occupation with death, not one might assume unusual, when considered in the context of his patronising of the villagers in his estate. He would collect stone coffins, some of which he would give to his tenants when his medical advice failed to be effective. In a letter dated 1st September, he advised his friend that while in perfect health, he was taking care of his memorial rather than trouble his executors. The letter contained a sketch, the only known drawing by Sir Thomas to survive, illustrated him standing as a wrestler, although the detail caused him much irritation:

"...doing in haste he has not drawn the posture sinking or crouching low enough in my knees and my hands sh'd have been tending forwards waiting to receive an adversary with my elbows forwards close to my sides that he should not take the underhold or Cornish Hugg on me..."

On the drawing, he wrote, "Tempex edax revum" (time, consumer of all things), and modestly against the statue's head, "Artificis status ipse fur" (this was the stance of the master himself).

Sir Thomas's education included a study of classical elements as it was extremely fashionable to have a knowledge of Roman and Greek cultures. This extended not only to Latin, but also to the architectural orders brought to this country by Indigo Jones and the contemporary work of Wren and Sir John Vanbrugh, as well as the Olympic sport of wrestling. An annual wrestling contest in 1712, held in the grounds of the village inn was effective in reviving this sport locally, and brought fame to one Richard Green of Huchall who was Sir Thomas's champion and also domestic aide. In 1713, he published his book *The Inn Play or the Cornish Hugg Wrestling*. In the opening dedication he addressed the king, George II. "As you have polished my head, so in this my book, I have endeavoured to make my hands, my feet, body and all the members of your subjects more useful in your army on future occasions."

Despite a brief period of financial insecurity in 1717, Sir Thomas began his next major project in 1723 with the rebuilding of Bunny Hall, preceded by a notable barn in the Hall grounds dated 1718, and another house, undated, but which exhibits much of the subtle detailing using stone dressings to the window openings.



Coach Trip to Rockingham Castle

The coach trip to Rockingham Castle took place on Saturday, 29th June, and was a great success. The rain ceased on our arrival and the members present were given a well-informed conducted tour of the castle and a visit to the recently opened exhibition featuring the Civil War and the recent television series *By the Sword Divided*.

The Trust is breaking from tradition this year by having two coach tours. The next will benefit members living in the north of the County who often, it is said, feel neglected by those in the south.

The tour is the brainchild of Mr. Harry Johnson and we are lucky to have the benefit of his deep knowledge and enthusiasm to help us look at some of the work of the architect James Paine on the forthcoming tour.

We are also very grateful to Lord Scarborough, who has agreed to allow us to visit Sandbeck Park near Maltby.

BUILDINGS AT RISK AND THE REVOLVING FUND

For one reason or another there are still a large number of old buildings falling into disrepair and disuse. From the centre of Nottingham to the most rural corner of the county, from the largest warehouse to the smallest cottage, these sleeping beauties lie waiting for the kiss of life that will return them to the everyday world. Even though it is fashionable to revive old buildings and put them to good use, many are passed by because they do not quite suit or the sums do not balance, and patterns of life are changing so quickly that other buildings fall into the same condition.

The Trust has a record of Buildings at Risk, a record kept up to date with the great help of the membership, and has tried to encourage owners and the local authorities to take action to save the buildings, and to keep an eye on them until the day they are no longer at risk. The Trust also gets directly involved through its two Revolving Fund Committees which cover the north and south of the county, and wherever it can seize or create an opportunity to take over an unwanted building, restore it, and release it to new owners, it is doing so, because in the end this gets the job done. And every building restored encourages others to do the same.

A lot of work is involved in identifying the buildings, talking to owners, doing feasibility studies, obtaining grants and loans, carrying out the repairs, and finally marketing out the buildings. Many buildings have to be investigated over a long time to provide even the fairly small regular output that the Trust can afford. You, as Members of the Trust, can help enormously by bringing forward buildings with which you are familiar in your daily life and which might be candidates for a Revolving Fund rescue, for without those initial contacts the Fund cannot operate with optimum effect over the whole county.

IF YOU OWN, OR KNOW OF A BUILDING IN NEED OF RESCUE, PLEASE INFORM THE TRUST GIVING THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

- Building Type
- Address (or describe its location)
- Owner (if known)
- Your Name (unless you are the owner)
- Telephone Number

Please send any further information which you think might be helpful.

Post to:

Post to:

Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd.,
The Old Bowls Pavilion,
Bridgford Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 6AX

VISIT BY DAME JENNIFER JENKINS

One of the highlights of the Trust's year was the visit to Nottingham by Dame Jennifer Jenkins, lately Chairman of the Historic Buildings Commission and now a Council Member of British Heritage.

The visit was arranged to show Dame Jennifer some of the work being carried out by the Trust and to meet civic dignitaries and other interested parties.

The places visited were Barton-in-Fabis Dovecote, Newstead Abbey Lodge, Greens Windmill Complex and Forest Lodge. During the visit we were pleased to meet the Chairman of the County Council, the Lord Mayor of Nottingham and the Chairman and members of several important City Committees and their officers.

The Trust party was transported in a

Rolls Royce kindly loaned for the occasion by a member of the Trust.

Dame Jennifer expressed her keen interest and appreciation of the work being carried out by the Trust and was surprisingly well informed about the area and its problems.