

CONSERVATION IN NOTTS.

Winter 1983?

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST LIMITED

The Old Bowls Pavilion,
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Nottingham NG2 6AX
Tel. (0602) 819622 (24 hour answer)



The Work of the Trust

The Trust - as a limited company with charitable status - operates within a legal framework, designed to protect buildings of historical and architectural interest and to maintain the character of towns and villages in Nottinghamshire. The Trust was formed in 1965 and has over the past years built a fine reputation for its assistance both financial and technical in helping preserve the heritage of the County. However in recent years the Trust has lost, because of Government cutbacks, the financial assistance of some of the local councils. The Trust will therefore concentrate on:

- Advising local planning authorities on applications to alter or demolish listed buildings, and on applications affecting conservation areas;
- Presenting evidence on the same issues if and when they come to public inquiry;
- The Trust is anxious to extend its work in two other directions. It is prepared to offer technical advice to owners who, without proposing to alter a building, wish to maintain its essential character and possibly to restore historic features. Such advice calls for professional knowledge and skills. Owners will therefore be expected to pay a modest charge for such advice. This advice is available not only for buildings listed or in conservation areas, but for any building of age;
- The Trust is particularly anxious to resume its policy, carried out successfully in Windles Square, Calverton of acquiring old buildings, restoring them suitably and then selling. The Trust has limited capital funds for this purpose, but hopes to be able to borrow the additional funds from the Civic Trust or from local authorities.

The Trust has accumulated a large collection of photographs and reports, and they are important for reference. Recently the Trust has surveyed a number of farm buildings because the are often now redundant. They differ from one part of the county to another, and it is impossible to advise on, for instance, a proposal to convert a barn into a house unless its historical character is understood. Recently the Trust has extended this by arranging surveying weekends for members. At these members learn the technique of measuring buildings whilst acquiring a valuable record for the Trust of the important buildings in a particular village.

FINANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT

The Trust depends for its finance on voluntary donations. The largest source of voluntary help is supplied by local authorities. From 1980 and for the foreseeable future, owing to cutbacks in local Government expenditure, the amount of this help will be much reduced and a greater emphasis on help from private individuals and voluntary organisations will be needed.

The Trust invites subscriptions from those who wish to associate themselves with this work; the rates are as follows:

Individual membership	- £2.00
Corporate membership	- £2.50
Life membership	- £20.00

Much of the work is done by volunteers from the Trust's new headquarters at the Old Bowls Pavilion, West Bridgford, which the Trust is restoring. If you are interested in finding out more about us please contact Janet Blenkinship at the above telephone number.

Subscriptions

Our subscription level has stayed the same for many years despite a huge increase in administration costs. The annual subscription barely covers the cost of the newsletter and postage. Our income from local authority grants has been drastically reduced and so we must rely on dramatically increasing our membership to survive. So, please try to enlist a new member this year - leaflets advertising our work are available from the Trust's offices - or why not take out a subscription to the newsletter for a friend who has moved away from the area.

NEWSLETTER

Additional copies of the newsletter can be provided either singly @ 25p + p+p, or in bulk:-

10 copies	£2.00 post paid
50 or more copies	£1.75 per 10 post paid

or sent to any part of the U.K. for £1.50 a year.

The Heritage of the County is in Your Hands

CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

The Civic Trust awards were announced on 26th November 1982 and it was with some interest I turned to the Nottinghamshire section expecting confidently to see at least three successes. Not to be. There were none! This disappointment was somewhat tempered by the award of four commendations, although I must confess I cannot understand why the Old White Hart at Newark did not gain anything at all. Members will be able to decide for themselves on the merits of this scheme after the next newsletter which will have a feature on this fine restoration.

Enough of the gripes! We must be grateful for the success that has been achieved in the County whilst consoling the remaining seventeen applicants who were unsuccessful. For Members benefit a complete list of the unsuccessful schemes submitted is listed at the end of this article.

However, what of the successful schemes:

COTTAGE, MAIN STREET FLINTHAM

ARCHITECTS Cullen, Carter & Hill
Architects.



The tightness of the street frontage is one of the most important features of this conservation area. From the front it continues to maintain the street scene but the south facing rear has an open and equally attractive modern flavour. The owner has the best of both worlds.

The other three commended schemes are all from the City and are:

Fellows, Morton & Clayton
54 Canal Street, Nottingham

Designer B. Rowell, Architect
Whitbread East Pennines Ltd.,

This scheme is the result of a City sponsored competition, and the architects have retained the Victorian flavour, and the environment around has benefited.



Advance Industrial Units,
Queens Drive, Nottingham

Designer Nicholas Grimshaw & Ptnrs.

The brightly coloured service modules punctuate the facade and end shape and a more human scale to what is otherwise a plain slab.

The above are quotes from the Civic Trust Awards Booklet.

We must congratulate all the winners and will include more information on the Fellows Clayton & Morton and canal complex in a later newsletter as space allows.

15 Middle Pavement,
Nottingham

Designer Douglas Feast Ptnrship

This building has regained its dignity, but the gable end to Weekday Cross is a disappointment.

ENTRIES FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOR THE 1982 CIVIC TRUST AWARDS.

Housing Development at Vicarage Lane, Radcliffe on Trent, Notts	Bartlett & Gray
Restoration of the Old White Hart, Market Place, Newark	Guy St John Taylor Ass.
Renovation & improvement of Worksop Town Hall	T.I. Firth/Bassetlaw D.C.
Granby Court, Carnarvon Place, Bingham	William Saunders & Partners
Headquarters building for Z.F. Gears, Abbeyfield Road, Lenton, Nottingham	William Saunders & Partners
Metropolitan Housing Trust Ltd., St Anns Gardens, Ransom Road, Nottingham	Peter Black & Partners
Fox Grove Court, Nottingham Road Basford	R. G. Fellows, Elsworth Ass.
Warden Aided Housing, Churchfield Terrace, Basford	Geoffrey J. Seed, Cecil Hewitt & Partners
1 & 3 Brookside, East Leake	John Amos Severn
Arnold Re-development Furlong Street, Arnold	Gedling Borough Council
Office extension, Castle Place, Nottingham	James McCartney Partnership
Health Centre, Old Basford	Philip Needham
Bramleys, Redhill Road, Arnold	Cullen, Carter & Hill Ass.

Boulevard Gardens, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham	Nottingham City Council
Park Lane - Arnold Lane, Old Basford	Nottingham City Council
Carlton Street, Goose Gate, & Hockley Face Lift Scheme	Nottingham City Council
Millgate General Improvement, Newark	Newark District Council
Restoration of Old White Hart, Market Place Newark	Simons of Lincoln(Painting)
Conversion of the Old Coach House, Buttery Lane, Sutton in Ashfield	Rosamund Nicholson.

W I N T E R P U Z Z L E

Can you find the medieval monument in one of Nottinghamshire's prettiest villages? By answering each clue correctly and taking the first letter in each you will discover where and what it is.

1. Village with unique farming system (8)
2. Hearth recess with seat (9)
3. Central post in a circular stair (5)
4. Home of the village architect, "Sir Thomas Parkyns" (5)
5. Type of stone used for paving (4)
6. Pair of timber frames for cottage (6)
7. The Bath House and Orangery are under renovation here! (7)
8. Gothick arch shape (4)
9. Upper living room in a medieval hall (5)
10. The largest circular dovecote in Nottinghamshire (9)

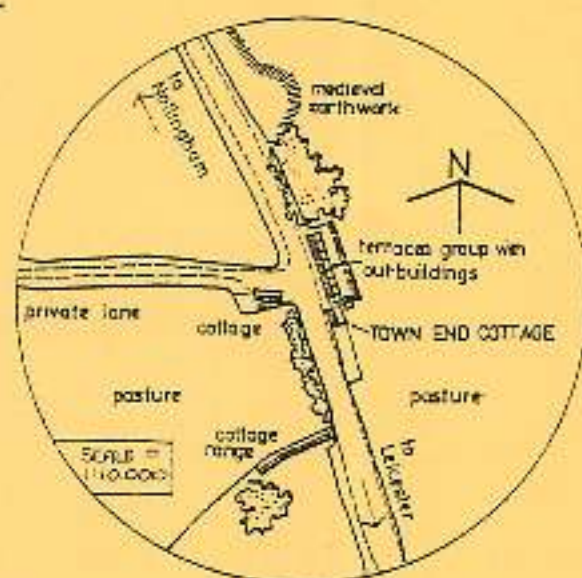
No prizes, but the correct solution will be in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

SMALL GRANTS

The Trust, at the request of the County Council, has recently started to give small amounts of money by way of help to owners of architecturally important buildings. The following two articles profile the first two grants which were given.

TOWN END COTTAGE, PLUMTREE *****

by; Bryan Cather



Of the buildings submitted for consideration at the Small Grants meetings, Town End Cottage represents one of the more simple building types within the broad spectrum of vernacular architecture.

The fact that this building should be typical of many hundreds of two-unit cottages in the County, does not detract from its value in contributing to the village scene, and as such was readily approved for grant-aid to basic repairs to the roof slates, gutters and general re-pointing.

An inspection of the two-storey building does indicate that it was probably built during the second half of the 19th century in traditional red brick with Welsh slated roof, and was subsequently altered at the rear by the addition of an out-shot extension. The provision of shallow leaded light bays at ground floor level appears to have been a later addition also, but does not detract from the general character of the cottage.

It is unfortunate that Nottingham Road, through Plumtree; which was once the direct route to Leicester many years ago, is now spoilt by insensitive 20th century housing and also an air of neglect on many of the core-buildings yet sufficient remains to indicate that Town End Cottage was of the same build as the terraced group on the North side of the village, and the cottage on the opposite side of the road. All these buildings have similar basic proportions, and have a common theme of decorative string courses which accent the window openings, and were a conscious design motif.

A significant feature of the cottage not readily appreciated is the positioning of the building at the brow of the shallow rise approaching the village, and located on the curve of the road so that its gable forms a visual "stop" to the long terrace elevation adjoining. This causes the writer to wonder if the cottage was consciously placed or just a happy accident causing the building to be appreciated in this way.

There appears to be little known about the village group of buildings, yet local investigation may reveal further information to the local historian.

BATH MILL, MANSFIELD

The Trust has recently made a grant towards the repair of the roof and windows of Bath Mill at Mansfield. The Mill lies to the north-east of Mansfield Town Centre and is one of several that obtained its power from water wheels driven by the river Maun.

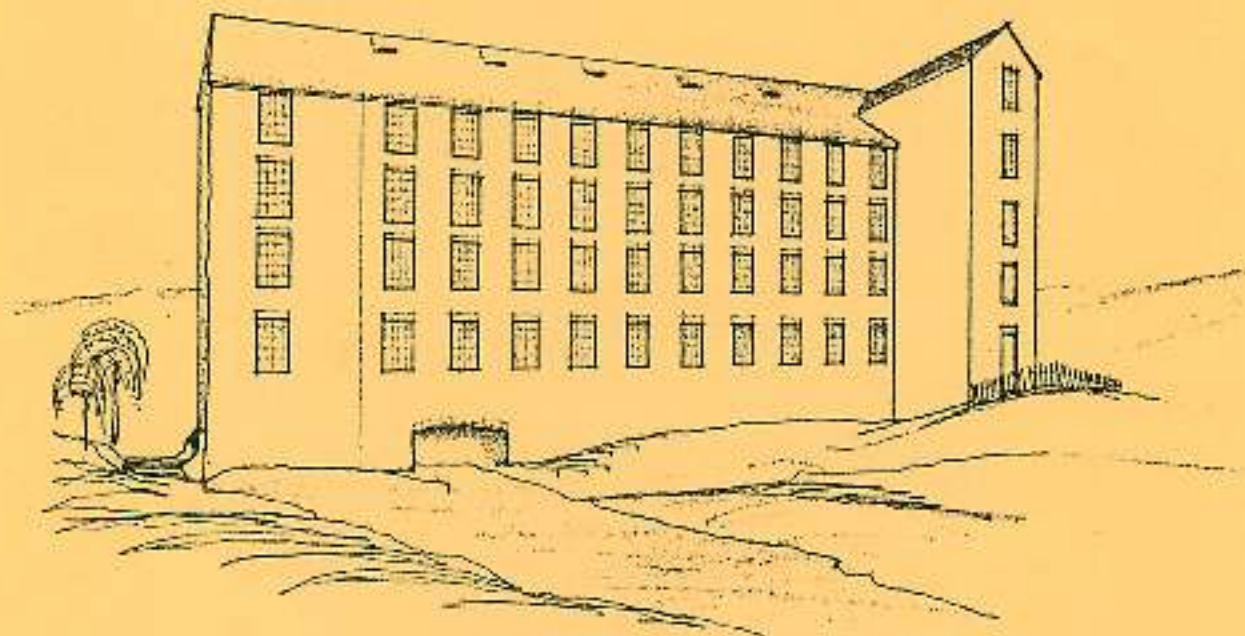
The Mill is very similar in size and construction to the building erected by Richard Arkwright at Cromford to house his newly developed water frame in 1769.

The Mill is thirty two feet in width with a centrally placed horizontal shaft which originally served two knitting frames each set at right angles to the shaft. The timber frames each which originally crossed the building in one span have over the years been propped by cast iron columns in an off-central position. The great eighteenth century developments in cotton spinning were carried forward by Richard Arkwright, Thomas Highs, John Kay and Samuel Crompton. The water wheel however was soon replaced by steam power during the early part of the nineteenth century.

Bath Mill was recently taken over by Richard Mills who inherited the building from his uncle and is running the mill on a traditional craft basis. Fully fashioned hosiery machinery dating back to the 1930's has been restored and brought back into action, at a time when much more recent machinery is exhibited in museums as a static display.

Mr. Mills has discovered that a market for fully fashioned hose still exists, mainly for export and for use in the theatre. He is very proud of his mill and welcomes interested visitors who wish to rediscover the days of the craftsman in the knitting and hosiery trade.

Mr. Mills is also fighting to keep the building watertight and stable and the Trust was pleased to be able to assist him in this direction.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

At a recent meeting of the Council of Management it was decided to ask our Members to consider raising the minimum subscription to the Trust from £2 to £4 per annum.

The present level of £2 has remained the same since 1979. This is no longer sufficient to even cover the cost of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletter. As it will not be possible to ask Members to vote on the matter before November 1983 or to implement any new rate until April 1984, the Chairman has asked me to suggest that Members might raise their subscriptions voluntarily as they renew. For the convenience of Members who wish to help in this way a renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

In order to keep postage costs to a minimum no individual reminders of lapsed subscriptions have been sent out this year. This has resulted in some of our Local Amenity Society Members falling into arrears. I hope all these Members will renew their subscriptions as soon as possible. In future, as was previous practice a reminder will be sent with the Spring Newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Members for their most valuable support.

DOVECOTES

The Nottingham Civic Society has very kindly made a further offer of grant aid in the sum of £250. The building has progressed slowly through the summer and autumn with the efforts of the Bulwell Historical Society being mainly related to flooring and glazing of the new windows. We now have a fine york stone floor which greatly improves in inside.

The new road is now under construction and the dovecote has been inspected jointly with the Road Contractors in case of accidental damage to the fabric.

I hope that 1983 will see the building completed and in use. Another £2,000 is needed to put in a first floor in order to give access to the dovecote which is on the first floor and to carry out other items such as repointing both inside and outside and fitting out for use as a meeting room etc.

It is hoped to hold an exhibition in the building in the spring.

The Dovecote Fund is still in urgent need of funds as my attention has now been drawn to the dovecote at Barton in Fabis. This is the only octagonal dovecote in the county and was built of brick by William Sacheverel in 1677. It is listed Grade II and is in a very poor state.

Will anyone who wishes to help, possibly raise funds, please contact me. Any offer of assistance would be welcomed most warmly.

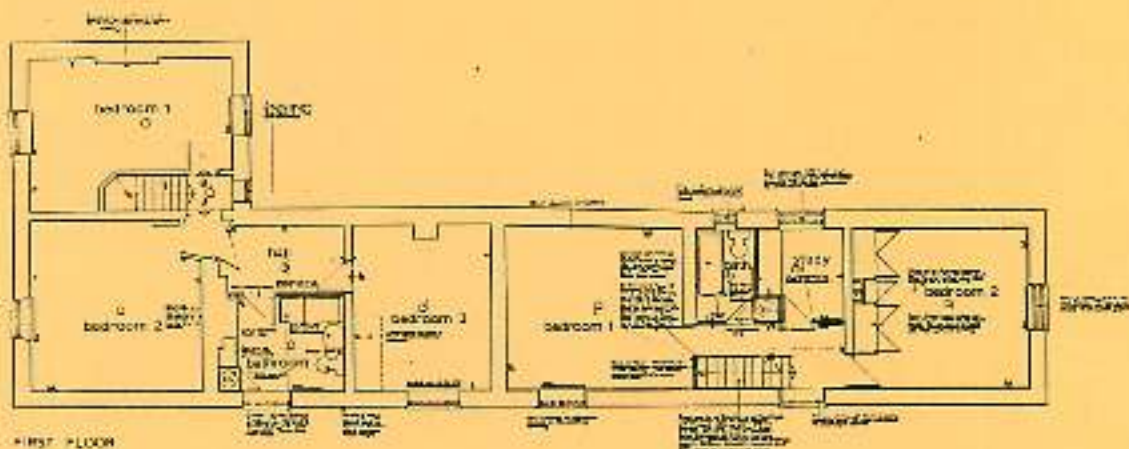
This building is in private ownership, but can be seen from many viewpoints particularly along the main road towards the motorway.

Please give your support to help repair one of our finest small buildings in the County.

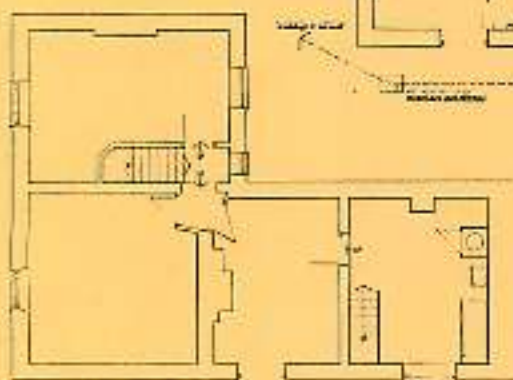
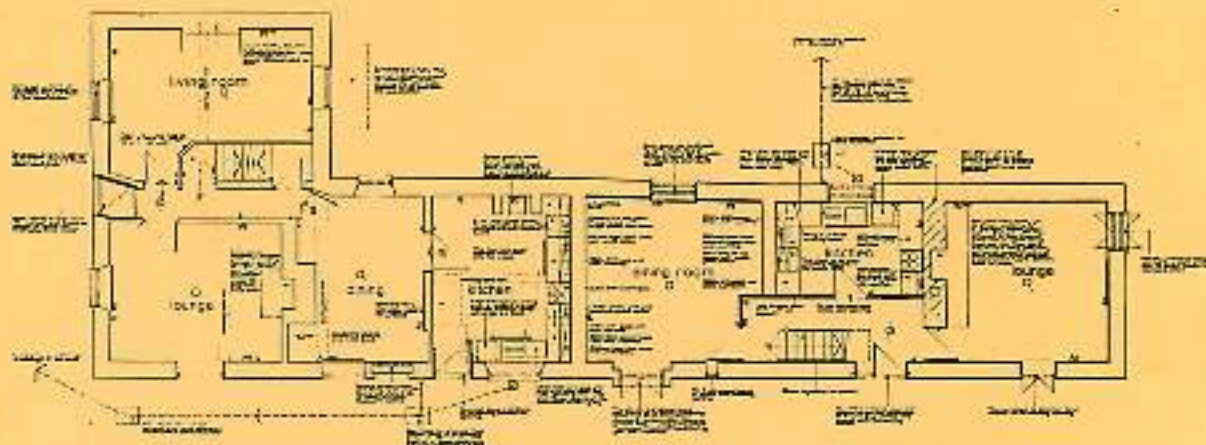
John Severn.

LINBY LANE

In the Autumn edition of the newsletter an article was published on the progress of Linby Lane which referred to plans of the work now almost complete. These plans were omitted and are printed below for your information.

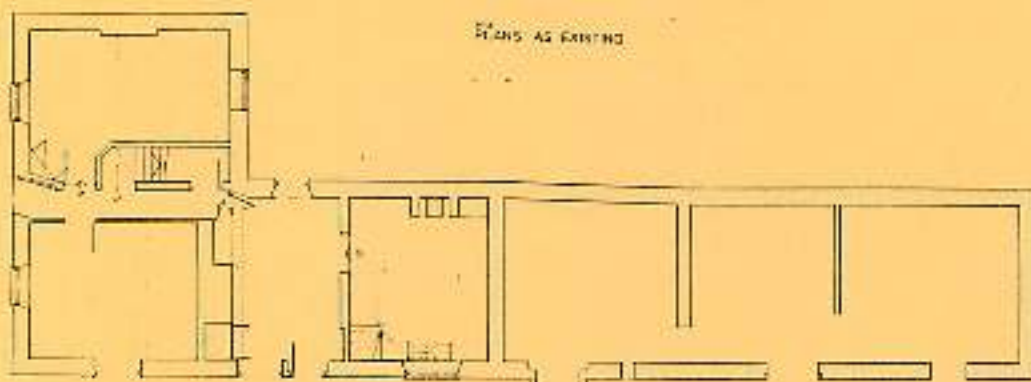


PLANS PROPOSED



FIRST FLOOR

PLANS AS EXISTING



GROUND FLOOR

A NECESSARY HOUSE

by John Severn

Chambers' Etymological Dictionary, a copy of which was issued to me at school and rarely opened, hence my disgusting spelling, describes the word 'privy' as having eight meanings, the last of which is: a necessary-house (no doubt the last resort).

"What are you drawing?" my wife said one evening last year when she found me hinding in my den. (No doubt I should have been doing something else) "I am drawing a privy" I said "I am recording it for posterity. I bet not many people have seen one let alone sat on one. They are disappearing fast".

"I have sat on one" she replied "they were horrible. If you had sat on them as many times as I, you would never wish to see one again, let alone draw one" and off she went.

I must hasten to add that my wife's acquaintance with such things is purely due to the fact that she lived in the country as a child and it has nothing to do with age.

Indeed this made me think, for it is not so long ago that these appliances were commonplace in rural areas and perhaps there are places where they are still in commission. They are, however, disappearing fast and it is unusual to see one these days in mint condition.

I stopped drawing and sat back to think.

When "vernacular architecture" really was vernacular architecture.

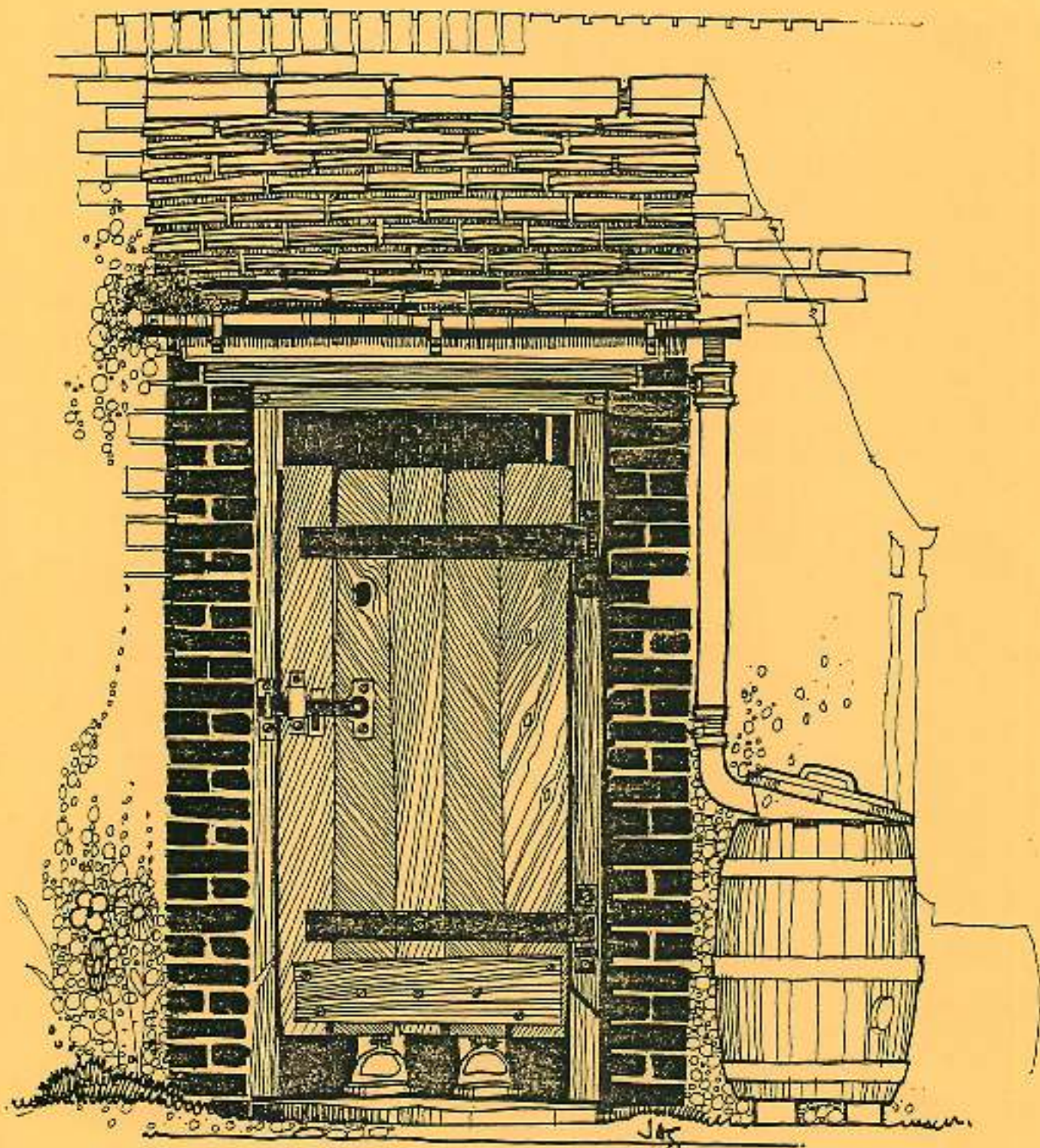
Without all the tasteful renovations, the delightfully improved, well preserved early 18th century red brick and pantiled artisans cottage, now in the middle of an enchanting conservation area was probably in the middle of a field which, surrounded by cows or cabbages, had the privy down a muddy track at the bottom of the garden.

What a good article it will make for the Trust's next newsletter I thought and it gives me the Raison d'etre of my drawing.

I sat back and thought again.

Fancy having to go down the garden in the middle of the night, I thought, through all that mud, in ones wellies. Well no, not in ones wellies, there were no wellies. The Iron Duke's boots had not yet been invented, neither had water-loos and that was why the necessary-house was down the garden.

A candle shelf provided a place for a light. Was it really a place for a candle or just for a lantern. One would not wander down the garden with a lighted candle it would soon blow out. So did one take a box of matches or does this confirm the use of the shelf for a lantern. In modern times you went "out the back" with a torch but in the days of real vernacular architecture things were quite different. The candle shelf must have been for a lantern because even in the privy the draughts would blow the candle out as soon as you sat down. It would be no good taking the paper with you either it would be too cold to sit and read.



What about the paper? Did one use paper? If you could not read, and then not many people could, you would not buy a paper would you? You could not afford a paper anyway, times were hard, there was little money; enough for food and that is about all. Many people could not afford food - in the days of real vernacular architecture.

What a disgusting subject for a Trust newsletter article, you might think, and perhaps it is rather. But it is part of our building history. The Country cottage probably had the roses around the front door for show, but at the back, a heavily scented variety grew in profusion for a very practical reason.

This is just an appetiser and in a forthcoming issue of the newsletter I hope to publish more information on this subject. Next time will contain a drawing of a Three Seater!