

# Nottinghamshire Heritage

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

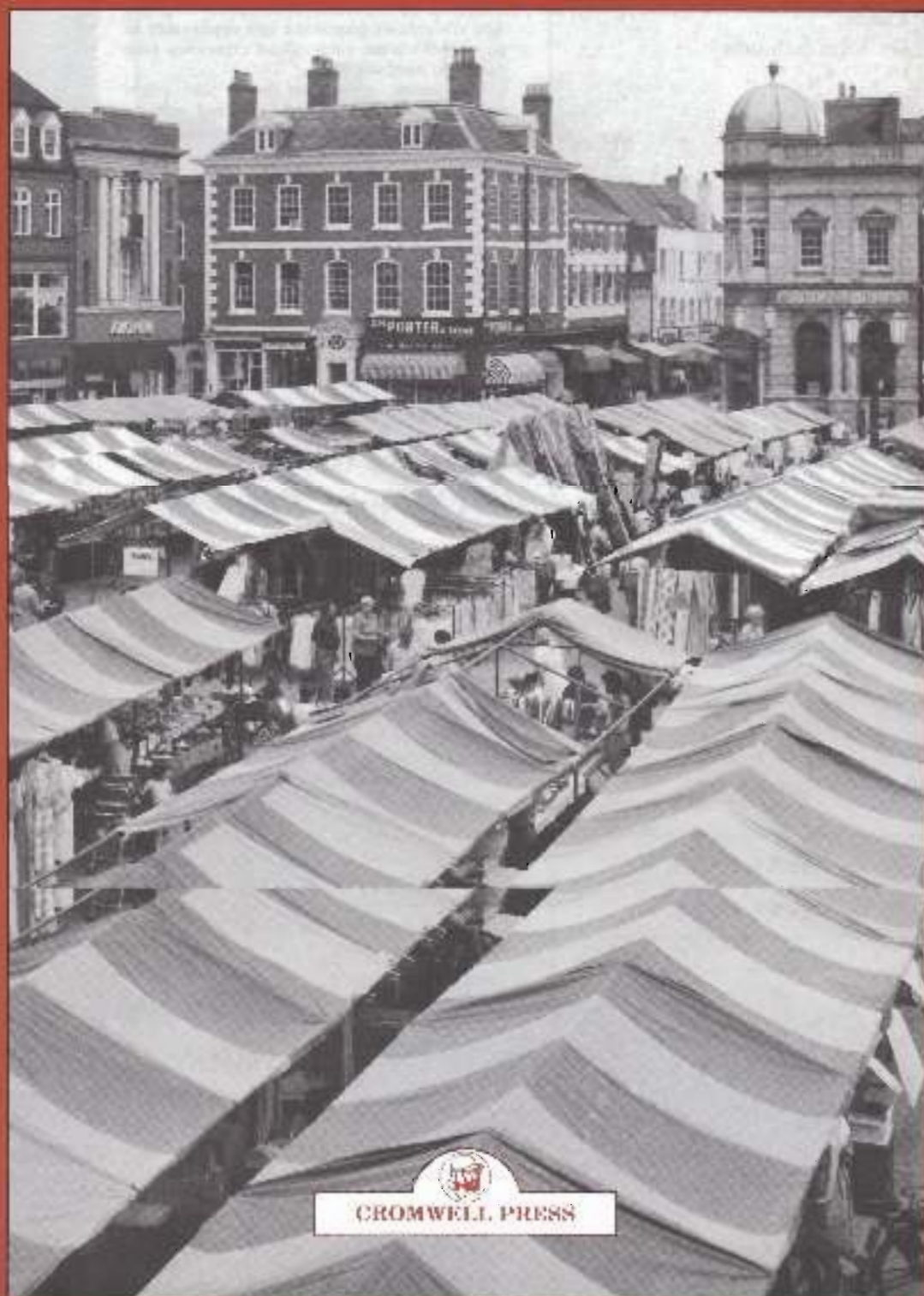
WINTER 1990

**HISTORY  
AROUND  
US**

**SKEGBY  
MANOR  
HOUSE  
TODAY**

**HERITAGE  
BOOKS**

**HEIRLOOM  
QUILTS  
—  
ARTS AND  
CRAFTS**



CROMWELL PRESS

**25p**

**NEWS FROM THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST**

# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

Winter 1990

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### NEXT ISSUE

### NEXT ISSUE



- Estate architecture in Nottinghamshire may appear quaint but it merits serious study today. Report by Dr John Samuels.

## LEARNING JOURNEYS IN 1990

A VISIT to the mysterious stone circle at Stonehenge is a highlight of the programme of Learning Journeys for 1990 organised by the East Midlands branch of the WEA in Nottingham. And students are promised a rare opportunity to go into the stone circle — an experience now denied to most visitors.

The scheme, now in its fourth year, offers students a choice of day and weekend visits to historic towns, monuments and museums. Further information and a copy of the Learning Journeys newsletter are available from the East Midlands District WEA office in Shakespeare Street, Nottingham telephone Nottingham 475162.

Articles for the Spring issue of Nottinghamshire Heritage should reach the editor by May 1, 1990.

## HERITAGE BOOKSHELF OPEN DAYS

FOLLOWING the success of its first three Open Days, the Heritage Bookshelf is holding a series of Open Days from 10am to 4pm on the first Saturday of each month at the Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, near Newark.

Readers of Nottinghamshire Heritage are especially welcome to view a wide selection of specialist books at greatly reduced prices, including those featured on Page 6 of this magazine.

The next Open Days will be held on Saturday March 3, Saturday April 7 and Saturday May 5. Groups are welcome to visit the Heritage Bookshelf between 10am and 4pm on Tuesday and Saturdays, but bookings must be made in advance by telephoning Newark 821727.

## HERITAGE DIARY



## COVER STORY

A VIEW of Newark's colourful historic market place appears on the cover of "History Around Us" which features 50 articles on local heritage, written by Dr John Samuels, which have appeared in the Newark Advertiser.

"The whole aim of the book has been to encourage people to explore their local heritage," says Dr Samuels, who is pictured in his study at the Cromwell Press.

"History Around Us" is available from local bookshops for £6.50 or direct, post free, from the Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts NG23 6JE.

● Photograph of Dr Samuels courtesy of the Newark Advertiser.

● Photograph of Dr Samuels courtesy of the Newark Advertiser.

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## THE MANOR REBORN

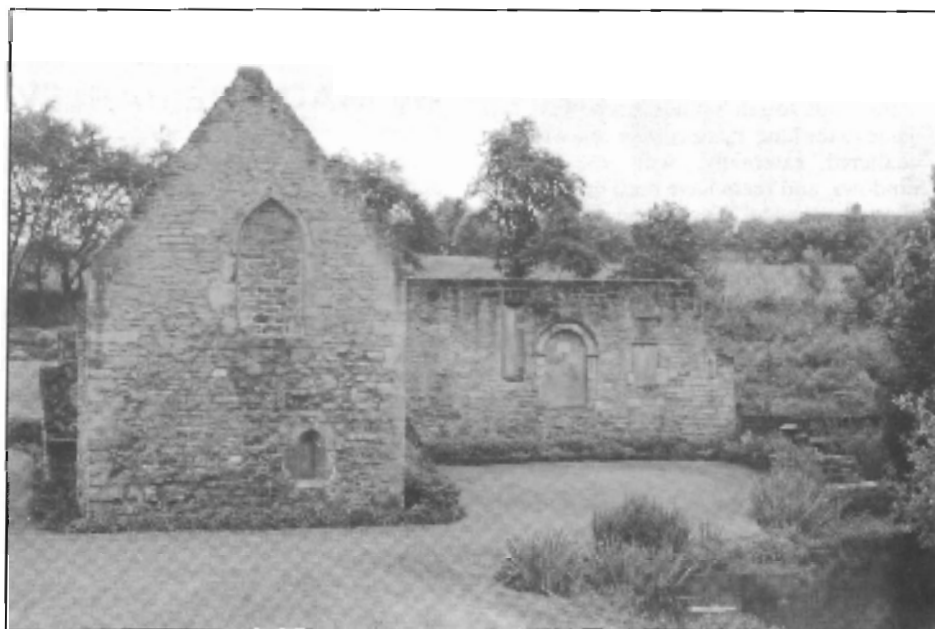
By DR JOHN SAMUELS

**SKEGBY** Manor House is not a well-known monument. Tucked away just off the main road through Skegby village near Sutton-in-Ashfield, it had fallen into serious disrepair. Crumbling masonry surrounded by overgrown wasteland and with a stagnant pool in front, it was not a pretty sight.

But in 1982 Mrs Fell, the owner of the site, applied for planning permission to build a bungalow adjacent to the ruinous monument. Permission was granted on the understanding that she allowed a full archaeological excavation of the site. This was carried out by Chris Drage for the Trent Valley Archaeological Research Committee (now the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust).

The standing buildings were thoroughly recorded and excavation revealed more details and the report is to be published soon.

Contrary to local opinion this was never a monastic site, documentary evidence showed that a house had been built here by Godfrey Spigurnal who was an officer of King John's Court. Allegiance to King John was dangerous and during the war between the king and his barons, Godfrey's manor house



*Above left: Skegby Manor during the excavation in 1982.*

*Above: Skegby Manor today.*

was burnt down. He probably re-built his home in stone around 1223 after he became Lord of the Manor of Skegby. This is the stone building facing the road and the other building gable-end on was probably built a century later by Richard de Pensak.

Mrs Fell built her bungalow but also turned the area round the monument into an attractive setting. Lawns, shrubs and flowers

surround the now stabilised ruins and the once stagnant stretch of water is now an attractive pool.

A pleasing outcome: archaeologists have had the chance to thoroughly examine one of Nottinghamshire's more important monuments, Mrs Fell has built her bungalow and has turned the site into an attractive feature of the village.



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● A delightful sketch of Thrumpton Hall by John Severn from the book *Country Houses of Nottinghamshire* by Mike Higginbottom which is available for £3.50, post free, direct from the Cromwell Press at 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts NG24 6JE. Telephone Newark (0636) 821727.

## STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

ONE test of the restoration of a listed building is that the passer-by should scarcely notice that it has happened, because the building is quite unaltered. That is true of this building, which stands at the High Road end of Salthouse Lane, Beeston.

Dagfa House is listed (Grade II), and was built in the Georgian Gothic style either in 1792 or a few years later; the builder was Josiah Salthouse who gave his name to the lane. It is a cottage *ornée* and is unaltered externally, with its Gothic windows, and there have been only minor alterations inside. There is a good staircase. The verandah, visible from the High Road has recently been totally rebuilt to the original design.

### DAGFA HOUSE SCHOOL IN BEESTON IS RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN

By MAURICE BARLEY

The building has recently been purchased from the University by Dagfa House School, which occupies it. Broxtowe District Council made a grant of £3,000 towards the restoration and the County Council another of £1,000; together the

grants made up about a quarter of the cost to the School. The verandah roof had been covered with corrugated asbestos, now replaced by hardboard and sheet lead.

The architect, Allan Joyce, decided that the roof had always been straight and not concave, as were some verandahs of late Georgian and Regency date. One difficulty and source of expense was to find tapered posts for the main supports, which had been shaped to imitate cast iron - a curious reversal of what one might expect.

The work was set in hand before English Heritage issued its circular of 6 March 1989 about grants available from that source for buildings at risk. The proprietors of the School are to be congratulated on their enlightened action.

## TRIBUTE TO TRUST'S FIRST CHAIRMAN

WE reported briefly in the previous edition the death of Ernest Lester, a former chairman of the Building Trust, whose memorial service was held on Saturday September 16 at St Paul's Church, Daybrook.

Councillor A. E. Lester JP, was the first chairman of the Trust when it was founded in 1967; an auspicious year when Duncan Sandys introduced the Civic Amenities Act and the very first conservation area in England was designated at Stamford.

The Notts Trust was only the tenth such Trust to be founded in the country. For nine years Ernest Lester chaired the Trust with vigour and humour until, in January 1976, he tendered his resignation on the grounds of ill-health.

Many members will recall his brisk style of conducting Trust meetings; if you did not make your point in about two minutes flat you found you were too late, he was on to the next item. Well remembered too in his early days as chairman is the way he quickly grasped what was a new subject to him, the vernacular architecture of the county, and an extract from his article "Vernacular Buildings" written for the Nottinghamshire Countryside will be reproduced as a tribute in a future edition.

Graham Beaumont

## In memory of founder member Harry Johnson AWARD FOR WATERMILL BARN

THE winners of the first Harry Johnson Award are Dr and Mrs J. L. Hart for the restoration of Watermill Barn at Linby.

Harry Johnson, who died in 1988, was a well-known architect and a founder member of the Trust, and the annual award, which was named in his memory is made to the owner of the best new building, or the best restoration of a building, within a village setting.

The barn, a mid-18th century building with later additions and alterations, including a waterwheel which was added in 1850, was bought by the present owners in 1985 after it had been empty for a number of years. The building had a corrugated asbestos cement roof and was generally in a run-down condition and with the waterwheel collapsed in its pit.

The owners carried out extensive research and obtained advice from informed sources before carrying out the work which included retaining all the existing window openings and ventilation slots. The building was re-roofed, using clay pantiles, the front yard was laid out in reclaimed brick and stone, and the later single storey brick farm buildings were restored.

The judges, representing the Trust and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, were impressed by the total concept of the scheme, by the thought and commitment that had gone into it and especially the finished result.



■ Councillor J. H. Andrews, Deputy Mayor of Gedling Borough Council presents the first Harry Johnson Award to Dr and Mrs J. L. Hart at their restored Watermill Barn in Linby. — Photograph: Ann Hoskins.

## Talk on historic buildings at risk

HISTORIC buildings at risk was the subject of a recent talk organised by the Trust at the Cathedral Hall in Derby Road, Nottingham. The speaker was Dr Robin Thornes, head of the threatened building section in the York office of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments for England.



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## FOREST LODGE 40 YEARS ON

**Former police station is  
restored to former glory**

THE Lodge on the Forest is a well known landmark in Nottingham and remembering it as a schoolboy many years ago, its dignified yet mysterious outline caused so much speculation as to its former use. Was it a police station, did it have cells, could one be locked up in there?

We never did then find out. For all attempts to scale its railings and get into its lower courtyard were thwarted by irate park keepers who were not convinced about our well intentioned historical research. Forty years later we finally answered those questions.

**By JOHN SEVERN**

In recent years — before its renovation in 1984 — the building looked very different from when we first encountered it as youngsters. Gone were the railings and most of its windows. The facades had peeled as if sunburnt and the whole structure looked a most messy sight, covered in graffiti and damp stained patches.

Its use was then as a dump for unwanted bits and pieces and a store for the park keeper who maintained the Forest Recreation Ground.

It was just the type of building that the Trust could tackle and a building of sufficient character to warrant such attention. Furthermore it was listed and it was in disrepair.

The details of its acquisition, its repair and the methods used are the subject of a future article. Meanwhile here are the answers to some of the questions we posed forty years ago when we first did battle with the building — some of the questions we posed forty years ago when we first did battle with the building — and its inhabitants — on our way to and from school.

The building was — and now is again — a keeper's cottage or lodge. Its architect, Henry Moses Wood, was at the time of its construction in 1856/57, the Borough Surveyor to the Nottingham Corporation.

During its life however it has played many roles and recent repairs have confirmed our boyish thoughts that it was a 'cop shop.'

"Salmons" map of 1861 surrounds its plan on the Recreation Ground with the cryptic words East Lodge (Police).

When we carefully removed the last hundred years of paint from the pediment facing Mansfield Road, there were revealed in dignified corporation lettering the words Police Station.



● Forest Lodge before and after its restoration as a park superintendent's home by the Trust. — Main picture by courtesy of the Nottingham Evening Post.

"Little did I realise that forty years later I would be back repairing the building and finding out about its former use."

Forest Lodge will always have many memories for me. For little did I realise in 1944 when bolting from a fork-waving park keeper that forty years later I would be back repairing the building and finding out about its former use.

### Respected Career of architect Henry Moses Wood

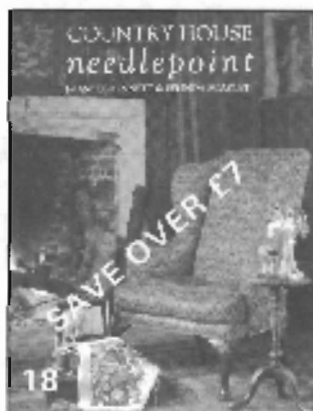
HENRY MOSES WOOD, the architect of Forest Lodge, who was Sheriff of Nottingham in 1836, commenced his career in the offices of Edward Staveley the Corporation surveyor where he remained for several years. By the 1820s he had become a land surveyor and architect and in 1837, on the death of Edward Staveley, accepted the part-time appointment of borough surveyor at a remuneration of £100 per annum.

Moses Wood's work as an architect in Nottingham included work on the Judges Lodgings on High Pavement (now the Records Office) and Carrington Hospital (the Collins Almshouses on Carrington Street which were demolished 20 or so years ago). He also worked on the layout of the Arboretum.

In 1859 Mr. M. O. Tarbotton was appointed as permanent surveyor to the city but because of his valued services to the city Moses Wood was also retained as a consulting surveyor. He died in 1867 in his 80th year, a highly respected and well thought of gentleman.

**JOHN SEVERN**

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## NEWARK CASTLE SURVEY

THE proposal to carry out an archaeological examination of Newark Castle is taking shape nicely. A steering committee has been set up including local businessmen, historians, archaeologists and representatives of the local authorities. The owners of the site, Newark and Sherwood District Council are enthusiastic, and charitable status has been applied for from the Charity Commissioners.

It is hoped that the project will begin this spring with a geophysical survey within the castle grounds. This should indicate the nature of buried remains and suggest the most useful areas to excavate. Some financial assistance has already been provided by a local charity and although it is anticipated that the local authorities will also contribute, the bulk of the necessary money will be raised through private sponsorship.

Limited archaeological excavations will begin in the summer of 1991 and carry on for four seasons. But an important feature of the project will be to involve the general public. Exhibitions, site tours and lectures will be an integral part of the project and we even hope to employ a part-time teacher who will prepare material for schools and visit them.

An ambitious project perhaps but it will be of national importance. Any new information on the castle, about which little is known, will be of interest. But of greater importance will be making the national monument available to the public.

## THE URBAN WILD

WHAT exactly is our wildlife heritage? Many people would answer this question, I suppose, in terms of the pleasing images of rolling green countryside, well wooded, no doubt, and blessed with ample streams, ponds and hedges to give sanctuary to our native birds, mammals, plants and invertebrates. In this idyllic landscape, man — so often depicted as the philistine and destroyer — must tread carefully and with humility so as to avoid any further damage. Small villages only are tolerated.

However, there is another wildlife heritage which plunges us straight back into the everyday world of urban Nottingham, Mansfield, Newark and all of the other towns of our county. This heritage is a heritage of the "city slickers" of the natural world — those plants and creatures which, long ago, followed man into town and have adapted very well to the new circumstances. This is a far cry perhaps from the rural idyll, but should never be overlooked by those wishing to conserve and protect wildlife.

Think of the creatures that will turn up in the most modest urban garden if they are made to feel welcome and secure — blackbirds, robins, thrushes, wrens, blue tits, finches, and the dear old house sparrow and starling. On a larger scale, the glorious kestrel is a familiar sight in towns, hovering effortlessly above the traffic and the sprawl. If the right flowers are grown, butterflies will swarm to feed off them in spring and summer. At night, you may see a hedgehog tiptoeing about after its food and many urban parks and gardens will have bats of a number of different species feeding overhead in the dusk. Even the red fox can now be seen in urban and suburban areas, and seem well able to fend for themselves in those "mean streets". Besides animals, a wide variety of



● Illustration by Ken Messom from "In the Season of the Year" written by Richard Marquiss. Published at £3.50 by the Cromwell Press.

## COUNTRY NOTES by Richard Marquiss OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

beautiful and fascinating plants thrive in areas of ground that are so often dismissed as "wasteland".

There is a clear analogy to be drawn here between nature conservation and the conservation of the built environment. No one has to rush to the architectural honey pots of Chatsworth and Hardwick Hall (however splendid they are) to see buildings with charm, style, inventiveness and historical importance. They can be seen in almost any town — if we have the eyes and the imagination to see them. Likewise, we don't have to bury ourselves in the deepest countryside to see wildlife. It is on our doorsteps almost everywhere, from inner city street to suburban avenue. So, the message is clear: love and look after wildlife where you live — it's all part of our "heritage".

For further information about urban wildlife and its conservation, please contact John Ellis, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, 316 Sneinton Dale, Nottingham. Tel. Nottingham 588242.

## Nottinghamshire's present is its past

WHEN I tell people that I am an archaeologist a common reply is "but are there many archaeological sites in Nottinghamshire?" The answer is, yes — lots. Currently, the County Sites and Monuments Record contains some 6,000 records of known sites of archaeological and historic interest. These range from the finds of prehistoric stone tools over 10,000 years old, through farms and fields of Roman or prehistoric date, medieval castles and villages, up to industrial buildings of the 19th and 20th Century. Taken overall, archaeological and historic sites occur widely and thickly throughout Nottinghamshire. Indeed, no one in the County lives more than a mile from such a feature of our heritage.

Remains do not have to be buried to

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTERS by MIKE BISHOP

interest the archaeologist. Many are of course, and are discovered only through differential crop growth (cropmarks) recorded from the air, by mineral extraction or development work, or by objects turned up by the plough. Often, these can be studied in detail only through scientific excavation, which is popularly thought to be all that archaeology is about. But sites can be studied without digging. Careful analysis of plans and profiles tells us much about the cropmarks of prehistoric and Roman farms found in the Trent Valley and north and west

Nottinghamshire, and about earthworks, such as Laxton or Bothamsall castles or the deserted medieval villages at Langford or Bingham. Architectural study can decode the histories written in the walls of ruins like Newark Castle, and of churches, stone and timber framed manor-houses and country cottages, or even industrial mills.

Modern archaeology, however, goes further than the individual site. We deal now in whole landscapes. We study farms, field systems, roads, trackways, villages, boundaries, woodlands and hedges, of all dates — in fact all physical remains of man's earlier activities. Whatever the means of investigation and whatever the type of site, the product is information. This is the raw material of archaeology. From it, we attempt to understand what happened in the past.



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# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE



## Arts & Crafts

By DAPHNE OXLAND

### HERITAGE QUILTS

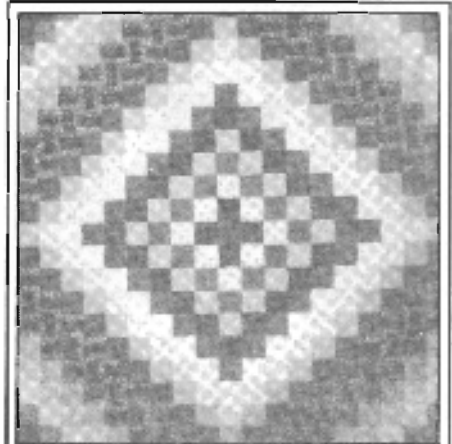
COLLECTING quilts need not cost a fortune if you discover family heirlooms in unexpected places such as the garden shed. We have twice been lucky in our family when clearing out houses simply because we have known what to recognise.

The first discovery was a dustsheet, found in the shed of a bungalow in Wollaton Park which turned out, on closer inspection, to be a paint-stained but near perfect early 20th century hexagon and diamond quilt.

The second, and more dramatic discovery, was a whitework quilt featuring traditional quilting motifs, all beautifully hand stitched, which I found at the bottom of a wardrobe when my late grandmother was moving from

her home in Torquay up to Nottingham. I had been visiting the house for over 20 years, and had no idea that this fine piece of work was concealed beneath a pile of old blankets and curtains. I saved that quilt in the nick of time on my last visit to the house before the larger pieces of furniture, including that wardrobe, went to the saleroom.

Buying quilts from shops is a more expensive business, but there are still bargains to be found especially if a dealer has acquired a quilt or two as part of a job lot of furniture. Prices range from £100 to £300 depending on the age and condition of the quilt, but you can only expect to receive half that amount if you are on the selling end.



### A TRIP AROUND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

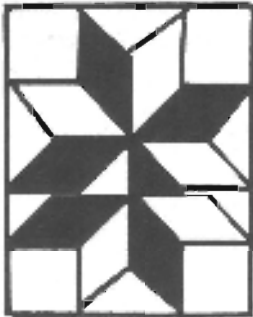
WHAT'S in a name? Everything if you happen to be a quilter. For quilt names provide a marvellous insight into the lifestyles of the people who stitched weeks, months, even years of their lives, into their needlework. Many quilts were the stuff of dreams; dreams stitched out of makeshift materials in a harsh environment which was far removed from the leisure craft which most patchwork and quilting has become today.

I call this quilt Trip Around Nottinghamshire because that was where it was made, and that's where I hope it will stay. It was machine stitched in quite a short time, but hand quilting round every square is quite another story!

■ Is there a story behind your quilt? If so write, enclosing a photograph, to Daphne Oxland at Nottinghamshire Heritage, The Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts NG23 6JE.

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