

# Conservation in Nottinghamshire

SPRING  
1994

The Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd.

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Cover Picture by Charles Gletur:  
Tuxford Mill.



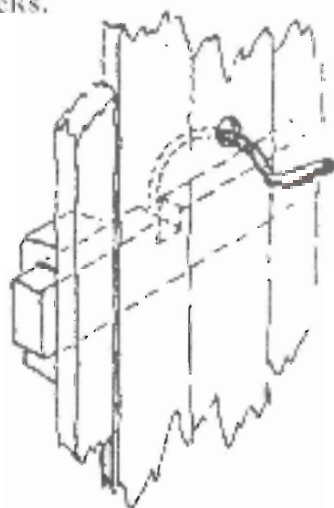
## THE KEY TO THE PROBLEM

### or SOME NOTES ON NOTABLE LOCKS:

#### George & Val Oliphent's series on steps in the development of locks — Part 2

CHRONOLOGICALLY, Greek locks followed Egyptian locks but were far simpler. But the Greeks are credited with being the first people to fit a sliding bolt to the *inside* of a door and also with inventing the keyhole, replacing the arnhole needed to work Egyptian locks.

Greek keys were large hooks shaped like a sickle and so big that they were most easily carried over the shoulder. They were passed through the small keyhole in the door and the end engaged a hole in the top surface of the bolt. A semi-rotary movement of the key slid the bolt endwise, just as in modern locks.



Pliny the elder in his *Natural History* says the key was invented by Theodorus of Samos in the 6th Century BC, over 700 years earlier. However, in *The Odyssey* (Book XXII), is this passage:

"Penelope took a crooked key in her firm hand, a goodly key of bronze, having an ivory handle, a crooked and a rounded key; in her right hand, a goodly key of bronze, having an ivory handle. She loosed the strap, thrust in the key, and with a careful aim shot back the door bolts."

Homer was writing perhaps 250 years before Theodorus lived, so it's curious that Pliny ignored this reference; he must, like all educated Romans, have been familiar with *The Odyssey*.

When they were first developed part of the security of keys must have been their sheer size. Metal was scarce and expensive: potential thieves just couldn't afford enough bronze for a duplicate key. Linear B tablets from Knossos (before 1350 BC) showed keybearers to be wealthy citizens. The translation (Ventris and Chadwick) reads:

"Thus the mayors and their wives and the vice-mayors and keybearers and supervisors of figs and hoeing will contribute bronze for ships and the points for arrows and spears."

## NEW NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDINGS-AT-RISK LIST

MORE THAN ONE IN TWENTY of Nottinghamshire's most important historic buildings has been recorded as being "at risk" in a new Nottinghamshire County Council document, and many of them are at serious risk of falling down.

There are 6721 listed buildings in the county, 388 of which are described as being "at risk" in the document: *Listed Buildings at Risk in Nottinghamshire, 1993*.

The number of buildings at risk, at nearly 6%, is lower than the national average of just over 7%. However, there is no reason for complacency. Some of these buildings are unique and each building that is lost is a part of our heritage that has disappeared for ever.

A fear is that unscrupulous developers may be trying to avoid their responsibilities by allowing listed buildings to fall into disrepair, in the hope that they may be demolished and the sites redeveloped.

Staff in the County Council's Planning and Economic Development Department have surveyed the county's listed buildings over the last three years. The project has been partly grant-aided by English Heritage and is part of their nationwide buildings-at-risk initiative.

The new Buildings-at-Risk document will be used to try to save threatened buildings by helping Nottinghamshire County Council target resources more effectively and by publicising buildings that need repair and restoration.

Copies of the new document have been distributed to the District Councils within Nottinghamshire. In addition, copies are available to be consulted at main libraries within the county.

*For further information on  
Listed Buildings at Risk  
in Nottinghamshire  
please contact:*

The Heritage Team,  
Planning and Economic Development  
Department,  
Nottinghamshire County Council.

0602 24 30 60



## COACH TRIP TO NORWICH

ONE OF THE MOST interesting and enjoyable coach trips ever organised by the Trust was held in September, when twenty members and guests travelled by coach to Norwich. The trip was organised and conducted by Michael Hurst, who roped in family and friends to help at the other end. It was disappointing that such a wholehearted input was so poorly supported.

Norwich is difficult for a day trip because there is just so much to see. Over a square mile within the mediaeval walls, including two cathedrals and 32 ancient churches for a start. So this visit was planned merely to give a taste.

With this in mind, the first call was Michael's mother-in-law's back garden! This commands a spectacular view of the mediaeval city from the brow of a 100ft-cliff (Mousehold Heath, the ancient city common). The Norman cathedral in the foreground and no fewer than 24 of the mediaeval churches are visible all at once: a unique prospect.

Having had a general overview we spent the rest of the day looking at particular buildings. First, a timber-framed house started in 1530 and improved through three generations to a state of some magnificence. Later it suffered the usual bad alterations and accretions, but has now been restored by Norwich Preservation Trust as an Arts Centre and Concert Room. The Trust's architect, John Sennitt, showed us round and gave a talk.

Lunch was taken in the Blackfriars Crypt, the undercroft to what was the library of the C14 Dominican friary, with magnificent brick rib-vaulting - a speciality of Norwich in the late middle ages with over 80 examples recorded.

Afterwards, half the party was led by Michael Hurst 200 yards to the Cathedral visiting six parish churches en route, and spent an hour or more being conducted around the Cathedral itself. The Cathedral is full of superlatives. Its real joy, however, is the strength and beauty of its architecture. Cathedral is full of superlatives. Its real joy, however, is the strength and beauty of its architecture and the sense of peace within its walls.

The rest of the party was conducted by Mr. Murray-Harvey, one of the official City Guides, who numbers eight Lord Mayors among his ancestors and was incredibly well informed on the history and hidden treasures of Norwich. They explored more widely, seeing the main marketplace, and King Street, main trading street of Norwich when it was still a port, visiting the timber-framed Dragon Hall (a private cloth hall), and the C12 Jorvet's House. Then back to the cathedral.

Michael Hurst and his friends must be thanked and congratulated on the work and effort they put into this project. It was much appreciated, and, as was of course intended, left us all wanting to see more of this beautiful and historic city.

Geoff Turner

## MAURICE BARLEY ON THE NBPT:

### An extract from his autobiography.

"I NOW HAD TIME to take more interest in Nottinghamshire houses. I was not inclined to embark on a systematic and intensive survey, which perhaps I should have done. I reproach myself occasionally for not having created the kind of amateur research group which has thrown so much light on rural housing in Surrey, Sussex and north Yorkshire. If I had been single-minded enough to take adult classes it would no doubt have been possible. As it was, I could only take advantage of incidental discoveries by others, and some were exciting...[as at] Holme Pierrepont Hall.

"An enterprising county planning officer had in 1967 set up a building preservation trust, funded by local authorities but with individual membership. I brought to light buildings at risk and some of them, such as a range of framework-knitters' cottages at Calverton and a 17th century manor house at Beeston, were saved or restored by the trust's initiative. Meetings of the trust have continued to be an opportunity to demonstrate to local councillors the historic character of houses, under the guidance of architects such as the late Norman Summers and an enthusiastic conservation officer, Graham Beaumont, on the County Council's staff. I am left with a residual disappointment: discovery is not followed as a matter of course by publication."

Maurice Barley: *The Chiefest Grain*.

Published 24th May 1993:

The Department of Classical and Archaeological Studies, University of Nottingham. £14.50

## THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

FORMED NEARLY fifty years ago, the CBA is the national body concerned with the historic environment. FORMED NEARLY fifty years ago, the CBA is the national body concerned with the historic environment. Until now its membership has been restricted to national bodies, museums, societies, and archaeological trusts. But this has altered. Following from the report of a working party under the chairmanship of Professor Rosemary Cramp of Durham set up at the request of the British Academy, the constitution has been changed to allow personal members, the headquarters moved to York, an Information Officer appointed, and the magazine *British Archaeological News* re-designed.

The CBA is one of the statutory bodies receiving copies of planning applications affecting listed buildings and it has a conservation officer whose duties relate to this field.

Anyone interested in membership should telephone Mike Heyworth on York (0904) 671 417.

## EU CHOOSES THEME FOR 1994 GRANTS.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO the European Parliament initiated a programme of grant aid for conserving the built heritage throughout what was then the EEC. Each year since then the European Commission has picked a new theme giving a framework for that year's grants. 1994's theme for the first year of European Union grants is: "Historic buildings and sites related to entertainment and the performing arts," covering theatres, concert halls, opera houses, and cinemas. The Commission is now inviting applications.

(Information from *European Parliament News*, supplement to *The European*, Nov 4th).

There are plenty of disused cinemas in Notts and probably some historic theatres. Whether any of them is good enough architecturally to attract a European grant or to warrant the Trust doing anything about it we do not know. Suggestions please.

## WINKBURN HALL SLIDE EVENING

THE TRUST WAS FORTUNATE in holding a recent slide evening in Winkburn Hall.

Winkburn Hall was built around 1700. Early paintings show it to have been a country house with hipped roof, balustrade, and cupola. The present second floor was added in 1805. The interior plasterwork is of particular interest.

Fifty members and guests were present. They were conducted round the Hall by the owners, Mr & Mrs Craven-Smith-Milnes, and were shown the latest restoration work – to the plasterwork – carried out by the owners themselves.

Graham Beaumont, carrying on the theme, in his inimitable manner presented slides of plasterwork elsewhere.

These slide evenings are very popular and instructive: as well as giving an opportunity for members to meet socially.

members to meet socially.

## DIARY

Friday 13th May:

The Trust's Annual Dinner, at:

The Coeur-de-Lion Restaurant, Elston.

*(This is an extraordinary C19 folly-like house very prominent on the Foss Way a few miles out of Newark. Formerly called Elston Towers. Recently restored with sumptuous decor.)*

Monday 31st October:

Annual General Meeting of the Trust, at:

The Great Hall, Archbishop's Palace, Southwell

Talk on *Toxford Windmill, by the Osticks.*

## NEWARK IN THE NEWS

A FINE COLOUR PICTURE of a freshly gilded Corinthian capital from Newark Town Hall adorned the December cover of *Context*, the journal of the Association of Conservation Officers. This was a signpost to the special theme of the issue: historic paints and decorative finishes, and an illustration for an article by Philip Grover (Technical Panel member and Newark & Sherwood Conservation Officer) on the recent refurbishment of the Town Hall. (1774-6; John Carr of York, architect).

The capital on the cover belonged to one of the columns which screen the two apses in the Town Hall's ballroom: Adamish features adopted by the usually firmly Palladian Carr – perhaps a result of his association with Robert Adam at Harewood. As well as the four free-standing columns there are 24 Corinthian pilasters, all with gilded capitals, and many other gilded mouldings and decorations, following the original scheme uncovered by careful investigation before work started. Doorcases and fireplaces have been refurbished, the walls and the splendid coved ceiling (another Adam-like feature) have been repainted in the proper colours and, glory be, the hideous and inappropriate curtains have been removed. The result is quite sumptuous.

Members who have not seen Newark Town Hall recently will find it well repay a visit. There is much else besides the ballroom: virtually the whole interior and market-place facade have been refurbished. Not least important is a reconstruction of Carr's original stone staircase, again using evidence uncovered when later accretions were removed. A splendid result after a century of neglect and had alteration. The work won an Europa Nostra Diploma of Merit in 1993.

## Paving Strategy

The March number of the same magazine, just out, features Newark again in an article by Philip Grover and Roy Lewis on Newark and Sherwood District Council's Paving Strategy for the historic town centre. Four schemes under this strategy have already been finished, and a start has just been made on the important area between the Market-place and St Mary's Church which has been an eyesore for decades. More schemes to follow soon. Congratulations to Newark, and it's good to see such initiatives getting proper publicity, even if only in the specialist press.

*Further Information:*

**The Association of Conservation Officers.**

Local contact:

Graham Beaumont,

County Heritage Team:

0602 24 30 60



### THE HARRY JOHNSON AWARD 1993

Full details were given in Trust Bulletin No 8, but here is a summary to go with the pictures below. Fourteen nominations were made for the award, and the standard was so high that the judges had great difficulty making their selection. Eventually the following schemes were chosen:

*The Harry Johnson Award for 1993:*

Restoration of the Windmill at Tuxford

*Highly commended:*

- Edwinstowe Village Hall
- 43 Town Street, Lound

### Tuxford Mill Opening Times

The mill will be opened to the public from 2pm onwards on the following days in 1994:

Open on the Sunday and Monday of the Bank-Holiday weekends (May-day, Spring, and Summer):

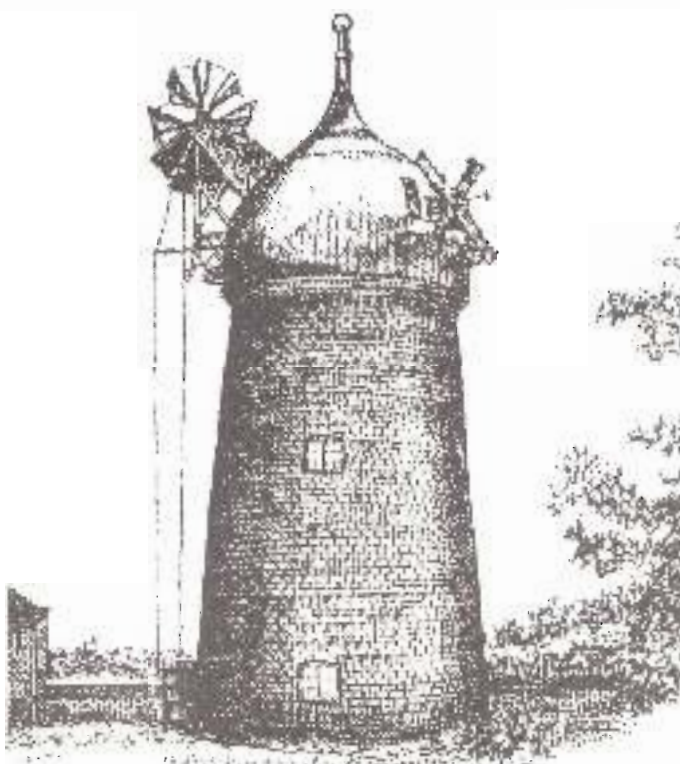
And on . . . Sunday 17th April

Every Sunday in May

Sunday 19th June

Sunday 17th July

Sunday 21st August



*Above Left:*

Tuxford Mill, 1989

(Drawing by David R. Hardy)

*Above Right:*

43 Town Street, Lound

*Right:*

Edwinstowe Village Hall;  
Edwinstowe Church in the  
background.



## **SIX COTTAGES, ST LEONARD'S COURT, NEWARK.**

### **CIVIC TRUST AWARD**

THE RESTORATION of six cottages in St Leonard's Court in the centre of Newark on Trent - rescued from severe dereliction by the NBPT - has received a commendation in the Civic Trust Awards. The project was undertaken by the Trust as an example of what could be achieved to conserve a modest but traditional form of town housing belonging to the end of the Georgian period, whilst inserting modern amenities.

The Civic Trust Awards are intended to create a greater awareness of high quality architecture, planning, landscape and civic design in improving the environment and to draw attention to the best contributions now being made in these fields. The Civic Trust made only 18 Awards, 92 commendations and 25 special mentions out of 1093 entries nationwide.

These cottages were built in roughly their present form circa 1836. They are located immediately to the north of Queen Henrietta Maria's Lodging House on Kirkgate; the line and cross-section of the cottages continues approximately the rear range of this medieval building. On such a site there were likely to be traces of earlier use, and the Trust therefore initiated an archaeological dig. Evaluation of the dig by Dr John Samuels showed that the foundations to the west wall of the cottages were of medieval origin. Dr Samuels also identified several other features as post-medieval, but predating the present building. Artifacts recovered included pottery, an oven, and a stone cannon ball.

The original cottages consisted of a living room and scullery to the ground floor, with a staircase up to the first floor. A coal store or a pantry was found in the small space below the staircase. ~~There is also a small space below the staircase~~ was found in the small space below the staircase. The first floor consisted of a bedroom and box-room. The original access to the loft would have been via a trapdoor and ship's ladder through the loft floor. Some time later, as the demands for additional space increased, alterations were undertaken to the loft to provide a formal bedroom. A second stair flight would then have been added together with a rooflight or a catslide dormer. Coal store, privies and shared wash houses were located to the north and shared by a range of similar cottages which existed at one time to the north - identified on a 1885 plan.

The cottages were vacated in about 1964, primarily as a result of their lacking basic amenities. Despite pressures for demolition, the cottages have thankfully been rescued from surrounding redevelopment. The fabric of the building was on the brink of disaster. Water leaking from the roof and

open windows had caused deterioration of the gypsum floors, structural timbers and plasterwork. Vandalism had also played its part. Rising damp was much in evidence. Parts of the roof structure were in imminent danger of collapse. Roof collars had been removed and purlins cut away to accommodate dormers, at the turn of the century. One particular dormer cheek defied the laws of gravity. Despite all these problems the fabric has, with sympathetic treatment, provided a sound basis for refurbishment.

The cottages contain interesting features typical of this period of building history, including reed and plaster floors, Yorkshire sliding sash windows with evidence of saddle bar supports to leaded lights of an earlier date, cast iron ranges and ledged and boarded doors. Ground floor windows to the rear elevation are particularly unusual, being fully recessed, of squat proportions and almost industrial in character. External shutters are provided to all ground floor windows on the front elevation. The eaves detailing shows a sawtooth pattern to the front but with plain projecting courses to the rear.

Throughout the exercise of refurbishment the emphasis was put on careful repair rather than replacement and on preserving as much as possible of the cottages' original character. This objective was achieved despite the insertion of bathrooms and kitchens. Repointing is minimal and with sympathetic materials. Honest timber and plasterwork repair is evident in the finished product. Some upgrading of standards of structural stability, insulation and amenity was undertaken as a necessity. That upgrading was not however at the cost of character. Methods employed were appropriate to a building whose construction is of a different era. Original materials were not replaced simply because they have lost a straight face or are a little weathered, unless structural loss could be proven. The roughest looking pieces of timber were often found to contain a core of very sound material. Where original mating pieces of timber were often found to contain a core of very sound material. Where original materials are replaced, the detail of the original has been replicated so far as is practical.

Older buildings yield to nature. When natural building materials - such as timber - are employed, some movement is inevitable. Bricks and tiles, being porous, absorbed a certain amount of moisture from the ground and from rain. Older buildings were well ventilated which enabled the building fabric to breathe; a very different scenario to our modern hermetically sealed buildings. We must recognise and respect such different characteristics when considering conversion from one technological era to another.

Conservation is as important to everyday structures as it is to monuments and buildings of grandeur.

*Brian Allebon*





## THE WOOLPACK INN,

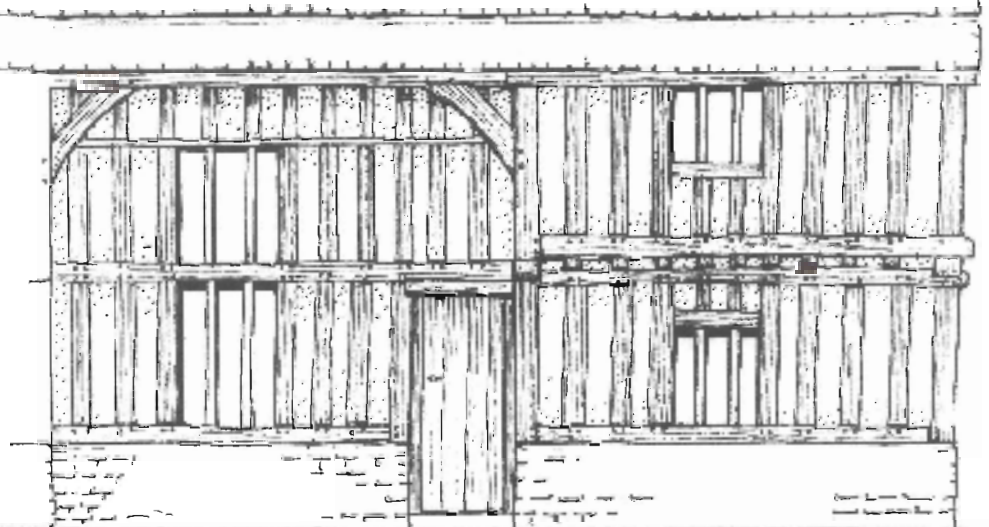
### 46 STODMAN STREET, NEWARK.

THIS TINY LITTLE PUB has long been enjoyed by many for its two small, intimate rooms which have not yet been knocked into one amorphous space. But its interest goes much deeper than that for behind its stuccoed facade is a 15th-century timber-framed house of the Wealden pattern.

Wealden houses have a central open hall and jettied chamber at one end or both ends, all under a single roof giving a distinctive external appearance. The Wealden pattern was the predominant type in the mediaeval period in the Weald of east Sussex and west Kent, but was also quite widely distributed elsewhere in East Anglia and the south-east (the so-called lowland area). In the remainder of England the Wealden house is unknown (apart from isolated examples in a few places, including Stratford-upon-Avon, Weobley, and York).

The Woolpack was listed in 1950, with the description giving a date of 1489 but no source for that date. In January 1993 the County Council commissioned Nottingham University Tree-Ring-Dating laboratory to try and establish the date. The results were very good: several samples retained complete sapwood, the last measured being 1451. But under the microscope it was possible to see that the spring cell-growth for the following year had just begun, giving a very precise felling date of spring 1452.

G. Beaumont



\* BAY 3 NEW MISSING WOOLPACK \* BAY 2 HALL NEWARK \* GABLE ROOM \* BAY 1 SERVICE BAY \*  
FRONT (NORTH) ELEVATION CONJECTURAL RECONSTRUCTION BY C. MINERS

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

*Conservation in Nottinghamshire* looks a bit different this time. It's because we are now setting it up ourselves on computer and having it printed by a species of superior photocopier. This way we have more exact control over the way the newsletter is put together, and it's cheaper, too.

It also means that we can now accept copy for publication on disc as well as on paper, and we would ask that whenever possible you do send your copy on disc. All sorts of people have some kind of computer or word-processor nowadays, or access to one, and it really will make it much quicker and easier to produce the Newsletter regularly. Almost any kind of floppy disc can be handled, including Amstrad PCW 3<sup>rd</sup> discs. Give us a ring first if there's any doubt.

A note of reassurance for anyone who has sent in a contribution and not seen it in print yet. There has been a backlog; it's nearly cleared, but there's still a small pile there was no room for this time. It will appear.

And we will need more material, especially after the next number. So, send it in, please: on disc or on paper. Preferably on disc because it avoids unproductive work, but don't be put off if you are without access to leading-edge technology. Blunt pencil on the back of an envelope is better than nothing.

### Contact:

Michael Hurst,  
28 Victoria Street, Newark, NG24 4UT.  
0636 77 814

## The Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust.

The N.B.P.T. was founded in 1967, which was also the year in which Conservation Areas were established by the Civic Amenities Act. It was not entirely fortuitous that the two things coincided: it was the beginning of the groundswell for conservation - at a time when the word had not yet lost any of its resonance, as now through misuse it so often has.

The Trust was originally a grant-giving body. The grants, though small, were looked upon as an essential complement to and reinforcement of the Trust's other main job: the giving of technical and aesthetic advice. This advice then as now was given freely and generously by the Trust's technical advisers, working to preserve the historic buildings of the County.

Today, the Trust's main thrust is through the Revolving Fund Committee. This Committee has produced a 'buildings at risk' list: a list, comprehensive it is hoped, of buildings of architectural or historic merit which are threatened by neglect or overdevelopment.

The Trust then investigates how best to save those buildings. The preferred method is to encourage the owners to take the right action, making the best use of grants and other finance available for historic buildings. But when all else fails the Trust will acquire the building and do the necessary work itself, sell it on again at a profit if one is available, and plough the money back into the Revolving Fund in order to save other buildings.

The Trust is frequently invited to comment on planning applications which affect listed buildings and Conservation Areas. It often also comments on applications even when not invited to do so. The Trust's comments are based solely on its own evaluation of the building and of the merits of applications even when not invited to do so. The Trust's comments are based solely on its own evaluation of the building and of how the proposals would affect the building. Its viewpoint is therefore always independent, even if not always welcome.

For the membership, the Trust organizes slide evenings and an annual coach trip and other outings to places of architectural interest. It is also customary to invite an interesting speaker to the Annual General Meeting. The Trust publishes a Newsletter and News Bulletin, often with original and unpublished material.

New Members are very welcome, and the annual subscription is modest. To join, complete the application and send it to the Secretary.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Please delete parts that don't apply: use block letters.)

Minimum Annual Subscription:

Ordinary member £6 (Couples £9).

Life member £60 (Couples £90).

Corporate membership (for associations) £8.

I/we apply to become

An Ordinary Member/Life Member/Corporate member  
of the Trust and enclose my/our first annual subscription of £

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

Signed .....

Date .....

If you have a bank account, please use the Banker's Order Form below. It really does help to simplify our book-keeping. Thank you.

### BANKER'S ORDER

To: Bank\* .....

Branch .....

Please pay now, and on 1st April in each succeeding year, the sum of ..... pounds to the National Westminster Bank Plc., 52 Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, for the credit of:  
The Nottingham Building Preservation Trust Limited

Signature .....

Address .....

Date .....

Date .....

Account No. ....

\*Please insert the name of your own bankers.

### Nottingham Building Preservation Trust Limited

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