



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST LIMITED

The Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0HD  
Tel: 01636 819555 www.nbpt.co.uk e-mail: nbpt@btclick.com  
Registered No. 89782 Registered Charity No. 254094

## RESTORATION IN ACTION

An occasional newsletter for members and the public

March 2010

### THOROTON DOVECOTE

Ownership of such a historic building as the dovecote in Thoroton is a privilege – and a huge responsibility – and the storm damaged thatch has been in need of repair for some time. Our Technical Expert Alan Wahlers has been working on plans to restore the thatch, replace the lost glover and provide modest access for the public.

We are fortunate that the Ellis family, in whose garden the majority of the dovecote stands, are happy to facilitate the work, and when Planning Permission has been granted we look forward to commencing this exciting project.



Thoroton dovecote in summer 2009

#### ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF A BUILDING IN YOUR AREA?

If you care about the insidious loss of buildings which link us with the county's historic past, the NBPT exists to represent your views and to work to "preserve buildings of especial beauty or especial historic or architectural interest" in the county.

With national pressure to create thousands more homes in the county, with all their supporting infrastructure, Conservation Areas will be increasingly threatened, and greater vigilance than ever will be needed to preserve for posterity examples of vernacular architecture.

### HARRY JOHNSON AWARD 2008

Thirteen high quality projects were entered for the previous Harry Johnson Award, several sponsored by Parish Councils, including the new war memorial at Blidworth, designed and built by local people as a tribute to villagers who lost their lives in 20<sup>th</sup> century conflict.

This made a striking contrast in scale to the conversion of Epperstone Manor out-buildings, and the new Church Hall at Radcliffe-on-Trent.

The four judges were delighted and inspired by the enthusiasm of those they met at all thirteen locations – builders, architects, owners and volunteers, all involved in the restoration of their buildings, or the provision of attractive, and appropriate living, working or recreational spaces in our beautiful county.

After careful consideration the winning entry was judged to be **The White Cottage, Church Street, Misson**, where the owners Julie Watkins and David Hobson had, over a two year period, assisted by local builder John Bingham and using local labour and traditional craftsmen, removed traces of "progressive modernisation" and successfully preserved a seventeenth century framed farm house and its associated outbuildings.

Two Runners Up Awards were also made. These were for the conversion of Epperstone Manor outbuildings, designed by the Henry Meln Partnership, and for the 1795 Canal Toll Office at the junction of the Cromford and Nottingham Canals at Langley Mill – lovingly restored by a team of volunteers.



Originally six separate farm buildings enclosing a "courtyard", the early 17<sup>th</sup> century White Cottage was also a public house (the Red Lion Inn) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The restoration programme focussed on sustainable construction, energy efficiency, and the use of traditional materials – lime plaster, lime wash, green oak, hand made joinery, stone and lead, although modern insulation, electrics, plumbing and under-floor heating were all incorporated.



Above: converted Epperstone Manor outbuildings



Above: The restored Canal Toll Office

The Harry Johnson Award is organised jointly between the NBPT and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

The next competition will be held in the summer of 2010, and entries will be welcomed until the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2010.

Application forms are available from the Trust's office in Southwell.



## VISITS TO LOCAL BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST

In response to a suggestion made early in 2009, the Trust arranged two visits during the year.

The first, in July, to Boughton Pumping Station and Ollerton Watermill, brought into sharp focus the way in which radical changes to industrial methods have influenced the way buildings are used and therefore their design.

Boughton, now known as Blackburn House, has been converted to an office complex. The massive machinery has been replaced by computer-controlled technology housed in a small building a short distance away.

After lunch in Ollerton Mill Teashop, the group enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Watermill, millpond and mill race, conducted by Mr John Messom, whose father had been instrumental in their preservation. Sadly, we were to learn that ours was to be the final tour. The cost of maintenance, insurance and other Health and Safety-related expenses are so high that the family can no longer risk allowing the general public to see the mill machinery.



Above: Ollerton Mill

In September a most interesting evening visit was arranged to Kelham Hall, headquarters of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

Events Officer George Sycamore spoke on the history of the building prior to taking members on a guided tour.

The present hall, the third on this site, was designed by the renowned nineteenth century architect George Gilbert Scott, familiar for his work in London, namely the St Pancras Station Hotel and the Albert Memorial. A further example of the Gothic Revival style, Kelham Hall was completed in 1863 for the Manners Sutton family, whose connection with the area dates back to the twelfth century. The building displays some significant features, including the grand design of the carriage court. However, even before its completion, the family was

encountering financial difficulties and was finally forced to sell the hall in 1902.

Between 1903 and 1974 Kelham Hall was owned by the Society of the Sacred Mission, an Anglican order of monks, and used as a training college. During this period the hall was extended, with the addition of a new western wing and the domed chapel.

By 1973, a considerable reduction in the number of trainees led to the hall once again being offered for sale and it was bought by the newly constituted local district council.

A meal at The Red House completed a particularly enjoyable evening.



NBPT members and guests admire the Victorian surroundings of Kelham Hall.

It has been suggested that further visits, arranged between the NBPT and the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, might create interest and encourage more members.

We will be investigating and publishing details in the future.

For over 40 years the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust has worked to "preserve buildings of especial beauty or special historic or architectural interest" in the county.

Its governing Council of Management is partly elected, and partly appointed to represent the County Council and supportive local Borough and District Councils.

Qualified architects and experts on the history of our built environment are co-opted to the Council.

For further information on the Trust's work, or to seek advice, practical support, or membership details, contact us on [nbbpt@btclick.com](mailto:nbbpt@btclick.com) or by telephoning 01636 819555 and leaving a message.

Annual subscriptions are: Individual £15; Concessions and students £10; and organisations £25.

Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust  
The Minster Chambers, Church Street,  
Southwell, Nottinghamshire  
NG25 0HD

## TRUST TALKS

### Rodney Cousins

After swift conclusion of the official tasks, a good attendance at the Trust's AGM in November enjoyed a highly entertaining quiz created by local historian Rodney Cousins. Based on the "Call my Bluff" format, the subjects had historical associations with local life, industry and agriculture, many proving a surprising challenge to the most knowledgeable in the audience.

### Graham Beaumont

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Graham Beaumont, one of the Trust's Technical Experts, presented a "slide show with commentary" to the members of the Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History Society, in their well equipped meeting room.

Graham covered the work and history of the Trust since its formation in 1967, at a time when national concern about the destruction of traditional buildings had led to the establishment of Conservation Areas.

Brief consideration of the national picture contrasted architectural styles, such as the rugged limestone barns in Swaledale and smooth-plastered timber-frame buildings in Suffolk.

Turning to Nottinghamshire's own distinctive buildings, Graham highlighted the mud-walled dovecote at East Bridgford; and the timber-framed barn, built by George Martin in 1651 at Keyworth, which was recorded in the Trust's county-wide Student Survey in 1968 and subsequently saved from demolition.

Further examples of the Trust's work included the repair and sympathetic conversion of the 22 framework-knitters' cottages at Windles Square, Calverton, in 1972; the repair of Forest Lodge, Nottingham, and finally the current project for the repair, restoration and interpretation of the medieval dovecote at Thoroton.

Graham's first 2010 talk was given to 40 or so enthusiastic members of the Southwell and District Local History Society on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, in the Minster Centre, Church Street, Southwell.

Two of the Southwell audience, one of them the Chairman, Prof. Stanley Chapman, had previously attended Graham's classes on Vernacular Architecture, and appreciated the adaptation of the slide show to include local buildings, especially the Saracen's Head and its contentious north wing.