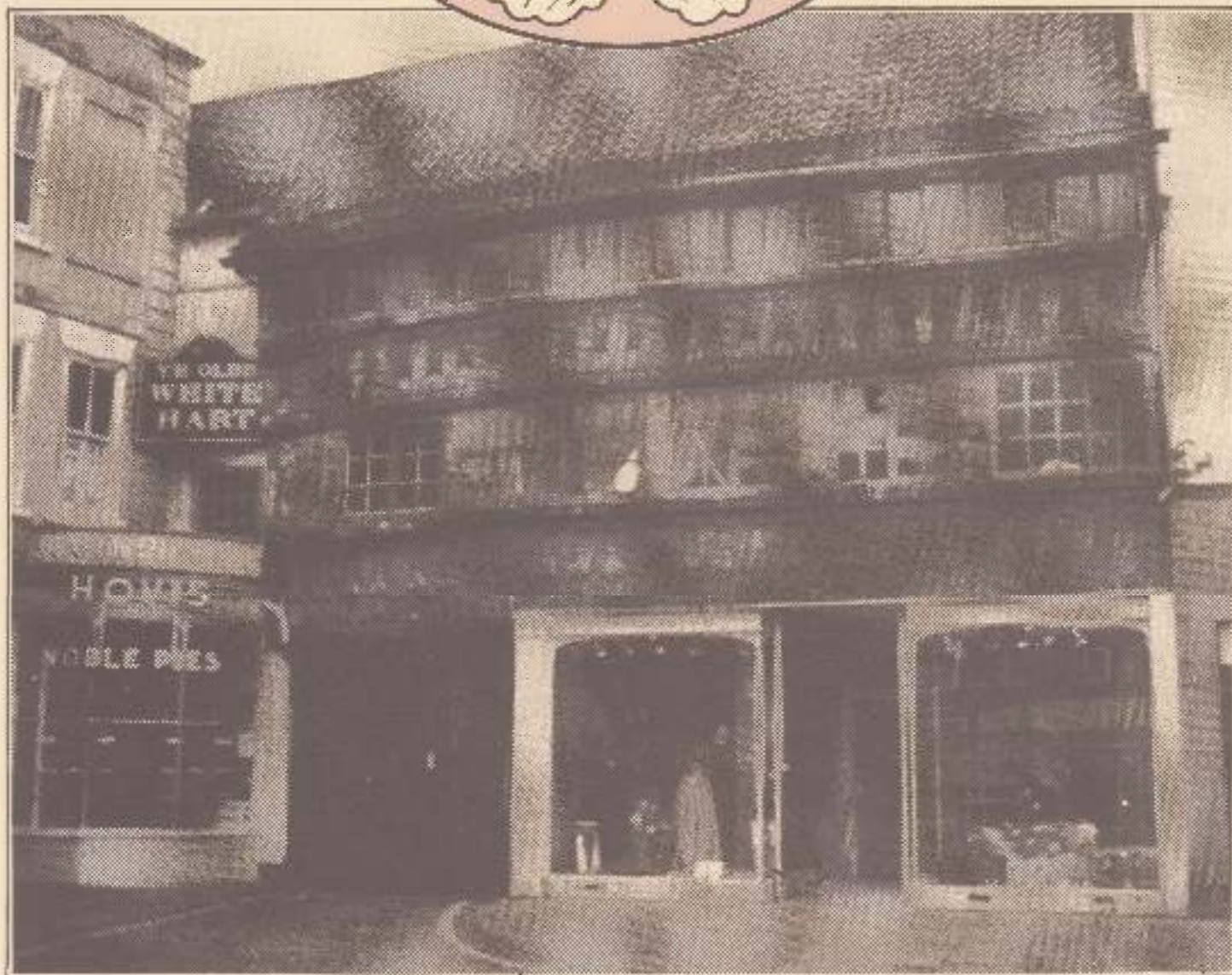




# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

## THE CHANGING FACE OF NEWARK

Newark has changed dramatically within the last 10 years. Fortunately, not beyond recognition, and many would say for the better. A mile post in this new direction has been the Old White Hart in the corner of the market-place. Described by Pevsner as one of the outstanding 15th Century domestic timber-framed buildings in England, by 1978 it was in a sorry state of dereliction. The following year it was restored to much of its former glory by the Nottingham Building Society. To a large extent it was from this date that a much greater interest was taken in preserving the heritage of the town. See comment on page 4.

*The Old White Hart, Newark in 1978*

### — INSIDE —

- The Changing Face of Newark
- Tracing the History of Your House
- Newark Civic Trust
- Notts. Building Preservation Trust
- Wollaton Hall
- Ice Houses
- Country Notes



# NEWS from the Nottinghamshire

## Neighbourhood

Welcome to the first issue of Nottinghamshire Heritage, a brand new publication which incorporates the newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust.

### TRACING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE

THERE are two ways in which you may approach the task of researching the history of an old house.

You can try to date the original building and any subsequent additions by the surviving architectural evidence of its period style, method of construction, brickwork, beams and floorlevels, or else you can try to trace its history through historical records. This article and those in subsequent issues will be concerned with the documentary history.

Many old properties have title deeds dating back to the 18th century which, if they have survived, may be with your solicitor or building society.

Your local studies library should have old large-scale maps for your area back to Victorian times and also old trade directories and census returns. For older maps and most original archives you will need to visit the Nottinghamshire Archives Office in Nottingham, or possibly some other record office.

Some buildings are easier to trace than others. Country houses and farmhouses are usually better documented than smaller cottages. Buildings which had a specialised function such as vicarages, schools, chapels or pubs can often be traced through specialist records. Property once in possession of a major landed family or of an institute such as a school or charity may also be more fully recorded. Tracing the history of a house is not simple. It can involve many hours of intensive research into a wide variety of historical documents, but this in itself can become a fascinating and absorbing hobby.

Adrian Henstock

Tracing the History of Your House is made easy in Adrian Henstock's book of the same name which is published at £9.50 (+50p P&P) by the Nottinghamshire Local History Association, c/o Bramley House, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 5HL.

(+50p P&P) by the Nottinghamshire Local History Association, c/o Bramley House, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 5HL.

To pursue my interest in houses, I usually have to get into a car, or at least to take a walk, but twice in my life (so far) I have been able to satisfy it without going out of my own house.

When I lived at North Muskham, there was an old cottage next door, built perhaps in the 18th century. It had 1½ storeys; that is, the bedrooms were in the roof space and lighted by dormers. The walls were only half a brick thick, 5 inches with the plaster.

Without the owners moving out, builders added another half-brick skin outside, leaving a cavity; then the walls were raised to a full two storeys and a new roof built. It was an instructive example of what must have happened so often: a house being modernised without being vacated.

In the past six months I have watched another similar exercise, except that this time the owners moved out.

Park Road, Chilwell, is a fascinating example of a miniature garden suburb. It was laid out in 1848 as a speculation, aimed no doubt at workers in the Beeston hosiery industry. It offered sites for cottages in plots almost large enough to be called small holdings.

The plots evidently did not sell very readily, either in Park Road or in the parallel Grove Avenue, laid out at the same time, to the west is an allotment scheme which still flourishes.

There are a dozen or so cottages built in the 1850s; they are plain and modest in scale in the style you would expect, with a symmetrical front: central front door flanked by a window on either side and corresponding bedroom windows above.

The plots were gradually filled, so that the oldest houses are interspersed with houses of

later date down to the 1930s.

More recently there has been a little infilling

including my own house, which stands on what was until 1969 the tennis court of one of the large houses.

To the north of our house is one of the large houses.

To the north of our house is one of the



THEN

LEFT: by "p... improve

ABOVE restored in a see

NEW FROM THE  
CROMWELL PRESS

A HISTORY OF  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
FARMING  
By Philip Lymb

£3.50

56 pages well illustrated

Now in bookshops or direct  
from The Cromwell Press  
Post Free:

The Cromwell Press 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts. NG7 3JF



OXLAND ORIGINALS



OF OXTON

Talks, Workshops and  
demonstrations of  
Country Crafts

For a free brochure write to:

Daphne Oxland Quince Cottage  
Main Street, Oxtun,  
Nottingham NG25 0SA  
Tel: 0802 653603



# Building Preservation Trust



## Neighbourhood Watch



"Cottage spoiled  
by  
modern  
improvements"

"The same cottage—  
and extended  
in a new  
fashion!"

original cottages. Its plot now has a narrower  
frontage. The house was essentially unaltered,  
though its appearance has been spoiled by  
piecemeal "improvements" carried out by an  
owner who was an ingenious handyman, as well  
as a keen and expert gardener.  
owner who was an ingenious handyman, as well  
as a keen and expert gardener

### Maurice Barley takes a look at the house next door...

He was a most congenial neighbour, even if  
one could not admire what he had done. There  
was no porch, so he made a sort of band over  
the front door. He had added what he called  
a sun lounge in front of the living room,  
replaced the original windows with metal  
frames and the Welsh slates with concrete tiles.  
The "before" photograph shows the result.

During the past six months I have had the  
pleasure of watching the front of the house  
being restored step by step to its original  
appearance, and a wing being added in a sensible  
fashion to suit modern needs. Fortunately, the  
new owners, Jeffrey and Angela Sharnbrook  
appreciated the character of the house and  
employed an architect, Alan Joyce. The sun  
parlour and the greenhouses have gone; the  
brickwork has been cleaned and made good; the  
window frames are wood and look like rising  
sashes though they are top-hung casements  
(much more convenient); the roof now has  
Welsh slates again and the chimneys have been  
rebuilt. A new wing has been added at the right  
hand end, sensitively related to the old arrange,  
particularly at roof level.

Every time I open my front door, I rejoice  
to see a good job well done.

Every time I open my front door, I rejoice  
to see a good job well done.

## AIMS OF THE TRUST

THE Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust  
was founded in 1967, which was also the year in  
which Conservation Areas were established by the  
Civic Amenities Act. The two happenings were not  
entirely coincidental and represented the  
groundswell for conservation at a time when the  
word had not been as misused as it now often is.

The Trust was originally a grant giving body  
which gave essential back-up to the advice given  
by the technical advisers who then, as now, gave  
their time freely and generously to the work of  
preserving the historic buildings of the County.

The Trust is funded by the County Council and  
by five of the District Councils within the County.  
There is a membership of over 300 individuals and  
groups who make an annual subscription to  
become life members.

Today the Trust's main thrust is through the  
Revolving Fund Committee. This Committee has  
produced a comprehensive list of buildings at risk  
which, hopefully, contains those buildings of  
architectural or historic interest which are  
threatened by neglect or over-development.

The Trust then investigates how best to save  
those buildings, preferably by encouraging the  
owners to take the right action and by the best use  
of grants or other finance that might be available.  
The ultimate course of action is for the Trust to  
acquire the building and carry out the necessary  
work itself. The building is then sold and any profit  
ploughed back into the Revolving Fund in order  
to save other buildings.

The Trust is invited to comment on planning  
applications which affect listed buildings or  
Conservation Areas and often comments on  
applications even when not invited to do so. It is  
an independent view, if not always a welcome one.

Activities for members include slide evenings and  
an annual coach trip.

New members are very welcome and the annual  
subscription is only £3.00. Contact the Secretary,  
Geoff Turner, at 78 Bridgford Road, West  
Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6AX. (Telephone  
0602) 819622).

(0602) 819622).

## PUBLICATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST

### by the Cromwell Press

- PRESS OF HARDWICK by David N. Durant
- IN THE SEASON OF THE YEAR by Richard Marquiss £3.50
- EAST MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY No. 3 Ed. John Samuels £3.95
- A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTEBOOK by Elaine Kazimierczuk £3.50
- COUNTRY HOUSES OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by Mike Higginbottom £3.50
- DOVECOTES OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by John Severn £2.50
- BIRCHES, BADGERS AND BUTTERCUPS by David Tyldesley £3.50
- A HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMING by Philip Lyth £3.50

All books available from local bookshops or direct from the Cromwell Press  
The Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark Notts NG23 6JE



● Illustration from "A Nottinghamshire  
Notebook", a delightful collection of  
drawings by Elaine Kazimierczuk.



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you have enjoyed the first issue of Nottinghamshire Heritage.

The magazine, which incorporates the newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, aims to reflect your interests and views.

Contributions for the autumn issue are welcome. Please send your articles and illustrations by July 31 to: The Editor, Nottinghamshire Heritage, Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Notts. NG23 6JR.

JOHN SAMUELS

**NEWARK** has recently undergone a boom in property prices and development. Refurbishment and new building has been carried out sympathetically to the fabric of the town. With two new shopping precincts and many national shopping chains moving into the town, Newark is re-asserting itself as a major market in the region. The air of prosperity is good but it has squeezed out some of the smaller shops. Let us hope that Newark can retain its atmosphere of a bustling *working market town alongside its new-found prosperity.*

## HERITAGE COMMENT



## A LAND FOR ALL SEASONS

HOW easy is it to apply the concept of "heritage" to the countryside and wildlife of a county such as Nottinghamshire? How easy is it to describe and encapsulate the essence of the place?

Well, firstly it has to be conceded that Nottinghamshire – a flat and well populated county – lacks the dramatic scenery and celebrity of some of its neighbours.

However, Nottinghamshire provides a landscape worthy of the closest scrutiny because it is both human and accessible.

Over hundreds of generations a compromise has been achieved between the activities of people and the needs of the landscape and its wildlife which has produced a fascinating environment that deserves more recognition than it gets. In some parts of the county, for example, stand tracts of ancient woodland, full of wild flowers and wildlife which have acted in their time as the larder, workshop, building yard and play ground of the local community. Human activity did not destroy the woods, but, in fact, sustained and nurtured them.

Elsewhere, industry hungry for gravel, has dug deeply into the heart of the land in a process which has proved to be both destructive and positive.

The flooded gravel pits of Nottinghamshire have become celebrated havens for abundant wildlife, but especially birds.

In our towns, the more adaptable wildlife has been able to live with human settlement.

A further face of the county is, of course the River Trent and all the other rivers and streams which provide the refreshment of light, life and music to the countryside.

However, we live in a hectic and abrasive age in which the concept of heritage can be an insecure and vulnerable one. Because the Nottinghamshire countryside is so down to earth and humane in its virtues, it runs the risk of being crudely overlooked and undervalued. If Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Norfolk need protection



### COUNTRY NOTES by Richard Marquiss

OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

and conservation, then Nottinghamshire needs them even more. The dismal prospect of open cast mining in the Erewash Valley, and the environmental horrors that this could bring, is just one topical example of the need for vigilance.

As the late King George VI said, in a memorable phrase, "The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after."

■ Details of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust can be obtained from 310 Sincinton Dale, Nottingham, NG3 7DN. Tel: Nottingham 588242

■ Illustration by Ken Messon from "In the Season of the Year" Cromwell Press £3.50.



# Building Preservation Trust



## FROZEN ASSETS

**JOHN SEVERN** praises the co-operation between industry and local amenity groups which resulted in the restoration of the Annesley Hall Ice House.



The opening of an unusual new Nottinghamshire tourist attraction - a restored 19th Century Victorian ice house - took place at Kodak Limited's Annesley factory on 18th December, 1988. From left to right: Peter Audek, Kodak Limited plant manager; C.W. Brian Marshall, The Sheriff of Nottingham, and John Severn of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust.

THE practice of storing ice for domestic use began in this country in the 17th Century, and in the 18th and early 19th Centuries most large country houses had at least one ice house somewhere in the grounds.

In Nottinghamshire many have been located and a number already repaired and recorded, but the one at Annesley has proved so far to be the most interesting.

It first reappeared in the light of day as a small hole excavated from a mound of rubble where tipping had been programmed to take place during the excellent landscaping project recently carried out by Kodak in their grounds.

Family First Project Agency, a charity set up to assist the unemployed in work experience, put together a team to work with the Trust and with Kodak to carefully excavate the structure from the scant information to hand.

It was decided to excavate from the top for safety reasons and the smaller crater soon became a larger one as the rim of the original dome was reached in the downward digging, became a larger one as the rim of the original dome was reached in the downward digging.

At this stage we noticed that the rim bore comparison with the remains of the ice house in Colwick Park, and as both compared with those intact examples found and repaired at Walston, Clifton and Noxwood Park in

Southwell it was decided that Annesley was of the same type, having a loading tunnel at the side and a complete dome on top without a loading hole at the highest point.

Further excavation showed this to be correct and eventually as digging proceeded the shape of the structure began to make itself known. Having completely excavated the structure it was found to be in extremely good condition.

As this stage Kodak suggested that the repaired structure should be retained as a tourist attraction and they kindly funded a small landscaping project.

In these days of modern technology, it is hard to visualise the use and usage of these ice house structures. Less than 200 years ago, one needed a very hard winter, a nearby pond, horses, carts and many men in order to break the ice, load it, unload it again and then pack it, crush it, insulate it with straw in layers from the bottom of the pit until the ice house could hold no more.

*The Trust also looks forward to repairing*

*The Trust also looks forward to repairing the next but here and now it says "Thank you Kodak for making this project possible. It has been an honour to work with you and Family First at Annesley and we hope we may have the pleasure again".*

## NEWARK CIVIC TRUST

Newark Civic Trust is typical of hundreds of other amenity societies in the country. It was formed more than 25 years ago and exists to encourage the conservation of buildings and townscape of architectural and historic interest, to promote good architecture and town planning, to increase and develop the town's amenities and to create a greater awareness of the environment in Newark generally.

The Trust has played a prominent part in all the major environmental issues affecting the town - the A46 (T) bypass, pedestrianisation of town centre streets, the Slougherhouse Lane shopping precinct, the new Newark Library etc. It has just completed its Social Heritage Project - the recording of the recent history of the town through the memories and recollections of the ordinary folk who experienced it. New projects in hand are for the establishment of a Heritage Centre, a Junior Civic Trust projects in hand are for the establishment of a Heritage Centre, a Junior Civic Trust and a campaign to create more and better open space in the town for the benefit of its people.

Tony Arbury

## chappell and partners

FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Unit Truists (Home & Overseas)  
Life Assurance and  
Pension Consultants  
Investments & Mortgages

1 Westgate  
Southwell  
Nottingham  
NG25 0JN

**Tony Manion**  
Managing Director

Telephone: Southwell (0636)  
813344 (Notlin Code 95)

## RICHARD WATKINSON

Chartered Surveyor - Valuer - Auctioneer  
Incorporating A. Hopewell & Son

FOR A PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
ON MATTERS RELATING TO PROPERTY AND LAND

• Valuers to the licensed trade • Structural Surveyors  
• R.I.C.S. House Buyers Reports & Valuations • Building Society Valuations  
• Insurance Valuations • Valuations for Probate

AUCTIONEERS OF ANTIQUES AND OBJETS D'ART

Northgate Salerooms - 17 Northgate - Newark  
Notts NG24 1EA - Telephone 0636 77154



# SIR FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY OF WOLLATON HALL

## Where did Sir Francis go wrong?

BY DAVID DURANT



Above:  
Detail from a painting by Siberchis showing Wollaton Hall in 1700 (By kind permission of Lord Middleton).

Below:  
Conjectured floor plan of the state apartments at Wollaton Hall in 1588.



When Francis Willoughby came of age in 1568 he took possession of one of the richest estates in England. When he died in 1597 he left an estate seriously in debt. It took the Willoughbys three generations to recover from the calamity.

What went wrong? The answer must be looked for in the personality of Sir Francis. There were many others who suffered an emotionally deprived childhood and the resulting disturbed adulthood — it passed unnoticed, yet Francis was unusually disturbed. And this is clearly demonstrated in his only surviving monument, Wollaton Hall.

The architectural history of Wollaton (built 1580-88) has been well covered by Mark Girouard in *Robert Suttonson & the Elizabethan Country House*. However, the plan of the state apartments on the first floor, which were partly destroyed by a serious fire in 1643 and completely destroyed by Wyattville in the early nineteenth century, were either the result of a fevered mind or amazingly ahead of their time. This extraordinary feature of Wollaton Hall has amazingly 'intended' and 'unintended' extraordinary feature of Wollaton Hall has never been discussed. Had Queen Elizabeth ever stayed at Wollaton Hall considerable

chaos would have resulted in the Royal apartments due to the unusual plan. Fortunately the first royal visit was in 1604 when Queen Anne with Prince Henry stayed several days — accustomed to court practice in Scotland, based on the French court, they would have found nothing out of the ordinary in the lay-out of the state rooms; the Wollaton floor plan, unique in England for the time, fixed court life of 1604.

### ROOM SEQUENCE

By English Court custom principle courtiers dined in the Great Chamber. Before dinner the courtiers withdrew to a withdrawing Chamber leaving the Great Chamber clear for setting up the meal. This type of room sequence can be seen unaltered at Hardwick Hall on the second floor. In France this practice had ceased when Francis imported the Italian court manner of eating separately in individual apartments. All the French court required was a 'Grande Salle,' for general movement of traffic, off which were apartments consisting of an ante-room, for writing and eating in, a bed chamber in which the noble occupier would eat and receive guests, with one or more closets off for private use, a study, a room for a servant to receive guests, with one or more closets off for servants, or intimate and important work.

The uniqueness of the Wollaton floor plan

lay in the fact that there were two sets of identical state apartments linked by a long gallery and there were no Withdrawing Chambers between the Great Chambers and the bed Chambers. This was something that Henry VIII had experimented with at Nonsuch Palace, uncompleted when he died in 1547, and so never used by the Court; it was also very French.

We shall never know why Sir Francis chose to be so individual in his choice of plan. When he began building in 1580 he was making an outright statement of soaring ambition for his dynasty. It was typical of the kind of bad luck which dogged him that his only son died that year, leaving Sir Francis to complete an extravagant building for which there was seemingly no purpose. Immediately this extraordinary little man buried himself in family genealogy. He married off his daughter Bridget to a distant kinsman Percival Willoughby who became his heir and so, satisfied that his dynasty was saved, he could die comparatively content in typically bizarre and obscure circumstances in London in 1597. Again, typically, he left a mess for his family to clear up; his second wife was pregnant and had the child been a boy it would have deprived Percival of his wife was pregnant and had the child been a boy it would have deprived Percival of his doubtful inheritance.

## JOHN POTTER 'the gate maker' (Rustic Craft) Ltd

Open  til  
8.30am 8.30pm

Manufacturers  
of fine timber gates

The Manor House, Langford  
Newark 79983

### BE SURE OF GETTING NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE

For a year's subscription you will receive 4 quarterly copies of Nottinghamshire Heritage posted directly to you. Simply complete the form and send it with your subscription of £1.00 (Cheque or Postal Order) made payable to the Cromwell Press, 6 Old North Road, Cromwell, Newark, Nottingham NG23 6JE.

I wish to receive 4 quarterly copies of Nottinghamshire Heritage and enclose a year's subscription of £1.00

**BLACK CAPITALS PLEASE**

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POST CODE: .....

DISTRIBUTED FREE TO MEMBERS OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST