

CONSERVATION in Nottinghamshire

The Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Limited



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SERLBY HALL,
The Seat of  *Lord Galway.*

The Nottinghamshire Heritage magazine which, since Summer 1990, has included a contribution from the Trust, has now ceased publication. The magazine embraced a much wider readership and included contributions from other conservation groups but the Trust has now decided to revert to its own newsletter contributions from other conservation groups but the Trust has now decided to revert to its own newsletter format in 'Conservation in Nottinghamshire'.

In order to make this revised project successful, the Trust urgently needs contributions from members concerning almost any aspect of historical, or conservation interest. Drawings and photographs would be especially welcome.

The good news from the Trust is that six cottages, known as St. Leonard's Almshouses, Newark have been saved from demolition and restored to a high standard. The bad news is that, owing to the slump in the housing market, the Trust has only been able to sell one property and is now proposing to let three of the remainder. This may make good social sense but is tying up capital money in the Revolving Fund which is required to finance further projects.

The Almshouses, also to be associated with the late Professor Barley, do make a splendid contribution to the street scene in the heart of Newark, as well as preserving a good example of early 19th century vernacular architecture and providing low cost accommodation in a town centre location. The setting vernacular architecture and providing low cost accommodation in a town centre location. The setting has been enhanced by a generous contribution from Newark & Sherwood District Council in quality paving, screen walling and street lighting.

Another story of mixed blessings was the Christmas slide evening held at Hickling. The evening was an outstanding success, with slides of Norway and Sweden, an exhibition of Scandinavian artifacts and a glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

The number of members wishing to attend, however, far exceeded the space available and, despite an alternative evening being offered at short notice, a number of members had to be refused, which was very distressing to the organisers as well as the members concerned.

Geoff Turner

SERLBY HALL, BLYTH

There was some concern felt when Serlby Hall, in the North of the County, came on the market and was standing, for a while, in an empty and desolate condition. Fortunately, a dream has come true and the Hall has been bought by a wealthy businessman for use as his private residence. To complete the dream scenario, the new owner has employed the best professional advice in his

In 1911, the seventh Viscount carried out some additional alterations, including a new entrance feature.

There has been some animated discussion between the owner's architect and English Heritage over how the Hall should be restored and the Trust has generally supported the idea of



project to restore the Hall back to the original splendour of the James Paine design.

Serlby Hall became the seat of the first Viscount Galway in 1740 but building work did not really begin until 1758, when the second Viscount Galway in 1740 but building work did not really begin until 1758, when the second Viscount Galway engaged the then fashionable architect, James Paine, to design the great house.

The concept of the house was of a dominant centre block, linked at lower level to a pair of matching pavilions. A feature of the house was the central staircase set within a circular structure and top-lit, probably by a dome concealed within the roof construction.

The fifth Viscount Galway, in 1812, decided to rebuild the house and engaged a Yorkshire architect, William Lindley, to undertake the work. This project involved demolishing the two pavilions, increased the height of the main building and extended it in length by the addition of two extra bays to either side.

The plan form was also altered and this included the replacement of the free flowing central staircase by a now cantilevered staircase in stone.

returning to the James Paine original design. It is, however, refreshing to see a well funded restoration scheme now well under way.



THE GREET HOUSE SOUTHWELL

The Greet House is now standing empty and in need of repair. Built in 1824, it is an imposing building, set on an elevated site overlooking the Southwell to Upton road.

The original building was designed as a workhouse, incorporating all the worst features of those Victorian institutions clearly depicted in Charles Dickens' writings. The poor and homeless were treated as criminals, forced into the harsh regime of the workhouse. The sexes were separated but each had to complete a set amount of labour before any relief was provided and this was of a very limited nature.

It seems that the Greet House was a prototype for other workhouses, mainly because of the low running costs achieved by its overseers.

The building changed its title and, hopefully, its methods of working in 1913 when it became a Poor Law Institution.

The building is listed as being of architectural or historic interest. The architecture is acceptable and should be preserved and enjoyed. Its history is a sad indictment of Victorian social morality but a record that should be retained and remembered.

Records of our Building Inheritance

All who are concerned in some way with the history of architecture and buildings in England eventually come to use the facilities of the National Buildings Record (NBR) - 23 Savile Row, London W1 2JQ - which is one of the three collections of the National Monuments Record of the Royal W1 2JQ - which is one of the three collections of the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, the other two being the National Archaeological Record and the National Library of Air Photographs.

Very recently, the NBR celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and a little book tells its story. More recently, the Royal Commission has published 'The NMR, a guide to the archive'² and this note is devoted to the NBR collections alone. The core of the archive is the one million photographs which are available on open access arranged by county, town and village. Computerisation began in 1984 and the buildings index has thirty fields of information divided into three broad areas: location, type, date and status of building and extent of coverage. Other material includes: the records of the RCHME (founded 1968), the threatened buildings reports which began in 1986 and the following, only some of which are included in the open-access files:

- Air Ministry photographs taken in the 1950s of railway stations and theatres,
- Hallam Ashley's photographs 1940s-70s,
- Batsford collection of photographs used in the books, from the late 19th century including many by Brian Clayton,
- Buildings of England files for books published before 1984,
- CJP Cave's photographs of roof bosses,
- Country House postcards,
- Country Life magazine negatives 1897 to the 1950s,
- Courtauld Institute of Art photographs, including those by F H Crossley,
- DoE statutory lists and amendments,
- Herbert Felton's photographs, 1930's-1963,
- A F Kersting's photographs from the late 1930s,
- H Bedford Lemere photographs of country houses, 1880s-1920s and commercial architecture post-1910,
- Eric de Mare photographs 1950s-60s,
- National Record of Industrial Monuments, cards completed 1960s-70s,
- Newton & Co photographs of country houses from 1890s,
- Rev H D E Rokeby photographs of stations, late 1930s to early 1960s and commercial postcards,
- Rex Wailes photographs of water/wind mills and George Watkins photographs of steam technology from the 1930s.

The NBR search room is open:

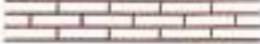
Monday-Friday, 10 am - 5.30 pm.
(Tel: 071 973 3091, Fax 071 494 3998)
Contact: Mr Stephen Goad.

1. "50 years of the NBR" 1991, £10.60
1. "50 years of the NBR" 1991, £10.60
2. published 1991, £7.15.

Order for the above to sent to:

Publications Dept.,
RCHME, 37-40 Batters Street, London W1P 4B

The Handbook of British Architectural Styles

 David N. Durrant
Price: £8.99

IN THE HANDBOOK OF BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL STYLES David Durrant has set out to provide a concise, accessible guide for visitors to carry about and consult. Separate sections divide architecture into six chronological periods and within each section there are introductions to the background history of the period, brief recognition notes on styles and typical features, as well as lists of the best examples of the houses, churches, castles etc. that are open to the public.

The Harry Johnson Award

Harry Johnson was an architect who lived and practised in the North of the County. He was also a lover of the countryside and an active conservationist before the word became as popular as it is today.



Upon his death, the Council for the Protection of Rural England based in the County and the North Building Preservation Trust decided to commemorate his life and work by holding an annual Award bearing his name.

The Harry Johnson Award, now in its third year, is given to the best design of a new building or the best restoration of an old building either of which is in a village setting.

Nominations for the Award are mainly put forward by Parish Councils, who have shown great awareness of good design and appreciation of a job well done. The number of nominations has increased each year and the judges, drawn equally from both Societies, have found the task of deciding to whom the Award should be made a very difficult one. Apart from the high standard of each nomination - and this has been increasingly high - is the problem of judging like with unlike.

On the one hand, there is the tiny cottage lovingly restored by its owner, whilst living amid the disorder and chaos. At the other extreme, there is the wealthy owner able to afford the best professional advice and craftsmen, whilst continuing to live in comfort in another part of the house or even in another house.

The judges must be completely impartial and take every consideration into account. It is rather like being the judge of the most beautiful baby competition; the judge is always the losing, as each owner and village thinks that its entry is the best.

It has been exciting to see the high standard of restoration work being carried out throughout the County and the Harry Johnson Awards give a chance for others to appreciate the splendid results being achieved and to give some recognition to the proud owners.

The one disappointing feature of the Awards so far has been the dearth of new buildings submitted. It is hoped that somewhere within the villages of the County there are well designed new buildings, visually and socially acceptable within the community. It is possible that these will be revealed when the next batch of nomination are received.



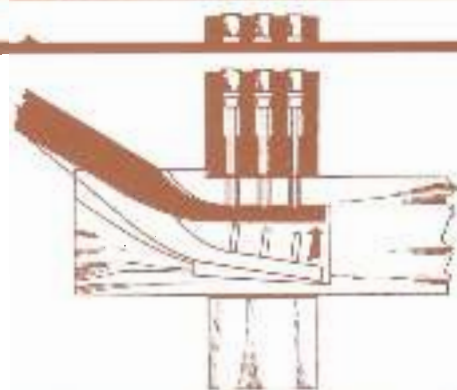
THE KEY TO THE PROBLEM or SOME NOTES ON NOTABLE LOCKS

A series of steps in the development of locks.

A series of steps in the development of locks.

It has been said that the earliest labour saving device was theft! This necessitated finding a means of securing person and property which continues to the present day in ever more complicated form. Apart from the simple hiding of articles, finding a mechanical means to outwit the wrongdoer has puzzled man for much longer than most people realise.

The first lock found from antiquity was a wooden lock discovered on the site of the Great Palace of Sargon at Khorsabad, in modern Iraq, of the same type as the first extant illustration of a lock and key on a relief in the Great Temple of Karnak in Egypt, dating from about 2,000 BC. The lock mechanism was encased in the guide for a horizontal sliding bolt and consisted of several wooden pins which dropped into corresponding holes in the bolt which was hollowed out to take the 'key'. This key, shaped rather like a toothbrush, had 'bristles' equal in



number and configuration to the pins in the guide. When inserted into the bolt and lifted up, the 'bristles' raised the pins until their lower ends were flush with the top edge of the bolt; consequently the bolt was free to slide. Once the key was removed, the bolt was locked again when the pins dropped into their corresponding holes. A similar type of lock could still be found in use in primitive places until well into modern times.

George and Val Oliver

25 Glorious Years 1967 - 1992

In April this year, the Notts Building Preservation Trust celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Trust was the brainchild of Jack Lowe, the then Director of Planning for the County, its first Chairman was Councillor A.E. Lester and its first Secretary Gordon Boylin.

Among the early Technical Advisers were Dr. Norman Summers, Harry Johnson and Professor Maurice Barley, all, sadly, now deceased.

The Trust started by offering advice and giving grants for the repair and restoration of historic buildings and members of the Trust began to

appear at Local Public Inquiries to give evidence as to the importance of buildings under threat.

The Trust began working at a time when Conservation was not the trendy word it is today but gradually the influence of and respect for the Trust began to grow. The Trust was giving an average of forty grants a year and these were mainly to the smaller vernacular buildings so often disregarded by others.

An indication of future trends came in 1975, when the Trust purchased two terraces of stockingers cottages at Windles Square, Calverton, which were scheduled for demolition.

The cottages were restored to a high standard and later sold to the newly formed Godling Borough Council as part of their housing stock. This successful operation was repeated later and was the forerunner of the Revolving Fund policy now operated, whereby buildings at risk are purchased, restored and then resold. Any profit returns to the Fund for investment in another property.

Many of the founder members are still active in the work of the Trust but the future for the Trust rests in the hands of the younger members and it is hoped that those will take an increasingly active part in the policy and work of the Trust over the next twenty-five years.



The first Chairman of the Trust - County Councillor A. E. Lester with Technical Advisers.

Greenwood Building Preservation

- WOODWORM •
- DRY ROT TREATMENTS •
- DAMPROOFING •

30 YEAR GUARANTEE

Carl Chamberlain

Phone 0602 637224

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The Sixteenth and Nineteenth Century Brickwork of Hodson Priory

Recently, a group of members joined the Notts Branch of the CPRE to visit the gardens* at Hodsock, which are now receiving attention from Lady Buchanan, after some years of obvious neglect. The approach drive from the Blyth Workson road, the B8048, leads across a medieval two-arched stone bridge over the infant River Blyth as it flows north to Blyth. Then, the early 16th Century brick gate house, listed Grade I, comes into view - a splendid sight for Nottinghamshire. Presumably a manor-house here would be a useful staging post when travelling on the Great North Road, the line of which is only three miles away. The nearest brickwork of this date which immediately comes to mind is that of the Scroby Manor-House of the Archbishops of York, which was also within a moat and is eight miles away to the north-west. One must presume that similarly, the remaining medieval buildings were of timber and consequently have gone.

At right angles to the gatehouse is the brick house remodelled with additions in 1873-8 by the interesting architect George Devey (1820-1888) whose practice reached its peak in the 1870s. After being concerned with designing cottages in Nott, he developed, as might be expected of a watercolour artist of some merit, a country house style with gables and a haphazard roof line so as to indicate growth over a period of time. His clients were aristocrats and bankers and perhaps his most notable house is Ascot, Bucks, for Leopold de Rothschild, 1874-75, 1876-80

a half-timbered hunting lodge, designed to be covered with creeper. Nearer to us is his brick extension and stable block to Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire, 1874-83. Both these houses are in the ownership of The National Trust.

*This building is included in the new publication, Tudor Trail by G Beaumont published by Notts County Council, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford.

H V Radcliffe



Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Limited

The N.B.P.T. was founded in 1957, which was also the year in which Conservation Areas were first listed by the Civic Amenities Act. The two happenings were not entirely coincidental and represented the groundwork for consideration of 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 30 individuals and groups who make an annual subscription to become Life members.

Today, the Trust's main thrust is through the Development and Conservation Committee. This Committee has produced a comprehensive list of buildings at risk which, inevitably, contains many buildings of architectural or historic interest which are threatened by neglect or over-development.

What, hopefully, remains these buildings of architectural or historic interest which are threatened by neglect or over-development.

The Trust then, investigates how best to save these 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 buildings are 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. The Trust's views are based solely on the architectural or historic value of the building and the effect that the application would have upon it. It is therefore an independent view, it is not always a welcome one.

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

New members are very welcome. The annual subscription, being only £5 (or copies), Contact the Secretary, Geoff Butler, at 2 Priory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 2EN (Telephone 616222).

To: The Secretary,
Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, Limited
2 Priory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 2EN
Tel: Nottingham 616222

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