

Hawksworth Place viewed from the Paddock.

HAWKSWORTH is a small, quite unspoiled village on the fringe of the Vale of Belvoir, surrounded by ideal hunting country, actually in the South Notts. Hunt territory, but bordered by the Quorn and Belvoir.

Hawksworth Place, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Peake, was once a rectory, and is in close proximity to the church, which dates back to Saxon times. It is of a most unusual architecture, the main body being built of stone and the square tower of very beautiful brickwork. The beauty of this typical Georgian house, which was extensively altered in 1780, lies in its balance and simplicity.

The Rev. G. H. Smytton lived at the Rectory around 1851, and the Rev. J. B. Webb, M.A., was there from 1873-78. The last rector to occupy it was the Rev. Bayles, who lived there with his wife, four daughters and two sons. The house was occupied as a Rectory until 1920 and was then sold as a private residence.

In 1939/40 it was occupied by the army and in 1941/49 was used as a hostel by the Women's Land Army. In 1950 it was bought by Mr. R. S. Peake, Joint Hon. Sec. to the South Notts. Hunt, Chairman of Richard Peake Ltd., and Managing Director of Smart and Shaw Ltd.

When he purchased the property it was in a very dilapidated condition: in fact a great many people thought it beyond repair. However, Mr. Peake tackled it, taking great care to keep everything in the right period. The renovations took over a year to complete; the dilapidated property being transformed into an ele-

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Hawksworth Place

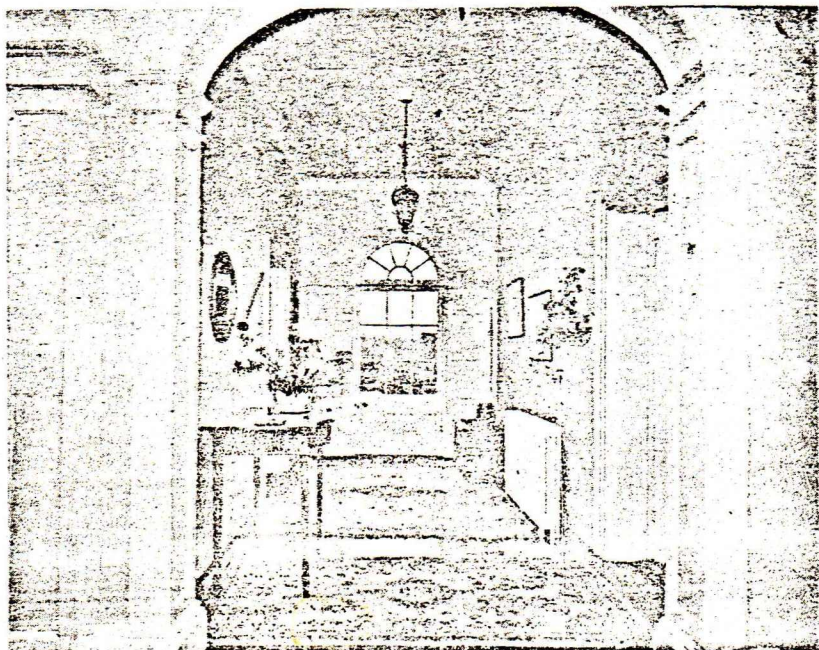
gant Georgian mansion. The house stands in five acres of grounds, one of the main features of which are the copper beech trees. The property also contains a paddock which is separated from the garden by white iron railings.

The entrance gates are wrought iron and a wide gravel drive sweeps down to the front door. There is a flagged terrace by the front of the house and two lots of steps go down to the lawn. Five urns, three of which came from Clifton Hall and two from Shelton Hall, stand on the terrace.

Two pillars, supporting a pair of old carriage lamps, are situated each side of the front door. On entering the long, wide hall one is struck by its lightness. All the paintwork is white (also throughout the house) and the walls are of the palest pink. To the left of the door is an oak chest and higher up, on the right is a Sheraton side table which originally was in Lord Byron's home at Thrumpton Hall. There are Persian and Indian rugs on the oak boards, and hanging on the walls are a set of Ackermann sporting prints of the Quorn Hunt in 1835. Also above the side table is a gilt mirror and an old coaching horn. Halfway up the staircase, which is carpeted in cherry red, is a window looking out onto the nearby church.

To the left of the front door is the drawing room, which again is light and airy and looks out onto the lawn and paddock. The curtains hanging from the three long windows are pale green damask and the walls are finished in old gold. The fawn coloured fitted carpet is Wilton, and the settee and chairs are embroidered in Lees panels. The mantelpiece is of Italian marble and on it is a Biscuitware figure of a girl on a lion. Over a side table is a gilt mirror which came from Clifton Hall, and a Vauxhall mirror hangs between the windows. Also contained in the room is a miniature sofa

The Hall showing the front door.



table, a Sheraton sewing table and a pie-crust mahogany table.

Next door to the drawing room is the dining room, which has an Axminster floral patterned carpet with a white background. The walls are panelled with gold coloured wallpaper and the curtains are of rose coloured velvet. The Adam fireplace has a reeded background and the dining table and chairs, which are covered in satin green and white regency stripes, are Chippendale. Above a Sheraton sideboard is a gilt mirror which also came from Clifton Hall. At the far end of the room is a china cabinet on which is a very lovely Dresden bowl. Above it is an oil painting by Spooner of Mr. Peake's favourite gun dog, Christmas Rose, a golden labrador, known to the family as Rosie.

To the right of the front door is a small room where table tennis is played. This is commonly known as the Parson's Room, and was undoubtedly used as a study by the previous owners. Up the stairs, past the half landing, are four more wide stairs under an archway to the landing. Here there were additions to the house in 1780 and now Mr. Peake has done away with the back stairs and servants' quarters and has made them into a flat. On the right of the landing is Mrs. Peake's luxurious bathroom, which has a fitted carpet of sage green. The walls are tiled halfway in yellow, the whole of one side has a fitted cupboard, and within is a kidney shaped dressing table with a petticoat of white sprigged chintz, and a stool to match.

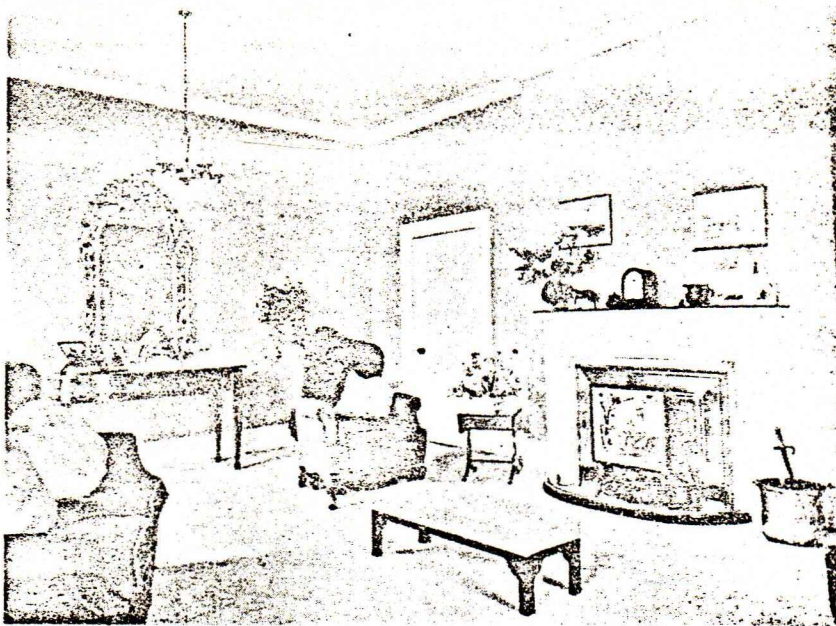
The main bedroom overlooks the paddock. It has a fitted fawn carpet and rose patterned wallpaper in locked nylon. The bedroom suite is in cream and gilt and the room contains a lovely old French chair upholstered in pink damask, and a pie crust mahogany table.

The main guest room has a fawn coloured carpet and biscuit coloured wallpaper with a motif of white leaves. On the twin walnut beds are rose coloured satin bedspreads to match the damask curtains and drapes round the dressing table.

On the west side of the house is a self contained suite consisting of a bedroom, bathroom and dressing room. The furniture in the bedroom is of mahogany, the walls of Queen Anne green, and the curtains, printed linen with a design of coaching scenes. The bathroom is in green and yellow, and the dressing room has a fawn carpet and white and maroon striped wallpaper.

In the stable yard there used to be a brew house and bakehouse which have now been pulled down.

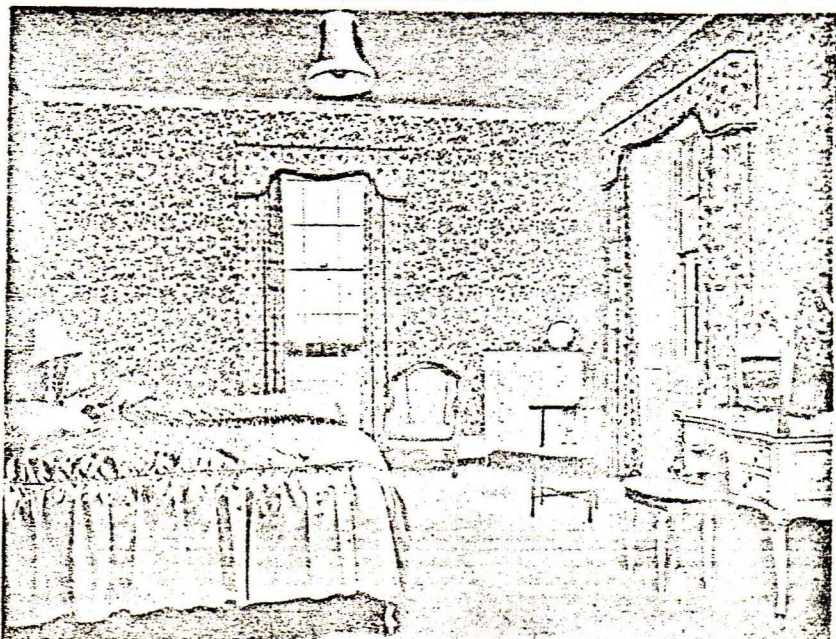
It is reassuring to know that this lovely old house is being well cared for in the hands of its present owners, and has once again assumed its rightful condition.



The drawing room.



The dining room.



The main bedroom.