

**MEMORIES OF BURTON —  
by Roger Walkinton**

My parents, Guy and Rachel Walkinton, together with my sister Rossie, moved into the China House shortly before Christmas 1955. I was christened in St Vincent's Church with one of my godparents being Sir Campbell Adamson (1922-2000) who in the late 1950s and early 1960s, lived in the Georgian House, before going on to become Director-General of the CBI and latterly Chairman of Abbey National. It was he, a keen musician, who paid for the electrification of the blower for the church organ whilst in the village.



**The China House**

Burton then had a smaller population than today. Close to Lincoln and within comforting earshot of the imposing Great Tom bell, and yet wonderfully rural, with ready access to fields and walks over to South Carlton — not to mention bicycle rides and walking our black Labrador. Burton was an idyllic place to spend one's childhood although there were actually very few other young children living in the village.

Local history, including the history of Burton and the Lords Monson, became an absorbing interest of mine as a teenager. I was able to glean that our house had been built around 1770 about two years after the celebrated architect James Paine (1717-1789) had completed the new south wing of Burton Hall, the only portion of the original Hall which still stands today. Only two years before, James Paine had completed a 30-year stint as architect of Nostell Priory near Wakefield some 50 miles away, now a property of the National Trust.

It is fun to speculate that the Menagerie house on the Nostell estate, with its Gothic pointed windows, may at least have influenced the curious three similar windows of the China House close to Burton Hall. The China House, named after the grey-blue china tiles lining the deep window recesses, was probably built partly as a Game Larder, partly as a Brew House, and was almost derelict by the early 1950s when the 10th Lord Monson (father of the present Lord) moved his family back to South Carlton Manor and sold the Hall and outbuildings to Mr William Pattinson, who gradually converted most of the hall's outhouses and stables into the dwellings we see today.

My earliest memories include: walking under the overhanging yew hedges along the main street on our regular walk to the cattle grid along the little lane leading today to the Myers farm which led eventually to another derelict and — we imagined — haunted house; the frail elderly Canon Caulton, the last Rector to live in the Rectory, taking us for Sunday School lessons in the church in his querulous voice and, with huge but smiling effort, hand-delivering the Parish newsletter supported by his two walking sticks; building endless dens and tree houses in the Hall Yard copse with a holiday friend who was the nephew of the owners of number 1, the Lingemans.

My first piano lessons with Joan Osterfield, then as now living in the converted Coach house, which has led to a lifetime of piano- and organ-playing; singing "Away in a Manger" as a solo one Christmas (probably 1971) in the Church Carol service in my blindingly bright red school cassock. Then becoming briefly the regular organist in succession to Mrs Rollinson who lived just beyond the Post Office and Bede houses; carol singing around the village and in particular generously being invited in to the Everetts modern house behind the Manor for welcome refreshments along the way.

I remember the abandoned cricket pavilion on wheels in the part of the Park between the China House and the bottom Dunster Lodge; tobogganing down the hillside below the house that Mr Pattinson had created using stone and windows from the demolished parts of his Burton Hall, down to the then ruined and — we again imagined - haunted Burton Hall; being taken to look at the old kitchens and cellars of the Hall still preserved underneath the garage and rockery of the Georgian House.

I recall visiting my sister's pony "Beauty" and later horse "Marcus" which were kept in one of the old stables between the Hall yard and Mexborough House, at the time when you could still walk directly through, past an old petrol pump; finding the path (in fact, the original village road) from the front of the Rectory directly down to the Hall Drive before it became completely overgrown and absorbed in to the Hall's parkland. There are so many memories.

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**SPRINGLINE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME**

The Good Neighbour Scheme covers the Springline villages from Burton to Ingham . The aim of the group is to assist those who because of age, ill health, disability or personal crisis need help and support.

This may be help in the garden or home, fetch prescriptions, provide a lift to the doctor or provide company for anyone feeling lonely.

If you know of anyone who needs help or if you wish to find out more about the Good Neighbour Scheme contact:

June Willows 01522 730521 or email  
hw@thebarn78.freemove.co.uk