

FROM JOSEPHINE HAWKSLEY, LAXFIELD, SUFFOLK

*(Extracts from a letter sent to Mary & Colin Robinson who are the present owners of Quinke House)*

My daughter gave me a copy of *Discovering Deddington* this Christmas. I found it very interesting and must congratulate all concerned with its production.

I lived in Deddington for about 14 years from November 1959. Deddington was very different then. A number of houses were still rented out for 7s 6d a week, and were very dilapidated, with corrugated iron roofs over deteriorating thatch and broken windows. The occupiers were only too happy to move into new council houses. We first lived in Dragon House (formerly Acacia House). My husband Anthony, a silversmith, had his workshop in the old kitchen with its cobbled floor and ingle fireplace. When we bought Quinke it was five almost derelict cottages. I understand that before being the workhouse, it was a farmhouse (the higher part) and a barn. It was made into five cottages in Victorian times.

The character of Deddington changed with the coming of firms like Alcan and Maxwell House to Banbury. Managers and executives started buying properties in the village, and they brought a different culture with them. George, a local character, used to live in the garage of Laurel House (he bought a week's supply of chips when the van came around!) Before that he liked to sleep in the church porch. He was very knowledgeable about steam engines, and travelled around the countryside visiting steam fairs. He was born in Deddington on the site of the Windmill. I believe that his brother was a gentleman's gentleman.

The Fair used to come to the Market Place once a year just for a couple of days.