

## THE 'INFORMAL ARCHITECT': THE BUILDINGS OF SIR THOMAS PARKYNS OF BUNNY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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*This article aims to provide an overview of all of Sir Thomas Parkyns's buildings both in and around his home village of Bunny, Nottinghamshire. These included a remarkable set of farm buildings, the subject of an earlier article in this journal but now enlightened by the results of further research.*

In Volume 7 (1993) of this Journal there was published a short article in the 'Notes' section, written by John Severn and entitled Sir Thomas Parkyns and his Barns and Farm Buildings at Bunny in Nottinghamshire - originally prepared in order to carry out a feasibility study for the sale of Bunny Hall (the Parkyns' ancestral home) and its adjacent barns during the early 1990's. On p. 67 of this publication, Severn wrote: -

*As time permits, the author intends to carry out further and more detailed research into the activities of this strange landowner, and if and when this is completed...it may be that the Editor will allow further space in a future journal to extend the story of Sir T.P. and his 'Contriving and Drawing all his Planns without an Architect'*

Sadly John Severn passed away before this research could be completed, and so in his memory and at the kind request of the Journal Editor I now submit my work on the architecture of Sir Thomas Parkyns, which I hope will go some way towards completing the tale John Severn began ten years hence. However, it is important that this piece be considered in conjunction with John Severn's earlier notes, which give some background into the life of Sir Thomas that I sadly have not got the space to expand upon here. In my opinion, by far the best work that has ever been done on the subject of the architectural work of Sir Thomas was that of Bernard Leslie Twelvetrees in both his 1970 Nottingham University thesis *Sir Thomas Parkyns and his Buildings*, and later in Chapter II (entitled *Sir Thomas the Architect*, pp. 5-9) of his booklet *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny* (Birlin Litho, 1973).

*Squire Parkyns lived in an age of rebuilding. 'Every man now,' wrote a near contemporary, 'be his fortune what it will, is to be doing something at his place, as the fashionable phrase is, and you hardly meet with anybody who, after the first compliments, does not inform you that he is in mortar and heaving of earth, the modest terms for building and gardening.'*<sup>1</sup>

*The appearance of the villages [of Bunny and Bradmore] today owes a great deal to the whims of the second baronet.*<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the most conspicuous of all of Sir Thomas Parkyns's buildings in Bunny is the old school and almshouses, a mellow red brick building in the heart of Bunny village, dated 1700. Four adjoining rooms to the school were originally designated as a Hospital, originally created to house four poor widows from Bunny and Bradmore. Sir Thomas's intention was that there should be a free school for the children of both Bunny and neighbouring Bradmore, and although the building was probably put into use straight away, it was not until 1709 that an official deed was drawn up by Sir Thomas's mother, Dame Anne Parkyns, who endowed the school with an income derived from land at Thorpe-in-the-Glebe<sup>3</sup>. In line no doubt with his own Enlightened education under the influence of Newton, the first master of the school (Sir Thomas's clerk and later renowned clock-maker, Humphrey Wainwright<sup>4</sup>) was required to teach 'so much trigonometry as relates to the mechanical and useful parts of mathematics'<sup>5</sup>, as well as other more Classical subjects such as Latin. As was the philanthropic tradition of the time, Sir Thomas's provision of this free school and accommodation for poor widows was fairly commonplace for a man in Sir Thomas's position - according to Prochaska 'Ownership of estates brought with it certain charitable responsibilities'<sup>6</sup>, most of which were small, parish-based/focused and traditionally associated with either endowments or almsgiving.

Nearby, on the opposite side of the main road, is the Parkyns' family seat of Bunny Hall (1723). It is believed that the original Bunny Hall was built by Sir Thomas's great-great-grandfather Richard Parkyns. The house at the time it came into the hands of Sir Thomas appears to have been a substantial building, and an inventory taken in 1626 following

<sup>1</sup> Beckwith I.S. (1964) 'Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny'. In *Nottinghamshire Countryside* magazine, Volume 25, Part 3, p. 23

<sup>2</sup> Jennings I.B. (1991) *Bunny and Bradmore 1640-1690: Change and Continuity in an Age of Revolutions* (Nottingham University MA Dissertation), p. 35

<sup>3</sup> Evans A. (2000) 'Three Centuries of Learning: The School from 1700, the teachers, curriculum and pupils'. In B. Bennett, J. Eastgate, C. Paul and A. Wain (eds.), *Bunny, Images of the Past: Recording the History of a Nottinghamshire Village* (Bunny Millennium History Group 2000) p. 54

<sup>4</sup> See also Marshall V.A. (2000) *Parkyns: CHARITY TERCENTENARY* (Bunny & Bradmore Charities), pp. 12-15

<sup>5</sup> Chambers J.D. (1966) *Nottinghamshire in the Eighteenth Century* (Second ed.) (Frank Cass & Co.), p. 307

the death of George Parkyns shows that it contained a great-chamber, a dining-parlour and about eight bedrooms, besides kitchens, a dairy, and numerous out-buildings<sup>7</sup>. Sir Thomas inherited the estate in 1684, and in 1723 embarked upon a vast and ambitious programme of both building and renovation of the Hall at a cost of over £12,000<sup>8</sup> (it has been suggested that Sir Thomas was able to afford such hugely expensive projects due to his no-doubt considerable inheritance from his mother Anne Cressy<sup>9</sup>). A first impression of the extraordinary north front and tower could be that of a building put together in a series of improvisations from bits and pieces collected on the site, perhaps even from demolished buildings, but such an impression would almost certainly be wrong - Sir Thomas was very proud of his draughtsmanship, and boasted on his epitaph that he erected his buildings in accordance with plans and elevations drawn by his own hand. There is little question that the whole building is an extraordinary mixture of styles and materials<sup>10</sup>. Unfortunately, the manor house in East Leake that Sir Thomas built in 1704 only stood for around 80 years before it was demolished, and seems never to have been occupied by Parkyns or his family<sup>11</sup>.

As Susanna Wade Martins has noted, the new farmsteads erected by Sir Thomas in the 1720's and 30's were not part of a process of enclosure - like so many of the model farmsteads that appeared in increasing number in the latter part of the century - but instead were built to serve open-field farms<sup>12</sup>. The only dated example of Sir Thomas' farm houses to survive is *Rancliffe Farm* (1736) on Farmer Street, Bradmore - this structure is a lofty double-pile house with 'Sir T P 1736' picked out in black brick headers on the gabled apex on the main front. Almost exactly square on plan, the building is roofed in two spans with steep brick-coped gables and large axial chimneystacks. However, there are a number of other houses in the district, which though bearing neither initials nor date have many features characteristic of a Parkyns building. Examples in Bradmore are *Parkyns House* on Farmer Street, and *Tofts Farm* and *Debdale Farm* (now divided into two separate dwellings) on Loughborough Road.

In Bunny itself, it seems likely that Sir Thomas built the old laundry in Bunny Park, the old Post Office and at least part of *The Rancliffe Arms* inn - much of the 17th century façade of *The Rancliffe Arms*, with its traces of timber framing and old tile roofs, has survived, though the old blacksmith's forge and stabling have long since gone, and the old entrance to the yard is now bricked up to provide a public bar. At one time the front was recessed with gabled wings facing the road<sup>13</sup>. The coped gable on the north side has clearly been reconstructed, and the recess between the gables has been filled in - this addition is marked by a parapet with three decorative rings in headers, below which is a bay window of even later date. Inside can be seen some of the original main ceiling beams, and the great fireplaces, though boarded over, can easily be identified. Attached to the north side of the inn is a sizeable building with the remains of ventilation holes, indicating that it was once a barn, and this extension now forms the main lounge and part of the restaurant. Over the

carriage entrance is a flattened segmented arch, similar to that over the bar window. Both the walls of the inn and those of the converted barn are substantial at one foot four inches thick<sup>14</sup>. The original inn had no plinth, but the bottom eight courses of the old barn are built out to some three inches projection below a cornice of four oversailing courses<sup>15</sup>, a typical Parkyns touch.

Another interesting feature of the present *Rancliffe Arms* is the old farmhouse cottage and pigeoncote, now in the middle of the car park area. Formerly known as Park Farm, it was designed and built for Sir Thomas Parkyns in the early 18th century<sup>16</sup>. The western gable wall is corbelled out on the first floor, and has 17 rows of entrances for birds, and flight perches. The building is something of a rarity in that it is the only dovecote or pigeoncote in Nottinghamshire built as part of living quarters - in 1973 applications were made for the demolition of the building, but the pressure of public opinion resulted in Grade II listing<sup>17</sup>. Some houses built about the same time have no clear Parkyns features, but could well have been built by him - among these contemporary houses are *Blackcliffe Farm*, *Barn Close Farm*, *Rufford Lodge* and *Fircroft* in Bradmore, and *Fairholme Farm*, the *White House*, *Home Farm* and *Ivy Cottage* in Bunny. But Sir Thomas did not merely limit his activities to the erection of houses - he also built a number of remarkably fine barns (using trusses of the through-purlin tie beam type), as well as Bradmore post-mill. It is probable too, that he made a duck-decoy to the west of Bunny village, an ice house in Bunny Park, and the Water House (dated 1701) near the top of Rough Hill in East Leake, which formed part of an elaborate water supply for Bunny Hall and the old school house<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Prochaska F.K. (1990) 'Chapter 7: Philanthropy'. In Thompson, F.M.L. (ed.) *The Cambridge Social History of Britain 1750-1950: Volume 3 - Social Agencies and Institutions* (Cambridge University Press), pp. 361-7

<sup>7</sup> Ellis Flack G. 'Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny'. In the *Thoroton Society Transactions*, Volume 49 (1945-1946), p. 31

<sup>8</sup> Taken from Parkyn's personal papers (NRA 11714 Parkyns), held in the *Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections* at Nottingham University Hallward Library, reference Pa C 72

<sup>9</sup> Hunt K. in Bennett et al., p. 29. However, this logical assumption must be incorrect - both Marshall, V.A. (p. 29) and Twelvetrees, B.L. (1973) (in *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*, Birlin Litho, p. 5) agree that Sir Thomas's renovation of Bunny Hall did not begin until 1723, and Anne Parkyns had died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1711, therefore any inheritance granted to Sir Thomas surely must have been spent for him to become in danger of bankruptcy in 1717.

<sup>10</sup> 'An incongruous medley of incongruous styles. Brick, stone, stucco - you can find samples of everything at Bunny' - taken from Firth J.B. (1924) *Highways and Byways in Nottinghamshire* (Macmillan & Co), p. 74

<sup>11</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*, p. 5

<sup>12</sup> Wade Martins S. (2002) *The English Model Farm*. (Windgather Press), p. 217

<sup>13</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*, p. 6

<sup>14</sup> Symonds S. (2000) 'A Hostelry of Some Repute: The History of The Rancliffe Arms'. In Bennett et al op. cit., p. 48

<sup>15</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*, p. 6

<sup>16</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (1989) LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST: BOROUGH OF RUSHCLIFFE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, p. 23

<sup>17</sup> Symonds S. (2000) in Bennett et al op. cit., p. 49

<sup>18</sup> Marshall V.A. op. cit., p. 31

Examples of Parkyns' barns can be seen on both sides of the drive leading up to Bunny Hall, one dated 1734 and part of the other 1718. Apart from two king post trusses, all the trusses are of the collar-and-beam type, and some of the great double-doors are still harr-hung. In Bradmore, a Parkyns barn, erected about 1736, stands adjacent to Rancliffe Farm. It is almost certain that Sir Thomas also constructed the outbuilding of Debdale Farm on the main road - this is now used for rearing pigs, but at one time the ground floor consisted of stabling, and there was a malthouse above reached via an external iron stairway. Moreover, a fine example of Parkyns architecture can also be seen on Farmer Street in neighbouring Bradmore - *Stafford House* (formerly *Barn Close*) is a combination of three former Parkyns buildings (a house, barn and outbuildings) which are now home to *Web Enterprise Network Limited*, an online data management software design company.<sup>19</sup>

There are certain key features that can be used to help identify Parkyns' barns or farmhouses, as most of his structures (including *Stafford House*) share similarities in their design. For example, their foundations usually consist of large blocks of limestone, above which there are often relieving arches in brick. The lower courses of the walls are usually built out to form a plinth, which in the more important structures is stone-capped. The walls may be further reinforced by an angle-buttress at one or more corners. The scantling of the timbers is generous, and the walls can be as thick as two and a half feet. In the larger buildings, Flemish bond (sometimes with vitrified headers) is used, or more rarely a variant of English bond. The bricks vary in colour from deep red to buff, according to the proportions of boulder clay and marl in their composition. There are many dark headers, and these are frequently used for decorative effect.

Stone-mullioned windows are found in the earlier buildings, such as Bunny School and the old Vicarage - elsewhere, the lights are held in wooden frames with flattened segmental arches above, which usually project some two inches to form a drip course. Brick stringcourses are common in south Nottinghamshire, but (except in the case of Bunny's old Vicarage) Sir Thomas seems to have avoided using them. On the other hand stringcourses in the form of square-cut stone bands can be seen at both Bunny School and Almshouses and *Highfields Farm*. The tops of the walls of farmhouses and barns often terminate in numerous oversailing courses, and some eaves are sprocketed. In the barn roofs, trusses of the through-purlin tie beam type are used, sometimes with a king post, but collars or lower angle struts are more common. The tie beam either rests on the wall plate or is notched into it, so that the ridge is in line with the axis of the building. There is no ridge-piece, and the purlins are only partly sunk into the backs of the blades. In almost every Parkyns barn, wall posts and braces, supported by brick corbels, are found below the tie beams. *Home Farm Buildings* (built in 1739, but now demolished) retained part of its original roof covering of flat tiles, and the original thick slates from Charnwood can still be seen at Bunny School, but where the roof pitch is over 51 degrees it is likely that the first covering was thatch.

Rising above the roofs of his farmhouses, Sir Thomas erected a large, nearly square, axial chimneystack. On the ground floor below, back-to-back fireplaces often provided heating for either the hall and kitchen, or hall and parlour. Here the floor was paved with stone slabs or bricks, though some parlours were probably boarded. The main ceiling beams vary in section from ten inches to one foot, and are roughly chamfered with insignificant stops. The bedroom floors were normally plaster and ash. Sir Thomas was fond of arches, both segmental and semi-circular, and they are often found in his large houses and lesser structures over windows, doorways, fireplaces and carriage-entrances.

Although Sir Thomas' building activities extended over some 40 years, his ideas seem to have changed little - to Bunny School and Almshouses (one of his earliest buildings) he gave stone-mullioned windows, a steep-pitched roof and a rusticated door surround, thus producing a structure 17th century in spirit, and over 20 years later he built Bunny Hall with outmoded features such as diaper-patterned brickwork and Gothic arches<sup>20</sup>. Sir Thomas was an individualist, building according to his own ideas and paying scant attention to contemporary fashions or the restraints of formal discipline (traits characteristic of the 17th century architectural style, even though Sir Thomas carried out most of his building work in the 18th century<sup>21</sup>) - Colvin has even gone as far as labelling Parkyns' design of Bunny Hall as '*belonging to the lunatic fringe of the Baroque*'<sup>22</sup>. In fact, many architectural historians have passed comment on Bunny Hall, including Firth (who termed the building '*Crazy Hall*'<sup>23</sup>), Marsden (who called the Hall '*astonishing*' and '*weird and unexpected*', as well as claiming that the example of Bunny Hall '*shows what happens if a Squire insists on being his own architect*'<sup>24</sup>) and Deering (who termed the Hall '*remarkable for being massive and strong, which was the late Sir Thomas' taste for building*'<sup>25</sup>). Willing enough to use classical embellishment, Parkyns was unprepared to submit to the restraints imposed by harmony of design - Bunny School, for example, is the only Parkyns building with a symmetrical façade.

Perhaps Parkyns' greatest architectural feat was the wall around Bunny Park estate - built over a period of three years and costing £5,000<sup>26</sup>, the wall is over three miles in length

<sup>19</sup> Information kindly supplied by G. Radcliffe (CEO of Web Enterprises Network Limited, and owner of Stafford House). in an e-mail dated Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

<sup>20</sup> In this sense, Sir Thomas was some 40 years ahead of his time, as the classical architectural style did not begin to go out of vogue until some time in the 1760's, which saw the early start of a Gothic revival in such structures as Alswick Castle and Wealden House (1779) - see also Beckett J.V. (1986), *The Aristocracy in England, 1660-1914* (Basil Blackwell), p. 328

<sup>21</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. (1970) *Sir Thomas Parkyns and His Buildings*, p. 40

<sup>22</sup> Colvin H.M. (1978) *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects, 1600-1840*, (John Murray), p. 622

<sup>23</sup> Firth J.B. op. cit., p. 74

<sup>24</sup> Marsden C. (1953) *Nottinghamshire*, (Robert Hale) p. 121

<sup>25</sup> Deering C. (1751) *Nottinghamia Vetus at Nova*, (Ayscough & Willington) p. 231

<sup>26</sup> Taken from Parkyn's personal papers (NRA 11714 Parkyns), held in the *Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections* at Nottingham University Hallward Library, reference Pa C 72

and clearly made using handmade local brick<sup>27</sup>. It is a massive structure, six feet high, 20 inches (four bricks) at the base and 15 inches (three bricks) at the top. However, the wall is of such great importance as it also lays claim to being the first wall of its kind in England to be built wholly on brick arch foundations<sup>28</sup>. As discussed previously, the use of arches was both a speciality and common feature in all of the various designs and building work of Sir Thomas, as arches are one of the strongest forms of construction, pinpointing the total weight of any superstructure above the arch at the base of the piers (arch legs) or columns. The tops of many of these arches can still be seen to this day projecting just above ground level. Unfortunately, the wall is currently showing signs of fairly rapid deterioration, with the top beginning to collapse due to a lack of any real maintenance over the years.

When the wall was built around the estate in the early 1700's, the low-lying ground was very damp and there was no drainage, so building the wall on arches allowed for some sections to sink further into the ground. Another possible reason for Parkyns' use of arches was that trees growing by the wall were able to spread their roots under the arches 'and so produce a bigger head and more fruit'<sup>29</sup>. Another interesting feature of the wall that has previously been largely ignored is that there are three different types of coping to the top of the wall - the wall on the west boundary had ridge shape bricks, the north and east boundaries both have large flat stone coping slabs, and the southern boundary has a ridge-shape brick atop decorative diagonal bricks from the third course down.

There was originally a gate into the estate from all four boundaries. The north gate was effectively the main entrance to the Hall from the road. The west gate entered the Hall grounds proper, adjacent to the Brook Road bridge in the extreme south west corner of the estate - this entrance entered the estate via a separate bridge over the brook and along a tree-lined avenue through what was known locally as 'the Wilderness', and separated the Hall from *The Rancliffe Arms* and adjacent farmhouse buildings. The south entrance was again accessed over a bridge over the brook midway along the southern boundary and through a pair of brick gate piers - just to one side of this entrance are the remains of a small integral building, possibly for the use of hunting dogs, although the section of wall from the south gate to the south west corner of the park was demolished many years ago. Lastly, the gate on the eastern boundary was a very conspicuous and imposing feature, with massive gate pillars that clearly carried very large gates - the pillars contain brick-arched recesses, possibly as sheltering places at ground level and meant to contain statues at a higher level, with the tops of the pillars carrying stone-carved examples of the Parkyns crest, the Teazle<sup>30</sup>. The wall also contains a brick-arched roof recess over a brick seat by the roadside, towards the northern end of the east wall, with a Latin inscription over the seat that read '*Hic sedeat Viator si tu defessus es ambulando*' (translated as 'Sit here Traveller if you are tired of walking')<sup>31</sup>. In 1971 the Park was sold to Nottingham University for £65,000<sup>32</sup>, preserved 'as memorials to this tireless and worthy squire'<sup>33</sup>.

There is little question that Sir Thomas was determined and reasonably eccentric, and these two facets of his personality are arguably well illustrated by his architectural achievements - furthermore, the vast number of these works (most of which still survive in fairly unchanged form after nearly 300 years) comprise what could perhaps be described as the greatest reminder of the Baronet, and also as the most significant aspect of his historical legacy. Nevertheless, looking at Sir Thomas's buildings in both a regional and historical context, it is apparent that his architectural style was maybe not as eccentric and unusual as may first appear - his 1723 neo-Gothic renovation of Bunny Hall (as Pevsner has also noted) bears several elements characteristic of other contemporary architects of the time (most notably Vanbrugh, although there is no firm evidence to suggest any links between the two). Moreover, Sir Thomas's numerous farm buildings, which comprise by far the largest proportion of his architectural work, are arguably of a fairly generic style typical of the time<sup>34</sup> (although these buildings too are significant, as most now hold at least Grade II listed building status<sup>35</sup>). Furthermore, although the £12,000 that Sir Thomas spent on his biggest project (Bunny Hall) was certainly not small either for Sir Thomas's means or for the period in general (a modest country house could still be built from scratch for around £3,000 in the late 17th century), it must be considered that this was by no means one of the most costly country house building projects being carried out at that time - the Earl of Leicester, for example, paid around £92,000 between 1732-66 for his residence at Holkham in Norfolk<sup>36</sup>.

It is also important to stress that Sir Thomas was not an entirely anomalous example of a provincial amateur architect, either for the period or for Nottinghamshire (even though he was arguably the most prolific and significant in the county, at least for this period) - as well as John Plumtree<sup>37</sup>, Marshall Tallard, whom Sir Thomas wrote to during his incarceration in Nottingham, also seems to have been a keen amateur architect, and during his time on parole drew up the plans for *Leeds House*, which stood where Smith's Bank is now<sup>38</sup>. Nevertheless, the relatively unknown Sir Thomas should be recognised as a notable and historically important architect both for his time and for Nottinghamshire - and the pigeoncote that stands in the car park of *The Rancliffe Arms* holds the impressive accolade of being the only one in the county ever built as part of living quarters, and Parkyns' park wall is similarly significant in that it was the first in England to be built wholly supported by brick arch foundations<sup>39</sup>.

<sup>27</sup> 'The former brickyards, now owned by Messrs H J Baldwin and now producing concrete blocks and other building material, are those of Sir Thomas Parkyns who must have needed a considerable supply of building bricks during his lifetime as the most prolific local builder in the early eighteenth century. His structures were almost entirely of brick with clay plain or painted roofs, and these brickyards are situated centrally to the villages, in which he owned much land, and very close to Bunny Park.' - taken from Severn J. (1993) 'Sir Thomas Parkyns and his Barns and Farm Buildings at Bunny in Nottinghamshire'. In the *Journal of the Historic Farm Buildings Group*, Volume 7, p. 67

<sup>28</sup> Parkyns, Sir Thomas (1664-1741) - entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography* Vol. XLIII (OWENS-PASSELEWE) (Smith, Elder & Co., 1895), p. 320



Figure 1: Almhouses, Bunny - front view, showing St. Mar's Church in background.

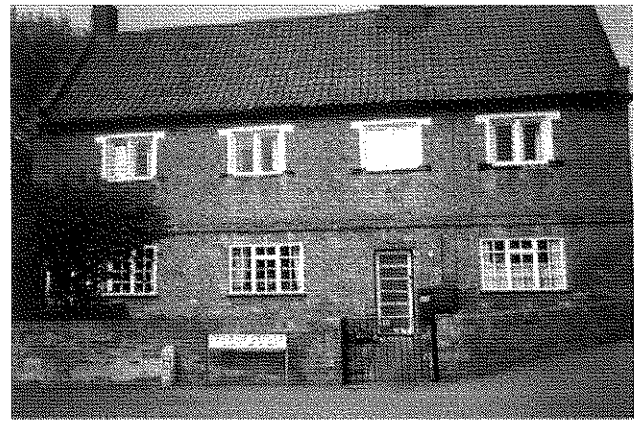


Figure 2: Home Farm, Bunny.



Figure 3: Bunny Hall - tower/front view.



Figure 4: The Rancliffe Arms, Bunny.

<sup>29</sup> This assumption, began by Thorsby J. in 1797 and reiterated by both Ellis Flack G. (p. 32) and Beckwith, J.S. (p. 23), can now be largely disregarded - Marshall V.A. (p. 24) states 'Trees were only planted the North and East boundary walls, presumably to afford some protection from the then much colder winter's winds and snow from the North East. Conversely the Southern boundary was without trees to maximise sun and heat on the land ... Even if the yield of fruit from the tree argument was true, it is very likely that an increase in a harvest of acorns and horse chestnuts would have been of any significance.'

<sup>30</sup> This is clearly open to interpretation. For centuries the crest had generally been accepted as depicting a Pinecone since first appearing on the Parkyn's crest pre-1559, a view supported by the Parkyns family themselves until Sir Thomas Parkyns, the third Baronet, petitioned for the crest to be recognised as depicting a Pineapple in 1757. However, the Harleian Society lists the crest as a Teazle in their publication No. 5 (1986) - for references and further discussion see Marshall V.A. op. cit., pp. 36-38, Buckland W.E. (1897) Chapter 14 of *The History of Woodborough* (Sisson and Parker), online at [www.ukonline.co.uk/woodborough-heritage/buckland/buckland17chpXIV](http://www.ukonline.co.uk/woodborough-heritage/buckland/buckland17chpXIV), p. 4 and Perkins-Lynch S. *History of the Perkins Coat of Arms*, online at [www.freepages.cultures.rootsweb.com/~perkins](http://www.freepages.cultures.rootsweb.com/~perkins)

<sup>31</sup> Marshall V.A. op. cit., p. 25

<sup>32</sup> Norbury G. (2000) *The Answer Lies in the Soil*. In Bennet et al op. cit., p. 80

<sup>33</sup> Twelvetrees B.L. *Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*, p. 9

<sup>34</sup> Colvin H.M. op. cit., p. 622

<sup>35</sup> DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, op. cit., pp. 3-32

<sup>36</sup> Beckett J.V. *The Aristocracy of England, 1660-1914*, pp. 330-331 and Table 10.1 Examples of spending on country houses p. 332

<sup>37</sup> Plumtree (an M.P. for Nottingham (1704-1741), similar to Sir Thomas, also was a keen philanthropist and amateur architect - between 1712-15 he built his own house (which used to stand on the North side of St. Mary's Church in Nottingham until it was pulled down in 1855), and in 1720 founded of the Blue Coat Charity School in Weekday Cross for the purpose of promoting education among the poor. He was also a patron of the welfare of the Hospital, adding two new tenements in 1751 - see also Mellors R. (1924) *Men of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire* (J. & H. Bell), p. 271

<sup>38</sup> Mellors R. op. cit., p. 38

<sup>39</sup> Marshall V.A. op. cit., p. 23