



YHA (England and Wales)  
Youth Hostel Profile

compiled by the Association's volunteer archivist, John Martin, 2023-08-21

## Sherwood Forest Youth Hostel 1998 to present with an introduction outlining Nottinghamshire's earlier youth hostels

Before the establishment of Sherwood Forest youth hostel in 1998 there had been several attempts to operate YHA premises in Nottinghamshire. These were almost all in the pioneering period between the early 1930s and the war years, and most were very short-lived accommodation hostels; only Southwell hostel operated for a significant period immediately post-war. A brief summary of Sherwood Forest's predecessors follows here.

Early in 1933, an unidentified newspaper article local to Nottinghamshire confidently announced the impending opening by the newly formed Notts Committee of the North Midlands Regional Council of two hostels, one at Forest House, on the cross-roads in Edwinstowe, and the other at Eastwell in Leicestershire:

### The First Youth Hostels in Notts and Leicestershire.

THE first youth hostels on the shilling-a-night system organised by the Notts Committee of the North Midlands Regional Council of the YHA are announced to-day. The first is at Edwinstowe in North Notts and the second at Eastwell, just over the Leicestershire border. Both will open up new areas to ramblers and cyclists and will form important links in the national chain.

Forest House, situated on the cross roads at Edwinstowe, will have accommodation for eight men and eight women, and being only 19 miles from Overton Hall, at Ashover, in Derbyshire, will be a valuable link in the east to west branch of the chain across England.

On the borders of Sherwood Forest it will throw open to ramblers the whole area of the Dukeries, not only for visitors from the immediate area of Notts. but from farther afield.

The Eastwell hostel is at Eastwell Lodge, a charming farmhouse six miles from Melton Mowbray, and 28 miles from Edwinstowe.

Both hostels will open for Easter, and Lord Trent has provided the first beds for each hostel. Each bed-place costs £3 to equip. The beds are of British manufacture throughout, and the donor's name appears on them. Other gifts are expected from influential county residents. Considering that the Notts. Committee was only inaugurated three months ago this is wonderful progress.

Mr PA Charles, Secretary of the Notts and Derbyshire Ramblers' Federation, who is also secretary of the Notts YHA Committee, stressed the necessity for an intermediate hostel between Edwinstowe and Eastwell, in an interview today. Search is being made, he said, for suitable premises that will afford a convenient half-way stop, somewhere near a crossing over the Trent. 'It is hoped to have this third hostel open for Whitsuntide, but of course, everything depends on the number of new members enrolled and the support we get from interested patrons,' Mr Charles concluded.

No more is heard of this plan and it is very doubtful that it came to fruition. Newstead Abbey hostel may have been a hurried replacement, though itself short-lived. Eastwell hostel did open however, and is the subject of a separate profile in this series.

## Newstead Abbey Youth Hostel 1933 to 1935

Longdale Farm, Longdale Lane, Linby, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 575526

The North Midlands Region annual report, 1933, stated that Newstead Abbey youth hostel, also called Linby, had opened for a four month season in 1933, when takings amounted to one pound, three shillings and fourpence (£1.17). Thereafter there were 394 and 238 bednights respectively in 1934 and 1935, before closure that year. 18 beds were provided, reducing to just 10 in 1935.

It was an adopted hostel, run by Mr and Mrs Walker, on a mushroom farm. Postcards of Longdale Farm such as the example below, with no clear YHA identification, suggest that it may have provided some kind of agricultural hostel accommodation, perhaps before YHA's brief tenure. It closed as Mansfield Woodhouse was being established.



By the 21st century the property was running as a small private school.

## Mansfield Woodhouse Youth Hostel 1935 to 1940

Park Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse, Dunham Road, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

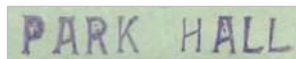
GR: SK 543651

Mansfield Woodhouse youth hostel, also called Park Hall and the Cyclists' Hostel, was an altogether more serious proposition than others in the county before the war. It opened on 23rd March 1935 and was sufficiently purposeful about its YHA connection to offer the tenancy to the YHA Trust, on 12th November 1935. The warden was Mr F Church throughout.

Park Hall was a grand 17th-century mansion in substantial grounds, built originally for the Digby family. During the early 20th-century it suffered the common indignity of decline, sale and fragmentation. In 1935 it was clearly aligning itself with the large hostels in the Peak District, and was offering beds for 50 men and 50 women, though in reality the usage was never comparable.

Geoff Baldwin wrote in his Easter holiday log, 1939:

We had a little difficulty in finding it. There was a table tennis set at the hostel but we did not have any games as there was only the light of an oil lamp to play by. There were no other people staying at the hostel.



*A rare stamp of the Park Hall hostel, Mansfield Woodhouse, from FS Tysoe's 1939 membership card.  
Spaces for stamping were not introduced onto YHA's cards until 1939 (author's collection)*

The hostel continued for a year or so into the war, though with the usual uncertainties and disruptions. *Nottingham Evening Post* of 5th January 1940 announced:

Park Hall is now fully open, the evacuees having returned to their homes; it was the scene of a happy party last weekend.

The facility continued until YHA announced its closure in summer 1940. As a tenanted adopted hostel with a distinctive alternative title, it may have functioned independently both before 1935 and after summer 1940, until inevitable requisition by the army. The Mansfield Woodhouse Heritage Link website suggests that the hall fell into ruin and was demolished in the 1980s. No trace remains.



*Images of Mansfield Park youth hostel.*

*1: coloured card of the hostel from the south-east; 2: postcard of the entrance hall; 3: West London Group's photograph of the lounge; 4: the members' kitchen; 5: domestic duties; 6: postcard from the north-east (YHA Archive)*



## Fiskerton Youth Hostel 1936 to 1937

Fiskerton Grange, Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 723506



Fiskerton youth hostel was the first Nottinghamshire youth hostel in the south of the county. It was an old farmhouse on the north bank of the Trent, near to Rolleston racecourse. It opened in 1936, after September, and achieved 608 bednights before hurried closure early in 1937, for reasons unknown.

After a hiatus for most of that year, a replacement was found in Kneeton, even further south in the county and on the south bank of the Trent.

*Left: author's 2004 photograph of the former Fiskerton youth hostel*

## Kneeton Youth Hostel 1937 to 1939

The Vicarage, Kneeton, East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 708459

Kneeton hostel opened in 1937, after September. Its warden was Mrs Wilkinson; the same name was recorded as warden at Fiskerton. It was a comfortable large red-brick former village vicarage standing some way from the church in a small village. In recent years a neighbour recalled that the villagers used the hostel store as their shop. The span of hostel activity here lasted barely two years.

The threat and onslaught of war created havoc in YHA, with many smaller adopted hostels closing peremptorily. The Sheffield YHA sub-Region Bulletin, Autumn 1939 advised of closure.



*Right: author's 2004 photograph of the former Kneeton youth hostel*

## Tuxford Youth Hostel 1937 to 1938

Eastfield House, Dunham Road, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 708459

Eastfield House is a capacious red-brick villa. It stands east of Tuxford village centre, just to the east of where the Lincoln Road passes over the main line railway.

Its youth hostel days were brief. The *Nottingham Evening Post* of Friday 21st August 1937 announced that the new hostel at Eastfield House, Tuxford, would be open for visitors that weekend, with room for eight men and six women. The newspaper's date was therefore probably the same as the opening night – Friday – for the YHA. Only 20 bednights were registered between that date and the end of September: the only widely broadcast advertisement may

**TUXFORD. N.M.** **95**  
 Mrs. Monk, Eastfield House, Dunham Rd., Tuxford, Notts.  
**Position and Map.**  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. E of Tuxford,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. S Retford ; 16 m. Lincoln.  
 O.S. 46. Bart. 13.  
**Station.** Tuxford. **Bus.** Newark—Retford.  
**Next Hostels.** Mansfield Woodhouse 16 m. Kneeton 18 m.  
**Other Details.** M. 8. W. 6. Store : Hostel. P.O. : Tuxford. B. 1/3,  
 L. 9d., S. 1/4. S.B.H. J. I.P. Bring Slippers.

well have been the Nottingham paper. The hostel had missed an entry in the YHA's annual handbook, being in time only for the amendment sheet.

*Left: The 1938 handbook for Tuxford youth hostel*

Right: in the absence of an authentic YHA photograph of Tuxford youth hostel, this more recent image, taken from the rear garden, must suffice (author's photograph, January 2002, by permission of the owner)



Although there is no record of the type of tenancy, Mrs Monk was almost certainly the house-owner of an accommodation, or adopted, hostel: one operated privately under the banner of the YHA. They were common in the pre-war period, but often lasted only briefly. The *YHA Rucksack Magazine* of Easter 1938 stated that the hostel had closed early in that year, at short notice. The North Midland Region's annual report for 1938 gave the date as a little later, June 1938. A mere 77 overnights were recorded between 1st October 1937 and the closure, 97 in total.

The hostel could have been in a useful position for wider YHA use than just for Nottingham members: it would suit cyclists on the A1. If it had lasted longer, it may well have gained a reputation amongst rail enthusiasts as the ideal place to stay, as the garden backed on to the LNER London-Edinburgh line, with its procession of crack express trains and locomotives.

## Edwinstowe School Youth Hostel 1942 only

Thought to have been located at King Edwin School, Fourth Avenue, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 619664

In the early war years Derbyshire Education Committee and the North Midlands Region of YHA showed enterprise by securing four village schools as makeshift youth hostels to supplement or stand in for regular local hostels for a few nights each. The scheme also extended to Edwinstowe School in Nottinghamshire, thought to be today's King Edwin School on Fourth Avenue. It operated here in 1942 only, and recorded 200 bednights.

North Midlands Region was seeking solutions to overcrowding. Its 1942 annual report stated that here was a peak period hostel intended for non-member children groups, and that it was popular with members.

## Southwell Youth Hostel 1944 to 1964

Burgage Manor, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 703541



Burgage Manor, Southwell, was an important youth hostel in the twenty years after the war. It was an impressive 16-room Georgian manor house, built 1802, where Byron had spent holidays in 1804 and 1806. He was said to dislike the provincial *village* intensely. The building housed a hospital during World War I. It was Grade II-listed in 1952, while in the service of YHA. The Association included a special sign in annual handbooks to indicate its architectural and historical merit.

Unlike all the previous hostels in this study, it was a fully-controlled example, purchased freehold for £2,200 and registered with the YHA Trust on 18th April 1944. The Ministry of Education, especially supportive at this time, grant-aided the acquisition, and there was a further gift of £750 from the American Trades Union Council through the British War Relief Society (a broadly similar gift aided the contemporary York youth hostel). The United States connection was strengthened when Miss Sara Lamport, of the American Embassy in London, attended the official opening on 22nd July 1944, though the hostel may have already been in service by then.





These posed images of opening day, 22nd July 1944, were no doubt recorded with positive YHA publicity in mind.  
 1: a very large crowd fills the space in front of the hostel. The Stars and Stripes and YHA triangle are on full show;  
 2: a delightful posed study of hostellers on the rear lawn on the big day; 3: hostellers' welcome by warden or wardens;  
 4: guided tour, and a display of the latest fashion accessories; 5: refreshments; 6: intense relaxation (YHA Archive)

The first wardens were Mr and Mrs Barnes. There was accommodation in 1944 for 86, 56 beds for men and 30 for women, but the total was soon reduced to 80. The hostel was immediately popular, though the 1944 North Midlands annual report recorded that expenses were £782 but receipts only £493, no doubt reflecting initial setting-up charges.

The Rev George Greenhough was a keen hosteller at this time. His many holiday logs and hostel recollections are a treasure in the YHA Archive. He stayed at Southwell in 1947, and commented:

We saw a white-faced building with a green triangle containing the letters 'YHA', surrounded by a cluster of trees. This was the youth hostel! We wheeled our bikes through a side door, deposited them in the garage-cum-cycle shed, and signed in at the door. I was with my older sister. After collecting our belongings from our cycle bags and baskets, we departed to our respective dormitories and washrooms to make our beds (which consisted of a straw mattress and three blankets, together with a sleeping-bag) and to have a much-needed wash. There was hot water in this hostel, but it was not used, in preference to cold on that day, which had been so hot. There was also a bath and a foot-bath, but in neither of these was there a plug, so the water had to be kept in by means of one's heel...

We passed the time before dinner, at half-past seven, the usual time. This meal consisted of potatoes (in plenty), meat, and a second vegetable, and a sweet. Afterwards, we did our duty, which consisted of washing the pots...

When we returned to the hostel, we saw through the conservatory that a game of table-tennis was in progress in the hall, so we hurried in to join them. After an enjoyable game, and a snack issued from the food hatch at ten o'clock, we retired to bed, for me, a very hard, though not lumpy one...

Next morning, I got up at seven thirty, to a breakfast consisting of porridge (without milk or sugar), a fried course, and bread and jam. Rationing was still in force.

Social gatherings were commonplace in youth hostels in the 1950s. *Rucksack Magazine* of September/October 1954 announced:

Rabbit-Pie Supper. At Southwell Hostel on Saturday, 25th September, there will be a rabbit-pie supper, followed by a social evening, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the opening of this hostel at Burgage Manor. It also marks the beginning of the monthly social evenings of the winter season. Supper will be served at 7.30pm and tickets are 2s. 3d. [11p] each.

Mr and Mrs Wombwell took over the wardens' duties in 1958. There are no records of the wardens after that.

Pat Packham was another who left a legacy of wonderful observations to the YHA Archive. She had a keen eye for necessary improvements, and noted during a 1960 stay:

My dormitory was huge and smelt rather damp. The hostel had been given to the YHA by some Americans; it could certainly have done with some painting inside.



*An unattributed photograph of the fine Georgian façade of Burgage Manor, Southwell (author's collection)*

After the first flush of popularity, leading up to 1950, however, usage at Southwell hostel tailed off, and in the final few years was much too low to maintain an expensive Georgian building. *Youth Hosteller Magazine* of November 1964 announced that the hostel was closed. The property was sold a year later, on 12th December 1965, for £4,250.





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1: Ron Sant took this rare colour transparency of the hostel on one of his many long-distance hostelling and cycling adventures. It is dated April 1950; 2: YHA one-inch pin badge, displaying Southwell's famous minster (author's collection); 3: a view of the lovely rear garden of Burgage Manor in April 2014, 50 years after the hostel's closure. When YHA acquired the property, it came with almost 2 acres of grounds, though the Association sold some land for housing development and some outbuildings were demolished. This view helps locate the second image on page 6 (author's collection, by permission of the owner)

## Nottingham Trent University [summer YHA Campus facility] 2003 to 2004

Norton Court Hall, Wilton Road, Radford, Nottingham NG7 5PQ

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

GR: SK 554406

YHA Campus hostels were an attempt by YHA to utilise empty student accommodation in university cities and towns during the summer months in 2003 and 2004. They included Luton, Plymouth, Portsmouth, and here, Trent University in Nottingham. A decade or so later, Leeds continued the scheme for a few years.

In 2003 a 100-bed Nottingham Campus hostel operated, at an uncertain site, but which may have been the same as the following year's Norton Court Hall facility in the city. Rooms were priced at £20. Accommodation was in single-bedded en suite rooms, with kitchen facilities nearby.



## Sherwood Forest Youth Hostel 1998 to present

Forest Corner, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire NG21 9RN

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

GR: SK 624671

YHA Sherwood Forest is a purpose-built youth hostel developed in the late 1990s by the local District Council in partnership with YHA. It stands at the edge of the considerable public park amenity and from the first-floor lounge there are views of the adjacent forest.

In the mid-1990s Gerry Croad from Newark and Sherwood District Council gave details of the project which would deliver a new purpose-built youth hostel to YHA during 1998 at Edwinstowe in Sherwood Forest. It was designed to cater especially for families and to incorporate several state-of-the-art environmental features and access for the disabled. Gerry explained the considerable efforts which had gone into obtaining funding for this project, which was within a European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 area of former coal mining activity. Unlike the similar contemporary Rochester (Medway) project, this scheme would involve a capital contribution from the YHA. As at Rochester, Gerry Croad emphasised the importance to his Council of there being no ongoing revenue costs and this was reflected in the lease which had been agreed. YHA would lease the property.



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YHA Sherwood – early stages.

1: the ground floor taking shape, October 1997; 2: good progress, November 1997; 3: an artist's impression of the new scheme. The upper window was later redesigned: see the postcard image on page 11.

(YHA Archive)

While building was in progress, *YHA News* of spring 1997 elaborated:

#### First Look at Forest YHA

The hostel project has been made possible by a complex funding package put together by Newark and Sherwood District Council, with generous help from a number of agencies and a modest financial input from the YHA. The site, formerly occupied by a British Coal laboratory, is on the edge of Edwinstowe village and looks out over the Major Oak Country Park. The site is now cleared and building work will start shortly.

The striking building will provide modern facilities inside, whilst at the same time making minimal impact on the environment and being 'green' in terms of insulation and use of water. The accommodation, which comprises four 2-bedded rooms and eight 4-bedded rooms [the room sizes were soon modified], will be orientated towards families. All rooms have showers and wash basins en suite with toilets either en suite or adjacent. Five of the 4-bedded rooms have been specially adapted to take a family of up to five, two adults and three children, and feature a 'double sized' bottom bunk.

Experts at Newark and Sherwood District Council have designed a building making use of local bricks and timber from sustainable forests, which is both fully central heated and 'green'. Special energy saving measures include 10 inches of insulation material in the roof and an air locked entrance. Water consumption is to be substantially reduced by collecting all the rainfall from the roof and car parking area. It is then filtered and pumped up to roof level for use in toilet flushing.

The public areas of the hostel will reflect the needs of our customers, as indicated from the latest survey findings and also taken from good practice seen elsewhere. YHA's Regional Director, Dave Allison, has even been over to Northern Ireland to see the latest YHANI Youth Hostel at Giant's Causeway to pick up ideas.

Although not large enough to justify a full catering service Sherwood Forest will be able to offer food to customers, probably on a call order type basis. Some of the findings of a recently set up Catering Working Party will be put into practise for the first time. The current timetable sees the hostel being open for business by Easter 1998, with everyone hoping for an excellent first season, adding to the million-plus visitors per year who already walk in the steps of Robin Hood.

The hostel opened on 8th May 1998. An official opening followed on 16th July 1998, led by Richard Simmons CBE, Chairman of the Countryside Commission.



Opening day. Dignitaries pause for the camera outside the new hostel, against a background of Sherwood Forest. Derek Hanson, YHA Chairman is in the light-coloured suit, while Maid Marian and Robin Hood look on. Later in the day Richard Simmons CBE, Chairman of the Countryside Commission, unveils the plaque that still graces the hostel (YHA Archive)



*YHA News* of Autumn 1998 led the accolade: on Thursday, 16 July 1998, Richard Simmonds CBE, Chairman of the Countryside Commission and Cllr Alan Hannaford, Chairman of Newark and Sherwood District Council, were accompanied by Maid Marion in an open topped landau on their drive to the opening ceremony of Sherwood Forest Youth Hostel. Derek Hanson, YHA's Chairman, welcomed them to the hostel on the edge of Sherwood Forest Country Park. The custom-built property in the heart of Robin Hood Country would accommodate up to 45 people in 2- to 5-bedded en suite rooms. Other facilities included a dining room – offering a range of good value meals – self-catering facilities, drying rooms and cycle storage, together with a first-floor lounge with views across the Park to woodland.



*The hostel looking spick and span.*

- 1: postcard view from the north-west, early on, before YHA signage was complete. The cobbled area is the hostel car park;  
 2: one of a series of official photographs from 2004, from the north. Note the upper window at the front, modified from original ideas, and now part of a balcony lookout over the adjacent Sherwood Forest. Note also the substantial purpose-built hostel manager's garage to the left, later hired out, then modified as a games room and classroom (YHA Archive)



*YHA News* continued by describing further the state-of-the-art design of the building: the roof insulation was made from recycled paper, heat exchangers would use warm air from kitchens and bathrooms to provide background heating and water could be reclaimed from the roof and car park.

Newark and Sherwood District Council provided the funding for the new building, with assistance from the Rural Development Commission, the European Regional Development Fund and the Single Regeneration Budget. Paddy Tipping, local MP and a loyal supporter of the YHA, spoke enthusiastically of how helpful and supportive everyone involved in the project had been. A feast was laid on by YHA hostel staff from Sherwood Forest and Ilam Hall.

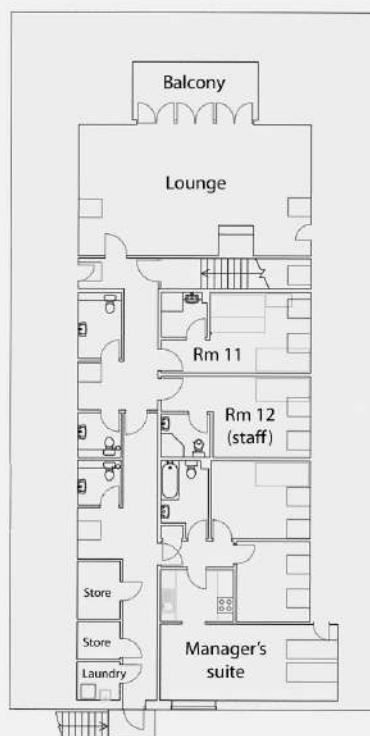


*1: youngsters enjoy a hostel breakfast, collected from the brand-new servery. The photograph is dated May 1998;  
2: an external view from 2004. This image was taken from the west, across the car park, and shows the neat design of ground floor family rooms, each with its own dividing trellis and outdoor space (YHA Archive)*

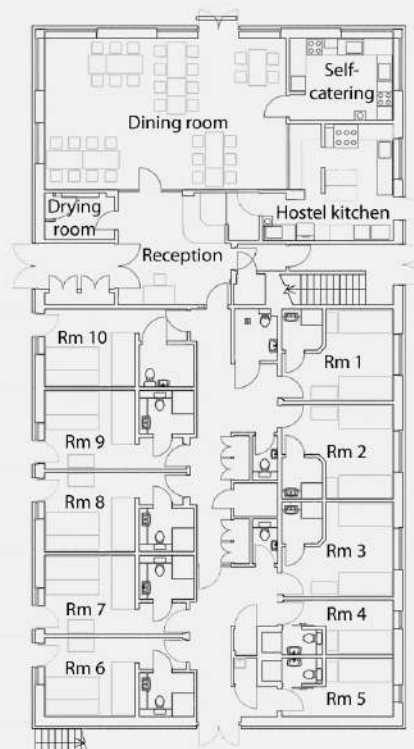
The first hostel manager was Gavin Corfield. Iain Wilson was in post from about 2001 to 2007, followed by Andy Partridge (about 2007 to 2009), Neil Baldwin (2009-11), Richard Hayes (2011-12), Russell Williams (2012-13) and Michelle Kaye (2013-14). Alan Kempson arrived in November 2014 and has been manager ever since.

It is intriguing that the bed capacity as shown in YHA handbooks was 45 or 46 in 1998, but 39 only between 1999 and 2007, possibly a different interpretation of the 'family double-plus-single' bed. Thereafter it was again 48, after an increase of 9 beds in the capital building programme. The bedrooms on the ground floor have retained the very substantial green-stained timber beds also seen at the contemporary Liverpool Albert Dock hostel. Other ideas for 2007, not realised, were to convert the manager's flat into a games room or 8-bed dormitory, and to provide a stair-lift to the upper floor.

First  
floor



Ground  
floor



## Sherwood Forest Youth Hostel

*Youth Hostels Association plan of YHA Sherwood Forest. Dated December 2006, the layout was still substantially the same as built, except that Room 11 upstairs had already been converted from staff to guest use, and the exit shown at the side of the manager's suite never existed. Further modest changes came from 2007 onwards (plan simplified and redrawn by JM, from original CAD drawings)*

Some features of the hostel's initial design have not survived: worthy but complex ecological features that were named in the opening construction remit tended to become unreliable after a short time in practice and expensive to maintain because of their specialised nature. A 2003 review claimed that YHA Sherwood Forest was 'some of the best quality accommodation in the network', yet the heating system and rainfall collection system were already obsolete.



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7 8



1-6: YHA Sherwood Forest – Public spaces. 1: reception, with dining room to the left and stairwell to the right; 2: cheerful dining room, attractively furnished; 3: quiet space leading to self-catering kitchen; 4-6: the upstairs lounge. It features chimney breast, balcony and canopy views; 7-8: YHA Sherwood Forest – Bedrooms. 7: one of the two 3-bedded ground floor rooms with the distinctive 'family double-plus-single bed' and private entry door; 8: one of the three 4-bedded ground floor rooms (official YHA images, about 2011)



Further changes to the first floor came from 2007, when the manager announced his intention to vacate the manager's flat in favour of living locally. This freed up more guest space, and by degrees the flat was converted to two further guest rooms (13 and 14) and a small staff bedroom in the original manager's lounge.

YHA Sherwood Forest benefited under the 'Springboard' programme of light-touch hostel improvements in 2016. By this time the premises were being used increasingly for school and other groups hiring the premises exclusively, with families and individuals restricted more and more to gaps in these bookings or to school holidays.

2020 was a devastating year in YHA's development, as the turmoil of Covid and its impositions restricted to a bare minimum the number of hostels trying to provide a service, against all odds. Sherwood Forest closed in March and remained out of commission for much of the year. There was a little more use in 2021, though against a background of constantly shifting medical and government advice, severe restrictions for guests on freedoms and services, and the 'Staycation' craze. School groups were able to begin again here in 2022, though staff shortages and leaping prices dominated YHA's agenda. Groups and exclusive hire dictated the business model in 2023, by which time usage of the hostel was heading back towards the numbers of its record year, 2019. One distinctive market at the hostel in 2023 has been local primary school groups that book for a single night to give a taste for longer trips elsewhere.



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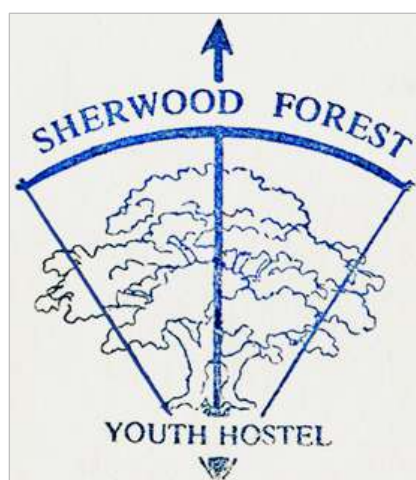


5 6



*Tasteful refurbishment during the 2016 'Springboard' improvement programme included a new pale blue paint scheme.  
1: bedroom corridor, ground floor; 2: dining room; 3&4: the upstairs lounge; 5: rear gable and fire escape;  
6: attractive floral roadside welcome, with 'YHA' picked out in coloured stones (author's images, July 2023)*

Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows									
1933-1964: previous Oct to Sept; 1998-present: Mar to following Feb									
N: Newstead Abbey youth hostel; M: Mansfield youth hostel; Fiskerton youth hostel;									
K: Kneeton youth hostel; E: Edwinstowe School wartime summer hostel;									
U: Nottingham Trent University campus hostel;									
J: Southwell youth hostel; Δ: Sherwood Forest youth hostel									
*: 17 month period; +: notional figure included for exclusive hire and/or camping;									
ø: operation affected by Covid									
1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
...	...	...	openN	394N	238N	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	1765M	2640M	2146M	1927M	1939M
...	...	...	...	...	...	openF	608F	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	openK	849K	784K
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20T	77T	...
1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
854M	...	200E	...	1959J	4553J	4238J	4748J	5149J	openJ
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
4256J	3678J	2977J	2487J	2717J	2525J	2263J	2020J	1913J	1967J
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1887J	1500J	1803J	1535J	1582J	...	...	...	...	...
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7737Δ	7846Δ
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
7878Δ	6935Δ	7746Δ	7400Δ	7347Δ	8013Δ	7732Δ	7117Δ	7737Δ	7846Δ
...	...	...	openU	openU	...	...	...	...	...
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7685Δ	7494Δ	8409Δ	7952Δ	9098+Δ	9412+Δ	9864+Δ	10056+Δ	10047+Δ	10642+Δ
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
2479ø+Δ	6423ø+Δ	8106ø+Δ	open+Δ	...	...	...	...	...	...



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1: Sherwood Forest hostel stamp; 2: author's image of the Sherwood Forest Major Oak, March 2009