

A HERIOT PATCHWORK

EDITORIAL

The title of this little volume is no accident. The researches of a small group of locals have revealed substantial gaps in our knowledge of the history of Heriot, hence the choice of title. Thus we do not pretend that this is in any way a complete document. Indeed it is our hope that the exhibition which is being held to coincide with the publication of this booklet will jog many memories and encourage people to shed new light on the history of our community. Given new material it may well be that another booklet will follow.

It is our desire not just to impart some information about events past, but also to entertain at the same time.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks are extended to all those near and far who have contributed in so many different ways.

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HERIOT VILLAGE

The advent of the railway appears to have changed the centre of Heriot from the hamlet by the church to the station so in effect there are now two parts of the village — sometimes distinguished by terming them Heriot Village and Heriot Station. The road leading up from the station past the school and church to Blakehope and the Dewar has remained largely unchanged and is still a popular route for tourists and "Sunday drivers". The area of Heriot by the station has developed over the past 40 years from a few houses into a small village. The council built 14 bungalows behind the existing row of houses and also provided a small play park. There has been little private development lately, just one new bungalow in the past decade; inadequate water and sewage supplies prevent further building and this enables Heriot to maintain a village atmosphere.

The Police station which was built in 1921 was unmanned in 1979 and then sold as a private house, Heriot now depends on the Constabulary at Stow and the observances of our Special Constable. The old post office on the main road was demolished in 1982 — the original having been closed several years before — in preparation for the new piece of road between Hangingshaw and Falahill scheduled for 1984. The present post office is now situated by the garage at Hangingshaw and also comprises the village shop.

The Skew bridge at Falahill was demolished in 1982 when the first part of the new road was completed. The railway station was sold privately in 1980 and converted into a charming cottage. The land along the tracks is also being sold.