

# Fothergills Spire

## Renovated offices will show architect's work Building a tribute to city's designer



**CITY DESIGNER:** Watson Fothergill

By **MATT LADDIN**

A LANDMARK city centre building has been restored to its former glory.

A crane was used to swing a 12ft replica steel finial — the top part of a spire — into place on the roof of the former Watson Fothergill offices.

The listed building in George Street, Hockley, is being completely renovated.

For years the property — once the offices of Nottingham's most celebrated architect — stood empty. Now two professors who bought the property, built by Fothergill himself in 1895, are funding its restoration.

Terry Bennett and Sheila Gardiner, professors of physiology at the University of Nottingham, will open the building to the public before Christmas.

Putting the finial on the roof meant George Street had to be closed to traffic for an hour on Sunday morning.

Prof Bennett said: "We want the building to look as glorious as it once did — and that meant replacing the finial.

"The original one unfortunately corroded away over the years.

"It's taken about four weeks for local craftsmen to build it. The original finial was built out of cast iron, while the new one is welded steel.

"I'm so pleased with the way it has turned out — it's exquisite."

A contemporary art gallery featuring



**RESTORED:** The Watson Fothergill finial is finally replaced

FOGPHOTO C181102M5-2

the work of local artists has already opened in the building.

But Prof Bennett also wants to stage an exhibition celebrating the work of Watson Fothergill.

### Designed

The Victorian architect designed a range of famous buildings, including the Nottingham Express building in Parliament Street and the Black Boy Hotel in Long Row.

Prof Bennett explained: "We hear about Robin Hood all the time, and the importance of the lace industry is well recognised, but the city has never given proper prominence to Fothergill.

"We hope to change that by creating

full awareness of his contribution to Nottingham architecture."

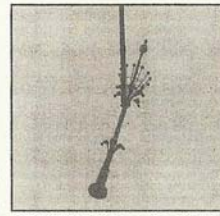
It is hoped the building, which was designed for Fothergill and his assistant, will also contain a resource centre for visitors and academics.

Prof Bennett, from Beeston, added: "Fothergill built his offices to exhibit his talents and illustrate his love of the Gothic style.

"Recreating the original fittings and fixtures is the best way to demonstrate his talents."

The professors bought the building privately after deciding it was time Fothergill was commemorated.

They want to share the architect's work with the younger generation as well as visitors to the city.



**IN THE AIR:** A crane swings the finial

- LATE CHEMISTS**
- NHS Direct, 24-hour helpline: 0845 4647
- ARNOLD AND WOODTHORPE:** M N Singh, 77 High Street, to 7pm; Sainsbury's Pharmacy, Nottingham Road, to 10pm.
- BEESTON AND LENTON ABBEY:** Grawal Chemist, 38-40 Chilwell Road, to 7.30pm; Jardines Pharmacy, Sainsbury's Complex, Beeston, to 6.45pm; Manor Pharmacy, 24 Chilwell Road, to 7pm.
- BULWELL:** Burrows & Close, 1-5 Main Street, to 6.30pm.
- BURTON JOYCE:** 49 Main Street, to 6.30pm.
- CHILWELL:** NCC Chemists, Co-op Superstore, Swinney Way, Toton, to 8pm.
- DAYBROOK:** Snowden-James Pharmacy, Daybrook Health Centre, Mansfield Road, to 6.30pm.
- EAST LEAKE:** Manor Pharmacy, 12/14 Gothar Lane, to 6.30pm.
- EASTWOOD:** J S Keyes, 2A Church Walk, to 6.30pm; Hill Top, 205 Nottingham Road, to 6.30pm.
- GAMSTON:** Safeway Pharmacy, Lings Bar Road, to 10pm.
- HEANOR:** Manor Pharmacy, 67 Mansfield Road, to 6.30pm.
- HUCKNALL:** Health Centre Pharmacy, Curtis Street, to 7pm; Hills Pharmacy, Unit 1, Farley's Lane, to 6.45pm.
- HYSON GREEN:** Wilburn Chemist, 74 Gregory Boulevard, to 7pm; Canning, 61 Ilkeston Road, to 7.15pm; Collins Pharmacy, 5/4 Radford Road, to 7pm; Asda Pharmacy, Asda Superstore, to 9pm.
- JACKDALE:** Accorn Pharmacy, 8-10 Main Road, to 6.30pm.
- KEYWORTH:** Corson Pharmacy, 9 The Square, to 6.30pm.
- MANSFIELD:** Safeway Stores Pharmacy, Nottingham Road, to 8pm.
- NETHERFIELD**
- CARLTON:** Elaine Shelton Westdale Lane, to 6.30pm.
- NEW BASSFORD:** Sbc Chemists, 37 Beech Avenue, to 6.30pm.
- NOTTINGHAM CENTRE:** Glasshouse Chemist, 4 Glasshouse Street, to 9 Boots 11-19 Victoria Centre 7pm; Canning, 2 Beasme Hill, Old Market Square, to 6.30pm.
- RIPLEY:** J. H. Hurst, 5/7 1 Street, to 6.30pm.
- SHERWOOD:** Loyds Cher 678 Mansfield Road, to 6.30pm; Jayplex Chemist, Mansfield Road, Woodthorpe, to 6.30pm.
- SNEINTON AND ST ANN:** Parmar, 298 Woodborough Road, to 7pm; Coh Chemists, 14-16 Col Road, to 7pm.
- SOUTHWELL:** Lix Chemist, 2-4 King Street, to 6.30pm.
- STAPLEFORD:** Hill Pharmacy, 143 Notting Road, to 6.30pm.
- STRELETT:** Omega Cher 25 Flinsteed Road, to 6.30pm.
- SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD:** Manor Pharmacy, Horn Close, Skegby Road, to 6.30pm.

Working closely with the customers Architects, the spire was closely copied to emulate the original. Using Modern materials and manufacturing CAD CAM and plasma profiling techniques the leafs and pineapple shaped pinnacle were recreated.



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Design and Build Air Movement and Fabrication Specialists.

**Client:-**  
**S W Broomhead Builders**  
**Project:-**  
**Fothergills Spire**

*Forging Relationships in Shaping Metal*