

## REPAIRS TO THE COURT HOUSE, JURY STREET, WARWICK



The Court House in Jury Street was constructed in 1725 as part of the restoration of Warwick after the Great Fire of 1694. As such it represents a fine example of the new and fashionable Palladian Architecture that was in distinct contrast to the Elizabethan style of the towns half-timber buildings. Along with the nearby Parish Church, which also had to be rebuilt, it was constructed using the local stone that had in former times been used for the Castle - a soft buff-coloured sandstone.

The building is in need of repair and in order to promote best conservation practice, a search has been made of the local quarries for this particular stone. One suitable quarry has been traced with the help of the Keeper of Geology of the County Museum.

Permissions have been granted to retrieve a small amount of stone from the North Woodloes Quarry on land owned by the Warwickshire Golf Club just north of Warwick, following extensive enquiries for a number of ecological concerns. This exercise is in line with the policies of the Warwick County Council which actively promotes "local stone for local buildings" a matter that is of singular concern in Warwickshire on account of the wide diversity of stones in the County-from the red sandstones in Coventry, greenish Arden sandstone as seen in Baddesley Clinton, White Lias and Blue Lias Limestone to the East and to the South, the rusty-brown Marlstone and yellow-ochre Guiting stone.

Quarrying will take place using time honoured practice of tongues and feathers and expert stone masons will season the stone prior to sawing to the required sizes.

The need for the same stone is not merely that of matching the stone for appearance but the recognition that inserting harder stone leads to wind scouring of neighbouring stones and problems with water penetration and frost damage.

The work is being funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund