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THE WELFITTS STORY GOES BACK 300 YEARS

STANDING well back from the main road through the North Lincolnshire village of Wold Newton, overshadowed almost by the nearby manor, is a comfortable-looking house of stone, with wide, cottage-type windows, but no front door.

**MAY WE
COME IN?**

Strangers might well pass it by as just another family house. And in so doing they would be overlooking one of the oldest houses in the village and one, certainly, with the oddest of names. "The Welfitts" they call it, after, it is said, a Mr. Samuel Welfitts who lived there some years ago.

300 years old

When it was built some 300 years ago, The Welfitts was a large, rambling farmhouse with room to house all the farm workmen. But over the years a room has been taken off here, a corridor there, until it remains a comfortable, family house. "It is just the right size now," says Mrs. Robert Dale who, with her farmer husband and three young children, lives there. The Dales have lived at The Welfitts since they were married in 1949. In those seven years Mrs. Dale has turned an ordinary old house into a gracious home, combining the old and new with such skill that they blend happily together.

With a flair for furnishing and a love of contemporary design and colour, Mrs. Dale has made the most of the best of the house and contrived to disguise the worst of it.

In the dining room, for instance, there is a lovely double window sill which, instead of being shrouded by heavy curtains, is left bare to display some exquisite pieces of Wedgwood.

Colourful contemporary curtains frame the windows and the whole of this wall is papered in deep red with a gold motif. As a contrast, the remaining walls are a neutral shade and the fitted carpet is blue.

The fireplace, although

modern, is of stone with the initials D monogrammed underneath the mantelpiece. Surprisingly enough, the old, polished dresser—the only really ancient piece in the room—is not out of place in this modern decor.

Breathtaking

A breathtaking piece in a drawing room, which is the essence of comfort, is the chandelier of crystal and gilt.

It once graced a Danish embassy—which one is not known. And in place of the electric light bulbs were candles.

Focal point in this gracious room is a corner cupboard—one of the original pieces in the house.

It has been given an up-to-date treatment, decorated in crimson and gold, and used as a display alcove for choice pieces of china.

A twisting staircase, another remnant of the original house, leads to a wide landing and spacious bedrooms.

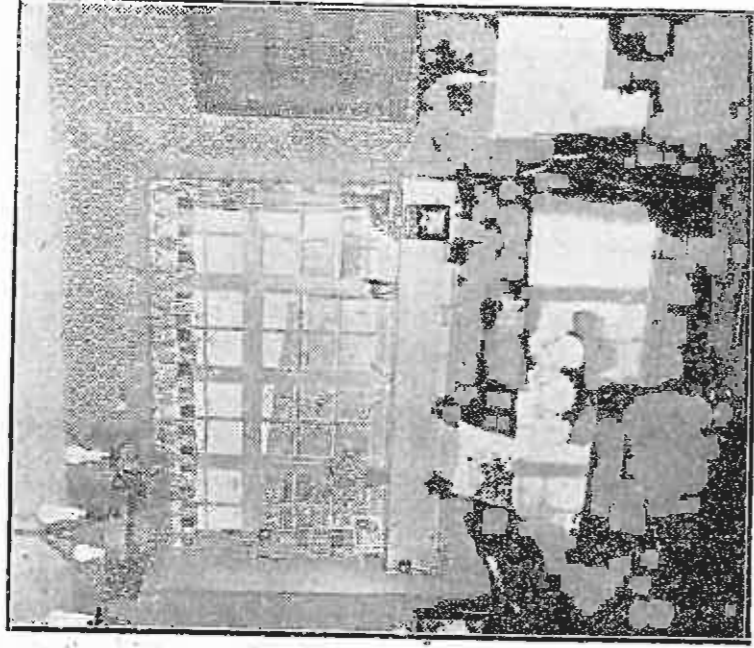
For the main bedroom, a striking candy striped wallpaper in green and ivory has been used, and is repeated in the lamp shade. Covers of delicate floral design and original Alice Webb paintings of flowers complete the room.

The playroom for the Dale children—six-years-old Marian Ruth, Edward (five) and two-years-old Rosamund—is a gay affair with nursery rhyme folk running riot over the walls.

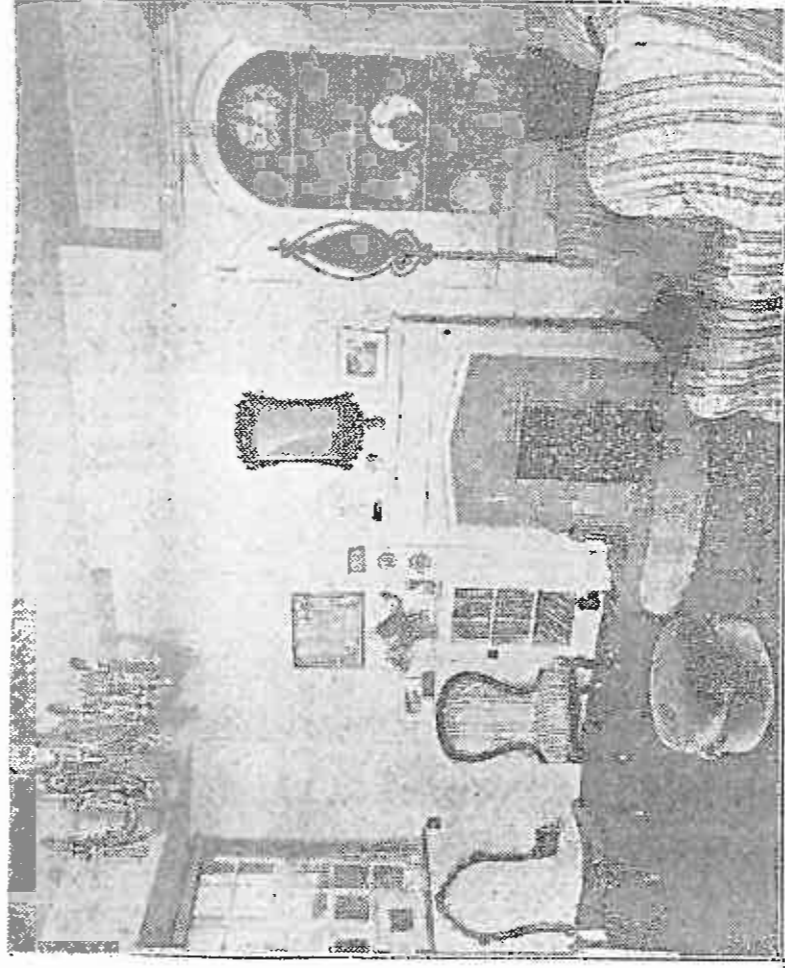
Built to last

Like most old houses, The Welfitts was built to last. Its walls are more than four feet wide in most places.

In the hall, stone paved but carpeted for comfort, hangs a bell with the inscription, in Latin, "He who touches me hears my voice."



A panel of deep crimson and gold frames the double window sill in the dining room.



Two features in the elegant drawing room are the crystal-gilt chandelier and the corner cupboard.