

Round and About in the Parish.....

In Sheffield Forest, as you enter from the direction of Sheffield Mill are some massive rocks near to where once stood a gamekeeper's cottage. Go down past the mill, turn left and walk up. The shop was near where there are big rhododendrons and a chestnut tree.



The footings could once be seen, but when the Forestry Commission took over they dug them out. It was however fairly easy to spot where the cottage had stood as it was a sunny glade and was distinguished by the rest of the forest as the vegetation was different. It was late autumn and there were masses of Foxgloves, which indicated disturbed ground.



In the early 1900's the cottage was



occupied by an elderly couple who made it into a small shop for walkers, selling sweets, tobacco etc. The old cottage/shop was pulled down about 1930. It was known as Keeper's Cottage, or sometimes Black Cottage.

This photo shows the cottage when it was used by a game-keeper, shown here with two of his dogs.

This was not the only little building in the

Forest. In Lord Sheffield's day organised shoots took place in the Forest and because it was too far to go back to the big house for lunch, a very smart butler and a footman would bring out the lunch and lay it out in the little hut shown below.

There was a roaring fire to keep the shooters warm, but the beaters had to sit outside. The hut was match-boarded inside and Peter Richardson who was a game-keeper on the estate is shown here with his three dogs and he remembers the time when it was a well maintained hut. When not in use for the shooting parties the keepers used it as a hut where they stored corn for the pheasants. This photo of Peter Richardson was taken much later on.



My thanks to Adrian Frampton, Mike King, Peter Richardson and the late Peter Kirby.

Jill Rolfe 740446

Editor's note: the site is now much more difficult to find as the garden has been overtaken by scrub. A pity as the rocks were popular with younger children as a safe scrambling area up to the year 2000