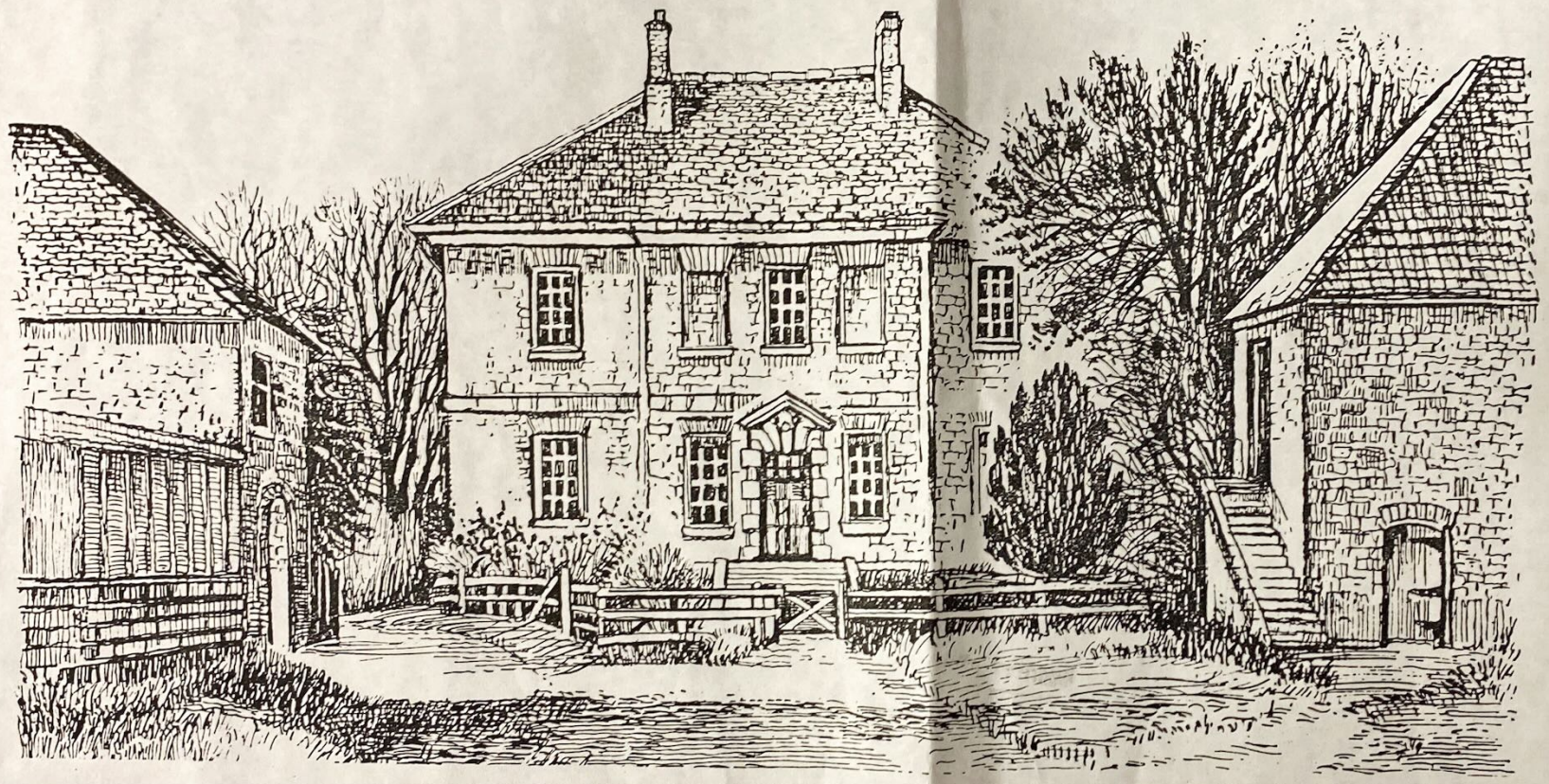


French touch to Newbold

NEWBOLD Verdon gets its curious second name from Bertram de Verdon, who was lord of the manor during the reign of King Stephen (1135-54). He took the name Verdon from the French fortress town of Verdun.

The village has an ancient street pattern which, unusually, culminates in a dead end at its western extremity. The core of the village has a pleasing mixture of architectural styles, some buildings being hundreds of years old. More recently, local authority housing estates have been added, greatly enlarging the village size.

The dead end leads directly to the splendid house in the sketch — Hall Farm. It was built by Bishop Crewe of Durham for his own use around 1721. He left it to Edward Montague whose famous wife, Lady Mary, must have really liked the Leicestershire estate for she described it in one of her letters as one of the most charming places she had ever seen.

NEXT WEEK: The former Co-operative Wholesale Society store in High Street, Leicester.