

Restoration of J R Punton & Son

It is not so long ago that every town would have a hardware store such as Puntons.

Although they lack the massive floor space and stock ranges of the modern DIY superstores, these shops make up for that, with their charm, local knowledge, customer service and an almost mystical ability to have exactly the perfect bolt, nut, washer or any other product that you'd care to name that one has been hunting for, to repair a cherished item or to complete a DIY project.

Sadly, many of these stores no longer exist, however not only have the Punton family's Hardware Store survived, but it is an integral part of the community, as it has been for nearly 60 years trading at 1-3 Market Place, Snaith, a building full of historic character.



Native Architects were appointed to assist the family in the restoration of their 17th Century Grade 2 listed premises.

The restoration of the building was far more complex than one might think as numerous piecemeal alterations to the building over its 400-year life had resulted in detrimental long-term effects on the building which had to be carefully unpicked before the restoration could begin. It was also important to the Punton family that the restoration should reveal as much of the buildings historical fabric as possible to highlight the significance of the building.



To complicate the restoration further as can be seen in the photographs, Puntons is at a busy junction in the very heart of Snaith and the store had to remain open during the renovations.



The most significant part of this restoration project was re-roofing. An exhaustive structural survey was conducted, and every roof member was catalogued by age, condition, and structural integrity. The medieval wall plates were retained and repaired in-situ and new oak trusses and purlins

were installed as the primary roof structure. The 18th Century windows were repaired and replaced, the frontage was rendered with Lime render, supplied by EcoLime, and the timber fascias and signage replaced. Internally, new oak joinery was installed throughout and the walls re-plastered with an insulating lime plaster and the upper timber floor was sympathetically restored.



The restoration has been a resounding success, Native Architects achieving the original restoration brief and the rejuvenated premises now showing off the building's heritage and historical fabric.



So, the next time you need DIY products, tools, plants, or seeds for the garden, forget about those giant DIY warehouses, just make a trip and call in to this wonderful shop and support the local high street.

If you too have a shop, home or any building that needs sympathetic restoration then contact Native Architects.

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