

Demolition of John Bunyan's Elstow Cottage 20th September 1968

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The cottage at Elstow which has taken a lot of knocks from traffic in past years.

Hired hoses damaged

WHEN A Sheffield plant hire firm went to a site to collect suction hoses and a pump they had hired out, they found that the hoses had been badly damaged, Biggleswade County Court heard on Monday last week.

Mr. Harry Wilson, a partner in the firm of Wilsons of Clifton, of Hitchin Road, Shefford said: "The hoses were completely useless to us. They were almost new. The cost of the damage was £63 10s."

But at the end of the all-day hearing, Judge Honig did not blame Richard Ambridge Limited or Specified Civil Engineering, both of Willow Springs, Cranfield, of causing damage to the hoses.

But he held the second company responsible for hiring the pump and hoses and he ordered them to pay Wilsons the cost of hiring, more than £14, together with costs.

Keeping a on-fashi

An autumn fashion suits, dress and lin described by Mrs. and modelled by from a Hitchin show worth village hall.

The show attract audience of Hinx Edworth Women's members and visito

Also on show wer for a baby's layette members of the Ins J. Rosser, headmist fold girls and inf selected the best to a forthcoming petition.

The prizes for bracelet were won Lawrence, Mrs. N. Mrs. S. Matthews.

Driver ba

John Manners, rowden Road, Bedford admitted overtakin car, was fined £15 lifted for six mont ford Divisional Thursday for speed A6 near Sharnbroo

Demolition squad now follow in Bunyan's steps

THE COTTAGE at Elstow in which John Bunyan is reputed to have lived tumbled to the ground on Thursday. What time had failed to do over a period of centuries, a demolition squad did in a matter of minutes.

John Bunyan, it is said, lived at the cottage with his second wife, Elizabeth, after he had served at Newport Pagnell as a Parliamentary soldier in the Civil War. Their blind daughter, Mary, was supposed to have been born there. Whether it was actually in the cottage or on the site, no one is quite certain.

However, some people in the village seemed a little sad as they watched the cottage being pulled down. One onlooker told a staff reporter: "We are sorry to see it go, but it

couldn't stay there for ever." The cottage was close to the Bedford to Luton road-side, and has been the unfortunate target for many cars and lorries. It has stood up to the many knocks, but the final crunch came at last as it was hauled to the ground with the aid of steel ropes and a tractor.

● Still standing is the Moot Hall at Elstow in which visitors can see a representation of one of the rooms of the cottage as it would have looked in Bunyan's day.

Demolished 20/9/68

People who "like their comfort plump for gas fire

Corbet Woodall