



*Kenneth Bush*

### **Kenneth Bush comes home**

In 1992 a local firm of solicitors Kenneth Bush brought the building from the King's Lynn Preservation Trust for use as their own offices and renamed it 'Evershed House' after Lady Joan Evershed, the founder and chairman of the King's Lynn Preservation Trust.

This building now provides the home for Kenneth Bush's Personal Injury, Family Law, Dispute Resolution, Employment and Corporate and Commercial departments. Whilst the firm's office at 11 New Conduit Street provides services relating to Property, Later Life and Care Planning and Wills, Inheritance Planning and Estates.

## **Who We Are**

### **About Us**

Kenneth Bush Solicitors is committed to providing our clients with peace-of-mind. We offer a comprehensive range of specialist services and with over 70 years experience, we can work together and find out what's best for you. Whether you're buying a house or making a will, the law can be complicated and confusing. We make it simple. With an unrivalled personal service and extensive legal knowledge, Kenneth Bush is here to help.

### **Contact Us**

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**THE HISTORY  
OF 23-25  
KING STREET  
EVERSHED  
HOUSE**



**THE HISTORY OF 23-25 KING  
STREET EVERSHED HOUSE**  
EVERSHED House, 23-25 King  
Street, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

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## The History

### King Street

King Street was known 'Stockfish Row' or 'Le Chequer' this became the preferred location for Lynn's merchants from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as land was reclaimed allowing the development of merchants' complexes running down the river.

### Evershed House

This former merchant's house dates from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century there were malshouses, brew-houses, warehousing and stables behind the main building, extending along Ferry Lane to the river.

By 1711 it had become a single dwelling which was settled in marriage on Charles Peast, a brewer and his wife, Elizabeth Greene, remaining in the family until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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*"The firm's first office was in King Street. We are merely returning to where we began"*  
David Hume (1992)

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The present house has a frontage onto King Street with two long wings running back towards the river. During the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the house was extensively altered and divided into two dwellings.

In 1800 the staircase was added to number 23 together with most of the internal wood work for the houses.

It was probably at this time that the front elevation was refaced and raised to provide an apparent second storey. However, the original attic roof was retained with dormer windows connected to the new second floor windows at the front. The crow-stepped gables on the west elevation date from before the alterations.

These stepped gables are extremely rare for King's Lynn, showing Hanseatic architecture.



*The green plaque on the building*

The property was listed as a grade II building in December 1951. Later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the property fell into disrepair through prolonged vacancy and vandalism. In 1986 the King's Lynn Preservation Trust commissioned a feasibility report on its repair and future use.

Conversion to residential use was ruled out as it would have caused too much intrusion with the new stair cases, bathrooms, kitchens etc... Alternatively an office conversion presented problems in terms of fire and general circulation.

To overcome these problems, the architects suggested that the narrow court between the two wings should be roofed over at second floor level. This has provided first floor galleried walkways and a new staircase. This allows the original Georgian structure to be seen and appreciated.