



**Tuxford Youth Hostel 1937 to 1938**

Eastfield House, Dunham Road, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire

Historic County: Nottinghamshire

YHA Region: North Midlands

GR: SK 748715

Eastfield House is a capacious red-brick villa. It stands east of Tuxford village centre, just to the east of where the Lincoln Road passes over the main line railway.

Its youth hostel days were brief. The *Nottingham Evening Post* of Friday 21st August 1937 announced that the new hostel at Eastfield House, Tuxford, would be open for visitors that weekend; there was room for 8 men and 6 women. The newspaper's date was therefore probably the same as the opening night for the YHA. Only 20 bednights were registered between that date and the end of September, probably because it had only been advertised with any success by the Nottingham paper and had missed the YHA's annual handbook, being in time only for the amendment sheet. The 1938 handbook entry read:

**TUXFORD.** N.M. **95**  
 Mrs. Monk, Eastfield House, Dunham Rd., Tuxford, Notts.  
**Position and Map.**  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. E of Tuxford,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. S Retford ; 16 m. Lincoln.  
 O.S. 46, Bart. 13.  
**Station.** Tuxford. **Bus.** Newark—Retford.  
**Next Hostels.** Mansfield Woodhouse 16 m. Kneeton 18 m.  
**Other Details.** M. 8. W. 6. Store : Hostel. P.O : Tuxford. B. 1/3,  
 L. 9d., S. 1/4. S.B.H. J. I.P. Bring Slippers.

*Right: in the absence of an authentic YHA photograph of Tuxford youth hostel, this more recent image, taken from the rear garden, must suffice (author's photograph, January 2002, by permission of the owner)*



Although there is no record of the style of tenancy, Mrs Monk was almost certainly the house-owner of an accommodation, or adopted, hostel: one operated privately under the banner of the YHA. They were common in the pre-war period, but often lasted only briefly. The hostel closed early in 1938, *at short notice*, stated the *YHA Rucksack Magazine* of Easter that year. The North Midland Region's annual report for 1938 gave the date as a little later, June 1938. A mere 77 overnights were recorded between 1st October 1937 and the closure, 97 in total.

The hostel was in a useful position for wider YHA use than just for Nottingham members, suiting cyclists on the A1. If it had lasted longer, it may well have gained a reputation amongst rail enthusiasts as the ideal place to stay, as the garden backed on to the LNER London – Edinburgh line, with its procession of crack express trains and locomotives.

*Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows*  
 1937-38: previous Oct to Sept  
 •: between 1st October 1937 and Easter or June 1938

...	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	77•	...