

Peter Beacham

Keeping place or spice cupboard.

I think those sorts of little domestic economies, as it were, that we see in houses like this are endlessly fascinating. The thing that always gets me is the one, you know, when I used to do the sort of job that involved going round houses like this, the thing that always got me was the people who endlessly pointed to a little hole somewhere and say, 'Mr Beacham, what's that for?' And I had no idea at all what it was, until I met someone called Gwynne Meirion-Jones - I was looking at Neadon, and there was a very nice little hole by the fireplace there and I said to Gwynne, Professor Gwynne Meirion-Jones: 'I've always been mystified, Professor Meirion-Jones, as to what those holes were.' 'Oh', he said, 'Oh I know what those are, those are keeping places.' And I was thinking that was a brilliant answer, keeping places, yes, jolly good! And I forgot to ask what the hell they kept there!