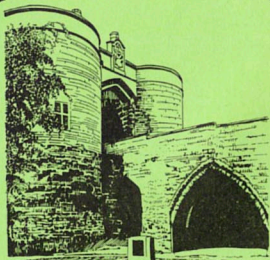


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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

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This Society exists to develop a worthwhile environment in Nottingham. To achieve this it encourages good architecture in all its forms, planning, and the preservation of the desirable aspects of the heritage of the city. The Society likewise will discourage, criticise and even fight bad planning, destruction of amenities and vulgarity in design.

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NEWSLETTER

**Nottingham
Civic Society**

January 1984

63



Ken Brand
SUGGESTED NEW LAY-OUT FOR CITY CENTRE

35p

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I make no apologies for weighting this Newsletter with topics related to the Market Square. As a Society we have always tried to generate public enthusiasm over the future of this great asset of ours, this unique Norman legacy. The origins of the Market Square are unknown but this arena where two cultures collided, clashed but eventually blended has maintained its distinctive 'ham bone' shape certainly since the Survey of the Forest of Sherwood c. 1609. It has seen carriages and kings, tracks, trams and 'trolleys', it has witnessed joy and sorrow.

Your Society has put forward its own proposals but it has always wanted to co-operate fully with the City and County authorities to get the best possible future for the 5½ acres that once constituted Nottingham's Great Market Square.

If in the past you have been rather lukewarm when the topic of changing the Market Square has been revived yet again, please try this time to get involved. Full public participation has been invited, this time cash is available to turn the 'hot air' into a reality. It is a Market Place for the people, all people. Adieu 'Slab Square'.

Away from the Market Square exciting alterations are planned. The old High Pavement Chapel is earmarked for future use as a heritage/trade centre 'The Lace Market Centre'. The Park Tunnel will be 'opened up', although technically it has never been shut. The long closed pedestrian access point at the top of College Street should be opened early in the New Year. This provides direct route into/out of the Park via a half spiral stairway. The redevelopment of the Council House Arcade, more specifically the old Burton's premises, should begin in the not too distant future. Preliminary discussion has taken place over the glazing of the entrances. A proposal for setting up a Nottingham Fashion Centre has been approved, the location has not yet been decided. The renovation of T.C. Hize's London Road Low Level Station has started, just in time apparently for the whole structure was, through neglect, in a very perilous state. It is interesting to speculate on possible future uses for this building and its environs, an industrial museum seems a possibility for rail access would allow travelling exhibitions like the recent Information Technology train to be easily accommodated.

Finally, may I say how warm I feel when I have walked by the 'Express Building' on Parliament Street late on any winter afternoon and seen all of the shop units ablaze with lights, with more light and life on the upper floors; I recall the scaffolding of a year ago and remember the dereliction but two years ago. Incredible!

Ken Brana
1

COVER STORY

At a meeting of the City Business Club held on Friday, July 8th, 1932 a resolution was passed which contained proposals to improve business in Nottingham's City Centre by altering the layout of the Old Market Square to accommodate market stalls and a car park.

The case for alteration was forcefully put by J. Littlefair, Esq., who appealed to the Council to implement the changes as a matter of urgency.

The scheme, illustrated by a local architect Alfred John Thraives, was based on the raising of the processional way to the level of the two side portions, removing the two fountains, then present, and levelling off and flagging in similar style to the main portions. The area which thus became available would be utilized on Wednesdays and Saturdays for "stalls of an attractive type" to sell country produce, flowers etc. By ramping the step from South Parade a parking area for 77 cars would be provided for non-market days. A secondary suggestion was the transfer of the six Trinity Square bus termini into the Market Square.

In no way was the 'Covered Market' under threat, indeed some stall holders in the new market might have a duplicate stall in the Market Square. The resolution was passed by almost 200 'for' and only '6' against.

In presenting his case for alteration Littlefair used a number of powerful points: "It has been said that our City Authorities have shown a lack of foresight in not foreseeing what would be the ultimate end of their moves. Even the City Council has been surprised at the immensity of the change that had taken place since they moved the market. ...the moving of the old market has had a disastrous effect on some of the oldest established firms in the City".

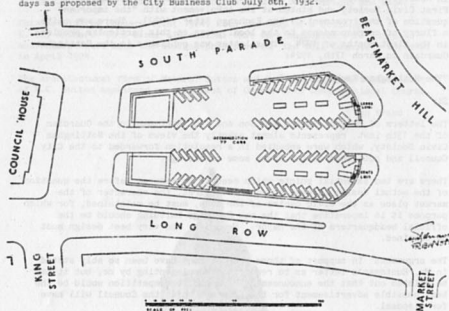
The minority 'against' put forward some flamboyant dampeners. A.E. Rayner, Esq., declared "These suggestions to my mind, savour of the imprint of ministration. If we are to subscribe to these suggestions the (Business) Club will become a party to the orgies of squandermania and profligation that have been going in Nottingham too long. A policy of muddle has been carried on until Nottingham is almost too poor to send for the doctor, and it is to the business men that the people look for a definite lead in the direction of retrenchment and judicious economy. All such schemes as thus mentioned should be torpedoed on sight... Unless Nottingham ceases to spend, our beautiful Council House built as a monument of progress, will become the sepulchre of our decadence as a City".

All of these points have a certain familiarity, but one point with a definite touch of the early thirties came from the redoubtable Mr. Littlefair. The Corporation should set out to cater for the two different classes of people - those who wanted the better class goods, and those who, because they could not afford them, were satisfied with the lower grade. The Old Market Square should become what it was intended, the great shopping centre of the middle and upper classes - those who were able to pay for the service that was becoming an increasing part of the retailer's business".

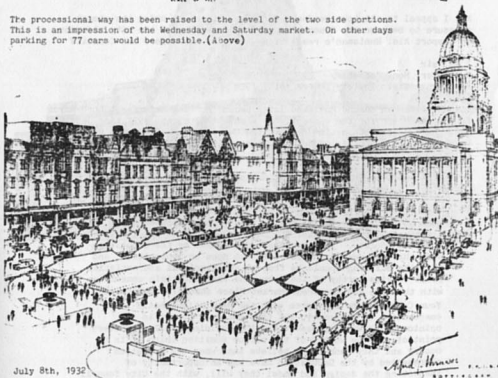
Two Nottinghams indeed! The social implications of such an emphatic statement were somewhat lessened by the same speaker saying earlier: "I say not so much at the attempt to move it (the market) elsewhere, but ever since, efforts had been made to make the new market a success, such steps being initial to the interests of trade in the City Centre... such steps to help them they have run different lines of transport, so that whether a man wanted or not, he is dumped willy nilly at the new market". There's positive discrimination! Fifty years on, perhaps now with slightly different rules, the 'game' is still being played.

Ken Brand

The layout for utilizing the Market Square as a car park on non-market days as proposed by the City Business Club July 8th, 1932.



The processional way has been raised to the level of the two side portions. This is an impression of the Wednesday and Saturday market. On other days parking for 77 cars would be possible. (Above)



July 8th, 1932

THE SOCIETY AND THE MARKET SQUARE - Prologue

In Newsletter No.60 Geoffrey Oldfield drew attention to Nottingham's First Civic Society and hinted at its involvement with "the important question of the treatment of the Exchange Site" (1923). There was quite a flurry of correspondence to the local press on this particular problem in the first months of 1924. This letter was published in the Nottingham Guardian on March 17th, 1924:

"The Nottingham Exchange Site"

Sir

The letters of Messrs. Sutton and Son and Ald. Huntsman in the Guardian of the 13th inst. represents almost exactly the views of the Nottingham Civic Society, which were embodied in a resolution forwarded to the City Council and published in the Press some months ago.

There are two essential points which need to be secured before the question of the actual design is even approached. First, the character of the market place as the civic centre of the town, must be maintained, for which purpose it is imperative that the new Exchange building should be the official headquarters of the Mayor. Secondly, the very best design must be obtained.

The arguments in support of those propositions have been so ably stated in Mr. Huntsman's letter as to require no supplementing by me, but it may be pointed out that the announcement of a public competition would be the best possible advertisement for the premises which the Council will have for disposal.

May I appeal to all your readers who agree with us to bring the utmost pressure to bear on the Councillors for their wards and the city alderman to support Ald. Huntsman's resolution when it comes before the Council?

I am, sir
W. Foster, Hon. Secretary
Nottingham Civic Society, March 14th, 1924

Notes: Alderman Edmund Huntsman later became Nottingham's first Lord Mayor for he was Mayor for the current year when on July 30th, 1927 King George V declared "....from this time forward the Chief Magistrate of the City shall bear the style and title of Lord Mayor of Nottingham". He had the honour of the freedom of the City conferred on him on January 15th, 1929.

In their report to the full council on April 7th, 1924 the Estates Committee did note:

"Since the design has been prepared your Committee have received a Deputation representing theotts and Derby Architectural Society, the Civic Society, the Society of Artists and the Thoroton Society. The principal points made by the Deputation were that the design should be thrown open to competition, and that the Building should be from an architectural and artistic point of view worthy of the Site, and that the civic connection with the Site and the Great Market Place should be maintained.

Your Committee do not agree with the Deputation that a competition is necessary, but they entirely concur in the opinion which was expressed that the Building shall from every point of view be worthy of the unique position which it is to occupy and they cannot but believe that when the Societies represented by the Deputation have had an opportunity of inspecting the design and model they will, with the City Council and Citizens generally, come to the conclusion that the design is one which cannot be improved upon".

To be fair to the Estates Committee they did ask the then President of R.I.B.A. J. Alfred Gotch of Kettering to examine both designs and model.

This he did (by January 19th, 1924) with the help of a colleague E. Guy Dauber. Such minor alterations that were suggested were accepted and incorporated into the designs presented for the full Council's approval in April 1924.

The architectural firm of Messrs. Sutton and Son was the direct descendant of R.C. Sutton mentioned as architect of Castle Gate Congregational Church.

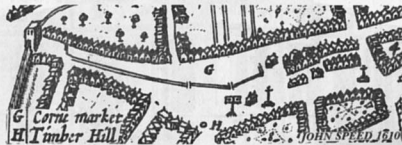
Ken Brand



"The Trader and Citizen (Nottingham) June 1st, 1929 carried a long account of the splendid banquet celebrating the opening of the Council House and Exchange Buildings. This is part of the speech of the Chairman of the Estates Committee.

"I now come to the toast that really matters, and that is the toast of the architect and the builders. What can I say? You saw something of the work of the architect when you entered this building, and I think you will agree that we made no mistake when we selected from our own Corporation staff a young man born within our midst and trained in one of our own city offices - (applause) - to take upon his shoulders this great undertaking. It is wonderful what great things spring from small matters. Many acrimonious discussions took place as to what we should do and being a Chairman of a rather irritable temperament - (laughter) - at times I got pretty well fed up. The moment of one's weakness or greatness one never knows. I wandered into our housing department which was producing houses for the masses at a greater rate and at less rents than other municipalities, and I found there a member of the staff in the person of Mr. Howitt after hours and receiving no overtime. We chatted and smoked together and I said: "How would it appeal to you to put on paper a scheme for a new Exchange?"

Being a young man and full of ambition he said: "Give me a chance." (Hear, hear). A few weeks went on, and I had the satisfaction of going to my Committee and saying: "Here is a set of plans I want you to look at". They were fascinated with them, and we passed them on to the General Purposes Committee. Eventually the City Council of 64 members were equally impressed by them, and that is how Mr. T. Cecil Howitt came to be the architect for this great building. (Applause). I think you will agree that he has justified our choice and that today Nottingham citizens have a building of which to be justly proud. (Renewed applause)".



The constant shape of the Great Market Square.



DEARDE 1944

ILLUSIONS OR DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

No prizes, repeat no prizes, will be awarded for guessing correctly which 'scheme' is described in this quotation from 1928:

"Architecturally the key to the scheme is to form a wide processional way leading from the west side of the Square and terminating with the Exchange. One has only to realise the value of the simple large open spaces such as Bernini's forecourt to St. Peter's, Rome, St. Mark's Square, Venice, and the Place de la Concorde, Paris to appreciate that the space should be kept as open as possible.

Greater effect is given to the processional way by placing this at a slightly lower level. One can visualise the dignity of a procession along this way at the low level with ample space for the general public above the level of the procession.

However good any architectural composition may be for any scheme, its value is increased many times over by the introduction of a small amount of greenery such as well trimmed trees and perfectly cut lawns. The fine old squares in London, Princes Parade, Edinburgh and the Main Square, Washington, are excellent examples of this. The trees included in the design, and the small lawns on the four corners of the Square, would give the necessary effect and tone of colour, and these lawns with dwarf stone walls around them would be well protected. Two small pools with a fountain spray would increase the architectural setting without encroaching too much on the general area of the Square.... The general effect of the Square would be greatly improved by the proper choice of materials and correct joining. The Schillerplatz in Berlin terminating with a large municipal building is a fine example of the value of such a treatment".

Anon (N.G.) quoted by Ken Brand

Council Meeting, 4th July, 1927

Votes recorded:

For Moving the Market	34
Against	14
Neutral	3
Left before vote taken	6
Missing	7

Total Membership: 64 members of the Council

A point 'for' (Ald. Sir B.W.) "No one seeing the Market Square as it exists on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays had anything but a sense of shame with the conditions which prevailed in the middle of a great city".

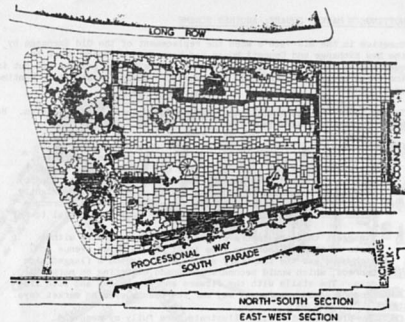
A point 'against' (Ald. H.) "I cannot remember an event in Nottingham which called more for vision and imagination. It seems to me that immediately the Market-place was removed (!) there would be no reason for people to come into Nottingham from outside".





In June, 1949 the R.I.B.A. held its annual conference in Nottingham. Two issues of *The Architects' Journal* carried long features on Nottingham. In the A.J. for 23rd June, 1949 was a very intriguing feature 'Old Market Square, Nottingham. A Project for its Redevelopment by Students of the School of Architecture'. In this revised layout the main part of the Market area is level with a raised area incorporating a bandstand, along the northern side. The southern side has a linear lake with a bridge as its main feature. A processional way is aligned between the lake and South Parade. D.M. Goodacre writing the accompanying descriptive text pointed out the existing layout showed little consideration of its potentialities as a centre of everyday community life. It bore no relation to the slope of the ground or the disposition of the traffic routes. "The Square has become a traffic roundabout and bus station, totally unsuited for use as a Civic Centre. For the Old Market Square provides Nottingham with a clearly defined centre such as few other industrial cities possess".

Ken Brand



REVISED LAYOUT OF MARKET SQUARE.



The Exchange c. 1848



NOTTINGHAM MARKET SQUARE: ANOTHER SCHEME

Sometime in the mid 1920's when the replacement of the Old Exchange by the New Exchange and Council House had been decided there arose the question of "What to do with the Market Square?" The problem was put in the local press: "The Proposed Improvement. Beauty or Utility? Sentiment or Clearance?"

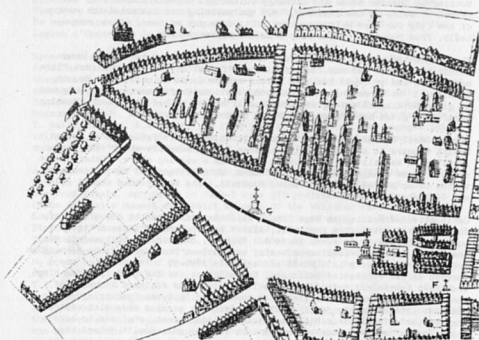
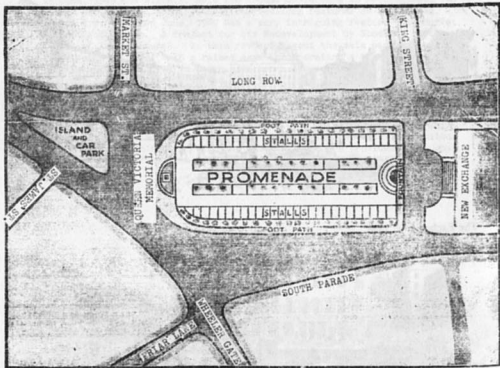
To the local architect William R. Gleave and I there was no problem. He wrote to the Nottingham Guardian:

"It requires little imagination, with careful thought, to realize that these questions can easily be met in compromise. I believe there are over 200 stalls and many of these could well be dispensed with but why should not those for the country produce be accommodated under an avenue of trees, with brightly coloured awnings, which with the green leafage would introduce colour and effect such as is obtained in many Continental towns?

I suggest that the centre of the Square be left open with a vista of the New Exchange from Angel Row, with an avenue on each side and the temporary stalls erected upon a flagged side terrace, which would become a promenade excepting on market days. The stalls with the flowers and vegetables and such like produce would not in any way mar the beauty even on market days.

The plan herewith will illustrate more fully my meaning".

Ken Brand



This map appeared in Robert Thoroton's "The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire" published in 1677. Most of the features then present in Nottingham's Market Place are clearly but crudely shown. (A) Chapel Bar (pulled down 1743); (B) the market wall (partly removed 1714, the rest removed in 1728); (C) the Malt Cross (dismantled 1804); (D) the Stocks (these taken down 1754 but replaced and used until c. 1785); (E) the Butter Cross (removed 1720) and (F) the Hen Cross (taken down 1800-1). Other 'delights' found in the Market Place included the ducking-stool (scaucstool, at one time The Poultry was known as Cuckstool Row) and the Pillory and Whipping Post taken away c. 1754 but a special pillory was erected and last used in 1808. The Exchange was built between 1724-6, what appears on this map is the double row of buildings forming the Shambles, the location of the butchers, at the eastern end, there also was the Drapery. At the western end was the Spice Chamber, in the south western corner lay the Shoebooths.

The long market wall was apparently breast high, with openings at proper intervals. The original idea that this wall separated the English and French Boroughs has regained favour on legal grounds, for punishments awarded for the same offence depended upon where the offence took place, there seldom being any agreement between the Boroughs. Without some clearly defined boundary the precise location of any action in the Market Place would be hard to determine. The other proposed reason for the existence of this wall was as a deterrent to keep the livestock away from the market produce.

T. CECIL HOWITT

If one man is associated locally with one building then it must be T. Cecil Howitt with the New Exchange or as it came to be known the Nottingham Council House and Exchange Buildings. Formally opened by the Prince of Wales on the 22nd May, 1929 the building has dominated the centre of the City for over half a century. Its dome may be seen, often unexpectedly, from numerous points away from the Market Square.

The completion of the Council House Project, the fitting out of the shops within the arcade and the finishing of the formal layout of the Market Place marked the end of Cecil Howitt's career as the Corporation's first Housing Architect. He formed his own practice with some confidence for not only had he given Nottingham a long awaited Council House, he had through the Housing Department given Nottingham some 6,000 council houses.

Thomas Cecil Howitt was born in Hucknall in 1889. His father James Cullen Howitt appears to have come into the area from Lancashire about 1886, settling in Watnall Road and taking a post as a colliery clerk. Later Howitt senior became manager of the Co-op Stores, Watnall Road and then Secretary to the Co-op Stores, Market Place, Hucknall. The family home around 1903 was 44 Derbyshire Lane.

Cecil attended Nottingham High School which he left to enter the office of the respected Nottingham architect, Albert Nelson Bromley as an articled pupil at the age of 15 years in 1904. Bromley, classically influenced, was one of the prominent local architects; he had been President of the Nottingham Architectural Society in 1886-88 and again in 1896-99. His practice was located in the Prudential Buildings, Queen Street, he had been for some time architect to the old Nottingham School Board, he had designed a number of banks and had established a link with the expanding Boots Company. One of the most interesting projects handled by Bromley, a sales shop with offices for Webster's Trustees on High Street and Pelham Street, what was to become Jesse Boot's new premises, was under construction when Howitt joined the office. As this site was so close to the practice it is possible that the new pupil learnt some rudiments of his 'craft' here and looked out on the Shambles and the back of the old Exchange!

Howitt spent two years as an articled pupil before entering the Architectural Association, Westminster as a student in 1907. In that year he was placed first in a competition for the outlay of the Marble Arch. In 1908, together with George Eaton of Derby, Howitt opened and managed a London branch office for the partnership of Messrs. Bromley and Watkin (Harry Garnham Watkin had joined Bromley c. 1907). One of the earliest of many Cecil Howitt anecdotes, the London expense account, dates from this time. In 1909 he returned to the Nottingham office as Architectural Assistant where he stayed until 1913. He joined the Nottingham Society of Architects in 1908-09 and became an Associate Member in 1910. He won several of the Society's prizes.

In 1909 and 1912 he was a medalist for Architectural Measured Drawings and Architectural Design. In 1911 he qualified as an associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. During his time with Bromley and Watkin Howitt was involved with the design of a number of banks and some local domestic work, the head office of the National Telephone Company, London and apparently other exchanges in England, Spain and Turkey.

Cecil Howitt seemed to sense the inevitability of war in Europe and the resulting upheaval which would change the old order. He took time off and set out in March, 1914 to travel around old Europe studying and sketching in France, Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy, specialising in the Italian Renaissance. He returned in July, 1914 with a number of well executed sketches. An appreciation in "The Times" (23rd September, 1968) suggested Howitt had some form of briefing from Jesse Boot to record the designs of Austrian shop fronts and after assessing his responses Jesse invited him to become his Company's architect. A very early sketch book with a few drawings of shops survives.

Whatever future Howitt had planned was interrupted by the outbreak of war. He was somewhat reticent about his wartime experiences, masking the reality with more apocryphal stories. In fact, he obtained a temporary commission in the 7th Battalion the Leicestershire Regiment in October, 1914, by October, 1916 he was a Temporary Major and then in 1917 he was appointed Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding 8th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. He was thrice mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. and the Legion d'Honneur. He was severely wounded at Ypres.

Upon demobilisation at the end of the war Cecil Howitt joined the City Architect's Department in Nottingham but after the approval of a Report of the Economy Committee on 4th September, 1922 the City Architect's Department and the Housing Surveyor's Department were amalgamated with the City Engineer's Department. The work of all departments thereafter, until Midsummer, 1926, were carried on under the direction of the City Engineer T. Wallis Gordon, A.R.I.B.A. So from 1919 to 1926 Howitt was engaged initially and principally in the design and layout of Nottingham's housing schemes, its "Garden Suburbs".

A wide variety of housing stock was produced including in 1922 the 'Three Hundred Pound' house (Type A 36), albeit in a terrace of four, on the Sherwood Estate, and later in 1926-7 some 370 prefabricated units, the Crane Composite Houses were built on part of the Wollaton Park Estate. That Howitt was proud of his housing is best shown by an entry in Kelly's 1922 Directory: "Howitt Thomas Cecil, A.R.I.B.A., Housing Architect and Surveyor h: The Bungalow, Sherwood Estate", by 1925 the entry was more precise "...h: 2 Staunton Drive, Sherwood". In fact, this was really two houses. Later he moved to a corner of the Wollaton Park Estate where he built 'Natch' in Ballion Close, Oundle Drive. Another of those Howitt legends relates how T.C. dressed in the full ceremonial uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Leicestershire Regiment rode on horseback to Wollaton Park and marked the site for his future home by plunging a sword into the ground. More certainly the thatch on this house caught fire supposedly at least three times, on one occasion the 'owner' apparently filmed the blaze on another he had the dubious pleasure of listening to the heat cracking his wine bottles and popping their corks.

Both Nottingham Corporation and its Housing Architect gained a high reputation in the twenties for the quality, quantity and cost effectiveness of its municipal housing. The design for a New Exchange was undertaken by Cecil Howitt, as part of his duties as Architect within the City Engineer's Department that was based at Messers. Buildings, 58-59 Long Row West, he appears to have received no fee other than his normal salary and expenses for the design. The project probably started in 1922, at that stage a building essentially for commercial purposes only, with arcades 60 ft. high and 28 ft. wide running east-west as well as north-south. Inevitably the scheme was criticised, even before its official launch at the Council meeting on 7th April, 1924. By the time H.R.H. the Prince of Wales formally opened the new Council House and Exchange Buildings the western end, the Market Square frontage, had been replanned to include on three floors a Council Chamber, rooms for the Mayor and Councilors and a large reception hall opening onto the Market Square balcony.

Whilst the Council House was under construction and after its completion Howitt undertook study tours in 1927 to the United States and Canada and in 1929 to Denmark and Sweden. By 1930 Cecil Howitt had started his private practice, he had left the Corporation's employment in slightly confused circumstances, the Housing Committee "...proposed that T.C. Howitt should be allowed to continue private practice whilst acting as Housing Architect, he should be paid £2,300 a year for three years and take and pay the Corporation housing staff". The Council rejected the proposal. Once again he showed his faith in his projects by establishing his practice in Exchange Row, Exchange Buildings where he stayed until moving to 2 Napperley Road in 1938.

The Council House has had its critics locally and nationally, Pevsner was quite harsh wishing Howitt had sought inspiration from, say, Stockholm's civic buildings. Yet paradoxically not only did The Times say "It is probably still the finest municipal building outside of London", but Howitt did incorporate into his design for Newport Municipal Centre features based on observations of the Concert Hall in Stockholm:

In 1925 Howitt had been elected to the Council of the R.I.B.A., in 1931 he became a Fellow. Between 1931-3 he served as President of the Nottingham, Derby and Lincoln Architectural Society. 1931 was the year when the first of several competitions was won, this for the Birmingham Municipal Bank (1931-3). Later, in 1935, he won the open competition for the first stage of the Birmingham Civic Centre. Started in 1938 what was built before the Second World War, Baskerville House, was considered by Pevsner "...then orthodox if uninspired...pompous and arid". Also in 1935 came success in the short list competition for the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, South Parade, Nottingham. In the following year, besides an appointment as architect for the new Civic Centre at Swadlowcote, came a further triumph, first prize in the open competition for the new Civic Centre at Newport, Mon. In 1938 another open competition, this time for a new Civic Centre in Yeovil was won. Howitt was also in demand as a consultant - to the North Eastern Housing Association Ltd. (1936), Cavendish House, Birmingham (1937) and a new Savings Bank Head Office, Edinburgh (1947). Locally, bronze medals were obtained for the Raleigh Cycle Co. Head Office (1933) and the Mary Elizabeth Hardstaff Almshouses, Gedling (1936). Other prominent local buildings designed include: Martin's Bank, Theatre Square; Barclay's Bank, High Street and Victoria Street (altered); the Y.M.C.A., Shakespeare Street; The Home Brewery Offices, Daybrook (c. 1938) and three of their hotels - The Falcon, Lincoln, The Vale, Woodthorpe and The Wheatsheaf, Burton Joyce (all 1937) and extensions to the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Goldsmith Street (demolished). He designed two 'thirties' churches to serve mainly Corporation Estates - St. Mary's, Wollaton Park and St. Barnabus, Lenton Abbey. The St. Mary's project was announced in October, 1932, but much altered it was finally consecrated on 28th November, 1938, the same day as St. Barnabus.

At Bedfont, Middlesex 80 Almshouses were built c. 1935, attractively grouped around a rectangular lawn. A number of Cecil Howitt's designs were illustrated with perspective drawings executed by the great architectural draughtsman of the inter-war years Cyril Farey.

Cecil Howitt, mainly through Harry W. Weedon, designed several Odeon Cinemas, his £14 a seat being highly competitive with the going rate of c. £40 a seat. The Odeons were Weston-Super-Mare (1934), Clacton (1936), Bridgewater (1936), Bristol (1938), Norwich (1938). The Odeon at Doncaster was started c. 1939 and completed after the war. That at Warley (Birmingham) has been demolished, that at Morley (Yorkis) was reconstructed after a fire.

More study tours were undertaken; in 1935 to America for office blocks, in 1937 to France for technical colleges and in 1939 to New York for the World Fair. The outbreak of war in September, 1939 brought several projects under construction to a halt, forced one or two schemes to be shelved and all but 'closed' the office.

The war period was spent mainly on official appointments, much of the time working in London. In 1941 he was appointed architect to the Ministry of Works and Buildings to deal with villages for munition workers and also became Deputy Regional Commissioner to the War Damage Commission for the North Midlands area. For this latter work Cecil Howitt received the O.B.E. In 1944-5 he was Vice President of the R.I.B.A. and represented that body on several Ministry of Works Consultative Councils. In 1945 he was appointed the leading architect for Temporary Housing, North Midlands Region. In that same year came the first of the post-war assignments; New Head Office for British United Shoe Machinery Co. Ltd and factories for Bairns Wear Ltd and Wolsey Ltd.

Cecil Howitt was very much a family man. He married in 1918 an Australian, Irene Adelaide Woolley. They had two children - Ian and Toni. Ian attended Rugby and then went onto Cambridge to read Engineering. Cecil had great hopes for Ian, the idea seems to have been for a future partnership of the older experienced architect and the younger enthusiastic engineer. Ian almost inevitably joined the R.A.F. in the early years of the war, he became a bomber pilot and was listed as missing. Some time later, after the end of the war, his death was confirmed and this point marked a change in T.C. As J.E. Whitehorn observed in an obituary in the architectural press "... it seemed to me that much of the zest for architectural practice and perhaps some of T.C.'s zest for 'life drained away'.

But life did go on and the formation of the Partnership and the development of its family atmosphere, the expansion at St. Andrew's House, the opening of the Leicester branch office, the winning of a third R.I.B.A. Bronze Medal, (Staythorpe Power Station, 1953) will be detailed in a later Newsletter.

Ken Brand
May I thank F.E. Woolley, Esq. and C.H. Hyde, Esq partners past and present in Cecil Howitt and Partners, J.E. Whitehorn, Esq. a past member of the Cecil Howitt practice and Mrs. Thornhill (librarian) for their patience and enthusiasm in answering numerous questions about a man they all respect and admire and whom we should get to know.



: FRONT ELEVATION :

: END ELEVATION :

THE THREE HUNDRED POUND HOUSE.
APRIL, 1922.

THE NOTTINGHAM DEEDS SURVEY

In November 1982 a survey was begun which aims to locate and list all deeds relating to property in the historic core of Nottingham, an area bounded by Parliament Street on the north and east, the Castle on the west, and Canal Street on the south. So far, all the relevant material in the Manuscripts Department of Nottingham University Library, in the British Library, and in the city archives deposited in the Nottinghamshire Record Office have been processed.

The survey is being carried out by the Field Archaeology Section of Nottingham City Museums as part of a continuous programme of archaeological and historical research into the medieval and early modern town. Anyone owning or having legal access to such property documents is asked to contact S.N. Mastoris at the address below. An opportunity to transcribe the information in the documents is all that is required; no attempt is being made to collect the deeds themselves.

Nottingham Deeds Survey, c/o S.N. Mastoris, Field Archaeology Section,
Breshwade Yard Museum, Castle Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 1FB (602 411881
ext. 46.)

CASTLE GATE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This year the Society's A.G.M. is being held in the refurbished Castle Gate Congregational Church now styled the 'Congregational Federation Centre'. This adaptation of an unwanted Victorian church to modern needs has been carried out by Enterprise Nottingham, a Community Enterprise Agency in association with The Congregational Federation, to the designs of Cecil Howitt and Partners.

This building was designed by Richard Charles Sutton of Bromley House, it was not only a replacement for its overcrowded predecessor but a tangible commemoration of the bi-centenary of the ejection of the two thousand from the Church of England in 1662 for conscience' sake". Agreement to build was obtained on December 23rd, 1861, only four out of a large committee voted against, further opposition murmurs were heard in September 1862. However, the vast majority were emphatically in favour and on Thursday, June 11th, 1863 the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Alexander Allcott. Whilst the church was under construction services were held in the Mechanics' Hall, in a way this venue proved to be a bonus for not only was the auditorium larger but many attended who would not have gone to the old church. The Communion Services were held at Friar Lane Chapel which was kindly lent for that purpose. On Tuesday, August 2nd, 1864 the new chapel was opened with great rejoicing. The total cost was £7,361.15s.0d which sum included the organ and out buildings.

What did the Congregationalists get for their money? A local paper reviewing the plans noted:

"The building will be in the Venetian style treated, however, in a free manner; several parts thereof bearing evidence of the predilection of the architect for the Gothic style the details throughout being treated with great boldness, the effect of which is original and effective. The main features of the building will be of brick, with stone dressings, the facade will consist of a centre with two wings projecting, with ornamental cornices round, containing the gallery staircases. The architect has placed the windows, both in the side and front elevations, in deep undercut mouldings for a breath of shadow and a play of light and shade on the building, the absence of which destroys the effect of so many of our modern public edifices. The height of the front to the apex of the gable will be upwards of sixty feet, the extreme width of the front, sixty-six feet, and the length, one hundred and three feet. The main entrances will consist of two doorways, divided by a granite shaft, with carved capitals in the centre, contained under a fan-traceried archway, eleven feet span, having pilasters with early French carved capitals on each side; above which runs a deep stone cornice with stone bosses deeply relieved. Above this a large circular-headed two light window, with granite shaft, and enriched with carving, with a circular traceried head".

That rich description continues, concluding the external detailing and starting on the interior "...as well-considered as the external appearance". How much of this survives members attending the A.G.M. will be able to find out.

The adjoining Sunday School building, dated 1883, was designed by Arthur Brown a former scholar and at that time, late 1870's, in the office of the borough engineer.

After the inevitable delays due to protracted negotiations to purchase properties and cost saving modifications of the plans the foundation stone was laid on June 29th, 1882. Prior to the commencement of building the rock caves below were filled with the bricks of the pre-existing buildings. The total cost was over £12,000.

Arthur Brown was in fact appointed Borough Surveyor and Engineer on October 4th, 1880 after Marriot Ogle Tarbotton had resigned from the position on September 6th. With this in mind it is interesting to retell the following story. Although a narrow strip of land adjoining the Castle Gate Church had been purchased for £1,200 c 1874 it was by no means wide enough for the grand new Sunday School envisaged. What was needed was more land, in particular that on which was a house occupied by a Dr. Snell. The scheme was still a secret but it was essential to know the exact size and shape of the land. One dark night the future Borough Surveyor armed with a long tape measure, and accompanied by the Superintendent and the Secretary of the Sunday School, very quietly but very carefully took full measurements of the property.

R.C. Sutton was one of a number of very competent architects who flourished in Nottingham in the second half of the nineteenth century. The work of these architects has tended to be overlooked by enthusiasts overwhelmed by the work of T.C. Hine and Watson Pothergill. It is time to look again and give both architects and buildings due recognition.

Ken Brand

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

In the near future the Society will publish a set of four maps of Nottinghamshire:

- i) Herman(n) Moll 1724 (Full County)
- ii) Emanuel and T. Bowen 1767 (Full County) (Reprint of 1777).
- iii) John Cary 1787 (Full County)
- iv) John Gilby 1675 Strip Map: A Survey of the Road from Nottingham to Grimsby.

The maps will be A3 in size (approx. 17in x 12½ in overall) and the special price to members will be about 75p.

The broadsheet advertising Deering's proposed History of Nottingham which contains Badder and Peat's Map of the Town and in the border a number of the engravings used later to illustrate the History is being produced to A2 size (approx. 17" x 25" overall).

The original is rare and members should find this reproduction an interesting talking point. The cost to members will probably be a modest 50p.

It is hoped to produce, in association with the Thoroton Society, copies of the 16th century 'map' of the River Trent between Nottingham and Newark shown by Dr. Salisbury in his illustrated talk to the Society on November 15th.



QUEEN ISABELLA 1296-1385 - known as the 'She Wolf' of France

Next to Robin Hood, the affair between Queen Isabella and her 'Gentle Mortimer' is probably the most quoted story relating to Nottingham Castle.

Most people know the sequence of the event and the aftermath, but it is not the morals of the story, but the subsequent events concerning the Queen that is the subject of this article.

Historians seem to regard the fate of Isabella with mixed opinions ranging from solitary security to comfortable confinement.

Recently I came across a most interesting paper relating to her and Castle Rising and I am sending these extracts for the interest of the Society members.

There appears to have been some strategic importance to the area since Roman times, perhaps the local jingle is the explanation! It goes:-

Rising was a sea-port when Lynn was but a marsh
Now Lynn it is a sea-port town and Rising fears the worse

After the Conquest the Albini or Aubigny family was established over this area of Norfolk and about 1138 the foundation of a 'grand new castle' at Rising was made. In 1243 the inheritance passed to the Mortalt family and in 1331 its remaining rights were surrendered to Isabella, the Queen Mother for an annuity of £400 a year, who retained it until her death.

In no sense did Isabella languish as a prisoner, nor was she even in social disgrace. With revenues and lands worth £3,000 a year she lived like all great ladies moving with her retinue from one residence to another as the whim took her, every inch a queen. Her residences included the castles of Mold and Hawarden, Mere and Hertford as well as Rising.

There is also evidence too that Edward III and his Queen with their Court were also frequent visitors. For example, in 1342, 1343, 1344 and 1349, and on one occasion the long suffering Mayor was commanded to send 'eight carpenters to prepare for the Kings cosing'. Her days were spent in amusing herself by hawking, reading, hearing romances, and collecting relics until she died, not at Rising - where her movements are very well recorded, but badly bent through time in the telling - but in her Castle at Hertford, the gold in her private chest - £311.10s, was used to pay off her household which was dismissed, the Castle passing to her grandson the Black Prince.

An unlikely candidate for the convent she nevertheless took the habit of the Poor Clares and was buried in the Franciscan Greyfriars Church by Newgate in London.

W. Spick.

Sources

History of English Speaking People by W. Churchill; Purnell's Biographical Gallery
Castle Rising; Department of Environment Official Handbook 1976

THE CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Once again we have had a very successful year, the profit being £7,500. This is due entirely to the consistent attendance of you shop-helpers who during the year battle through fog, snow, ice, storms and in the heat arrive just a little warm. You have the patience and charm to deal with not only the shop sales including the school parties who go round the shop three and four times but to answer questions "Where can I get a meal?" - "How do we get to Sherwood Forest and how far is it?" - "What time is the next train to London?" and a host of other questions.

For all this dear shop-helpers very many thanks, without you none of the success of the shop would be possible.

Now having read this, anybody who has not helped at the shop and would like to do so, do not be put off. Really it is very pleasant meeting people from all over the world, it is most interesting and quite good fun. You come to enjoy yourself for a couple of hours. New helpers please contact Margaret Harrison on Nottingham 652666 who ably compiles the shop rota. We anticipate opening the shop full time again from Monday, 2nd April, 1984.

I must thank Andrew Hamilton, Cliff Deane and Margaret Harrison without whose invaluable assistance I could not continue. Last and by no means least Betty who patiently allows me to upset the house with stock and convert a room into an office. She provides refreshment for reps. when they call and also helps out with the accounts and stock etc. Thanks Betty!

Thank you all again and a Very Happy New Year to you.

See you again in the New Season.

F. Thoresby Bradley

THE AUGUST 1983 RIVER TRIP

When Cliff pressed me to write something for the record it seemed most churlish to refuse. He had obviously, with his usual efficiency, mustered all admin. burdens. There could be no formal vote of thanks. He had filled the good ship Tamsie Belle with appreciative members, waiting with exemplary patience for the late-comers, chatting with the loners, and wise-cracking throughout the evening at an accelerating tempo. We were sorry to find that Mrs. Deane was unable to join us and wish her a speedy recovery.

It was a breathless torrid evening, making the mild zephyr, achieved by the 10 knots, most welcome. No one was quite certain whether they were admiring the harvest or the hunter's moon, but all voted it romantic. One of the party, who had recently been down the Nile, made no invidious comparisons. We slipped gently past Trent Bridge, the two football grounds, and the Lady Bay Bridge which had provided the setting for the finale of the television version of Seely's People. We were amazed at the abundance of patient anglers, and their seemingly patient lady escorts. We saw something of the comings and goings in Colwick Park and on the Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Lagoon. The depth of Holme Lock was emphasised by the length and hesitancy of the final jump aboard by the youngest of the crew. For the birdwatchers there were no kingfishers or terns, but plenty of geese and the firm sighting of at least one heron. The return journey in the dusk was more leisurely. Bar prices below deck were sufficient to discourage any suspicion that the sail made available to the Society duty-free-liquour. A most enjoyable evening for which we must thank Cliff.

ANON...

THE LONDON ROAD LOW LEVEL STATION

Dear Sir

I welcomed the information and publicity on London Road Low Level Station and the efforts to bring about its preservation. However, some of the historical notes on p.13 of the Newsletter are inaccurate. The Ambergate Railway was opened on July 15th, 1850 from Earle's Field Station, Grantham to Colwick, where it made a junction with the Midland Railway and had secured running powers over the M.R. to their Nottingham station. The Ambergate Railway possessed nine locomotives and operated their own trains. The Great Northern Railways 'Towns line' through Grantham was opened on August 1st, 1852 and a connection was made with the Ambergate line, which enabled a through service to be worked from Kings Cross to Nottingham. The M.R. objected and became obstructive and the possession of the Ambergate Railway became an objective of both the M.R. and G.N.R. An Act of 1854 gave powers for an independent line from Colwick and the station at the Eastercroft. From April 4th, 1855 the G.N.R. took over all rolling stock and other effects on a 999 years lease. The station authorised by the Ambergate Railway's Act of 1854 was erected by J. Ferguson to the design of and supervised by T.C. Hine.

The station was and remained a terminus, the only other company using it was the London and North Western on their service to and from Northampton which was part of the G.N./L.N.W. Joint Line, opened between December 1879 and July 1883.

The Weekday Cross Junction - Trent Lane Junction line of the G.N. on which London Road High Level Station was situated was opened on March 15th, 1899 i.e. the same day as the G.C. main line was opened. Victoria Station was opened on May 24th, 1900. This was a joint station G.C./G.N., no "other companies" were involved, the G.C. had objected to the L.N.W. passenger trains transferring to Victoria hence they remained at Low Level until 1944, (L.N.W. from 1923). Low Level remained a G.N. and from 1923 an L.N.E.R. goods depot, and much shunting of their vehicles took place between there and Trent Lane Junction.

I hope these notes have clarified something of the Ambergate Railway's history which is rather a fascinating one of what "might have been".

Yours faithfully
J.P. Wilson

(Members interested in the history of the local railway system are recommended to read 'The Grantham-Nottingham Line - "A railway of great Public Advantage".' J.P. Wilson's definitive account in 'Trains Illustrated' November 1956. Editor)



SALMON 1861

Dear Editor

I really must take up a couple of points in Marion Wallwork's letter in the last Newsletter about the Royal Concert Hall. Firstly, she says she "likes immensely" the colour scheme inside the Hall. She is certainly the only person to whom I have spoken to do so! Those vast unrelieved acres of School Hall Cream are an unimaginative let-down, and to call it a colour-scheme is a misnomer. As one friend succinctly put it on entering the Auditorium for the first time, "My God, they've got shares in a cream paint factory". Maybe cream paint is a love/hate object - personally I hate it! Does it have acoustic properties? I doubt it. Does it show to good advantage the special lighting effects? If so, could some be used (statically) for concerts? Unrelieved cream is enough to dull the perception of even the crispest Mozart - like psychological experiments in sensory deprivation.

My other point concerns 'that' sculpture. Like most other people I regard it as a fatuous waste of money (my money, as a Taxpayer!) but I have never heard anyone criticise it in a reasoned way. My contention is that it is bad design in an absolute sense, and for these reasons. One of the accepted criteria for architectural design must surely be that the object should (a) appear at its best for the greatest possible amount of time, and (b) enhance the immediate surroundings. In order that the first of these criteria should be fulfilled, the sculpture should be able to appear attractive IN DAYLIGHT, for the Hall is used winter and summer, and even for evening performances patrons are arriving by daylight for fully six months of the year, and even leaving before full dark for perhaps one to two months, not to mention the fact that the Hall does not disappear in the daytime. Now, even the sculpture fans admit that it looks pretty bad by daylight, and I suggest that this fact alone makes it unsuitable for its purpose.

The added fact that its appearance in daylight detracts considerably from the clean lines of the building which forms its background strongly confirms the diagnosis - the sculpture is, quite simply, bad design, unsuited for its purpose, and should never have been accepted.

One wonders what the opinion of the Architects would be on this addition to their building, if they were to be asked.

Yours faithfully
Elizabeth Raymont

Dear Sir

Awards

Under this heading in Newsletter No. 61 (April '83), Robert Cullen introduced the new Civic Society Commendation Scheme. Its aim was to make a monthly award beginning in March '83. Except for the 'Boogaloo' in Gossage nothing more seems to have happened, in fact the Newsletter No. 62 (September) doesn't even mention the scheme.

It is gratifying to see in the Evening Post for December 6th that the Melton Mowbray & District Civic Society has apparently taken up our idea with their own Awards in Melton.

There is a disturbing article in an earlier Post viz; December 1st where the Royal Institute of British Architects are to make awards in Notts and are inviting public participation.

Have we been gazumped!?

Arthur Courtney
Lenton Sands

OPERATION CLEAN-UP

"Operation Clean-Up" is a joint City Council and Department of the Environment campaign to help improve the appearance of the City. It was first introduced in 1978 when Nottingham along with other cities in the country suffering from Inner City problems were offered finance for an 18-month period to secure some rapid improvements to derelict sites and run-down buildings.

Subsequently, "Operation Clean-Up" was to become part of the Urban Programme, a £4.5 annual programme to assist with economic, social and environmental problems in the Inner City area. Twenty five per cent of the finance is found locally, the remainder comes from the Department of the Environment. Each year since the inception of the Urban Programme approximately £600,000 has been allocated for environmental schemes although next year the Government are wishing to see a relative increase in environmental projects. (The City Council are seeking approximately £1m for next year's environmental schemes).

The underlying aim of "Operation Clean-Up" is to secure a rapid improvement in the environment in areas where there are likely to be the maximum 'spin-off' benefits.

Schemes are implemented in three ways:-

1. Grants to property owners, community and residents' groups - usually of 50 per cent of eligible costs. (In the City Centre grants are often less). In some cases the total cost of materials is contributed where a community group is undertaking the works themselves.
2. By direct action by the City Council - the Council cleans its own buildings and landscapes derelict sites using either the Council's own workforce or private contractors.
3. Through the use of Manpower Services Commission 'task forces' - approximately 150 unemployed people are engaged on Operation Clean-Up projects under the Community Programme and Youth Training Schemes.

Work varies from cleaning buildings, clearing and fencing derelict sites and planting trees to the reclamation of building materials (e.g. railings, granite setts), the removal of graffiti and the painting of murals.

Since the inception of the scheme over 15,000 trees and shrubs have been planted and 400 derelict sites and buildings tackled.

Schemes have ranged from the cleaning and restoration of Express Buildings for which a £43,000 grant was given to a £200 tree planting scheme undertaken by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers with St. Ann's schoolchildren.

Recent 'Operation Clean-Up' schemes have included the following:

Midland Station

The first phase of the 'facelift' is now nearing completion and includes terra cotta restoration. A grant of £22,000 was offered towards works in excess of £180,000.

Former Baker & Plumb's premises, Castle Boulevard

£11,000 grant to Sol Construction Limited who are restoring this Watson Fothergill warehouse.

Butcher Works, Poplar St.

£10,000 grant to restore this derelict warehouse on the London Road/Canal Street island.

Derby Road - Chapel Bar to Canning Circus

Nineteen properties have now been cleaned either directly by the Council or through grant aid.

In addition to individual Operation Clean-Up schemes there are many run down areas where a more comprehensive approach is required.

'Face-lift' schemes have been undertaken or are underway in 16 priority areas where resources need to be concentrated; these include Hyson Green, Broxtowe, Arboretum and Corporation Oaks, the Nottingham and Beeston Canal, Goose Gate, Mansfield Road and St. Peter's Street, Radford.

In Goose Gate grants in excess of £50,000 have brought about the restoration of 30 vacant or neglected properties including the restoration of the former Boots shopfront at 16-22 Goose Gate and the premises now occupied by the "Boogaloo" boutique. The "facelift" scheme has renewed confidence in the street and resulted in a dramatic reduction in vacancy.

Similar success is being achieved in Radford Road, Hyson Green where 19 shops have now been cleaned.

Next year new facelift schemes are planned for Lenton Sands, Church Street, Old Basford and Alfreton Road in addition to the continuation of the existing schemes. Other projects will include the commencement of a Riverside Walkway from Clifton to Wilford and it is hoped that this will ultimately be linked via Victoria Embankment to Sneinton and Colwick.

The improvements and construction will be similar to the Canal towpath scheme which is now approximately one-third completed. (The towpath is completed from Carrington Street to Chain Lane, Dunkirk and works are now to proceed from Carrington Street to London Road).

'Facelift' schemes are also currently planned for the Dunkirk Community Centre, to a terrace of houses on Forest Road and the Parliament Street Bus Depot frontage to Southwell Road.

New play areas are to be constructed in Broxtowe, St. Ann's and Hyson Green as part of the current programme.

It has not been possible in this short article to cover all of the current work of the 'Operation Clean-Up' scheme which is a joint effort involving numerous Council departments, the Department of the Environment, private owners and voluntary groups. (An audio-visual programme is available which highlights some of the changes which have been brought about and if any individuals or groups would like to see this please contact the Planning Department).

What has become clear from the last five years of the Operation Clean-Up scheme is that significant improvements to the appearance of the City are being brought about and that grants for cleaning and 'facelift' schemes can encourage vacant buildings to be brought back into use with significant additional investment. Often cleaning schemes enable other restoration work to be undertaken and since the majority of the buildings involved are of some architectural or historic importance the 'Operation Clean-Up' scheme is providing an important supplement to the otherwise limited finance available for conservation work.

The City Council is always keen to receive suggestions and comments on the 'Operation Clean-Up' scheme and is particularly keen to encourage local groups to undertake improvement schemes themselves.

If you have any ideas or would like further information on the programme, please contact the City Planning Department.

Mike Pearson } City Planning Department, December 1983
Jim Taylor }

The Society now receives a copy of the Hull Civic Society Newsletter and it is always interesting to find out what the other 'fella's' doing. In the September issue was a note on 'Canopies'.

"Hull appears to have caught a disease which is spreading at an alarming rate. The symptoms take the form of a multi-coloured rash of plastic canopies. The city is going 'blind' but are the public being hoodwinked?"

The writer quoted a York City Planning Officer who suggested, in the Yorkshire Post, "...many of the sunblinds are tasteless and out of character with the buildings they adorn". However, all is not bad for in Hull there are "...cases where a facade is particularly dull they can add excitement and an enhanced three dimensional quality which accentuates the play of light on the building".

Another point well made was that the Hull Civic Society's 'Good Mark' for June, 1983 was awarded to the History Department of Kelvin Hall Senior High School "for the encouraging work produced by pupils in their study of the growth of Hull's Old Town Docks between 1760 and 1860". The work was undertaken as part of the School's Council History Project for pupils aged 13-16.

As a special Christmas bonus, the Hull Society awarded two 'Good Marks' for the month of December 1983, the second of which was awarded to an exhibition of Hull's Decorative Glass and Iron. (At the Lincolnshire and Humberside Art Gallery, Postergate until January 31st, 1984).

Ken Brand

THE PARK TUNNEL

The pedestrian entrance to the Park Tunnel at the top of College Street is due to be reopened early in 1984.

A long description of the Park Tunnel appeared in the Nottingham Journal, 18th May, 1855 under the heading 'The New Approach to the Park'.

Worth quoting at length is the following:

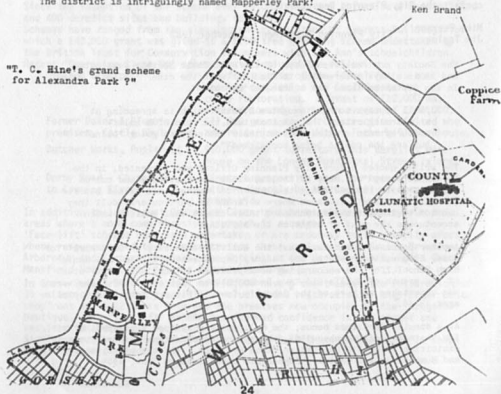
"We understand that the approach will be opened for the use of the public in another two months, and that some first class buildings in the Park will be immediately commenced, several large plots of ground have already been disposed of for that purpose. There is little to justify the apprehensions which have been expressed as to the tunnel becoming a nuisance and it is hoped that the public will show themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them".

In fact, the next edition of the Nottingham Journal, 25th May, 1855 carried this brief note:

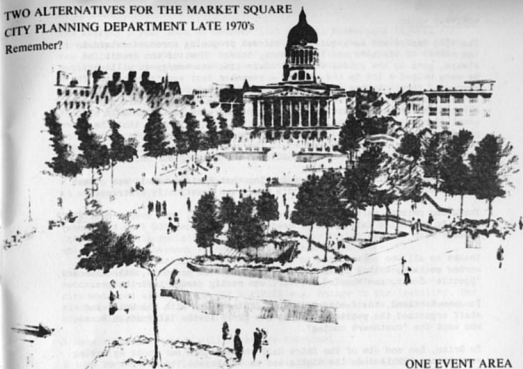
"The Park: The new approach from Derby Road to the Park was thrown open to the public during Sunday last (20th May) when it was perambulated by several thousand pedestrians."

Trevor Buck the intrepid secretary of the Alexandra Park Resident's Association has continued his research into the early days of Alexandra Park. I am grateful to him for drawing my attention to the 'Park' area on Jackson's Map of 1861. What he feels is T. C. Hine's grand but unrealized development plan for the land north of Hine's houses of the late 1850's is clearly shown. The district is intriguingly named Mapperley Park!

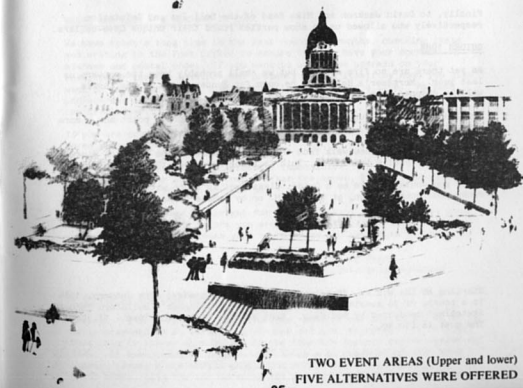
"T. C. Hine's grand scheme for Alexandra Park?"



TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR THE MARKET SQUARE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT LATE 1970's Remember?



ONE EVENT AREA



HERITAGE WALKS

The 1983 season was an unqualified success producing a record return in the number of visitors and in the money taken. Most of the credit, as always, goes to the guides who gave their time and energy so willingly. We were helped a lot by the weather - remember last year's washout? The change of format to one walk a week on a four week rota produced much better sized parties. The Shire Hall was extremely popular this year and a record was set on August 2nd when 107 people were taken round in the usual 1 1/2 hours. Those who have been on this tour will know that the narrow passages and restricted access inspired the old saying, "Two's a party, three's a crowd". Congratulations to the gallant group of guides who coped so well and still found time to publicise the rest of our walks.

The Sunday tour did very well considering that Mortimer's Hole was closed all the time and access to Richard's Tower was drastically restricted.

Including private parties there were 1,470 visitors, just over a half (770) going to the Shire Hall. The proceeds were £590 plus £100 from the Sunday tours.

Thanks to all who contributed to our success:- To all the Guides who worked so hard, with a special mention for the new recruits, Stan Saunders, 'Scottie' Scott, and Maurice Webster, who really earned their badges.

To John Hartland, the Public Relations Officer, who with Bob White and staff organised the publicity and to his girls in the Information Bureau who kept the 'customers coming'.

To Brian, Ken and Jim of the Shire Hall who smoothed our route by having everything organised on the nights and to Ted Whyatt, the Verger of St. Mary's who opened the Churchyard for our parties.

Finally, to David Jackson and Mike Read of the Bell Inn and Salutation respectively who allowed us to show parties round their unique Cave-cellars.

GUIDES 1984

As yet there are no firm details but we shall probably keep the pattern as last year. Mortimer's Hole will be open for Sunday tours so the Castle will be dropped from the evening walks.

Repairs to the Park Tunnel will possibly give a new access point and a more dramatic entrance.

There is a proposed new walk from the Council House to the Smeinton Windmill, returning by public transport. This is being surveyed at present.

So if you would like to be a Guide, please get in touch with me, when you renew your subscription, at the A.G.M. or by 'phone to Nottingham 473359.

Cliff Deane
Walks Department!

Starting at the W.E.A., Shakespeare Street on Wednesday, 18th January, 1984 is a course of 16 sessions entitled 'Discover Nottingham's Buildings Through Sketching' conducted by Rod Pegg. Each session lasts from 10am - 11.30am. The cost is £10.40.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society's year ends on October 31st and the membership figures are virtually the same as at August 1st listed in the last Newsletter. Two new Individual members were matched by two similar resignations (left Nottingham) and we increased by one Family membership.

However, I am glad to be able to report the latest position.

Further RESIGNATIONS - Nil. New FAMILY MEMBERS - 6. New INDIVIDUAL - 10.

So as at December 1st the membership stands at:-

INDIVIDUAL 347 FAMILY 207 CORPORATE 15 TOTAL 569

A Family membership has a minimum of two votes so the effective membership is at least 776.

COVENANTS

It is rather disappointing to report that only twelve members have been able to make a covenant - three of which were new members.

There's a fear of being 'TIED' which is unfounded. Refunds are not automatic and the Society has to apply to the Inland Revenue. So if circumstances alter in ANY WAY WHATSOEVER e.g. change in tax liability, the claim is not made. In any case the refund is made by the Inland Revenue of tax ALREADY PAID. There is no charge on the member.

I hope this explanation will re-assure everyone.

I look forward to a flood of 'phone calls to Nottingham 473359, and I will send you a form with S.A.E. for return.

WHERE ARE YOU? - A MESSAGE IN CODE

We have spent a long time in the last couple of months, checking lists and writing to the Post Office to ensure that we have your correct address and postal code. If you want to query the address on your envelope or (as the envelope has probably hidden itself by now) you just want to know your postal code please ring or drop me a line. My name and address are on the Membership card/Programme and the back cover of the Newsletter.

If you are not reading your own copy of this Newsletter, there is one of three reasons:

1. Your subscription is in arrears - Impossible
2. We've got your address wrong - after the above, Highly Improbable
3. You've moved and not advised me!

The re-direct service is alright for a short period - but like all good things comes to an end before you are aware of it. So - if this is the reason - let me know please your new address and telephone number.

Cliff Deane
Membership Secretary

A SURVEY OF SHERWOOD FOREST, 1609

This MS. is in the Public Record Office, London, and an edition of it is being prepared by S. Gillott, S. Groves and S.N. Mastoris. It is hoped that it will appear as a volume in the Thoroton Society Record Series for 1985. It would seem that there were three maps drawn along with this survey, covering the north, middle and south sections of the Forest. Of these three, only the one covering the southern section has survived.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

I regret that the programme card is not available at the time of despatch of the Newsletter. Copies will be available at the Annual General Meeting, but in any event it will be circulated with the Spring Newsletter.

14th February, 1984. 7.30pm at Castle Gate Congregational Church.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Full details enclosed with the Newsletter.

13th March, 1984. 7.30pm at Cathedral Hall, College Street.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK KNITTING INDUSTRY IN THE EAST MIDLANDS - an illustrated talk by Dr. Mary Palmer, Head of the Department of History at Loughborough University

10th April, 1984. 7.30pm at Wollaton Hall, Wollaton Park, Nottingham

WOLLATON AND THE WILLLOUGHBYS, an illustrated talk by Keith Train.

Please note the different venues for these meetings. No special transport arrangements have been made for the meeting at Wollaton Hall. If in difficulty, please contact me on Nottingham 604209.

Ann Booth, Programme Secretary

Dick Iliffe

We are saddened to hear of the death of Dick Iliffe. Many members will miss his contributions to Radio Nottingham. All of us have long admired his love of Nottingham's immediate past. The magnificently illustrated series Victorian Nottingham and Edwardian Nottingham carefully put together with his co-author Wilf Baguley have given Nottingham a treasure that few other cities possess. Not content with the inanimate, Dick through the Historic Film Unit gave us glimpses of what we were doing when we were all very much younger, often in a Nottingham that has all but disappeared.

REMEMBER
COVENANTS (Page 27).
REMEMBER

WANTED

Is any member willing to take on the job of Publicity Officer? If you are interested please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Suggestions are invited for suitable new venues for the A.G.M. and also for the Christmas Party.

If any members have taken colour slides which they feel might be considered for next year's Christmas card please don't hesitate, reveal your talent to a member of the Executive Committee AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

What ever happened to the models constructed to 'sell' the idea of both a New Exchange and a new Market Place to the Nottingham public?

TAILPIECE

Following the query of the Japanese lady who wondered where Robin Hood was when he shot the apple off the boy's head I got the following 'historical' question from an Australian gentleman just before Christmas: "Was it here that Richard I hung his three mistresses over the Castle wall?"

C.A.C.D.