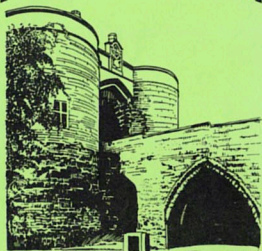


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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

President: Professor M. W. Barley
Chairman: John Severn
Secretary: R. Banks Tel: 254679
Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand Tel: 263997

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.

We need your support. We invite you to join.

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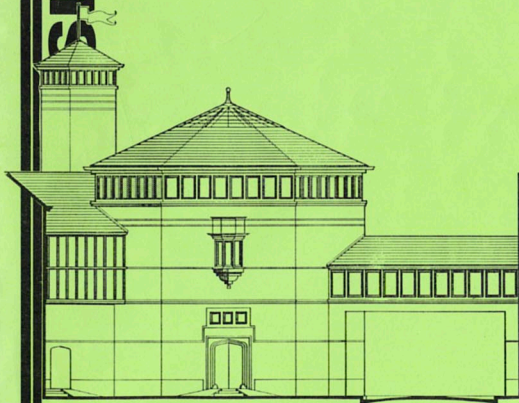
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LETTER

Nottingham
Civic Society

April 1986

70



The Pageant of Robin Hood
Proposed Main Entrance, Standard Hill

40p

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There are I have been told twentyeight places in the centre of Nottingham where the young, and to be fair the not so young, can drink to the early hours. These clubs also dispense food and more importantly music. Thus the heart of the city is a magnet that pulls in free spenders in large numbers from a wide area all determined to have a good time. The normal closing time in Nottingham is 10.30pm unlike neighbouring towns, so the city centre pubs are often fuelling stations for the night to come. In order to compete for the privilege of dispensing these early evening drinks the brewery companies have fallen over themselves to alter the interior, and often the exterior, of the traditional public houses. In many cases quality materials and workmanship have been ruthlessly ripped out to be replaced by something much inferior in a spurious attempt to infuse some glamour and class. The remaining of these establishments appears to be more contrived than natural. A few are hanging on. I hope the impressive space of the restyled Market Square will not be just a larger battleground for the lubricated factions.

Last Autumn R.S. Fell, Conservation Officer Newark District Council, spoke to the Society on the problems of empty rooms on upper floors using the title 'Over the Shop', he took examples from York, Chester, Newark and Nottingham itself. Your Society has started to look at the problem: Mansfield Road from Peachey Street to Forest Road, Radford Road, and to some extent Alfreton Road from Canning Circus to Bentinck Road urgently need surveying, and a strategy for action pursued. Mansfield Road on its western side has a unifying basic simplicity that still survives the many terrible alterations to shop fronts that have been allowed. The road is desperately in need of a comprehensive scheme similar to that which graced Norwich many years ago. Some pessimists might well point-out that the Society should be more concerned about empty buildings, especially the long term, in prominent areas. It is difficult, however, for the lay-person to tamper with the old equation: Rates Paid = Rate in the £ x Rateable Value, except for naively proposing a differential valuation policy. There must be no damaged or missing spokes attached to the vibrant hub that is the New Market Square.

Ken Brand

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF LAMBERT'S FACTORY AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS
IN THE CANNING CIRCUS CONSERVATION AREA.

Draft Statement in anticipation of the forthcoming Public Inquiry.

1. NOTTINGHAM is one of England's most important historic towns, in terms of its long history, the national importance of the Castle, the political associations and its industrial importance in modern times. An enlightened conservation policy should be designed to ensure that any action affecting its archaeology, its historic street pattern and its existing buildings should enhance every phase of the City's history.
2. THE CITY COUNCIL'S Planning Department has made notable contributions towards that objective, by for instance its work in the Lace Market. The Civic Society has also made contributions, which few other amenity societies could match, by the funding of excavations of the mediaeval castle, helping in the restoration of Green's Mill, Sneinton, and in many other ways.
3. THE POSSIBILITY that Lambert's Factory might be demolished is quite out of keeping with the recent policies of the City Council and the high reputation it has acquired from its achievements. In terms of existing buildings, Nottingham is predominantly a Victorian city and its textile factories have long been regarded as one of its distinctive features. They have on the whole fared well in the changes of the last twenty years. Even in the redevelopment of St Ann's, for instance, while the housing was removed, the factories, along with the chapels and public houses, are still there. The prospect from Huntingdon Street is the more varied and historically revealing for that reason.
4. LAMBERT'S FACTORY is architecturally one of the most striking of these textile factories and its roof-line and towers make a notable contribution to the townscape, both within the Conservation Area and beyond. The city would be much the poorer if it was demolished and the city's reputation for conservation would receive a sad blow. "The building is in basically sound condition and capable of conversion to a new use" (City Planning Officer).
5. THE DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS involved and the problem of timetable have evidently prevented the City Planning Officer and the County Architect from preparing briefs for new magistrates' courts which would be in keeping with the setting. The site is the largest which has come up for redevelopment since the time of the Broadmarsh and Victoria Shopping Centres. It measures about 12,760 square metres. Lambert's Factory occupies a mere 6.0% of the site and the proposed magistrates' courts only 37.6%. Stated in those terms, the County Council's proposals are an extravagant use of city-centre land.
6. EVEN IF IT IS ACCEPTED that both the Guildhall and the Shire Hall should be abandoned for judicial purposes - and that assumption is questionable - the proposal for three separate buildings for the Courts should be reconsidered and the possibility of using part of the site for other purposes appropriate to the area should be explored.

7. FOR THE CIVIC SOCIETY the principal objective must be to fight for the retention of Lambert's Factory. It is accepted that it cannot be incorporated in the Courts, but uses ancillary to the Courts are certainly feasible.

M.W. Barley
President
Nottingham Civic Society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Harry Bown's letter in the January issue contains some interesting suggested ways of preserving parts of our industrial heritage.

Both as an individual member of the Society and as manager of an organisation which has undertaken a number of conservation projects (including the restoration of the Boathouse and Dovecote at Wollaton Park), the idea of a cycle museum particularly aroused my interest. In order to try and start the ball rolling, I took the liberty of writing to the Managing Director of TI Raleigh Ltd., pointing out the suggestion made by Mr Bown and asking if the Company had considered such a project, as the Family First Trust Projects Agency would be only too keen to play a part in the adaptation of a suitable building, under the Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme which funds our operations.

I am sure that readers would like to know that Raleigh replied in the following terms:-

"Whilst agreeing with you that a cycle museum for Nottingham would be an interesting project, I regret that at the present time we have neither the financial or management resources available to participate in such a project. It is, however, a subject that I will keep under review and should our position change I will let you know."

Yours faithfully
Eddie Woolrich
Agency Manager
Family First Trust Projects Agency
Radford Mill, Nottingham

(The city lost a great chance to obtain the nucleus of a cycle museum when the cycle collection at Belton House was acquired to form the basis of a cycle museum in Lincoln. However, an excellent exhibition of cycles and cycling at the Castle Museum was a feature of a recent Nottingham Festival. Editor)

Our new chairman, John Severn, addresses the Society.

(For those members who did not attend this year's Annual General Meeting and so missed the warm words from the incoming chairman, the text of his message to all members is reproduced below).

Dear Members,

It is for me a great honour to become chairman of the Nottingham Civic Society. Andrew Hamilton, our retiring chairman has, over the past seven years, set a very high standard of chairmanship which all that follow must live up to. I sincerely hope that I shall not let him down.

I write in this Newsletter particularly to thank Andrew most sincerely on your behalf for the untiring effort that he has put into his years of office and I would like to publicly acknowledge these efforts which have made the name of the Nottingham Civic Society a household word - not only in this city, but throughout the Midlands. Indeed, through his foresight and his hard work and with assistance from his many helpers, perhaps the Nottingham Civic Society is known throughout the world.

Thank you Andrew, thank you very much indeed.

I feel I must also acknowledge the work of, and thank, other members of the Society for their continued efforts. To thank everyone who has contributed over the past year would make this letter longer than space permits. To those I fail to mention personally, please do not take offence or feel that your efforts have been any the less, indeed in thanking those I do name, the names of many others must inevitably be coupled with theirs in the sharing of the tasks which I acknowledge. We are a Society that works well together.

To Thoresby Bradley, Mrs Bradley, Michael Shapeero, Margaret Harrison and all the shop helpers, a special thank you. The way you all keep going year in year out is fantastic.

To Cliff Deane, our membership secretary, organiser of the walks and chairman of the historic sub-committee. Thank you Cliff.

To Ken Brand, our Newsletter Editor and publications wizard, our grateful thanks. Ken has not only turned our Newsletter into a first class magazine, but has been responsible for publishing more Society publications than many national groups.

To Bob Cullen, former chairman of the Society and chairman of the environmental committee, and to all other members of the executive committee and sub-committee, again the Society's thanks for all your hard work.

To Tony Mitchell our thanks for being our vice-chairman. You have, for many years, not only deputised for the chairman, but have been active in many aspects of the life of the Society and we acknowledge the hard work you have put in over a considerable amount of time.

To our treasurer, many thanks for your efforts in keeping the Society's accounts and for providing us with up-to-date information at a moments notice. Our thanks also to our accountants and auditors. To our president and our vice-presidents, thanks are due for your work, for which the Society must be very grateful.

Last but not least, by any means, to Ray Banks the Society's honorary secretary, whose untiring efforts again year in year out must make him now the hardest working and most efficient honorary secretary that any Society has. The work load over the last year has increased enormously and yet Ray still finds time to turn out at 8 o'clock on a Thursday morning to attend the site meetings at the Boathouse and Dovecote. Ray, our sincere thanks for keeping the Society running so smoothly.

Finally, I would ask you all for your support in the times ahead. Being a new chairman will be difficult in any event, particularly after the high standard set by Andrew, but this year may see a number of important events looming over the horizon. One is Lambert's Factory, another is the future of the Great Northern Station and the Snelton Railway Lands. There will be others and I know that we, as a Society, will respond in a way which we feel is right for this city. The Society is you, the membership. I and the committee are only your representatives. We make decisions on behalf of the Society for the benefit of all. Please help us by practical as well as moral support.

I am proud to be the new chairman of a Society which stands up for what it believes to be right, without fear or favour and without any political bias. It is important that we always stay that way and, in particular, we are seen to be that way. I am committed to uphold these traditions and with your continued support, the Society will I am sure go from strength to strength.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Whilst all those named and many not named are continuing the valuable work they have voluntarily undertaken, they do need the help and support of the membership. The shop which is the mainstay of our Society's finances, and perhaps the most colourful part of the Society's image presented to visitors, desperately needs more helpers. Without more assistance the shop cannot continue indefinitely. Please, if you can spare an hour or so every week, contact Margaret Harrison.

Cliff Deane also needs help with the walks and the Castle guides. Again, this essential part of our contribution to projecting our city to visitors is doomed if no one volunteers their help. Cliff has built this up over a number of years. Don't let it founder through lack of assistance!

John Severn

The article on the work of the R.I.E.S.A.'s Community Urban Design and Assistance Team has been held over until more information on its likely deployment in the East Midlands becomes available.

JOHN PLAYER AND PLAYERS CIGARETTES

John Player, the founder of the Players Company, was born in Saffron Walden on July 11, 1839. He moved to Nottingham around 1860 in search of work, becoming a draper's assistant and then agent for Prentice and Company at number 5 Beastmarket Hill. His introduction to the tobacco trade most probably began at this time, selling 'screws' of tobacco to market traders and customers frequenting the premises. In 1863 Player married Anne Goudacre, who by 1866 had borne him two sons, John Dane Player (November 24, 1864) and William Goudacre Player (January 23, 1866), the whole family living above the shop on Beastmarket Hill.

By the late 1860s the growth in popularity of packet tobacco persuaded Player to leave Prentice and Company and enter the tobacco trade full-time. He began producing packet tobacco under his own name in 1868 and by 1874 was able to open another shop in Market Street. In 1877 he bought a small factory at 45 Broadmarsh from William Wright and Sons, a rival tobacconist, and introduced his first trade mark - a drawing of Nottingham Castle.

Increased financial success enabled Player to move his family into a house in The Park, at 9 Park Valley, and buy land to the south of Outgang Lane (now Hartley Road), Radford. His first factory, for lace and tobacco, was designed by R.C. Sutton. Its plans were first approved on April 22, 1881, before the roads of the neighbourhood were ready. By April 1884 he had opened the Castle Works in Radford but did not survive to witness its future growth. John Player died on December 9, 1884, aged 45, and was buried in Nottingham General Cemetery.

John Player's two sons took over the company and by 1887 were marketing their famous Navy Cut cigarettes with the Sailor Head trade mark. In 1895 Players became a limited company and between this date and 1930 Players opened more factories, including one in Dublin, and introduced several new brands including 'Players Medium Cut Cigarettes' (1900) and 'Digger Tobacco' (1917). In 1932 Players Number Two factory was built for the sole purpose of manufacturing cigarettes. Its six stores incorporated an area of 220,000 square feet and was designed by the company's own architects within the Imperial Tobacco Group, of which Players were founder members. Behind Number Two is Number Three factory of 1938-9; opposite is the Head Office completed in 1967 by McMorran and Whitby. Out on the Lenton Industrial Estate is the much admired Horizon Factory by Arup Associates erected between 1968-71.

Now rationalisation and a fall in demand for the company's tobacco products has induced the company to prepare plans for the redevelopment of its Radford premises. The resulting planning application has recently been refused. However, the very stylish No.2 is suddenly in imminent danger. Our chairman, John Severn, outlines the special qualities of a building fit to grace any European city.

Ken Brand

PLAYERS NO.2 FACTORY, RADFORD BOULEVARD, NOTTINGHAM

Yet another part of Nottingham's heritage seems destined to fall under the demolition hammer. This time the threatened structure is Players No.2 Factory on Radford Boulevard.

Designed by Players own architects in 1930 and built by Messrs William Woodcock Ltd. in 1931, it was opened in 1932 and is described by Nicholas Pevsner in the revised edition of 'Nottinghamshire' Buildings of England series as "the most stylish and expensive of the group."

Rumour has it that the demolition contractors move in on April 7 and unless an eleventh hour listing can save the structure we shall mourn yet again the passing of a great building.

The building is steel framed clad externally with artificial stone on the ground floor, brick artificial stone and cast steelwork on the upper floors and with floors and roof in reinforced concrete. It is one of the most distinctive buildings of its era in the City of Nottingham, and ranks with William Hollif's building on Castle Boulevard, the Raleigh office building further up Radford Boulevard and perhaps was the forerunner of many more lesser quality copies which acknowledged its dignified grandeur apparent at the time.

The Nottingham Civic Society is mindful of the fact that everything of architectural or historic interest cannot be saved, indeed it would not wish to campaign for such a situation, but it is mindful that buildings such as Players No.2 Factory are just as much a part of Nottingham's heritage as was the Collins Almshouses and the Black Boy Hotel which sadly disappeared some years ago.

If we are to keep for Nottingham some reminders of our past commercial importance, then we should look to saving some of the buildings which helped to make our city great. Too often they are damned as monuments to former and hated modes or attitudes with little regard for the sentiment or even delight which they still bring out in the memories of many who had occasions to be associated with them.

Buildings such as these will never be built again. Good architecture can stand the test of all time, and architects today are just as capable of producing the quality of design as were their fathers and grandfathers before them. But how often is it allowed to happen? Demolish this building and who knows what will replace it.

The Civic Society request that the Secretary of State lists this building before it is too late. A recent planning application for the redevelopment of the whole site of the Players complex was turned down by the Nottingham City Council Planning Committee and now to commence the demolition of this fine structure without knowing what is to replace it is unnecessary and ill advised.

It is quite clear that the building has a financial value and is in good condition as it was in use until recently. Surely other uses can be found for this fine building.

John Severn

The report of the joint working party examining the state and functions of Wollaton Park was published in March. Members might have heard our secretary Ray Banks on Radio Nottingham or seen him on television giving a resume of the conclusions of the working party. The recommendations are repeated below. Copies of the report will be on sale at meetings of the Society and at the Gatehouse Shop.

WOLLATON PARK, 1986 "Fraying at the Edges?"

Summary of Recommendations Contained in the Report

1. MANAGEMENT

We draw attention to the problems of divided control. This could best be overcome by the appointment of an administrative officer with overall responsibility for all aspects of the Park. He should be readily accessible to the public and to societies and organisations with an interest in the Park.

We recommend the setting up of byelaws to cover general aspects of Park management and the organisation of a corps of uniformed 'rangers' to enforce them. Public interest might be fostered by forming a voluntary body of 'Friends of Wollaton Park'.

2. MUSEUMS

We recommend the re-location of the Natural History Museum, so that the Hall may be restored as a period residence with appropriate furniture and artifacts. The Stable Block Museum should be completely reorganised. The industrial exhibits should be removed (possibly to the Railway Parcels Depot, London Road) and a Museum of Agriculture and Rural Crafts established in the Stable Block.

3. RESTRICTIONS OF LARGE SCALE FUNCTIONS

We have particularly in mind special events such as caravan and car rallies which pose problems of noise and disturbance to nearby residents and to the normal users of the Park. The recent Lombard R.A.C. Rally also caused considerable damage to the Park itself.

4. DESIGN AND LOCATION OF CAR PARKS CONTROL OF VEHICLES

5. REHABILITATION OF THE OLD BARN, OTHER ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AND THE NURSERY GARDEN

6. MAINTENANCE OF TREES AND PLANTED AREAS/INCREASED ACCESS TO CERTAIN WOODLAND AREAS/IMPROVEMENTS TO FENCES AND FOOTPATHS/FORMATION OF A PERIPHERAL FOOTPATH/LANDSCAPING

7. BETTER FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC: REFRESHMENTS, PUBLICATION OF A GUIDE BOOK. USE OF VOLUNTARY HELPERS

8. HUSBANDRY OF GRAZING AREAS. REMOVAL OF THE DONKEYS

9. REPAIRS TO THE BOUNDARY WALL. REHABILITATION OF THE DERBY ROAD LODGE

(All communications and comments about the Report should be addressed to the secretary of the Nottingham Civic Society, Mr R. Banks, 1 Ashley Close, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 4BQ, Tel. 254679).

MARK OF THE MONTH

Recent subjects selected for our monthly award have tended to be on a smaller scale than in the past and gives what was felt to be something of a clash with the 'Time for Design' project. This policy will continue. Awards are given for both sympathetic and careful restoration of existing period buildings and new buildings of good architectural merit. Whilst this must be somewhat subjective given the wide interpretation of what is 'good' modern architecture. Nevertheless, we have attempted to choose subjects where it is obvious that some thoughtful consideration has gone into producing a result that is aesthetically pleasing.

Here are some observations on recent awards. The award for December 1985 was given to 35 Waverley Street at the corner of Waverley Street and Forest Road West facing the Vernon Arms. The house known as Ivanhoe, forms the eastern end of McIvor Terrace. The building, one of several terraces on Forest Road, appears to have been built about 1865 and displays many of the distinctive features associated with the local architect T.C. Hine. It was built on a good site on the brow of a hill overlooking both the town and the Forest.

The restoration that has been undertaken by the owner with assistance from the city council has demonstrated how careful patient restoration can make work even on a relatively neglected structure stand out. Retention of existing window frames and chimneys, recovering the roof in reclaimed slates often forms the basis of sympathetic refurbishment of Victorian buildings. With this example the owner has salvaged original stone sills and lintels to replace those damaged and has had new frames made in the original style when they were beyond repair.

Existing Italianate detailing on chimney stacks has been repointed and the whole building cleaned with pressure hoses to reveal the original colours of the brick. To complete the finishing touches the owner has restored the original front door, added a contemporary style lamp and replaced the iron railings on the boundary walls. The whole effect looks extremely pleasing and whilst the renovation may have in the short term cost a little more and taken a little longer, the end result in terms of aesthetic beauty and very likely financial value is considerably enhanced.

A link with Nottingham's past that many felt worthy only of demolition received the Society's award in January 1986. 'The Miller's House' 427a Forest Road West has been converted into three two bedroomed houses by Family First Trust working to the design of Colin Tuck, architect of the Nottingham Community Housing Association. This old mill house is hard to date precisely, but it is probably late 18th century. It was associated with Jack Johnson's 'The Black Mill' which stood on the site of the present Deaf Institute. Those who know this building as an eyesore even in a run down stretch of Nottingham, will be amazed at what has been achieved and the scheme fits in well with other restoration work nearby.

The Society's award for February was given to Family First Trust Project Agency for their encouragement of the use of traditional craftsmanship in the restoration of old buildings. The skill and ingenuity involved in the refurbishment of the London Road Low Level Station highlights this commitment.

The quality and extent of the work carried out often by young 'apprentices' under supervision, has been quite staggering. The range of specific architectural features restored are numerous. The rebuilding of T.C. Hine's enormous, elaborate chimney stacks would be a task expected to present problems even to experienced builders and yet now there they are in full glory. The replacement of balustrades was achieved by trial and error both in the competition of the mix used and in the construction of the moulds. The replacement of other stone features with distinctive profiles was achieved in the same way. As the project agency exists to get the long term unemployed back into skilled work and to train youngsters in building and decorating skills, the station project certainly provides a skills showcase. The labour force involved changed continuously as local building firms snapped up quality craftsmen.

A choice for April will be the extension to the E.E.T.P.U. offices on Nuthall Road by the O.D.C. Partnership of Kenley, Surrey, a firm specializing in period restoration work. This Edwardian building was originally a detached private residence of some quality. The architects have employed original materials with respect to the roof, facing bricks and in particular the use of reconstituted bevelled stone mullions; thus the extension is virtually unnoticeable as a modern extension, so well does it blend with the original.

I hope members of the Society, as well as the general public, will seek out those examples and make their own judgements. In addition, the editor will be pleased to receive suggestions for future awards; any scheme within the city no matter how small qualifies for consideration.

Oliver Standing

REVIEW 'OLD SNEINTON'

A Guide to Old Sneinton by Dave Ablitt
published by the Sneinton Environmental Society price 60p

Dave Ablitt, now chairman of the Sneinton Environmental Society, has been an active member since its formation. Indeed as a founder member he has been instrumental in guiding the society into the role of a very progressive amenity group which is responsible for much improvement within the Sneinton Conservation Area.

His 'Guide to Old Sneinton' is a revised edition of one he published some time ago and is well written and informative. The opportunity has been taken to update, in the light of new material, and the success of this booklet can be measured by the fact that the previous edition ran into three reprints.

The booklet amply sets out Sneinton's historical relationship to Nottingham and discusses its famous sons George Green and William Booth, now honoured by the restoration of the Windmill, the Museum and No.3 Green's Gardens in the case of George Green and William Booth by the Salvation Army complex which received a Civic Trust award in 1972.

The suggested walk around the Old Sneinton conservation area is interesting and the route easy to follow from the notes and map. The historical details given in the text make a visit to this part of Nottingham attractive and rewarding.

Good value for 80 pence and the Society is to be complimented on this publication.

J.A. Severn

THE PAGEANT OF ROBIN HOOD

Soon, one might say "At Last!", the rich vein of the Robin Hood legend is about to be mined. Work will start in the near future on the clearance of the site of the Pageant of Robin Hood. This will be an exhibition and museum centre designed on similar lines to the Jorvik Viking Centre in York. The site lies behind the buildings on the eastern side of Standard Hill between what once was Rutland Street and St James's Street. It is a mere 50 paces from the Castle's Gatehouse. At the moment the site is occupied by a disused warehouse formerly owned by Debenham's (Griffin and Spalding). The change of use on the planning application pinned to the building: Furniture Workshop to Robin Hood Exhibition Centre, raises a smile.

The credentials for the creators of the centre are very impressive. Bob Wood (managing director) was recently construction manager for the Jorvik Centre, and Jonathan Bean (designer) was latterly senior set designer at Jorvik. In order to ensure an authentic historical background J.C. Holt, Professor of Medieval History at the University of Cambridge, an acknowledged expert on the Robin Hood legends, and Dr Philip Dixon, an archaeologist at the University of Nottingham, will act as advisors. Local architects Cullen, Carter and Hill will co-ordinate the design and construction in co-operation with the City's Technical Services and Planning Departments. The developers are Midsummer Inns of Swithland Hall near Loughborough.

Public access will be mainly from St James's Street and the existing service area to the east.

The exhibitions will be in three main parts:

1. The historically authentic reconstruction of a typical Nottingham street and square of 1469 AD.
2. The enactment of the tales of Robin Hood. (both ground floor)
3. The didactic (informative) exhibition. (first floor)

Ancillary to the exhibition will be a shop, refreshment gallery, kitchen and public conveniences.

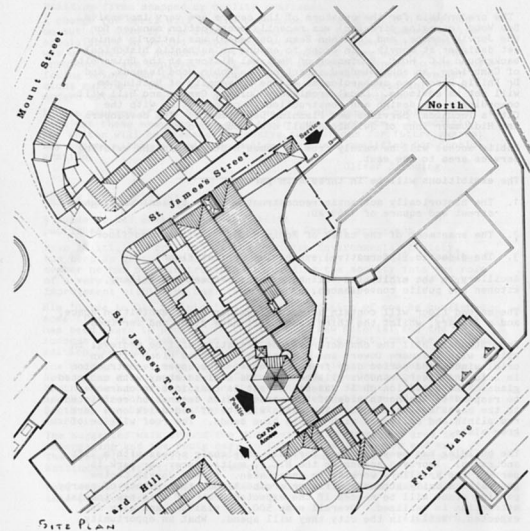
The second floor will contain a lecture/seminar room, exhibition space, and a library, whilst the third floor will have plant and services.

From Standard Hill the character of the elevation will be medieval in spirit with a square tower, and a hexagonal entrance block with an oriel window and period door frame and door. The upper fenestration is bold and clear, windows will be hardwood stained ebony with untinted glass. The elevation on St James's Street is classical in character to respond to the north side of the street, with decoration restricted to the eaves and pediments. The walls will be of red brick on a dark red plinth and enlivened with purple blue bands. The roof will be of grey slate.

The building has been designed for full wheelchair access with a lift and ramps. Improved access to the N.C.P. multi-storey car park is part of the ancillary work to be undertaken. As the Jorvik Centre generates a daily attendance figure around 4,000, then plenty of nearby parking space will be needed if the expected draw of this new tourist attraction is realized. Overall some 500,000 visitors annually are expected. Whilst in the city they will spend. What an opportunity

for the city to ensure their stay is rewarding in so many ways that they and their friends will return. What a chance for local artists, craftsfolk, writers, to produce worthwhile mementoes for visitors. Up to 200 new jobs will be created to run the centre, another 50 will come with the opening of another historical project the Robin Hood Tavern and Medieval Banqueting Hall in the old Classic Cinema in Market Street.

Ken Brand
(Based on material supplied by
Cullen, Carter and Hill)



SITE PLAN

P.F. ROBINSON, THE PICTURESQUE AND THE PARK

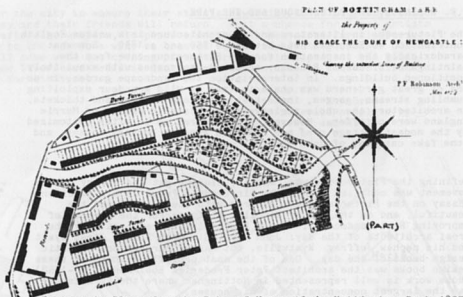
The Picturesque in literature and in architecture is a unique English contribution to European arts between c1750 and c 1840. Somewhat paradoxically the inspiration for the Picturesque came from the paintings of Claude or Poussin; composed landscapes with exquisitely positioned buildings. In interpretation the landscape garden, in an era of great gardeners was characterized by wild grandeur exploiting tumbling streams, gorges, impenetrable foliage, clumps and thickets. In architecture the whole variety of the historic styles of Merrie England were on offer. However, the Picturesque is often epitomized by the modest cottage orné and the much grander country houses, and some fake castles, of John Nash.

Defining the Picturesque was, and is, elusive but the theory of the movement was codified in 1794 by Sir Uvedale Price in his excellent 'Essay on the Picturesque as Compared with the Sublime and the Beautiful, and on the Use of Studying Pictures for the Purpose of Improving Real Landscape'. These ideals influenced, not only the great architects of the day: John Nash, Sir John Soane, James Wyatt and his nephew Jeffrey Wyatville, but ranged through the domestic design books of the day. One of the most prolific authors of these design books was the architect Peter Frederick Robinson (1776-1858) whose work is well represented in Nottingham where the Park Estate has the largest concentration of his houses.

Robinson is a neglected eclectic architect. He was a talented artist, he exhibited 68 works at the Royal Academy between 1795 and 1833. He tried to adopt regional and historical styles to his own painterly conception of architectural design in the true manner of the Picturesque. Yet in many architectural histories he is often relegated to a footnote, at best he is hardly granted a paragraph. Sir John Summerson in Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 dismisses him as "...perhaps the most versatile style conjurers of the period."

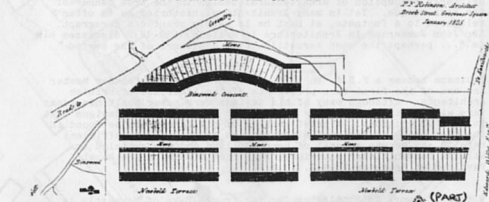
Robinson became a F.S.A. in 1826, a F.G.S. and was a founder member and one of the first vice-presidents of the Institute of British Architects. Although many of his designs were never built his ideas were widely disseminated for most of his seven books of designs went to several editions. A brief outline of his career can be found in the Dictionary of National Biography and in H. Colvin's sufficient here to say he was a pupil of Henry Holland and was articled to William Porden, later superintending Porden's work on the Royal Pavilion at Brighton 1801-2.

Robinson's work in Nottingham for the fourth Duke of Newcastle is recorded in his own words in the transcript of the proceedings of the Leicester Summer Assizes 1832. The Duke of Newcastle was endeavouring to get substantial compensation from the Hundred of Broxtowe. They were deemed responsible for allowing the firing of his Nottingham Castle during rioting following the rejection of the Reform Bill in October 1831. Robinson, one of the main witnesses for the Duke soon stated his credentials: "I am an architect and have been in practice forty years. I have had much practice in and out of London...I have been employed by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle during the last seven years." As this was 1832 then he was engaged by the fourth



Robinson's Plans for the Duke of Newcastle's Nottingham Park 1827 and Edward Willes' Estate, Leamington Spa 1825. (Reproduced by permission of Warwickshire County Library).
PLAN OF THE BUILDINGS, ABOUT TO BE ERECTED BY THE ESTATE OF EDWARD WILLES ESQ

LEAMINGTON PRIORS IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.



Features from one of Robinson's books of designs.
 Look for distinctive chimneys on the Rowepalk and barge-boards on gable ends on 14 Park Terrace and 8-10 Park Valley.



Duke in 1825 probably on the strength of his work in Leamington Spa. It is possible that Robinson's ability to realize the whims of his client, secured the post, for this was in great contrast to the Duke's earlier attempt in 1822 to start developing the Castle Park. Then an unknown local architect John Jephson was entrusted with the task and was paid £23-5-6d for surveying the Park and making plans and elevations of intended houses. Within two years of his appointment Robinson had published his development plan for the Park. In the way it tries to copy the London squares of John Nash, it is very similar to his proposals for the estate of Edward Willes in Leamington Spa, laying out streets around Beauchamp Square. His Nottingham plan has not a vestige of a contour line and the street pattern is really inappropriate for the configuration of the Park. As in Nottingham, so in Leamington Robinson's development was limited but formed some basis for later completed schemes.

Robinson then was responsible for the first serious development in the old Castle deer park, planning the rather rectangular layout and designing virtually all of the houses erected between 1827-33. The cottage orné style is represented by 8-10 Park Valley and 14 Park Terrace. The Italianate 15-17 Park Terrace is a good example of the genre whilst the Rowepalk houses, whose fronts face the Park, have the appearance fit for a Regency seafont or spa. "There are many houses in the Park I attempted to make them look well. There are many houses in the Park, on the terrace, which continues from Standard Hill, round till it comes to Derby Road. The building of the houses on Derby Road would be rather an improvement than a detriment to the Park," was how Robinson indicated his involvement when cross examined.

During his evidence for the Hundred of Broxtowe, Henry Moses Wood, the Nottingham architect and surveyor, stated: "Part of the Park is set apart for building ground; there are now from forty to sixty houses in the Park."

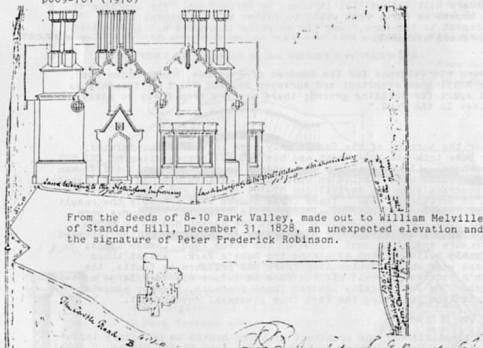
After the burning of the Castle only work in hand was completed. The Duke took his investment and his reduced compensation of £21,000 elsewhere. Little activity was evident in the Park until 1839 when three houses were erected on what is now Park Valley; 13 (demolished) 15 (currently on the market) and 17-19; all are shown on Deerden's Map of Nottingham 1844. These three houses were probably the result of an inexpensive compromise; the Duke's financial pressures were great, but some token gesture to test the market had to be made. The Duke's local agents had obtained early knowledge of the intended enclosure and subsequent layout of the Derby Road Lammas Lands; valuable building land adjoining the Duke's Park. Whilst these houses were under construction there was pressure by Coult's, the Duke's bankers, to sell off the Park to reduce his very large mortgages. The Duke totally ignored these protests, thereby somewhat unintentionally saving the Park from piecemeal development.

If Robinson is not the architect of these houses he certainly influenced their design, which could have come from Thomas Winter, a local architect surveyor of Rutland Street, Standard Hill, employed in that capacity and as agent by the Duke.

There is no record of Robinson leaving the Duke's employment, but c1840 with increasing financial difficulties, he moved to Boulogne where he resided until his death in 1858. On June 18, 1840, the Council of the Institute of British Architects ordered that his name be omitted from the next published list of members, presumably he had failed to pay his subscription. Robinson produced a number of grand designs, had any of them succeeded there is little doubt he would have moved into the front rank of Regency architects and avoided his financial plight. From his office came plans for the rebuilding of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (1809), the re-erection of the portico of Carlton House (1827), an imposing home on the north side of Trafalgar Square for both the Royal and Antiquarian Societies (1831), and a Tudor Gothic design for the new House of Commons (1835) entered under the non-de-plume 'Dum Spiro Spero'. His most exotic work was the Egyptian Hall in Piccadilly (1811-12) whilst he was responsible for the Swiss Cottage, originally in the grounds of the Colosseum, Regent Street, London (c1828). What the standard reference books have failed to pick-up is that on the Ropeswalk, Park Terrace, Park Valley (especially the even numbers), in Derby Terrace and perhaps Walton's Hotel, Nottingham's Park Estate has the largest collection of Robinson's work.

Ken Brand

- Dictionary of National Biography vol. xvii p36/7 (Edition of 1973)
- A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects by Howard Colvin p669-701 (1978)



From the deeds of 8-10 Park Valley, made out to William Melville of Standard Hill, December 31, 1828, an unexpected elevation and the signature of Peter Frederick Robinson.

Illustration by permission of the County Record Office

NOTTINGHAM AND THE THIRTIES

The Georgian Group since 1937 and the Victorian Society since 1958 have battled, with many successes, for buildings of the period they represent. More recently the Victorian Society, with its official cut-off point of 1914, has found itself dealing with inter-war buildings, many of them logical successors to their Victorian and Edwardian forebears, reflecting either Edwardian baroque or the beginnings of functional architecture.

Since 1979 these buildings have had another friend: the Thirties Society, founded in the wake of the demolition of the Firestone building on the Great West Road. At this time the out-of-date fear for listing a building was brought forward to 1939, and it became obvious that inter-war buildings needed their own champion. A further spur for interest in the thirties was undoubtedly the Granada TV production of Brideshead Revisited. Evelyn Waugh might have insisted that contrary to appearances, the book was a souvenir of the war and not of the two decades before it, but the immense care lavished on the settings, with the use of many authentic locations, left us in no doubt of what was being remembered in the production.

This led us to appreciate what remained. The Victorian Society began its activities in Nottingham at about this time, and it was soon assisting the Thirties Society in getting a building listed. This was Newcastle House on Castle Boulevard, opposite Brewhouse Yard. Even in its present rather battered state it has its attractions: architecture that is indeed modern but retains a human face, streamlined, with an enjoyable entrance front. Its architect, Frank Broadhead, also gave Nottingham a very different building: the choir vestries on the north side of St Mary's church, nearest the west front; dating from 1940 they harmonise well with the adjoining vestries by Bodley.

Nottingham has much from between the wars, of course, and the Thirties Society came on December 7 last to sample it. Their first taste of a listed building was the Council House. This is a wonderful example of inter-war classicism. Pevsner was rude about it in 1951 for at that time he only respected 'moderne' buildings. I must say that when I first saw it in 1971, in the dark, I assumed it to be a Victorian building; I had just left Leeds and saw more than a passing resemblance (as I thought) to Cuthbert Brodrick's Town Hall of 1858. Now, of course, it receives all the respect due to it, and the Thirties Society members were delighted with the interior, so well maintained with civic pride often lacking elsewhere before the days of Operation Clean-Up. It was lovely to find so many examples of twenties fashion, from the majesty of the council chamber to the art deco touches in the ballroom, the lamp standards and the grand top lit staircase among them. We would love to see the Council House listed, but inter-war classical doesn't yet get the recognition it deserves from the Department of the Environment. Perhaps when Nottingham is resurveyed....

The next stop was the Shire Hall: not an inter-war building, true, but built in a style that inspired so many of them. Grade I it may be, but the visitors were disappointed in its shabby condition. Perhaps once Nottingham's courts situation is finally sorted out justice will be done.

Civic administration remained our theme as we headed across Trent Bridge (where the architect's name caused some mirth) to County Hall, which Pevsner and his successor Elizabeth Williamson have both given a good pasting. Vincent Harris produced a good number of civic buildings before this one, examples being found in Leeds, Kingston and Bristol. The West Bridgford building could not be completed till well after the war, by which time its streamlined-country-house look was well out of fashion, and the detailing of the building was not carried out. Since then we have had the CLASP extension which, pace Elizabeth Williamson, does nothing for the riverside elevation. But on the original building there is some impressive sculpture together with delightful lampstandards and the enjoyable Lutyensesque portico towards Trent Bridge.

We made our way to the war memorial on the Victoria Embankment, a classical affair of 1927 by T. Wallis Gordon. Continuing towards Clifton Bridge we were embarrassed to pass first the ruins of Wilford Railway Bridge, although I did assure the visitors that both the Civic Society and the Victorian Society had fought hard for it, and then what was left of Wilford Power Station, which had once seemed worth an extended fight.

From Trentside the party went onto the university, Lord Trent's monumental seat of learning. Indeed his shop architect Morley Horder was brought in to design the Trent Building, begun in 1922 in the classical style that was believed to confer academic respectability on new universities. (They did a similar thing at Leeds, and although it took thirty years it won the approval of a taxi driver who didn't like modern architecture but appreciated older forms. "It's University," he told me, "that's classical; built by the Ancient Greeks.") Nottingham University, as it would become, was equally reassuring, even if the motifs in the Great Hall were more obviously Egyptian.

Next door we saw the Portland Building, another 'inter-war' survivor that didn't arrive till 1957, a late work of Cecil Howitt but with decoration (now largely altered) by Sir Hugh Casson.

It was a logical, and final, step to the hub of the Boot's universe at Beeston. Our goal was the famous pair of buildings by Sir Owen Williams, the wet and dry as we were told. It was my first visit, and quite odd to go round an industrial site which smelt as attractive and varied as their Victoria Centre shop. A surprise was the pipeline dispensing such things as witch-hazel and cod-liver oil.

No Thirties Society member needs to be told that the Williams buildings are magnificent. But none of us expected the interior of the 'wet' building, a real cathedral of pharmacy. Described by Pevsner as "powerful and startlingly modern", we saw it in a very low light, a sort of twilight, incredibly quiet, every one of us strangely moved by the place. It was quite odd, by contrast, to see the building in action as Annela Rice dashed through it on treasure hunt the other week. To conclude our visit we were proudly taken to the firm's offices of 1966-8: very glamorous, very comfortable, truly international, but no comparison with what we had just seen!

Of course, there is much else to see in Nottingham. There is much housing, both council and private, including the Home Brewery manager's house, 93 Mansfield Road, another Howitt work for which we fought hard: I thought people had grown out of demolishing buildings to make car parks. Howitt also designed the Home Brewery offices opposite, and some of the many inter-war pubs. The churches of that period are somewhat traditional though attractive enough: St Margaret's, Aspley; St Cyprian's, Carlton; St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey; St Martin's, Sherwood, and St Mary's, Wollaton Park, among them; the only one that is at all 'way out' is St Augustine's, Woodborough Road, which has featured before in the Newsletter.

Cinemas have not done at all well. Most of the exteriors remain, but tripling soon puts paid to the inside; perhaps those relegated to bingo halls have survived better - the Elite certainly looks good after its facelift and the installation of spotlights.

For aggressive modernism we can look at the Player's Bonded Warehouses of 1938. For their offices, as with Raleigh (now the Marcus Garvie Centre) they were rather more traditional; and I might add that the Radford Boulevard building No.2 Factory now has an eye kept on it, even if the scheme for a hypermarket on the site has not found municipal favour.

Much remains to be studied. As a curtain-raiser the Civic Society's evening walk on Wednesday, May 7, will take as its theme Daybrook suburban, with plenty of inter-war material: housing, a former cinema, a former church, a literary event on the site of a station, some Victorian and more modern features, all starting and finishing at the Vale Hotel on Mansfield Road/Thackeray's Lane, a Cecil Howitt public house that has lasted pretty well.

Ian Wells

(The Wheatsheaf in Burton Joyce, another Cecil Howitt building, was opened on the same day in 1937 as the Vale Hotel. Editor)

Most architects have at least one good building awaiting a client. This house, for Dr R.C. Chicken, F.R.C.S. at the corner of Burns Street and Forest Road West, is by the relatively unknown Sydney R. Stevenson (1884). Dr Chicken compiled the index to Charles Deering's History of Nottingham, first published as a separate volume in 1899.



1899-1900, Forest Road



1899-1900, Forest Rd.

RADFORD FOLLY

During the latter part of George III's reign pleasure gardens became an extremely fashionable form of entertainment, providing such diverse amusements as dancing, boating, 'rural' walks and places to drink and dine. Probably the most famous example was Vauxhall Gardens, then just outside London, and immortalised in Thackeray's novel 'Vanity Fair'.

But Nottingham too had its pleasure garden. It was situated at Radford Grove, or as it soon became known, Radford Folly, and was about a mile out of the town, following a footpath through the fields from the top of Derby Road and Denman Street.

William Elliott, who became a considerable benefactor to Radford, had amassed a large fortune as a silk dyer and stocking trimmer, and, like many similar self-made men, decided to copy the life-style of the country gentry. To this end, he bought an extensive area of land just north of what is today St Peter's Street and in 1780 built himself a country seat.

The estate was situated on the west bank of the River Leen, and this enabled Elliott to have a large area of land excavated to form an ornamental lake. The Leen provided the necessary water and the sludge was regulated by a sluice built at the inlet. He also, at great expense, had the grounds landscaped, planting trees of different foliage in attractive groups and placing rustic arbours and temples in various parts of the estate. Throsby in 1790 felt the place to be 'a little paradise'. Elliott had his large, but rather undistinguished house built near the entrance so that he could look over the lake, in the middle of which he had had constructed a small island on which was built a tower or summer house of considerable size.

The island was reached by a 'Chinese' bridge, so named presumably because its design was similar to that of the Chinese ceramics that were growing in popularity at that period. It consisted of a single span arch and ornamental wooden supports on either side. The railing was a simple design of square uprights and three large newel posts placed at equal intervals. The whole bridge was painted white, which made it stand out most effectively against the landscape.

The Folly itself was the name later applied to the tower on the island, often referred to as "the summer house" or the "round house", though in fact it was octagonal in shape. It was constructed in brick but with stone bands and ornamentation, which gave it a sectioned or layered effect. The brick was of Flemish bond and surmounted by a corbelled out parapet which was embattled. Stone copings, as a decorative feature, surmounted the parapet and the tower was finally topped by eight pillars carrying a shallow funnel-shaped 'canopy' that terminated in a finial. This was urn shaped and draped with a festoon of leaves. The island sloped steeply to the edge of the lake, giving the tower a somewhat greater impression of height, an effect enhanced by a flight of stairs that ascended from the water to the entrance. The doorway had a Doric pediment

supported by a pillar on each side. There were six or seven large windows with the sills tied into a stone string course and the lintels were splay-edged with a central keystone. Above the window lintels was another string course of stone and between this and the parapet were decorative circular inlets in the brickwork edged with stone.

The large expenditure in both money and labour in laying out the grounds and especially the lake, led people dubbing the estate 'Elliott's Folly' and this name remained for some time. It was not until it became a regular resort for the people of Nottingham that it became known as Radford Folly and the name became specifically applied to the tower.

After William Elliott's death in September 1792, the estate was bought by Charles Sutton, proprietor of the 'Nottingham Review' newspaper. He, instead of taking up residence there, let 'Grove House' and the estate to a Mr Farr. The latter was clearly an enterprising man who saw the money-making potential of such a place. Renaming the estate Radford Grove and adding popular entertainments, he opened it as a pleasure garden.

He had erected on one side of the lake an elaborate pictorial representation of the Bay of Naples painted in bright colours on wooden boarding. There were clouds, distant mountains, a lighthouse, forts and many buildings, and for a considerable time it was illuminated by hundreds of coloured lamps. Boats could be hired for a shilling (5p) an hour and a skittle ground was also laid out. In the summer time there was dancing to 'a merry fiddle' and there were swings and other amusements for young and old alike. Teas and refreshments were served in the tower, which also provided an excellent view of the surrounding country. Mary Howitt, in her book 'Little Cote, Much Care', mentioned that the evening's entertainment was concluded by a fireworks display. In the winter the lake was often frozen and was used by skaters. Even Blondin is reputed to have performed a daring tight-rope act at the Grove.

An illustrated brochure of 1827, when the pleasure garden was in its heyday, advertised its delights by talking of the gardens as being "kept in good order and here the young seek healthy amusement. Sources of diversified pleasure present themselves; and parties who resort here in great numbers in the summer season, have tea and other refreshments served up with every comfort." It proved to be a popular place, especially for the young and undoubtedly for the soldiers from the Nottingham Barracks, which was only a short distance away in the Park.

After many years, however, its hold on public popularity began to wane, especially after the Nottingham Enclosure Act and the laying out of parks like the Arboretum. Finally, Mr R. Sutton took it over and after extensive alterations used it again as a private residence. He stocked the lake with perch and the banks with rare birds. In one of Henry S. Sutton's poems, 'The Dream', he wrote of the Grove:

There is a spot of earth supremely blest,
A dear, and sweeter spot than all the rest.

The reprieve was short lived. Soon after Sutton's death the property was sold to a Mr Harrison, who soon after filled in the lake. The Chinese bridge was demolished and the gallery and canopy were removed from the Folly. Radford in the late 1860s was becoming heavily industrialised. Not only were there large lace and engineering factories, but the colliery, sunk in 1819, was rapidly developing, much of its output being transported by donkey to Nottingham. Close by Lord Middleton had a lime works. Eventually the property came into the possession of one of the mining companies and it became the approach to a colliery wharf.

Finally only the Folly remained in this derelict industrial area, neglected and crumbling year by year, its past glory forgotten. For sixty years it was the playground of generations of Radford children, until at last in 1957 the National Coal Board, who owned the area, became increasingly concerned about the possibility of a serious accident and demolished it.

Thus, the last remnant of Elliott's 'delectable' landscape passed away forever, leaving Radford the poorer.

Peter Foster

(See the Transcriptions of the Thoroton Society vol.17 1913 pp56-58 when R.C. Sutton, writes of Radford Grove or Folly, his childhood home.)

Radford Folly (from an old print).



A recent publication from the Planning Department is 'The Burns Street Trail', price 20p.

Two free Time for Design leaflets are also obtainable: 'Home Improvements' and 'Extending Your House.'

Mention was made in Newsletter 69 of a video made under the direction of Dr Roger Smith which examines the Victorian origins of many inner cities. The video, which features a critical in-depth study of the All Saints Parish of Nottingham, is now available. Called 'Burn Off My Rusts', Reviving the Inner City, it costs £29.25 including postage and £3.75 VAT, and is available in VHS and Betamax format. To purchase a copy contact Mrs Jaqui Hunt, Department of Town and Country Planning, Trent Polytechnic, Burton Street, Nottingham, NG1 4BU. (Make cheques or postal orders payable to Nottinghamshire County Council).

The Arkwright Society has sent details of the attractions at Sir Richard Arkwright's complex of cotton spinning mills at Cromford. There are three types of tour available:

1. A mill tour (approximately 1 hour).
2. A full tour which includes Cromford Village workers' housing and watercourses that supplied the mill (approximately 2 1/2 hours).
3. A visit to Cromford Mill combined with a trip to one other attraction chosen from The Leawood Pump House; Lea Rhoddendron Gardens; The Peak District Mining Museum; Willersley Castle (Sir Richard Arkwright's mansion); The Lumsdale Mills; The Heights of Abraham and Nestus Mine.

For further information ring Wirksworth (062 982) 4297 or write to The Interpretive Team Supervisor, Cromford Mills, Cromford, Derby DE4 3RR.

ELSEWHERE

The Society exchanges Newsletters with a number of other amenity societies. One such society is 'The Horsham Society'. A letter from a local bus driver responding to the Horsham Society's views on proposed alterations to a central road layout, the Carfax appeared in their December Newsletter.

Part of the letter is reprinted below:

"My colleagues and I have studied your town centre proposals and are very impressed with them - the best we've seen yet!

But please consult your local bus drivers before you plan the bus station layout. We not only drive local buses, but serve most parts of the UK when on express coaching duties and we've seen diabolical bus stations recently built around the country.

Most are awkward to negotiate with the longest buses we operate (39'4") and are positively dangerous to pedestrians (our potential customers), and we bear the brunt of their complaints."

The letter goes on to praise Guildford bus station "...well thought out....warm and sheltered...."

It ends "...we must make public transport more attractive to the short trip car owner."

Ken Brand

CIVIC TRUST ENVIRONMENT WEEK May 3-11, 1986

This is the second year an Environment Week has been organised by the Civic Trust. The object is to encourage local Amenity Societies to stage events locally to publicise themselves and their efforts.

The main event which the Nottingham Civic Society is planning is an official ceremony to mark the restoration of the Boathouse and the Dovecote at Wollaton Park. The work on the Boathouse has been sponsored by the Civic Society and that on the Dovecote by the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, using Community Programme facilities provided by the Family First Trust Project Agency. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 3. Lord and Lady Middleton will be the guests of honour and the function will be attended by the deputy lord mayor and members of the council. The Dovecote and its attached museum will be open to the public at a later date. The proceedings will start at 11am (preceded by coffee at 10.30am). Numbers must be restricted, but it may be possible to invite a limited number of our ordinary members. If you would like to be considered for an invitation, please send your application to the secretary not later than April 19. Do not be disappointed if your application is not successful. Admission will be by invitation only.

The Nottingham Civic Society is also organising three walks for members of the public, viz.,

Tuesday, May 6

Starting at 7.30pm from the Council House steps. A circular walk through the centre of Nottingham, taking special notice of the work of some of Nottingham's lesser known architects, including Evans and Jolley, A.N. Bromley, R.C. Sutton, W.A. Heazell, G.S. Doughty and W.B. Starr. Watson Fothergill and T.C. Hine will not be ignored. (Leader Ken Brand).

Wednesday, May 7

Starting at 7.30pm from the Vale Hotel. A Daybrook suburban walk, taking in the Victorian and inter-war years properties in the area. (Leader Ian Wells).

Thursday, May 8

Starting from the Castle Gatehouse at 7.30pm. A walk round the Park Estate, examining the way in which the Castle's Deerpark was transformed into an unique Victorian garden suburb. (Leader Ken Brand).

FOURTH MIDLANDS CONFERENCE OF AMENITY SOCIETIES

We are the hosts this year for this conference, which will be held on Saturday, June 14 in the Rushcliffe Civic Centre, Trent Bridge, Nottingham. We have arranged a very good programme, including Michael Middleton, the Director of the Civic Trust. The charge is £7.50 per person, which includes buffet lunch (with wine) and other refreshments. If you would like an application form please write to the secretary, not later than May 24. There is only a limited number of places available, so early application is advisable.

HERITAGE WALKS 1986

This year our 12 week season extends from June 4 to August 21. The Shire Hall tour will still be every Thursday and the city tours, with some changes, every Wednesday.

The Georgian and Lace Market tour will be featured each week along with one of the other three walks, which will now repeat four times during the season. All the tours begin at 7.30pm, take about 1 1/2 hours and the charges remain at 50p for adults and 30p for children, OAPs and students.

EVERY THURSDAY June 5 to August 21

SHIRE HALL, PRISON CELLS AND YARD. Tour starts and ends at the Shire Hall.

EVERY WEDNESDAY June 4 to August 20

LACE MARKET AND GEORGIAN. Starts at the Gatehouse Shop, ends at the Salutation Inn, where one of our members, Paul Nix, has been carrying out new excavation and clearance work.

INDIVIDUAL WEDNESDAYS

1. THE PARK AND CANAL TRAIL June 4, 25, July 16, August 6
Starts at the Gatehouse Shop, goes through The Park along Lenton Road and down to Castle Boulevard visiting (by kind permission of Kennings) the caves of St Mary de la Roche (rediscovered and cleaned by Paul Nix) returning via the marina and canal towpath to the vicinity of Broadmarsh bus station.
2. SWINE GREEN AND SNEINTON June 11, July 2, 23, August 13
As last year, beginning at the junction of Victoria Street and Fletcher Gate, ending at Sneinton.
3. ST MARY'S AND THE SAXON SETTLEMENT June 18, July 9, 30, August 20
This walk was done last year as part of the Civic Trust Environment Week. Starts and ends at Weekday Cross, with a brief tour of the church conducted by the Verger, followed by a trip along the former Narrow Marsh.

The re-arrangement allows more variety and provides good training facilities enabling new guides to become both confident and competent within the season so they can conduct their own parties. Training is given by fact sheets, familiarisation walks with one of the present guides, and by joining the public tours. The Lace Market and Georgian is an ideal 'starter'. Details will be available for present guides who will be doing new walks.

NEW GUIDES NEEDED

As you can see we have a new training approach and we need new guides URGENTLY. So please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

SUNDAY TOURS

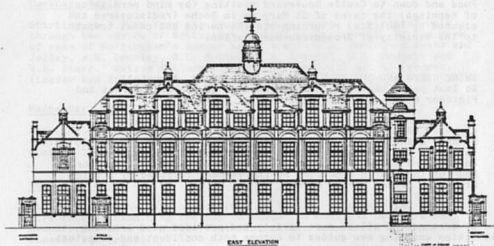
As last year the Castle tours are every Sunday from March 30 to September 28, at intervals between 2pm and 4pm. But we are so SHORT OF GUIDES, often down to one, that we may have to discontinue these very popular tours unless help is forthcoming. If you can spare even one Sunday a month PLEASE COME AND BE A GUIDE. Training on any Sunday as above; just turn up or preferably ring Margaret Harrison first.

Without Guides we shall be unable to continue these tours which have brought pleasure to so many people and have awakened interest in the heritage of the city. We also raise about £800 annually for use on various projects (see previous Newsletters).

SO PLEASE COME AND BE A GUIDE

The telephone numbers of Margaret Harrison and myself are on the back of the programme card.

Cliff Deane
Walks Department

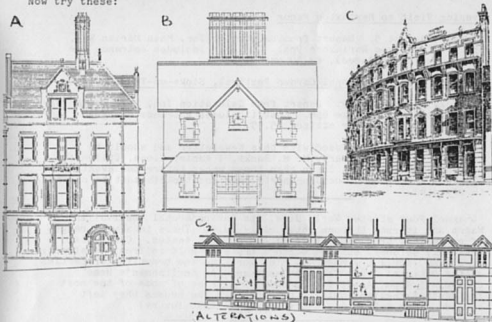


Mundella School. The competition for Nottingham's new Higher Grade School 1896 was won by R.C. Clarke of Nottingham. Second place went to R.C. and E.R. Sutton. Third were Evans and Son. The judge was E.R. Robson, architect to the School Board for London 1872-84 and in 1896 designed Cheltenham Ladies College. Now the County Council appear to want to demolish the school and sell the land as a cleared site.

QUIZ

The buildings in the Quiz in Newsletter No.69 were:

- The Imperial Fire and Life Insurance Building, Victoria Street by Robert Evans (1870) as altered by William Beecham Starr and Edwin Hall into the Reform Club 1913. Now it is the Victoria Club.
 - The Old Castle Inn part of Watson Fothergill's Mortimer House (1883).
 - Shops on Derby Road for F. Pullman by S.D. Walker and J. Howitt (1883) now Baker and Plumb.
 - The rotunda of Nuthall Temple built for Sir Charles Sedley (1754-7) by Thomas Wright. Demolished 1929.
- Now try these:



MICHAEL DOBBIN

With the death of Michael Dobbin the Society has lost not only one of its Vice Presidents but one of its most loyal and dedicated members. Michael was one of the founder members of the Society following the inaugural meeting on Thursday 11th January 1962. Since that time he worked continuously pursuing the objectives of the Society. At the outset he edited the Society's Broad Sheet from his office 9 Low Pavement, No.1 came out in May 1962. Michael was a quiet retiring person, yet coming forward whenever required to represent the Society and put forward its aims and ideals. He was a keen bibliographer and a considerable achievement was a bibliography of Nottinghamshire which he successfully published privately. In recent years increasing ill-health forced Michael, reluctantly, to become less involved in the Society's activities. All who met him recall with affection his enthusiasm and his courtesy. Michael was truly a gentleman.

K.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The summer programme is as follows:

Evening Boat Trip on the River Trent

Thursday, June 12 (note change of date). Start 7pm prompt from the Riverside by Trent Bridge. Duration 3 hours. Bar facilities. The cost includes buffet £4.35 per person.

Day Visit to Buxton

Saturday, July 12. Depart from Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, 9.15am. Return from Buxton 6pm. The cost includes entry to Poole's Cavern and to the Opera House (donation). Total £3.90 per person.

Evening Visit to Harlaxton Manor

Tuesday, August 5. Depart from Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, 6pm. Return from Harlaxton 9pm. The cost includes entrance fee £1.50 (coffee included), £3.10 per person.

Day Visit to the National Garden Festival, Stoke-on-Trent

Saturday, September 13. Depart from Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, 9am. Return from Stoke 6pm. Cost (includes entrance charge), ordinary £6.32, senior citizen £5.05

Booking slips are enclosed with this Newsletter and should be returned to the Secretary, Mr R. Banks, 1 Ashley Close, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 4BQ not later than three weeks before the event. (The entrance is a concession party rate and tickets must be ordered in advance).

Channel Four started World Wise, its Environmental Festival in March and it runs through until early July. There is a wide range of series and programmes that cater for most tastes. Choice is obviously personal but two worth a try are 'Held in Trust' (Saturdays at 8.30pm, April 5 - May 24). The work and the beautiful properties of the National Trust for Scotland; and 'An Englishman's Home' (Mondays 5.45pm, April 7 - June 10). Stories of some of the most influential English families told through the houses they left behind. (See 4-Tel page 448 if you have that luxury).

MEMBERSHIP

There are about 200 subscriptions outstanding.

If you think that you may have overlooked yours would you please check it out and if so, send it on as soon as possible.

Cliff Deane
Membership Secretary

Stop Press (H.E.L.P.)

* On Thursday, July 3 150 members of the County Women's Institute will arrive at the Castle Gatehouse waiting to be taken on the Georgian and Lace Market Walk. Ten (10) guides will be needed. Offers of help to Cliff on 473359.