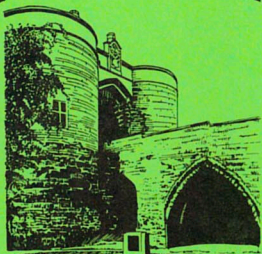


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Civic
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Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand Tel: 263997

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.

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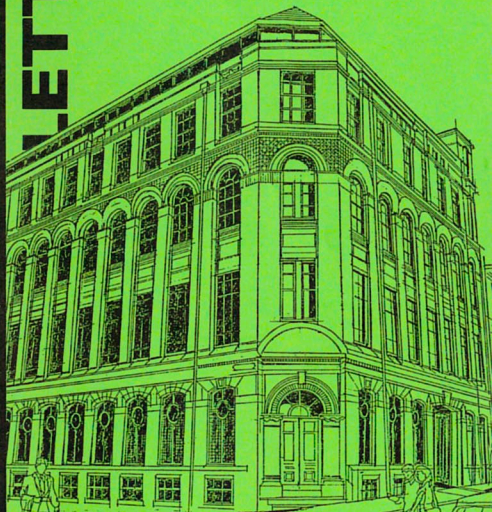
CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS : SPECIAL ISSUE

LETTER

Nottingham
Civic Society

January 1988

75



Refurbishment 21-23 Castle Gate
Colin Maber Associates Limited
Mark of the Month January 1988

50p

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A headline in The Nottingham Arrow, October 1987 (p.5) proclaimed "Residents Prefer Homes on Flats Site." Highlighted above the article is the following statement:

"Housing is the first choice of the residents of Hyson Green for the future of the flats' site. Nine out of ten of those responding to a questionnaire supported the idea of family housing replacing the flats."

Reading further into the article reveals an analysis of people's preferences indicated strong support for housing for special groups such as single people and the elderly. At the exhibition associated with the questionnaire, arranged by the City Planning Department in the Co-op Scoop Shop earlier this year, two shopping possibilities for the future were illustrated. A new superstore and an enlarged or more frequent open market were the options. The street market was by far the more popular suggestion.

There is a perverse form of logic which is common to many politicians, understood by a few planners and largely beyond the comprehension of the rest of the population. How the arrival of a hypermarket on the site of the flats can revive the trading fortunes of that stretch of Radford Road from Bentinck Road to the Old General and the adjoining side roads, is beyond me. One cannot argue against the convenience and pricing benefits that a superstore will bring. However, as the present economic base of Hyson Green would hardly attract a small supermarket then likely newcomers must be relying on an influx of big spenders from the more affluent districts of the city and its environs.

Although the arrival of a major new store will create many new jobs, there is no guarantee that these will be taken up by local people. In fact, the present unemployment situation may be exacerbated by the closure of even more shops.

Part of the site is apparently earmarked for housing. The prospect of living close to a hyperstore and/or its car park and the feeder roads, is not exactly enticing. The Society restates its objection to the location of a hypermarket or superstore on the site of the Hyson Green flats.

Ken Brand

EARLY BRICK BUILDING IN NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

It is widely believed that the first brick house in Nottingham was built in 1615. So said James Blackner in his History of Nottingham, published in 1815 and reprinted in 1985 (p.65), and it has been often quoted. It may be true, though we do not know what house he referred to. It would be wrong to imagine that bricks were unknown before that in the neighbourhood of the city as its boundaries then ran.

The earliest builders in brick were wealthy clients who needed a large structure for which stone or timber-framing was unsuitable on grounds of scale, cost or some other aspect of convenience. There is the added factor that building in brick from the middle of the 15th century began to have a certain prestige.

Thanks to the researches of Mr F.A. Barnes (to be published in the next volume of the Transactions of the Thoroton Society) it is now known that the priors of Lenton built in brick at some date before the dissolution of the priory, and most probably in the second half of the 15th century. That is no surprise, for excavations on the University campus forty years ago showed that patterned floor tiles were being made there; the kilns were not found but the tiles must have been for somewhere in the priory church, for they were very rarely used in private houses. A description of those priory buildings still standing in 1554-5 included "one fayre greate lodgynge with iii storyes...being all of fayre bryck and very fayre newe tymber..." This must have been the prior's own lodging; he, like other heads of monasteries, had his own accommodation separate from that of the monks. The reference to timber may mean that his lodging had ground-floor walls of brick and timber framing for the upper floor, like the Merchant Adventurers' Hall at York. Edward IV's royal apartments in Nottingham Castle, built in 1476-80, had ground-floor walls of stone with timber above. The other possibility is that the survey referred only to the timber roof of the lodging.

The other revelation in the same document is that Aspley Hall belonged, in the middle ages, to the priors of Lenton. They had built it in the 13th century, no doubt of timber, as a hunting lodge set in its own park. In 1554-5 the building was said to consist of a hall and other rooms, still of timber (and in poor condition) but with also "a tower of brick adjoininge to the same of iii storyes of vi yerds length and bredith coveryd with leade." It is tantalising now to realise that the prior's tower survived until 1968, the date of the demolition of the Hall. The tower can be seen at one corner of the Hall in the photograph of it in the 1925 catalogue of the sale of the Middleston Estate properties north-west of Nottingham. The Hall was not listed, and so could be demolished without protest or record.

Wealthy ecclesiastics such as bishops, abbots and priors, commonly had hunting lodges, as did kings and nobles. Abbots and priors of urban monasteries also used such houses, in the country and within easy reach of their monasteries, as holiday homes. Interestingly, the Lenton survey says that the priors used Aspley "in the tyme of plag(u)es etc."

It is now realised that towers such as the one at Aspley were fashionable in the 15th century. The prior will have used the first floor room as his private solar or chamber, for entertaining select company, and the top floor room as his sleeping chamber. The prior of Beauvale had a stone tower for his lodging, and at Repton prior Overton, who was appointed in 1437, built a brick tower for himself which is now incorporated in the headmaster's house. There are towers of varying size, in brick or stone, in Lincolnshire.

Chronologically, the next large undertaking in making bricks and building with them was Holme Pierreport Hall. It has not been dated closely, but must be about 1500 or soon after. The bricks contain quartzite pebbles, fragments of flint and lumps of clay, which show that they were made from the Boulder Clays in which such a mixture of derived materials occurs. The nearest deposits of Boulder Clays are at Cotgrave, and the bricks were most probably made there. Not long afterwards, Sir John Hussey built himself a hunting lodge at Kneesall, of brick with terracotta details; it is now well known as Old Hall Farm and has recently been restored under Robert Cullen's direction.

Another large undertaking for which bricks were made was Wollaton Hall, in the 1580s. The building accounts, though incomplete, contain details of payments for making 40,000 bricks for the house. The only bricks visible are those lining the passages cut in the sandstone below the Hall. They were, in the opinion of Dr R. Firman, made from the clays of the Coal Measures, as one might expect. The quantity made suggests that they were needed for internal walls as well, and are now concealed (and always were) by facing stone and plaster.

These large operations must mean that a number of men living in and near Nottingham learned, in the century before 1615, how to make bricks. They may have helped to dig the clay, to prepare it over the winter for firing in the spring and summer; they watched brick-makers at work, made or repaired the wooden moulds; carted the sand used; stacked the bricks to dry before firing, helped to load and unload kilns; handled them on a building site, mixed mortar and so on. It is perfectly possible, from what we know of the brick industry in the 19th century, that some of the unskilled and semi-skilled labour was female. It must have been easy to obtain bricks in small quantities in Nottingham, for a chimney, or for the footings of a timber framed building. There is, as it happens, proof of this in the Borough Records (II, P.391). In 1492-3, roofing tiles, ridge tiles and a few 'brykkes' were bought for repairing the Crown Inn on Long Row. The bricks were probably used for a chimney, and it can safely be assumed that brick fireplaces and chimneys were a common sight in Tudor Nottingham. It may well be that Blackner was referring to a particular house which he thought was the oldest he knew, and which had the date 1615 on it, for it was then beginning to be fashionable to inscribe a date on a new building.

M.W. Barley

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Members

I am grateful to our Editor for allowing me this space to say a few words at this Christmas time, for it is usually only at the A.G.M. that I have the opportunity of addressing the membership, and then only those who choose to attend.

I am not criticising those who do not attend, but I am suggesting that there could be worse ways of spending an evening and I would particularly invite you all to the forthcoming A.G.M. when, after the formal business, our colleague and architect, Andrew James, will be talking about the new Lace Hall which is to be opened at the former Unitarian Chapel building on High Pavement. Andrew is a very well known and respected architect in this city and he has done much individually, and with his practice, to conserve and re-use many buildings of importance in the Lace Market of Nottingham.

I would also extend a welcome in advance to many of our unseen members to attend the Cathedral Hall throughout the forthcoming season. You are only names on a membership list and I personally would like to meet you in the flesh at a Civic Society function. We need, ladies and gentlemen, your physical support as well as your financial input in swelling the membership list. We are now nearly 1,000 strong and I would urge you all not only to go out into the 'highways and byways' to find new members to support our cause, but also to personally escort them to one of our next meetings so that you, and they, can be introduced and feel part of our organisation. I would like to think that in the first twenty-five years of our existence we had reached a membership of 1,000 strong so that we can go forth into the next twenty five years with as much, if not more, determination than those who founded the Society twenty five years ago. We have much to thank them for, we are indeed very grateful for their efforts, let that effort be rewarded by a new determination to carry on the work they started.

It is a great honour, and my privilege, to be your chairman in this our Jubilee Year and I sincerely hope that I have lived up to expectations. If I have not it has not been for the want of trying. Successive chairmen of this Society have always had the unenviable task of following their predecessors knowing the enormity of the task and the calibre of those whose place they are taking. We have had some excellent chairmen over the last twenty five years, but they cannot do the work alone and I personally, as your present chairman, would like to thank on the pages of this newsletter our secretary, Ray Banks, whose unflinching support, day in and day out (and believe it or not as you wish, we do communicate virtually daily about Society matters) has given me the chance to do the job of chairman to the best of my ability. It is always the chairman who makes the speeches, hands over the cheques, has his photograph taken, but there are many behind the scenes that make this all possible, all hard-working and unsung of praise. The executive committee,

the sub-committees, The Shop, the walks, the publications, the social committee, indeed all of you active supporters who in one way or another make the Society what it is today, my grateful thanks. It is you, the members who are active in the Society, who make it what it is and I feel that you can be proud of your achievements.

It is my personal wish that those members who appear in name only come forward and join in the activities of our well organised group. You will all be made to feel most welcome and there are many many ways in which you could assist by using your expertise and talents in furthering the aims of our Society. For those say they have no talents to offer, let us be the judge, hiding one's light under a bushel achieves nothing for you or for society, if you say there is no light, come out of the darkness and we will brighten up your existence and hopefully get you involved in something which will give you great satisfaction and pleasure. As members we must let us all get together in 1988 to see if we can build upon the achievements which many of us have worked for in years past.

Except for one comment I am not going to list those achievements because that is my task at the A.G.M. I am pleased, however, that there will be plenty to report and I do hope you will come to share in the start of our next twenty five years of service to the city.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year. and, I almost forgot, we did raise our £1,000 for St Mary's Church within the year and I must thank those who have been generous in their help towards making this possible.

My best wishes to you all.

John Severn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

May I briefly reply to Stephen Best's letter in the last issue about the grave of T.C. Hine at the Church Cemetery (see also page 4 in this issue).

One of the priorities when Family First begins the planned renovation work on the Church (or Rock) Cemetery, will be to carry out some refurbishment to the graves of T.C. Hine, Watson Fothergill and M.O. Tarbotton (former civil engineer to the Corporation of Nottingham) - assuming no objections from any surviving kin.

Yours sincerely

A.E. Woolrich
FAMILY FIRST TRAINING SERVICES LIMITED

[The grave of T.C. Hine is marked only by a rusty metal finial, a little over a metre high. Nothing else, just that. Editor]

Number 21-23 Castle Gate is a warehouse designed in 1880-1 by the Nottingham architects Samuel Dutton Walker and John Howitt for Messrs. C. and F. Sudbury, glove and hosiery manufacturers. The building is located on the corner of Castle Gate and Stanford Street.

The full external and internal refurbishment, recently completed to the plans prepared by Colin Maber Associates Limited, has a contract value of approximately £500,000. The building has an area of about 14,000 square feet which can be used now for single or multiple tenancy. Part of the building had been affected by fire, and a steel sleeve was employed to maintain structural stability.

A simple ingenious solution to the ever present problem of car parking has been provided by the architects. The ground floor has been gutted to provide parking space for at least ten cars. A new wide entrance with metal gates has been inserted into the Castle Gate elevation and provides easy vehicular access. The existing windows at ground level have been removed and distinctive metal grills, matching the new gate, inserted into the brick surround to provide ventilation.

Although the Civic Society has a policy of not encouraging commuter traffic, this project, situated close to the arterial Maid Marian Way, is to be commended. Members walking through the centre of Nottingham should find the short detour into Castle Gate rewarding.

The development was undertaken for Brightstone Estates with Sol Construction as contractor. The complete design team comprised Colin Maber Associates Limited (architects) Jackson and Peplow (structural engineers) and Carter Walker Associates (quantity surveyors). This assignment has been given a Society 'Mark of the Month' Award for January 1988. This is the second award for Colin Maber Associates, the previous award being in June 1986 for Clinton House, Derby Road.

The large office development on Mansfield Road leading via Woodborough Road to Huntingdon Street is the major project* being undertaken by Colin Maber Associates at the moment. They are working in conjunction with Wispey Construction producing approximately 90,000 square feet of office accommodation in suites of various sizes from 2,000 square feet upwards.

Ken Brand

* This scheme, which involves the demolition of the Victorian villas on the site, has provoked some hostility locally. Members of the Victorian Society are leading a campaign to retain these villas and incorporate them into any new development. The Civic Society's environment sub-committee was divided on the issue, but as the planning was at a very advanced stage and an Urban Development Grant had been obtained, it was decided that no objection to the development would be lodged. Editor.

After almost two years of lobbying, the proposal for a museum led development of the Sneinton Railway Land is approaching a crucial stage. Drawn up by the Sneinton Environmental Society and enjoying strong support from the Civic Society, along with most other amenity groups in the city, the proposals are now to be the subject of an independent feasibility study funded mainly by the city council.

The Sneinton Railway Lands consist of about fifty acres, situated between London Road and Colwick Park. At the city end T.C. Hine's ornate Low Level Station and adjacent warehouse add character to a 19th century industrial landscape. The eastern part, separated by redundant sidings, is dominated by vast disused embankments which offer a haven for inner-city wildlife.

Basic to the proposals is the assumption that this long neglected area can become a great asset if a policy of sensitive, yet bold, development is pursued. The Environmental Society's plans advocate the creation of the Nottingham Industrial Heritage Centre around the Low Level Station, linked to Colwick Park by a demonstration track for preserved railway exhibits running along an embankment, and a trolley bus route along Colwick Road.

At the country end, the embankments will become nature reserves extending the greenery of Colwick Park and Woods into Sneinton's residential and industrial areas. The central part of the site is suitable for a mix of residential and commercial development. New uses are suggested for existing structures such as the warehouses and Manvers Street viaduct. Important to the overall cohesion of the scheme will be the preserved railway track alongside a footpath and cycleway running the entire length of the site to form a new route between the Industrial Heritage Centre, the Nottingham Canal and Colwick Park.

There can be little doubt that the scheme if adopted and properly implemented, would be of great benefit, not only to the inner-city but the Greater Nottingham area as a whole; attracting visitors, providing housing and jobs; and improving the environment. From the earliest stage of the campaign to win over the local authorities the proposals were thought of as desirable, but unrealistic. That assessment began to change in August when the planning committee chairman, Councillor Barbara Ricks, invited the plan's supporters to address an informal meeting in the Council House. Members from both parties listened with interest and the suggestion of a feasibility study did not fall on deaf ears.

Subsequently opposition member Councillor John Riley moved that the tourism committee should support a study - a proposal approved by both parties on the committee. Since reaching that decision some members have visited the railway lands and others have viewed the Castlefields Urban Heritage Park in Manchester, where a similar scheme is leading to the rejuvenation of a run-down inner-city district.

Dave Ablett
Chairman

Sneinton Environmental Society

THURLAND HALL

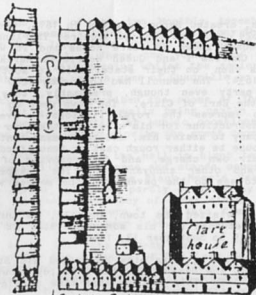
[The internal and external refurbishment of the Thurland Hall Hotel Pelham Street, received the Society's Mark of the Month for September 1987. Editor]

The present Thurland Hall Hotel on Pelham Street was designed by Gilbert Smith Doughty for Levy and Franks in 1898. Some deviations from the original plans were approved on June 1, 1900, and this is the year to be found on the building both high up on a gable in Pelham Street and also with the architect's name on the right of the Pelham Street entrance. Attached to Doughty's plans for the intended rebuilding of the hotel are plans and elevations of the existing building, the Britannia Vault, and of its three tier cave cellars. Doughty had his practice on the first floor of this earlier building, the upper floors being known as Britannia Chambers, 17 Pelham Street. The new hotel had no office provision and he moved to the Royal Insurance Building on Bridlesmith Gate. In Wright's Directory of 1900 he is listed as having a branch office in Matlock Bridge. A large drawing of the Thurland Hall Hotel, often considered as one of Nottingham's few London style pubs, appeared in The Architect, September 22, 1905.

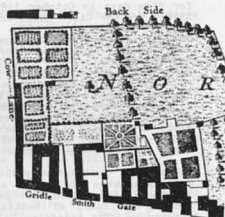
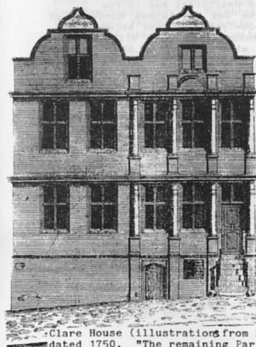
The Thurland Hall Hotel is on part of one of the most interesting historical sites in Nottingham. A very substantial town house, Thurland Hall, fronting on Gridlesmith Gate (Pelham Street), was built c.1458 for Thomas Thurland a wealthy wool merchant. Its grounds stretched to the present Parliament Street and one boundary was close to Cow Lane (Clumber Street).

Thurland, possibly Nottingham's wealthiest citizen of all time, served the town as mayor nine times, perhaps ten, between 1442 and 1464. He was chosen as one of the borough's Members of Parliament four times. Thurland, a locally noted philanthropist, died in the winter of 1473-4; part of his tomb survives in St Mary's Church. His enormous inheritance was squandered by his grandson and the family's interest in the town ended.

Virtually nothing is known of life at great Thurland Hall during the 16th century and one can only speculate about its owners. However, it was purchased by the Holles family most likely between 1623-5. Judging by later drawings they soon carried out extensive rebuilding of the hall. As Nottingham Castle became increasingly dilapidated during the Tudor period and was unfit, certainly for royal visitors, Thurland Hall became the royal residence for the visits to the town of James I and Charles I. These visits were short; James stayed one night in August 1612, one night August 17, 1614, and again one night in August 1616. On his next visit James was accompanied by his son Prince Charles, they stayed two nights. Who actually acted as host to the King is not clear, but the town had to raise considerable sums of money to entertain him and his retinue.



Clare House c.1677 (detail from map in Robert Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire)



Clare House (illustrations from Deering's History of Nottingham dated 1750. "The remaining Part of the old Front of Thurland Hall in Gridlesmithgate, Nottingham.")

John Holles, created Baron Houghton in 1616, became Earl of Clare in 1624 about the time he acquired Thurland Hall. The building became known as Clare House and it was at Clare House that Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria stayed for five nights when on their state visit to Nottingham early in August 1634. The council had to borrow £200 to entertain the royal party even though, presumably, they were house guests of the Earl of Clare. The town went to considerable trouble to impress the royal visitors. Every alderman received instructions for his ward: "to take two householders of his company to assist him, and to command that the outside of every house be either rough cast or beautified by painting at their own charge, and for removing of blocks and clayheaps and other annoyances." The chamberlains were ordered: "to see to the pavements, the market wall and the crosses."

Charles next visited the town, briefly, in July 1642 and soon after returned for his momentous stay at Clare House from August 19 to September 13, 1642.

During the course of this stay he raised his Standard at a point close to the Castle's northern bailey known ever since as Standard Hill. This was the last time a reigning monarch stayed overnight in Nottingham.

The third Earl of Clare, partly through his marriage and partly through inheriting the estates of his kinsman Denzil, Baron Holles, became one of the wealthiest men in the country. On May 14, 1694, he was proclaimed Marquess of Clare and Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Welbeck became his Nottinghamshire home and he entertained King William there for five days in October 1695 at a cost of £5,042. He had little use for Clare House and on October 4, 1706, he entered into an agreement to lease "Clare alias Thurland House in Nottingham with materials and ground in the occupancy of Mr John Sherwin, also stable for four horses, in occupancy John Sherwin (excepting any room of William Shaw or John Sherwin over the same), to William Parr of Nottingham, salesman." Parr was granted permission "...to pull down premises for rebuilding other tenements and...to give security that he will not remove them for other uses." The rent was fixed at £50 per annum for 100 years. A later note, November 4, 1706, says that "...when Parr has erected tenements and got tenants then rent will be sufficient security and any bondsmen bound with Parr may be released."

The map of Nottingham published in Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire 1677, has a small sketch of Clare House showing a facade with four gables fronting Gridlesmith Gate. Deering's History of Nottingham published in 1751 has a drawing of 'The Remaining Part of the Old Front of Thurland Hall in Gridlesmith Gate in Nottingham' (1750) showing just two gables. Is this the result of Parr's demolition?

¹ At least one document records the death of the second Earl of Clare at Clare Palace, Nottingham.

Deering records one of the two Monthly Assemblies, that known as the Tradesmen's Assembly is held every third Tuesday in the month in a large room 70 feet long by 20 feet broad at the Thurland Hall. There the younger of both sexes "direct themselves with dancing whilst the senior or graver part enjoy themselves over a game of Quadrille or Whist."

Throsby writing c.1796 describes the rooms of Thurland Hall as spacious but gloomy, the walls being castle like thick. He adds: "...here on particular public occasions the noble and gentlemen of the county dine in the great room."

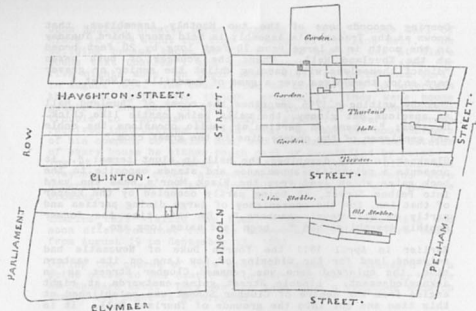
Blackner in 1815 describes the hall in blunt terms: "...it presents a prisonlike appearance and stands opposite to the back gates which lead from the Black Moor's Head Inn yard into Pelham Street, it being partly occupied by the keeper of that inn, for the convenience of large dining parties and partly as attorneys' chambers." By this time the former Monthly Assemblies had "...been laid aside long ago."

Earlier in April 1811 the fourth Duke of Newcastle had released land for the widening of Cow Lane on its eastern side, the enlarged lane was renamed Clumber Street as an acknowledgement. Lincoln Street going eastwards at right angles from the centre of Clumber Street was established at this time and cut into the grounds of Thurland Hall. It is interesting to reflect on the choice of street names on land held by the Newcastle family; Clumber from Clumber Park; Lincoln from Lord Lincoln, the title taken by eldest sons of the Newcastle family; Houghton from Baron Houghton, Earl of Clare, and Pelham a Newcastle family name. Further related names were used on the opposite side of Parliament Street.

In January 1825 the northern part of the Thurland Paddock lying between Lincoln Street and Parliament Street was leased for building development. Twenty plots were available for a peppercorn rent the first year and then for 65 years, from March 25, 1824, at £50-6-0d per annum. The Nottingham architect-builder William Surplice was among those involved.

On February 14, 1826, a letter was sent to the Duke of Newcastle pointing out the dangerous state of the Thurland Hall Gateway and the necessity of immediately lowering it. Four years later on February 1, 1830, another letter from the town council was sent to the Duke of Newcastle drawing the Duke's attention to the dangerous state of part of the Thurland Hall premises. In June 1831 the hall was demolished.

Soon afterwards in 1834 the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank was formed and had its first office on part of the site opened up by the demolition of the hall. Thurland Street itself was cut between 1844 and 1848. In 1849-50 the rising local architect Thomas Chambers Hine designed the Corn Exchange for the eastern side of Thurland Street. In 1854 the Artisan's Library was erected on an adjoining site to the plans of Robert Clarke. Between 1877-82 the now



Intended development on the northern portion of the Thurland Paddock 1825-6. (Plan accompanying Leasehold Agreement NRO M4767)



The Thurland Hall, Nottingham, from *The Architect*, September 22, 1905.

flourishing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank expanded on the western side of Thurland Street. Fothergill Watson, then still named as he was christened, prepared the designs for rebuilding the bank's head office which he based partly on Alfred Waterhouse's Manchester Town Hall.

Between 1897-99 the Great Central Railway was brought through Nottingham. As the railway left Victoria Station going south it entered a tunnel running along Thurland Street on its way to Weekday Cross. In fact, this tunnel was first excavated as a deep trench and then roofed over. These excavations did reveal an ancient cellar in the centre of Thurland Street, no doubt belonging to the old Thurland Hall. For some reason the Duke of Newcastle took legal action claiming for the value of the soil taken from underneath Thurland Street. He was unsuccessful.

Thus as the Victoria Station came into use and trains began to rumble underneath Thurland Street, so the new Thurland Hall Inn, designed by Gilbert Smith Doughty, started to take shape above its historic foundations. One of its windows on the first floor still carries on a frosted pane 'Pyramids' the old name for snooker, as well as pool and billiards on the other windows. Pleasing originals that blend well with the recent careful refurbishment.

Ken Brand

*Further research has revealed a more precise dating for the rebuilding of Clare Hall. In a letter from John Holles, Earl of Clare to the Earl of Holland, not dated but considered to be August 1633, Holles writes of his decision to take down part of Clare Hall and rebuild. However, he adds, once he had been informed of the King's intention of staying at Clare Hall when visiting Nottingham during the following August, he halted demolition. Part of the roof had been removed and this was put back. Holles feared Charles might assume that he wanted to prevent the Royal visit, there being no other house in the town grand enough. There is a possibility that the timbers in the old Hall were suspect, for Holles worries about the result of "...so great a weight as the Robes and the lodging of 40 persons upon so crazy a floor."

Thus one can assume the alterations to Clare Hall restarted sometime after 1634 and were completed before Charles' next visit in 1642.

[See 'Letters of John Holles', Thoroton Society Record Series 3, p.455]

Grateful thanks to Professor Barley and Adrian Henstock for drawing my attention to them. K.B.

Mark of the Month, November 1987, 38-44 Castle Gate
(Craig Sutherland Partnership/Project Consultancy Group)

Mark of the Month, December 1987, 40 The Ropewalk
(William Saunders and Partners)

Mark of the Month, January 1988, 21-23 Castle Gate
(Colin Maber Associates Limited)

MARK OF THE MONTH

The Society's Mark of the Month for November 1987 has been awarded to Malton House, 38-44 Castle Gate. This building is located at the junction of Castle Gate and St Nicholas Street, near by is the more familiar Royal Children public house. Until a year ago it was occupied by Maltby and Son, manufacturers of curtain nets. Originally designed as a speculative warehouse* by H.E. Woodsend for J.W. Woodsend, it was soon converted for factory use. By 1913, aprons, blouses and nets were being manufactured on the premises by three unrelated firms. (Editor.) * 10 MARCH 1910 PLANIS APPROVE D

No. 38-44 Castle Gate, a tall and imposing structure was altered internally to suit its industrial use. Holes were cut in floors for the easy moving of rolls of materials. A loading bay was constructed in the yard and the smaller of the two buildings was linked to the basement of 40-44 Castle Gate via a tortuous tunnel occupied by a conveyor belt.

During the 1960s St Nicholas Street was widened and the adjoining building was demolished leaving the side elevation exposed to the new wider street.

A new modern stair tower was added, but thankfully the entire building was already rendered and the new rendered stair tower was able to blend in.

Our involvement in the building goes back to 1985 and to the very beginning of our own practice when we surveyed the building on behalf of clients for a potential office scheme. The conversion was considered non-profitable and the scheme did not proceed, but we had by that time formed a great affection for the building and knew it had great potential.

Our early thoughts for the refurbishment centred on the re-use of the existing entrance driveway as a main entrance coupled with the demolition of buildings at the rear to form valuable car parking space. This aspect of the proposal was one of its main selling points and during Autumn 1985 and Spring 1986 the building was studied in detail for its new occupier, Brown, Jacobson, solicitors. The feasibility study established that this large and growing legal practise could fit comfortably within the structure and the scheme began in earnest. Following the preparation of working drawings and tender documents, the work eventually started in January 1987 and was completed for occupation by September 1987.

The work involved some external alteration to the appearance of the building and in this respect the St Nicholas Street facade was made more 'presentable' and fitting for its new purpose.

The flat roofed wide dormers were removed and smaller pitched dormers replaced them; the large factory windows were removed and smaller proportioned fenestration was inserted; string courses were added; the facade was re-rendered in self-coloured material in two tones. In the 1960s stair tower the existing small gable windows were enlarged by introducing rendered surrounds. The tubular steel railings were replaced by a steel balustrade to match the Castle Gate facade.

The Castle Gate elevation was more straight forward and involved the replacement of all windows and their large section timber frames. New triangular windows were inserted in the gable apex. The light well was re-opened and new windows inserted at basement level. The major alteration was the glazing of the existing entrance arch and the reclaiming of the ground beneath the 1960s stair tower which had been retained in county council ownership. The entire facade was re-rendered and the stone ground floor cleaned.

The two storey building was substantially altered to create a new vehicular entrance and a new 'shop front' was inserted, a dummy entrance door constructed and gates fitted, all contained visually under a new extended cornice.

The demolition of the rear buildings behind the two storey facade created space for car parking, but also opened otherwise hidden eyesores to view. The appearance of a courtyard through an arched entrance should be an architecturally pleasing experience. Here the creation of arched recesses with shrub planting and wall lights attempted to achieve this.

A new rear elevation was built on the two storey building including a spiral escape staircase. The rear facade was rendered with the exception of the new lift shaft and the dormer windows were altered to give them pitched roofs. Windows were repaired and new solid panels inserted to mask the suspended ceilings.

Care was taken to ensure that access for the disabled was catered for and the lift ensures access throughout the building with the exception of the attic floor.

The final finishing touches included the renewal of the York stone paving at the old and new vehicle entrances on Castle Gate and the floodlighting of the building.

Ray Craig
Sutherland Craig Partnership



Refurbishment of 38-44 Castle Gate
Sutherland-Craig Partnership.

Mark of the Month
November 1987

St Mary's Trust

President:

Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire

Chairman of the Trustees:

Sir Michael Nall, Bt., D.L.

Chairman of the Appeal Council:

Nicholas Forman Hardy

Appeal Director:

Alwyn M. Wilson



St Mary's Church
High Pavement
Nottingham
NG1 1HF
(0602) 582105

From: Nicholas Forman Hardy,
P.O. Box No. 99,
Forman Street,
NOTTINGHAM, NG1 4AB
Tel: Nottm. 402000

14th December, 1907

J. A. Severn Esq.,
Messrs. Severn & Co.,
10 Hamilton Road,
Sherwood Rise,
NOTTINGHAM. NG5 1AU

Dear John,

I am sorry I have not written to you sooner but I have been away from the office quite a lot recently and have not really had time before now to write you this special thank you letter for the extremely generous donation which the members of the Nottingham Civic Society have made towards the St. Mary's Appeal.

We have now raised approximately £140,000 for the Appeal and I can assure you that your contribution will go to very good use in keeping the builders on site for the very urgent and necessary repair work that is required to save St. Mary's.

As you will know, St. Mary's is one of the oldest buildings in Nottingham and a very special church - not only in Nottinghamshire but in Britain - and any building which has been the focal point of a city for 900 years must be worth saving, particularly when its architecture is of such a very high standard. Having said that, it is amazing how difficult it is to raise money to save churches, but I daresay we shall get there in the end, and generous support from organisations like your own means a great deal.

Please would you be kind enough to pass on my very grateful thanks to the other members of your Society who have so kindly helped St. Mary's, once again, with this extremely generous donation.

Many, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Forman Hardy
Appeal Chairman

Reg. Charity No. 518059

BUILDING LINES

In 1840 building on the Nottingham Park Estate was all but in abeyance. The Park among other estates was a security for an extended mortgage. In fact, with the Duke of Newcastle's finances severely stretched, there was some pressure by the Duke's bankers, Coutts and Co, for a buyer to be found. Thus first appearances were important to prospective purchasers or investors. The following letter gives some idea of the concern shown by Thomas Winter, the Duke's local agent. Winter was not to know of Newcastle's flibustering which kept the bank and other creditors at bay.

Ken Brand

Nottingham

December 2nd 1840

My Lord Duke

I have received the enclosed plan and an application from Mr Patterson to add to one of the houses he some years ago built on The Park.

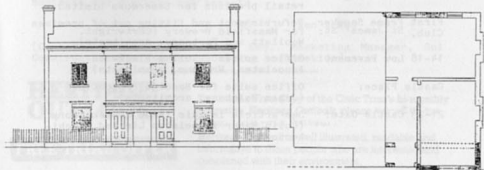
Your Grace will perhaps remember there are six uniform double houses immediately as you enter The Park, the house he is desirous of altering is the fifth building from The Park entrance and marked No4 on the Plan I sent to Clumber by Mr Birch.

The object is to extend the rooms to the boundary of the road as shown by the red line on the plan. This addition, if permitted, will destroy the uniformity and show an unsightly projection, but it should also be considered that Mr Patterson is paying a somewhat larger ground rent and it is also desirable to prevent projections to leasehold property.

I am My Lord Duke Your Grace's most obedient humble Servant.

Thos. Winter

[Nottingham University Manuscripts Department NoC8371a.
Reproduced with the permission of the Keeper of the Manuscripts].



Design for alterations of house No 11 Park Street for C. B. Middleton Esq.

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS: An Occasional Series

1. Sol Construction Limited

In these pages a number of architects currently practising in the Nottingham area have been justifiably praised. Sometimes the developers who engaged these architects will be mentioned, but the builders and contractors who turn plans into reality usually remain anonymous.

Sol Construction Limited of Vale Road, Colwick, has an impressive list of building work undertaken in the city, the county and farther afield. The quality of the firm's workmanship has been acknowledged nationally, but paradoxically little is known locally of these achievements. In 1982 Sol Construction received a Civic Trust award for its contribution to the improvement of 15 Middle Pavement. The building of Nottinghamshire County Council's Home for the Elderly and Day Care Unit, Bishop's Court, Tuxford, earned Sol Construction the Craftsmanship Award for the East Midland Region in 1984-85. The award was promoted by the Building Employers Confederation. This work received a second award presented by the East Midlands Architects, Surveyors and Building Joint Consultative Committee. This latter organisation had, in 1981-82, recognised Sol Construction's involvement with the restoration of the White Hart Public House in Newark (Guy St John Taylor Associates, architects).

Recent work undertaken by Sol Construction Limited in Nottingham includes:-

- Exchange Arcade Shopping Mall: Refurbishment of existing retail premises for Bredero Properties (Stanley Bragg Partnership, architects)
- 59 Castle Boulevard: Refurbishment and adaptation of a Watson Fothergill warehouse of 1894, latterly used by Baker and Plumb, into 32,000 square feet of office accommodation on its own behalf (James McArtney, architects)
- 15a/15b Houndsgate: Refurbishment and adaptation of existing retail premises for Emmeross Limited
- First Frame Snooker Club, St James' St: Refurbishment and fitting out of premises for Mansfield Brewery (Cartwright, Woollatt and Partners, architects)
- 14-18 Low Pavement: Office suites (Pauline Blackwood Associates, Wrexham, architects)
- Castle Place: Office suite for Bendigo Properties (James McArtney, architects)
- 21-23 Castle Gate: See article in this issue 'Cover Story' (Colin Maber Associates Limited, architects),

Further afield assignments include:

- The Departure Lounge, East Midlands Airport (County architect, Nottinghamshire County Council)
- The Rosemary Centre, Mansfield: Alteration and adaptation of the former Lawmills to a retail arcade for Botany Investments (F.W. Tempest, architect)

The current major project is the restoration and conversion of Staunton Harold Hall, Melton Mowbray, a grade one listed building for The Sue Ryder Foundation at a cost of £1m (Sue Ryder Foundation Building Executive).

The company is particularly pleased with its work on its own development at 59 Castle Boulevard, now renamed Castle Court. This former paper warehouse, not one of Watson Fothergill's more flamboyant creations is solid and sturdy. It has a symmetrical brick and stone facade and well proportioned turrets, towers and arched entrances. Even in subdued form these facets of Fothergill, together with abundant banding and cornice work, encourage one to seek and find in its usual distinctive Gothic lettering the proud embellishment Watson Fothergill Architect, and the date 1894.

The intent of the refurbishment project was to utilise the maximum amount of the original soundly constructed building into alternative modern uses. This goal of providing low cost offices, studio and workshop accommodation with the maximum ratio of car parking, in a central area, has been achieved within the developer's programme and budgets. Twentyseven car parking spaces have been provided in the former stableyard and courtyard, whilst structural adjustment has opened up a redundant boiler house and basement area to provide parking for a further 22 cars. The company has been generous in acknowledging the expertise of the architects involved, the James McArtney practice. A City Council 'Operation Clean-Up' Grant enabled extensive external cleaning, pointing and replacement, and repair of eroded brickwork and stone to be carried out.

The project, now completed for some time, has been commercially successful, the completed suites were taken up at a steady rate. The present letting shows a wide range of business and professional tenants.

Ken Brand

[Grateful thanks to M.D. Bush, Esq., Marketing Manager, Sol Construction Limited for providing information].

HERITAGE OUTLOOK

FREE TRIAL OFFER

To obtain a *Free Copy* of the Civic Trust's bi-monthly magazine, *Heritage Outlook*, please write to the address below:

Heritage Outlook is well illustrated, readable and informative to those people who are interested and concerned with their environment.

→ Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW (REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER)

SEMI-DETACHED NOTTINGHAM

The bus trip during Environment Week last year that explored inter-war buildings in Nottingham had several major structures to show. Their architectural importance has long been recognised, not least in this Newsletter. The trip also aimed, however, to show some of the other works of the twenties and thirties, and accordingly several council estates of the period were passed on our way. We were able to make some very interesting comparisons not only with the homes they were designed to replace but also with more recent local authority schemes.

The earliest developments took place under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919. This was the result of an initiative commonly known as 'Homes Fit For Heroes'. Lloyd George never, in fact, used the phrase, but he was aware that men who had spent so long in terrible conditions at the Front should not be expected to return to the squalor so many of them had formerly known, and indeed he feared a rising if they felt that nothing was being done for them.

What were conditions like? Housing in Narrow Marsh was not recalled with affection:

"Oh terrible. One down and one up. No water, no gas, nowhere where you could wash you or anything...No electricity or heating apart from fires...The tap and toilet were in the yard."

Necessary functions were even more of an adventure in Newark Street, Sneinton:

"You'd got to come out of the house, walk down the street, walk down the twitchell they'd got into the other yard to get to the toilet, and they were terrible, absolutely terrible."

No-one could be expected to live like that, of course, and local authorities were quick to step in with their plans, such as they were in the nineteen-sixties when they thought that high-rise would lead to the new Jerusalem. In the nineteen-twenties, however, the inspiration was the rural paradise of the Garden City. The new estates, borrowing the principle employed at Letchworth, would be places where an urban way of life could be combined with the beauty of natural surroundings. In terms of cost alone this was a great leap forward: before the Great War up to fifty houses per acre had been allowed, and now architects were going to work to a maximum of twenty. This meant that there would be generous frontages to the houses, which would have their own gardens and a general sense of privacy and space.

There would be public space as well. Architects retained existing trees and spinneys where possible, notably on the Sherwood Estate where the large belt of trees in Edwards Lane predates the development; existing features in the landscape often dictated the positioning of other open spaces. The circular roads, visible only from the air and a nightmare if you are trying to find somewhere in a hurry, were often dictated by the need to provide amenities on a hilly site. The southern end of Gordon Road Estate, near

Carlton Road, presented city architect T.C. Howitt with a gradient of one in seven; the use of a wide hairpin bend on Serlby Rise reduced this to one in ten.

Where possible a grand central road would be provided, as on the Bulwell Estate; similar dignity was intended for Broad Walk at Stockhill Lane Estate. Some of the large green spaces would be used as central focal points, as they were in an old village, here providing the site for a shopping or community centre. Other spaces accommodated playgrounds, allotments, tennis courts and bowling greens.

Anyone driving along the side roads of some of these estates today does so in a state of despair; they are exceedingly narrow, and parked cars are a liability. The roads were left narrow largely for reasons of economy. This permitted the wider frontages to houses, and in those early days kept traffic to a minimum. Another economy was achieved by having a short cul-de-sac with turning area, serve a large number of houses set back from the road. Howitt made an extraordinary comparison here:

"These drives compare favourably with the grand drives to large country houses."

The architecture of these estates gave, and continues to give, much pleasure. In looking back to the Garden City ideal Howitt and his fellow architects W.A. Kneller, W.R. Gleave, W.H. Taylor, E.B. Hall and our old friends Brewill and Baily all absorbed the Arts and Crafts principles of Baillie Scott, and Parker and Unwin. Some of the influences came from Victorian labourers' cottages, others might be Dutch, and whole estates would be decidedly eclectic in character. Howitt wrote:

"Nothing is more uninteresting and monotonous than one long row of houses all set out on the same building frontage line, and all of the same design."

Would that his successors in the sixties and seventies had heeded his words!

Various criteria were laid down as to who should become tenants of the new houses. These were the applicant's war service, size of family, present accommodation, particularly if it was unhealthy, whether he was a native of Nottingham and whether he had been a householder before the Great War. With variations these conditions applied to all the new estates built between the wars, but the process could be shortened:

"If you became a favourite of any Councillor ...or you made him believe that you were going to do this, that or the other for him ...there was a system whereby they just put the word in for you and you walked straight into them."

And in walking straight into these new houses the contrast was considerable. But an age wise enough to remember that all change must be carried out in a way that it relates to

what has gone before did some research before building commenced. The most basic council house, often used as infill where a larger development was impossible, embodied some of the fruit of that research:

"The practical views of many working-class tenants in various crowded parts of the city were taken, and the general wishes of these tenants such as (a) a good cooking range with a back boiler to give circulating hot water supply for the sink and bath; (b) a brick-built copper in which washing could be done at minimum cost; (c) a really good deep sink; and (d) a WC opening into the yard, are embodied in the design."

As will be seen, the positioning of the toilet was a curious midpoint between what some people were used to and the standards that were now going to appear. Before we look more closely inside these new houses, let us look more closely at real life in a terrace, in this case Cromer Road in St Ann's, recalled by Mrs Dorothy King.

"The house we were living in had a loo at the bottom of the garden. The bedrooms were very big but there were only two. We had three rooms downstairs: the living room, front room and kitchen; the kitchen was very small. The dinner was cooked in the living room, on the grates each side of the fireplace. Washing was done on a Monday: the clothes were boiled in a copper and a 'ponch' was used on them. Next they went through the mangle, and then on the washing line in the garden."

Her move to Aspley, on Saturday, July 6, 1934, was done in style:

"At about ten o'clock the horse and cart arrived. The neighbours came and helped; everything went in the cart. Mum sat in front, I sat on the cart and my Dad rode a bicycle at the back of us. It took two hours to Aspley."

The distance from town often came as a shock: and indeed sometimes still does when a tenant transfers from one of the inner-city locations, leading on occasion to a sense of isolation underlined by hedges, fences and gates: one could no longer drop in as before when front doors were adjacent. The greater privacy also brought about unwanted silence sometimes: a woman who had moved from a terrace to a new estate rushed in distress to her next-door neighbour thinking a great calamity had just occurred because everything was so quiet.

In addition to increased bus fares the move to a new and larger house meant a rent increase, in Mrs King's case of half-a-crown. But there were obvious compensations:

"There were three bedrooms upstairs, and three rooms downstairs; the loo was indoors; we had a bigger garden."

Indeed the gardens were generally appreciated, as Howitt had already pointed out:

"The somewhat undecided and overworked tenant rarely fails to bring his garden up to a really good standard in an environment of this nature."

The environment was certainly designed to be as salubrious as possible. Houses were designed to attract the maximum amount of sunshine, having where possible windows front and back in living rooms. There was normally a parlour as well, sometimes linked to the living room by folding doors. This was a nod towards the Arts and Crafts idea of a large living hall, which had not worked well in practice. There would be a good size entrance-hall, itself a reaction against those terraced houses where one entered the living room directly from the street.

A degree of social engineering took place in the planning of the loosely-termed kitchen or scullery. This was not to be so small that the washing tub and wringer were left outside, or so large that it developed into a small living room. Although many living rooms were equipped with a combined range and fire, "the growing tendency to cook on a gas cooker in the scullery has been encouraged as such as possible." Nonetheless, at the bungalows on Highbury Road, Bulwell, "the living room fireplaces will be fitted with 'Interwoven' or 'Elizabethan' ranges according to the class of tenant anticipated."

Upstairs there would be three bedrooms, as Mrs King found, or occasionally four if a tiny box room could be created. There would be an inside toilet, except in the rare cases already mentioned, and there would be a bathroom; in a two-bedroom house this would be downstairs. This item caused more controversy than anything else; Parker and Unwin had experienced trouble over their insistence on it for their working-class housing, and some local authorities managed to avoid it. The tale about the working-classes keeping coal in the bath may well be apocryphal but it does illustrate the patronising attitude of many housing committees, such as their Victorian forebears had attempted to deny to the artisan and his family the basic right of public health. Howitt and his colleagues had their way in Nottingham, fortunately, and with the other domestic amenities such as airing cupboards and built-in wardrobes we can understand why Mrs King observed:

"I would not want to see Cromer Road again."

There was a new amenity to discover at Aspley:

"We found out that a horse and cart came round with the milk."

And the estates were well served with facilities. At Lenton Abbey there was a social club, cricket, football, fishing at Beeston: "everybody was so neighbourly and neighbours helped one another."

This might not be true everywhere else. A resident of Wendover Drive, Aspley, felt perhaps a justifiable sense of superiority when she discovered that there were only two bay windows on that road and she got the first one. A former teacher at Haywood School (opened in 1930 on Edwards Lane) observed that the people on Sherwood Estate regarded themselves as "genteel, or certainly settled" while those on Bestwood Estate were "quite new to that kind of district and the freedom it gave."

Today most of these estates still look well. A few houses have been disfigured by stone cladding or inappropriate colour schemes (one can even find half-timbering of the sort more often found on ribbon-development villas) where people have bought their homes and wish everyone to know it, but in general most things externally are as they were. Some of the estates, unfortunately, enjoy an unenviable reputation, the blame for which cannot be put at their designer's door.

In 1930 the youth of Bestwood Estate were vandalising allotments on their way to school, so nothing is new. To analyse how the 'Garden City' ideals of sixty years ago might be revived once more is beyond the scope of this article, but the re-emergence of a sense of joy in living as a community is clearly long overdue. It may well be that tenants (and, these days, owners) should play a much greater part in the management of these estates. Certainly local authorities need to attend to repairs, and to eyesores, as soon as they appear and not leave them to fester. The idealists of sixty years ago and the people of today deserve nothing less.

Ian Wells

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Judy Kingscott and the anonymous contributors to the Oral History Collection at the Local Studies Library, Angel Row.

Mrs Dorothy King of Clifton for her recollections retold by her daughter Miss Joanne King.

Mervyn Miller, The Derbyshire Buildings by Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin.

Exhibition catalogue at Nottingham University Art Gallery, Where Shall I Live?

Alan A. Jackson, Semi-Detached London

Christopher Spencer and Geoffrey Wilson, Elbow Room: The Story of John Sydney Brockleby.

T.C. Howitt, Nottingham's Housing Schemes.



Villa in Nottingham Park from 'A New Series of Designs for Ornamental Cottages and Villas' by Peter Frederick Robinson (1838)

Was it ever built?

Logos

The city council is at an advanced stage in adapting Southampton's 'Oops' Scheme for local use (see Newsletter No.68, p.22). Associated with it is a 'Pedestrians' Charter'. The distinctive cartoon characters used to put over these initiatives have been joined by Sir Buzz-a-lot. He is used to identify a new council venture inviting local citizens to report, on reply paid cards, any accumulation of discarded rubbish. The problem of litter, that national blight, was tackled through Saintly Sam, a footballer of course, pleading with the local citizens to 'Kick the Litter Habit'.

Ken Brand



Working for you



Working for us



Saintly Sam

Cartoon Logos: Does every character punch out a message?

NEWS FROM FAMILY FIRST

Ice-houses

By the time these notes appear the renovation work on the last of the ice-houses in Wollaton Park should have been completed with the fitting of an outer door and inner steel grille.

Work is well advanced on the ice-house adjoining Clifton Hall which, despite its relative remoteness, has been a target for uncaring vandals in that the new outer door has been damaged even before the project had been finished. Having learned a hard lesson, the replacement will be made of steel instead of timber.

As far as the city is concerned this just leaves the ice-house in Colwick Woods to be dealt with. Since the above-ground dome disappeared some years ago, a decision has to be taken as to whether it is worth while re-building it - a major operation - or whether the structure be left open to the sky and some kind of safety covering fitted to prevent anyone from falling into the lower chamber.

The only other ice-house on the present project list is the one now being worked upon on land which was part of the Annesley Hall estate but now owned by Kodak Limited. This one presented particular challenges. First, because over the years it had been not only filled in but also completely buried by many tons of rubbish - all of which is being manually removed. In fact, but for the help of Major R.P. Chaworth-Musters (now living at Felley Priory but whose family at various times occupied Annesley and Colwick Halls) we would never have traced it. Excavations are now well under way, during which the original entrance tunnel was unearthed. Sad to say the domed roof was knocked in at some stage, but the project team under John Severn's guidance is going to rebuild it using the probably original method of construction now that research has revealed this literal description:

"The dome is to be turned up on a centre made with earth and sand, the same as an oven is turned over, and then the earth and sand to be taken out at the door after its finished."

[Extracted from the Dorset County Archives and quoted by Alan Penny in his article 'Icehouses in Dorset', Dorset Natural History Society Proceedings, Vol 86].

Every possible support to this project is being given by Kodak, including the provision of all building materials as well as free film and processing for the photographic record of the work. As this structure lies outside Nottingham, it is the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust which is associated with it, rather than the Civic Society.

Beeston Lodge, Wollaton Park

The job of removing rubbish and cleaning up the interior was done some time ago - again in collaboration with the Building Preservation Trust. Further work awaits a decision as to the future use of this interesting structure.

Wheeled Fire Escape

In an earlier issue we reported that the Society was to sponsor the restoration of a 1940s vintage wheeled fire escape ladder found hidden amongst the overgrowth at the rear of an old barn (now the Pizza Restaurant) in Wollaton Park. After a struggle to obtain matching timber for repairs, the work has been completed and the appliance handed over to the County Fire Service for safe custody.



Restored 1940s Wheeled Fire Escape
Ladder.

No. 3 Broadway

Although this is not a Civic Society sponsored project, readers may be interested to know that Family First Training Services Limited has bought this Victorian warehouse/factory for conversion into a training and enterprise centre. The renovations and conversions now under way are a joint operation between private contractors and Family First's own community programme workers, with substantial cash inputs by the MSC, City Council and Department of the Environment.



Alon Brown. 3 Broadway
Nov 87

Broad Marsh/Drury Hill Caves

Although MSC approval has been received for Family First to carry out the intended improvements for visitor access, and the work cleared with the site owners, it will still be some weeks before English Heritage consent can be expected.

Cemeteries

Trade union and MSC approvals have been secured for the proposed renovation work at the Church (or Rock) Cemetery as described in the last Newsletter. It is hoped that the project will shortly be given the go-ahead by the City Council. Family First were recently invited to undertake a much more modest tidy-up of the St Leonard Parish Church Cemetery on Bramcote Lane, Wollaton.

A.E.W.

HERITAGE WALKS

Despite the typical English summer, the 1987 season was a success. From the City Walks and The Shire Hall Tours a total of £580 was obtained, and the Sunday Tours of Mortimer's Hole and David's Dungeon collected the amazing sum of £401.

The Sunday Castle Tours ran from the beginning of April to the end of September, during which time approximately 1,500 visitors were conducted around. The Heritage Walks covered the twelve week period, June, July and August with 510 people going on the City Walks and 1,050 visiting The Shire Hall.

So, over 3,000 individuals were guided and £980 collected. As usual the money will be used for the benefit of the community through renovation, repair and enhancement of the fabric of the city. The projects last year included the restoration of the Wollaton Village Dovecote along with works within the area of Wollaton Park.

As part of the Nottinghamshire County Council Guided Walks Programme, we agreed to conduct parties through The Shire Hall on two Wednesday evenings early in the year viz. April 15 and May 27. The response was overwhelming. On the first date 300 turned up - one party from as far away as Carlton-Lindrick. Five guides took 40 each, instead of a more usual 15. The narrow corridors and difficult access meant that only 200 could be dealt with in the time, but the other 100 (with, I suspect, some of their friends) came the following week. We were prepared for the May tour, but a mere 150 came. (These numbers are indeed a record for The Shire Hall and also for the Nottinghamshire County scheme).

Despite this popularity, the future of The Shire Hall and the tours is in doubt. To the owners (Nottinghamshire County Council) it is an asset to be realised. To most other people it is a part of the heritage of Nottingham which must be preserved and made available for appreciation of the public. Unfortunately, again it becomes a commercial proposition and the role of the voluntary organisations is not considered. A pity, as the city is the loser.

We can, however, continue our tours on Sundays at the Castle and on weekdays in the city during the same periods as last year. If you are interested in being a guide, please contact me as soon as you receive this Newsletter as we shall be arranging a meeting at the W.E.A. early in February to decide the programme and required training.

Before concluding this report I extend my sincere thanks to all who have helped during the last year - the order is completely random.

To Brian, Christine, and Ken of The Shire Hall, our thanks for your help and tolerance during what I fear was the final year, and all the previous ones.

To John Parkin, manager of Kennings Car and Van Hire - Castle Boulevard, for again permitting us to take parties around the Caves of St Mary's de la Roche - a new and interesting experience for all the visitors. To Brian Loughborough for the co-ordination of all the voluntary groups and to Bob White and the P.R.O. staff for the promotion of the tours.

To Ted Whyatt of St Mary's Church for his unflinching help and cheerfulness. Finally, to those unsung heroes (and heroines, of course) who have given great assistance in providing their time, services and facilities at no cost to the Society. None of them are members and may have cut corners or bent rules on our behalf. We thank them wholeheartedly and will maintain their anonymity.

Cliff Deane
Walks Co-ordinator

MEMBERSHIP

By the end of the financial year (October 31) there had been 92 new members and 50 resignations. The individual members had increased by 31, family by 12, but one corporate member had resigned.

The total membership at this date stood at:

INDIVIDUAL 400 FAMILY 240 CORPORATE 9 TOTAL 649

Counting family membership as two, the total real membership is 889. (Honorary members and life members have been included in the appropriate grouping).

We would like to achieve 1,000 members by the end of the year, and I feel that there is a good chance. If some individuals became family members, this would help figures and finance.

With this Newsletter there is the annual reminder that subscriptions are now due. Please settle promptly whilst the reminder is in your hand. The subscription does not allow for the cost of further reminders. PLEASE DO NOT BE LIKE THE 200 WHO DALLIED LAST YEAR - PAY NOW! (Bankers orders and covenants are available on request).

LONDON P.S.

Cliff Deane
Membership Secretary

For the members of the Society who enjoyed the visit to London with Bob Cullen on June 20 last year, here are a few footnotes:

1. In the gardens outside Lincoln's Inn there is a pavilion with a plaque to the memory of William, Lord Russell (1639-83). This area was a place of execution from early times, and the gentleman in question was executed for high treason on little evidence. He was alleged to have associated with the Rye House conspirators who plotted the murder of King Charles II and the Duke of York. It is now felt that his involvement was more for personal ambition than any seditious intent.
2. The Peabody Buildings, which we passed later in the day. George Foster Peabody (1795-1896) was an American philanthropist who amassed a fortune as a dry goods merchant before settling in England in 1837. He contributed £1m to the improvement of the housing of London's poor and working classes, with the first Peabody Building being opened in Spitalfields in 1864.
3. Finally - Gavin Stamp, architectural critic has condemned the new Lloyds building, and what is more significant - the occupants do not like the working conditions and want to return to the old Lloyds!! Isn't it nice to have our personal opinions vindicated by the expert and users alike!

THE CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Thank you Shop Helpers for all the time you have devoted to serving in the shop. Without you there would not be a shop and without that the Society would be unable to carry out the various projects that are undertaken. So you are V.I.Ps.

You may find it interesting to know how well we are known. Apart from other Civic Societies visiting us to see the shop with ideas of starting a similar project in their town, I also receive requests for items sold in the shop from far and wide. Sometimes it may be from a person who has visited the shop and seen an item they fancied or for more of what they did purchase.

It is very enjoyable when the shop is not too busy to have a chat with our overseas visitors. I always like to think the whole world passes through. By the way, if any member would like to help in the shop please contact Margaret Harrison who will be pleased to enlighten you. Shop Helpers are always needed. Two people are always on duty. So, newcomers will always be with an experienced partner.

Considering the shop was closed for renovation from early January to nearly Easter, we have had a good year, realising a profit of £9,000. Whilst the shop was closed Eddie Woolrich and his team from Family First extensively refurbished the interior to the highest standards. Thanks to all who were involved you have done a great job!

As you may know that at the end of June we changed the cash system from two drawers to a modern cash register. It was not too popular with some, but applauded by others. Of course, we had teething troubles, but these were overcome by the majority and is now proving a success. It is hoped that when re-open just prior to Easter all will feel competent in operating the cash register. I am sure we will.

I am very indebted for the great assistance I have again received from Margaret Harrison for stock transfer, organising the rota of helpers and the Christmas Party, etc., Cliff Deane for the many various services and deliberations he performs, and Jackie Dunn for stock and shop display. Thank you all, for without this support it would be impossible for me to carry on.

Happy New Year to you all.

F. Thoresby Bradley

Quiz

The buildings in the Quiz, Newsletter No.74 were:

- A. Main Co-op Building, Parliament Street (W.V. Betts, 1915)
- B. No.15 Middle Pavement (Child and Watts, 1907)
- C. Building, Foreman Street, Trinity Square (W.D. Pratt, 1900)

PROGRAMME 1988

TOURS AND VISITS

Monday, April 11 and 18, 1988

THE LACE HALL - Evening visits (7.30pm) Details below*

Tuesday, June 7 and 9, 1988

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL NURSERIES, WOODTHORPE - Evening visits (6.30pm).

Saturday, June 18, 1988

GLOUCESTER

Tuesday, June 28, 1988

DERBY - Evening visit.

Saturday, July 9, 1988

NORWICH

Tuesday, August 9, 1988

EVENING TOUR OF FAMILY FIRST SCHEMES IN NOTTINGHAM (INCLUDING THE CIVIC SOCIETY'S PROJECTS).

Arranged by Eddie Woolrich (Group Development Manager, Family First Training Services Ltd.).

Saturday, September 17, 1988

LEAMINGTON SPA AND WARWICK

Tuesday, December 6, 1988

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Details to be arranged.

→ Booking forms and details for all the visits (except the Lace Hall) will be circulated with the April edition of the 'Newsletter'.

CIVIC TRUST ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Saturday, April 23 to Monday, May 2 - A programme of special activities is planned. Details later.

* VISITS TO THE LACE HALL

Andrew James has invited us to look round the Lace Hall (the converted Unitarian Chapel in High Pavement), which is due to open early in the new year. Visits have been arranged for Monday, April 11 and Monday, April 18 at 7.30pm. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to take part, will you please apply to the Secretary, Ray Banks, 1 Ashley Close, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4BQ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Indicate your preference for date if necessary. You will then be sent a ticket.

PROGRAMME 1988

MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 9, 1988

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANDREW JAMES will speak on the Lace Hall and his plans for a Robin Hood Centre.

Tuesday, March 8, 1988

PETER BURMAN (Secretary of the Council for the Care of Churches).

'Caring for Churches: the Problem and the Challenge.'

Tuesday, April 12, 1988

STEFAN MASTORIS (formerly of the Brewhouse Yard Museum and now Keeper of the Harborough Museum, Market Harborough).

'Rebuilding Past Landscapes: Recent Historical Research on the Topography of Nottingham'.

Tuesday, September 13, 1988

TONY ASPBURY (Town Planning and Development Consultant, Secretary of the Newark Civic Trust Ltd.).

'The Millgate Revival: the Renaissance of a Run-down Urban Area'.

Friday, October 7, 1988

THE THIRD KEITH TRAIN MEMORIAL LECTURE (in association with the Thoroton Society). (7.30pm in the Arkwright Lecture Theatre, Shakespeare Street).

PROFESSOR MAURICE BARLEY 'Nottinghamshire Houses: New Discoveries'.

Tuesday, October 11, 1988

MAXWELL CRAVEN (Archaeologist in the Derby Museum and Newsletter Editor of the Derby Civic Society).

'The Development of Derby'.

Tuesday, November 8, 1988

DR STANLEY CHAPMAN (Lecturer in Economic and Social History, University of Nottingham).

'The Evolution of Nottingham's Traditional Textile Industries'.

Tuesday, January 10, 1989

JIM LEES (The well known authority on the Robin Hood stories and legends).

'The Quest for Robin Hood'.

Except where otherwise stated, all members' meetings will be held in the Cathedral Hall, College Street, Nottingham, commencing at 7.30pm