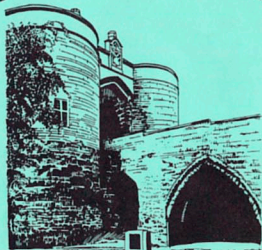


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
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**Nottingham  
Civic  
Society**

Chairman: Robert Cullen  
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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LETTER

Nottingham  
Civic Society

87

January 1992



Remember when . . . on the night of 2nd/3rd February 1990? Now the building the Nottingham Civic Society fought for, Lambert's Factory, is fully restored and occupied as Stanley House by the Driving Standards Agency. Awarded a special Mark of the Month, December 1991. (James McArtney Architects). Go and Admire.

60p

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The following article was most likely the last written by our late President. At the time of his death it was locked inside his word processor from where it has only recently been released by Professor John Beckett. It is a model of its kind. The postscript has been added by our Chairman.

PROPOSED INLAND REVENUE HEADQUARTERS, NOTTINGHAM

Major issues concerning the future shape and appearance of the city have been in the news, and we can be sure we shall see them headlined again. They present the Civic Society with a challenge, to respond as it has done at critical times in the past. Today it is the Society's good fortune that it has a Chairman with the professional skills and experience to represent it, and that if making a case costs money we can allocate funds for the purpose.

The current issue arises from the government's policy of dispersing departments, agencies and other official bodies from London to provincial cities. We have already welcomed the Driving Standards Agency, hived off by the Department of Transport and installed in Lambert's Factory in Talbot Street after restoring and adapting it to a new use. That choice has conserved a notable landmark on the city's skyline. We now await decisions as to whether other bodies will follow, and if so what sites or buildings will be chosen.

For the last year our attention has been focussed particularly on the intention of the Inland Revenue to erect a 'headquarters complex' in our midst. This has presented the City Council, citizens of Nottingham and the Society with planning issues that we have not encountered before. It is difficult, once an issue has been resolved and the fuss has died down, to discover exactly what happened even when files, reports, news cuttings and the like are kept. It seemed suitable for a President with time on his hands to write up the Inland Revenue affair.

it starts from the fact that Crown property is exempt from planning legislation, so that after the Property Services Agency, acting for the Treasury, had acquired redundant railway land on Castle Meadow between the Nottingham Canal and Tinker's Leen and the railway line, it was not obliged to follow the usual procedure of applying first for outline and then for detailed planning permission. Since 1984, however, it has been recognised that this exemption is out of harmony with the temper of the times, and the DOE's circular 18/84 requires the Crown to consult the local planning authority in the same two stages as any other developer has to follow. If the planning authority objects to the development the matter must be referred to the Department of the Environment, which may order a non-statutory local inquiry.

In these days when virtually the only large scale new development in a provincial city is a shopping centre, the possibility of hooking a government department employing a large labour force is a fish worth angling for. It is common knowledge that York, Leeds, Sheffield, Derby and Leicester have been considered, along with Nottingham. It is said that York was second on the Inland Revenue's list, and had a vacant city centre site ready and waiting. I happen to know about the complications at York over the intention of the Department of Education to plant the Curriculum Advice Centre there; it wished to take offices to be built on a site where massive Roman remains were being excavated and which many thought should be conserved for the public. The CAAC moved to another site, but partly at least because of its involvement, the Roman remains have been buried again. There were suggestions from time to time that if Nottingham rejected the Inland Revenue, and particularly held up its timetable, the offices would go up somewhere else. The brochure for the scheme was entitled 'Nottingham 92'.

Consultation in outline form began in January 1990; no objection in principle was raised to the development of the Castle Meadow site and outline consent was issued in April. Preparatory work included a city initiative over road changes required for access to the site, and making a Compulsory Purchase Order for more land to be acquired for comprehensive development. The Property Services Agency then prepared for the Inland Revenue what is known as a 'design and build' brief, a procedure which is now popular with developers; it designates the architect responsible for the design and the contractor for building. It had been adopted for new regional headquarters because a Central Unit on Purchasing in the Treasury believes that 'design and build' achieves better value for money. The method is said to have provoked criticism from local authorities at Leeds and Bristol; it clearly changes the character of consultation. For the Inland Revenue building the Percy Thomas Partnership of architects was designated and it is understood that the design was prepared in their Manchester office. Alfred McAlpine is to be the contractor.

Before the end of 1990 the Percy Thomas Partnership had a design ready for consideration by the city for detailed approval; there were discussions involving the Society and the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, on which the Society is represented by its Chairman. Early in 1991 two new players in the drama appeared: English Heritage and the Royal Fine Art Commission. A local planning authority is obliged to consult

the Commission over the design for a major development. English Heritage's position is rather stronger, because the Planning Act of 1990, Section 73, requires a developer to notify English Heritage of a proposal near to a conservation area; in this case the one including the Castle, a scheduled ancient monument and listed building. Both bodies wrote in strong terms condemning both the first design submitted to them, and again to a revised version, and their letters are reproduced in full. The views of English Heritage came from its Historic Areas Division, after reference to the Historic Areas Committee. One cannot help wondering whether this lively interest within English Heritage was strengthened by its known intention to move to Nottingham in the near future.

English Heritage had not been consulted at the outline stage, and in meetings in December 1990 and onwards in which it took part, comments and suggestions were not adopted in revisions. Piling for the first phase of the building started in February, 1991; this according to the PSA was 'minimum advanced work' in the hope of avoiding delay, but also suggesting the expectation that detailed planning approval would be forthcoming. The Society should be particularly grateful to English Heritage for its forthright objections to the design. The national and local press reported the arguments, and there were rumours that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor were anxious to see the scheme move on according to timetable. Councillor Tony Morris, Chairman of the Planning Committee, made a headline for himself in the Evening Post of 14th February with the phrase: "We don't want fortress Wapping under Nottingham Castle."

The Planning Committee met twice in March, first on the 14th to hear a progress report and again on the 27th. At each it had copies of letters, most of them objecting to the design; at the second meeting objections were repeated and in some cases strengthened. They included Save Britain's Heritage, the Inland Revenue Staff Association (which it had been claimed supported the design as well as eminent local individuals. In view of the good support for the scheme in the highest places, I sent copies of my letter to the Prime Minister the Chancellor as well as to the First Secretary of the Treasury.

The Committee on the 27th resolved to welcome the development, but stuck to its view that the design should be radically altered, and it spelled out changes it wished to see, including the use of traditional materials. The result was a triumph for the bodies consulted. I quote from a letter addressed to me as President of the Society, and similar to those sent to the Fine Art Commission and English Heritage. Mr Francis Maude, First Secretary of the Treasury, wrote on 11th April:

"I have decided that it would not be right to proceed with the present design proposals at this stage. We will intend therefore to undertake with the help of independent consultants an environmental impact assessment of the Castle Meadow site, to establish the common ground between the Revenue's operational priorities and financial constraints and the concerns of the City Council and other interested parties (including the Civic Society). I hope that this study can be completed rapidly.

I am especially keen that the Civic Society's concerns about the project should be met. I do hope that the Society will be ready to work actively with our design team to achieve this."

Our Chairman had been in touch with the IR Project Manager, and had evidently demonstrated the quality of the Society's contribution. Coinciding with Mr Maude's letter, the Project Manager informed Mr Cullen of the appointment of RPS Clouston, a firm of environmental consultants, to carry out the environmental impact assessment; he expected that the review would take about eight weeks. Representatives of Clouston contacted him within a few days.

At this stage (writing on 14th May), comments can only be unofficial. The consultants since they were appointed by the IR are not strictly independent; the first phase of their assessment - asking whether the site is suitable in terms of its impact, skyline, etc., has been seen only by the IR, nor has Clouston's brief been published. In the second phase they will arrive at judgements about the IR proposals against their site analysis. I understand that they have observed, as well as the impact of the building on the prospect from the Castle, that it will be close to the bowl of the Castle Park (still a private estate very precious to the city) and be visible from the loftiest Park houses. But a development of the scale required simply cannot be hidden.

In the meantime the William Saunders Partnership has prepared for the Society our report on the proposals, and illustrated them with the Chairman's distinctive comparisons, for instance with the scale of the Castle itself, the Old Market Square, and so on. The proposals were exhibited in the Victoria Centre during Environment Week. Other drawings show how the mass of the building could be broken up, and the weight of it shifted away from the Canal. We must now wait and see how much influence these ideas have.

One thing we can be certain of; this will not be the last major proposal of this sort to face. The policy of moving government departments and agencies and the like out of London into provincial cities has been accepted by both Conservative and Labour parties. We have every reason to expect English Heritage and we have read in the local press speculation that the Tower Armouries might come. Thank goodness that the Society, started 20 odd years ago by a few, has now built up a membership with resources large enough for it to play the sort of part the times require.

The next issues are already on the table; how to exploit more effectively for visitors the historical and cultural asset represented by the Castle, and, how the General Hospital site should be redeveloped.

#### The Inland Revenue Headquarters, the Story Continues

During May it was announced in *Building Design* that Treasury Ministers were going to ditch the 'design and build' approach and launch a major architectural competition. *Building Design* had wind of this at a very early stage and they were proved right. A formal announcement was made in July by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Francis Maud. This was confirmed in a letter to the Civic Society from the Inland Revenue dated 6th September, 1991, when it was made clear that the Civic Society would be given an opportunity to comment on the final six submissions. At later discussions with the Assessors, it was also made clear that the final three would be put on public exhibition and the public response to the three final designs would also be taken into account. This exhibition will be held hopefully in January 1992 at a venue to be announced.

On 25th October it was announced that the six architects who had been chosen from about 130 excellent applications were:

Arup Associates  
Evans & Shalev Architects  
Nicholas Hare Architects  
Michael Hopkins & Partners  
Demetri Porphyrios Associates  
Richard Rogers Partnership

We know what to expect from Richard Rogers as he is so well known. The odd ball is the classical architect Demetri Porphyrios and their submission I think, will be a surprise. Michael Hopkins will no doubt produce a very modern and elegant building. Nicholas Hare is a bit of an unknown and verging on post modernism. Evans & Shalev are developing into very good architects and Arup Associates are an absolutely splendid firm of modern architects but working in context.

It was announced in the Evening Post on 25th July, 1991, that three local architects were going to enter the competition. In the event, only Crampin & Pring did enter, who are the largest Nottingham Practice. The other firms decided that the competition conditions did not allow a small firm, however excellent, to enter. No local Practices were selected.

The latest development published on 15th November, 1991, in *Building Design* states that the Inland Revenue had decided that the RIBA scale would 'form the basis for negotiation' but there would be 'a competitive element' to the fees. This issue has still not finally been resolved and it will be very interesting to follow this dispute.

You can be assured that your Committee and Chairman will closely monitor events and be actively involved so far as they are able, in assisting in the selection. If, of course, in our opinion there is no design which is satisfactory, they will continue to oppose the development on your behalf but this will be an increasingly difficult task in the light of the results of six architects of such stature. There remains only one real problem and this is 'is the site big enough to accommodate the right solution?' All the work we have carried out points to the fact that it is extremely tight and this was accepted by the Assessors but they do not feel able to recommend to the Inland Revenue that the site should be enlarged.

The Assessors are chaired by Colin Stanfield Smith, County Architect for Hampshire CC and the Panel includes Sir Phillip Powell, Terry Farrell, James O'Hare (Inland Revenue Project Sponsor), Jim Taylor (Director of Development, Nottingham City Council) and Peter Murray (publisher of 'Blueprint').

Watch this space!

Maurice Barley's autobiography will be published early in the new year. Some copies will be available for the Gatehouse Shop, otherwise the book will be available from: Archaeological Section, Department of Classical and Archaeological Studies, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. The price will be £9.95, plus £1.95 postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to University of Nottingham.

#### WHO WAS THOMAS EARP?

On learning that a biography of Thomas Earp had been published and that he was born in Nottingham in 1828, I looked in Robert Mellors' 'Men of Nottingham and Notts' (1924) to see if he was mentioned. There was an entry for a Thomas Earp (1830-1910) a millster, twice Mayor of Newark and an Alderman of the County Council.

This was not, however, the subject of the biography referred to, as the full title, 'Thomas Earp, Master of Stone' by Anthony Mitchell (Barracuda Books Ltd, 1990, £14.95) reveals. The sub-title amplifies this, 'the life and work of this noted sculptor of the Victorian era'. Anthony Mitchell is Thomas Earp's grandson. His book reveals why Thomas Earp appears not to be very well known in his native town (even the Editor had never heard of him!)

Mr Mitchell is only able to devote 2½ pages to Thomas' life in Nottingham as he left to work in London about 1850. Thomas' career as a sculptor was influenced by two buildings which were in their own ways to have an influence on Nottingham's developments from the mid-1840s onwards. After education at school, probably the predecessor of Nottingham High School, the Free School, Thomas Earp became one of the 110 students on 1st April, 1843, at the newly opened government sponsored School of Design, then in Beck Lane. Later it moved to premises at the corner of Waverley Street and Peel Street and became known as the School, and later College, of Art. Today the building is part of Nottingham Polytechnic. Although local businessmen regarded the main purpose of the School to be to instruct pupils to design lace, its objects did include instruction in design for manufacture and ornamental arts.

Mr Mitchell relates how Thomas Earp on his way home from the School would stop and watch work on the new Roman Catholic Church on Derby Road, later St Barnabas' Cathedral. This inspired Thomas to think of a career in the building profession and he would work with other craftsmen in his spare time. After his studies were finished he obtained full-time employment at the Church.

The designer of the building, Augustus Welby Pugin, employed as his principal contractor George Myers who had an extensive business based in Lambeth. Thomas's talents soon came to Myers' notice and he arranged for him to live in London and work for him along with other craftsmen. Myers had carried out work for Butterfield as well as Pugin and so Earp was brought into contact with the Gothic Revival Movement in architecture.

This was to influence his later work, especially after Myers' death when Earp set up in business on his own. Before then, whilst still working for Myers, he carried out his first work in the East Midlands, at St Harry's Church, Derby, designed by Pugin in 1837. In 1853, the Church was extended by the addition of a Lady Chapel. Earp was commissioned to carve a 'Pieta', of the dead Christ lying in the arms of the Blessed Virgin.

Earp later carried out much work for George Edmund Street and Samuel Sanders Teulon. The latter, when he designed Bestwood Lodge, employed Earp to carve scenes from local history on the building including Robin Hood and his Merrie Men. Earlier, in 1856, he had designed the pulpit in T.C. Hines' Christ Church at Cinderhill. He also worked for Edward Middleton Barry on the replica Eleanor Cross at Charing Cross and was responsible for the statue of Queen Eleanor in the niche on the church at Harby in Nottinghamshire.

Mr Mitchell's book gives details of Earp's work throughout England, on churches and public buildings, including the Law Courts in The Strand, London.

Half of the book consists of illustrations, mainly photographs of Earp's work.

Geoffrey Oldfield

#### BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY NOTTINGHAM CAVE REGISTER - Update (See Newsletter No.85 April 1991)

It was originally thought that the British Geological Survey would not be able to maintain the Nottingham Cave data.

The information acquired would be passed to the County Council for their relevant department(s) to hold and to arrange access for interested bodies as and when required.

However, it was felt that there were potential problems over data ownership as the data on caves was originally collated as part of a Department of the Environment project. After some deliberation the management of B.G.S. decided that it would be preferable to maintain the dataset internally.

A member of B.G.S. staff has been allocated time to update the cave register, which is now held on a digital database as well as in book form. Since the original publication 11 new sites and numerous additions have been recorded. The 1:2500 scale plans are currently being revised.

Any new purchases of the register will include all the new information, as a second version will be issued shortly. People who have original copies of the cave register will be able to buy the additional pages as a supplement.

Tony Waltham, of Nottingham Polytechnic, is in frequent contact with B.G.S. informing them of any new cave sites or surveys. Building contractors contact him when cave sites are located and he has surveyed several in the last fifteen months. Most of these are still accessible, perhaps this is a sign that developers feel caves can be an asset and not a liability needing an extra 'x' tonnes of concrete.

[Based on information sent to Rita Cooper by Jennifer Walsby of B.G.S. The Society has some reservation about the amount of information given with each entry. More technical and historical information together with references to sources and research material would be most welcome. Editor]

## ROBERT EVANS (Part 1)

Of all the architects active in Nottingham in the second half of the 19th century Robert Evans is not only one of the most prolific but also one of the most neglected.

Robert Evans, or more precisely Robert Evans senior, has received some recognition as the pupil, assistant and then partner of the more widely acknowledged Thomas Chambers Hine. However, from 1867 when he left Hine until well past the turn of the century his own Practice designed many buildings which still modestly yet impressively grace the streets of Nottingham and beyond.

The Evans family, presumably of Welsh origin, settled on the Staffordshire-Derbyshire border-lands near Ashbourne sometime during the 16th century. They favoured in particular the adjoining parishes of Norbury, Rocester and Ellastone where many became joiners and builders.

Robert Evans senior is the third generation Robert Evans worthy of attention. His grandfather whom it is convenient to call Robert Evans (I) (1773-1848) was a joiner from Norbury who became an agent for the nearby Wootton Hall Estate. Its tenant at the time was Francis Parker Newdigate of the Nottingham Newdigate House family. Robert married Harriett Poynton in 1801 and fathered two children before his wife died in 1809. The elder child was Robert Evans (II) (1802-1864).

When F.P. Newdigate inherited minor estates at West Hallam near Ilkeston in 1802 Robert Evans (I) accompanied him as his agent. A few years later Newdigate came into his main inheritance at Arbury Castle, Warwickshire, and again Robert (I) moved on as his agent. He remarried in Warwickshire in 1819 and later that year his youngest child Mary Ann (1819-1880) was born. She later became widely known as the novelist 'George Eliot'.

Robert Evans (II) settled in West Hallam, following his father as agent for the local Newdigate Estates and also farming in his own right. He lived initially at Firs Farm, West Hallam, and later at Stanley Lodge, Stanley Common. The farm building at the latter location had the inscription 'RE 1862' picked out on the gable end. Robert (II) married Jane Attenborough of Ilkeston, at West Hallam, around 1830. There were at least three children, two sons, Isaac and Robert III (1832-1911) - the Robert Evans senior of Nottingham, and a daughter Mary. There is a memorial window to Robert and Jane in Stanley Church, perhaps installed by Robert (III). Thus Robert Evans senior was half nephew to George Eliot. The 1850s were to prove important to both of them. Not far into the decade he started his architectural career as a pupil of one of the most respected provincial architects, before the decade ended she had her first acclaimed novel 'Adam Bede' published (1859).

So far little is known of Robert Evans senior's early years from his birth in West Hallam in 1832 to his arrival in Nottingham in the early 1850s. Hine at this time was engaged a rich variety of work, warehouses, churches, country houses, private houses - even a music hall - besides laying out

Nottingham's Park Estate for the 5th Duke of Newcastle. So Robert received an enviable training in the practise of architecture. Before long Hine appreciated his pupil's competence and maturity and was confident to delegate responsibility. On the evening of 11th May, 1855, he was in charge of the festivities at the Milton's Head Hotel, Derby Road, when the workmen engaged on the construction of the Park Tunnel celebrated the completion of the work.

Young Robert

"...complimented the workmen upon their general good behaviour, and expressed his satisfaction at their having arrived at this advanced stage of the works without any serious accident."

Robert's flair for organisation, later widely acclaimed, was evident here for "Harmony and good feeling characterised the proceedings of the evening." The entire evening cost the Duke of Newcastle a fiver!

In 1857 Hine took Evans into partnership, no legal document of partnership has been traced, it might have been just a working relationship. Hine's talent was still in great demand, the wide ranging commissions continued to come into what was a very busy practice. He needed an able partner. Over the following ten years Hine and Evans were at the forefront of their profession in the Midlands. They appear to have worked as a pair, Evans' individual contribution is impossible to pick out!

He certainly made his mark in his profession early in his career. When the Nottingham Architectural Association was instituted at a full meeting of the architects of Nottingham on 11th November 1862, Evans had been a member of the preliminary committee which had arranged the meeting. This steering committee, chaired by Hine, had

"already held several meetings...and matured a body of Rules for the incorporation of the Association."

Henry Moses Wood was briefly its first President (1862-63), followed by T.C. Hine (1863-73), and then Robert Evans (1873-79, 1892-93 and 1899-1901).

Following his improved status he married his wife Sarah Ann at Stamford on 11th February 1858, and moved into 3 College Street. In the 1861 Census they have a daughter Edith Mary aged one and another daughter, not named, of eight days. A son Robert, later to be known in Nottingham as Robert Evans Junior, was born in 1863. Their domestic staff consisted of a cook, a house servant/nurse and a full-time nurse.

Robert Evans was a founder member of the Robin Hood Rifles and was one of the six who "fell in" and received their first drill instruction on the Castle Terrace in May 1859. On 26th August, 1859, he was appointed Second Lieutenant. As the membership increased, by early 1860 there were 600 volunteers, Evans became a full Lieutenant. He always retained a keen interest in the affairs and activities of the 'Robin Hoods'.

The respect and architectural integrity which the Hine and Evans partnership had established proved to be of value to Evans when he left to open his own office. Evans left his partnership with Hine early in 1867, in Morris' Directory of Nottingham for 1869 Robert Evans is listed as an Architect and Surveyor of Wheeler Gate.<sup>2</sup> This office in Eldon Chambers, 18 Wheeler Gate, was most likely either designed or remodelled by Evans at this time and remained the home of the practice and its successors until 1953. In that year the practice moved to 4-6 Clarendon Street.

Full details of planning applications in Nottingham are not available prior to September 1874. Some plans - by no means all - were voluntarily deposited from 1871 onwards. Thus not all of Evans' work in the years 1867-74 is yet known.

However, before 1871 he had designed the Imperial Fire and Life Insurance office adjoining the Post Office at the top of Victoria Street. As a contemporary account put it

"...one of the handsomest buildings in the town and its facade throws even the Post Office into the shade. When connected with the buildings lower down the street this side of Victoria Street will probably be the handsomest pile in the town."

[This building, now the Victoria Club, was substantially altered into the Reform Club in 1913 by W.B. Starr and E. Hall. Most significantly two entrances became one]. Another building of note was the English Presbyterian Church, St Andrew's Belgrave Square/Goldsmith Street, "...a very pretty little Gothic edifice."

Around the beginning of 1871 Evans entered into partnership with William Jolley. William Jolley had been, like Evans, one of Hine's pupils in the 1850s. He left Hine to spend over ten years in the office of George Gilbert Scott in London.<sup>3</sup> Scott's biographer made nothing of Jolley's time with Scott. No doubt he was one of many provincial hopefuls in what was a large and extremely busy practice. Rumour has it he worked on Scott's proposals for the Foreign Office, Whitehall 1863-9. Jolley stayed with Evans until 1894, the last recorded assignment of Evans and Jolley was for W. Hollins and Co Ltd, Norton, on 14th September, 1894, 'Additions to Cotton Mill'.

After Jolley's retirement internal promotion brought Robert Evans Junior into a partnership, thus establishing the architectural Practice of Evans and Son. Robert Evans senior remained with the Practice until his sudden death on Wednesday, 19th July, 1911, in his 79th year, although in his last years the running of the business was largely carried out by his son.

(To be continued)

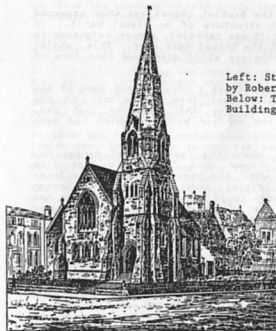
Ken Brand

#### Footnotes

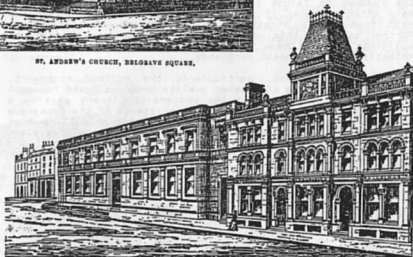
- 1 For details of Hine's work 1857-67 see the Society's booklet T.C. Hine, Architect of Victorian Nottingham.
- 2 George Thomas Hine, trained within the Practice formally replaced Evans as Hine senior's partner on 4th August, 1867, thus creating the firm of T.C. Hine and Son.

3 In passing it is worth noting that c.1853 another of Hine's pupils was Laslett J. Pott (1837-1901). His stay was brief, he left to study art in London. By 1860 he was exhibiting at the Royal Academy, he exhibited 25 paintings between 1860-80 and became a R.A. and R.S.A. The unassuming and perhaps unambitious Mr Pegg was another man in the Hine office at this time.

Left: St Andrew's Belgrave Square by Robert Evans c.1870  
Below: The Imperial Insurance Building Victoria Street 1869-70



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, BELGRAVE SQUARE.



THE POST OFFICE AND IMPERIAL INSURANCE BUILDINGS.

The Imperial Insurance Building was converted into the Reform Club in 1913 and is now the Victoria Club. Play the architectural detective and see if you can find the position of the two original doorways.

THE DEMOLITION OF THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE ON CHAUCCER STREET  
EXISTING EVIDENCE ON SITE

In carrying out research into the Lace Dressing Works built by the brothers Lambert in the later part of the 19th century, my attention was drawn to the reference of the Synagogue shown immediately adjacent to the Baptist Chapel on Chaucer Street on the OS Map of 1901.

The building adjacent to the Baptist Chapel was what appeared to be a very non-descript structure of no visual merit. In very dilapidated condition it was certainly a poor neighbour to the more elegant design of the Chapel next door. This, whilst in a parlous state, nevertheless still displayed some form of religious dignity.

One day walking down Chaucer Street I noticed that some of the modern rendering had fallen away from the plinth of the Technical College Laboratory, for that was its last use, revealing the fabric of the earlier building which had been covered up.

Investigation showed that where the last coat of render had fallen off there was a former coat 'ruled' to look like stonework, the details of which had been followed by the later applications. Under the original coat where this had broken down the structural brickwork could be seen. Further along the eastern side towards the rear of the building more render had broken away and this uncovered some rather fine moulded stonework forming a stepped band about four or five courses above the pavement line of a portion of roadway running to just beyond the building.

On the 1901 OS Map this piece of roadway lines up exactly with the roadway on Talbot Street now called Stanley Place and I have often wondered if the original intention was to have a road from Talbot Street to Chaucer Street at this point. Further study of this map will show dotted lines through the buildings between these two pieces of road as if the original intention was to connect both ends.

The uncovered fabric, particularly the moulded stonework, suggested a building of greater quality underneath and research in the Local Collection at the University Library gave me a break which I believed confirmed the existence of the Synagogue beneath the present structure. In a newspaper cutting book (No. 1014 NEW 89368 page 39) an article under the 'Highways and Byways of Old Nottingham' series entitled 'The Jews of Old Nottingham' showed an engraving of the Jews' Synagogue in Chaucer Street.

The picture is a sketch of the front elevation to Chaucer Street and the three quarter view just shows part of the East elevation, complete with a moulded plinth. Accepting some artists license, the engraving and my photograph show one and the same building. I took a further photograph roughly from the same angle as the sketch is drawn and the line of the Baptist Chapel roof beyond relates exactly to the Synagogue in both pictures.

I wrote to a friend of mine, Mr Bernard Millett, JP, telling him of my find, and he, being of the Jewish Faith and knowledgeable on the history of the Jews in Nottingham, most

helpfully sent to me an article which he had prepared on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the move from Chaucer Street to the Synagogue in Shakespeare Street.

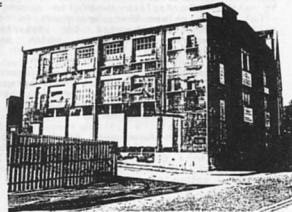
In his article he says, and I quote, "In 1877 an abortive attempt was made to purchase a chapel for a permanent house of worship. This fell through, owing to lack of funds, but 13 years later the congregation now grown to a membership of about 50, took its courage in both hands and purchased land for a new Synagogue in Chaucer Street."

Mr Millett tells me that the Synagogue cost about £3,000 to build and was intended to seat a congregation of 300. The then Chief Rabbi, Dr Herman Adler, opened the building for worship in July 1890. During the next 20 years, refugees from Russia swelled the community and the Jewish population rose to about 500. For Holy Days the Chapel was too small and a further disadvantage was that there was no land available for extension or for an Assembly Hall and Classroom.

In 1950 the Synagogue celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its foundation, but by now it was far too small for a population further increased by evacuees from other cities (during the Second World War) remaining to take up their lives in Nottingham. On the 18th September, 1954, the last congregation met in the Chaucer Street Synagogue and on 21st September, the present building was consecrated by Chief Rabbi, Dr Israel Brodie. The present Synagogue on Shakespeare Street was formerly a Methodist Chapel, the history of which is also interesting, but beyond the scope of this article.

Chaucer Street Synagogue is now no more. After a hundred years of existence it has now been demolished to make way for new development. However, in the rubble to which it was reduced in April 1991, it gave one more example of its former use and of its original quality. Four iron columns were seen sticking out of the pile of bricks beautifully painted each with stylized flower motifs, obviously having been hidden within the alterations carried out in the late 50s. Sadly they have now gone for scrap.

J.A. Severn



*The Synagogue in Chaucer Street  
built in 1890 and demolished 1991.*



## OUR BROWN STONE UGLY DUCKLING

A Note on W.P. Smith and the Clifton Statue

Whenever the statue of Sir Robert Clifton on Victoria Embankment crops up in conversation, someone is sure to quote the old chestnut about its having the ugliest trousers of any statue in the country. When the source of this opinion is run to earth, one notes with surprise that the deficiencies of Sir Robert's trousers were thus immortalized as long ago as 1904.

In the Strand Magazine of January that year, there appeared an article by Ronald Graham, entitled 'Trousers in Sculpture'. The author pointed out that:

"The tailor's notion of the ideal in trousers and that entertained by the sculptor are separated by a wide gulf, which very few of the latter fraternity show any disposition to bridge."

He said that it would never be known how many tailors had sighed on seeing their creations "transmitted at the sculptor's hands to posterity mutilated by folds, deformed by creases, gifted with impossible falls over the boot, and endowed with plies at the knee which not ten years of incessant wear could be supposed to produce." Notwithstanding the opinion of the sculptor Thomas Brock, who considered that trousers could not be made artistic in statuary, Graham made merry with a number of noted sculptors who had failed to meet his demanding sartorial standards. After sideswipes at the statues of various nineteenth century worthies, he delivered his humorously devastating verdict:

"After all we have said, it is to Nottingham that we must attribute the unique distinction of possessing the worst pair of sculptured trousers in the Kingdom. They adorn the legs of the late local worthy, Sir Robert Jukes-Clifton; and, as the reader will see from the accompanying photograph, embody not inadequately the talented sculptor's dream. That they embody anything but a dream it is out of our power to believe, as we are reliably informed that it is not in the nature of our most flexible English tweeds to assume such grotesque folds, unless there are goods in the Midlands, for which the lamented Sir Robert Jukes-Clifton expressed a weakness, which surpass ordinary material in this respect."

After reading this broadside, one observes with some relief that the Clifton trousers at least escaped Graham's nomination as the worst in Europe. He conceded that they were not as bad as those on the statue of Leon Gambetta, the French statesman, opposite the Louvre in Paris.

Few compliments have ever been paid to the statue of Sir Robert, and it is likely that the kindest remarks ever made about it were those heard at its unveiling on May 24, 1883. Sir Robert Clifton, 9th Baronet, racehorse owner, gambler, debtor, enthusiastic supporter of the licensed trade, and

Member of Parliament, had died of typhoid fever, aged 43, in May 1863. Enormously popular, largely because of his extrovert eccentricity, he was accorded a funeral at Clifton witnessed by "an immense concourse of spectators." A committee was quickly formed for the raising of subscriptions towards a statue in his memory. This proved a difficult undertaking, "but the committee were possessed of great perseverance, and they were resolute in their determination to succeed." It was rumoured from time to time that money for the statue had dried up, the local satirical magazine Midland Jackdaw commenting in May 1879 that only £200 had so far been collected. By 1881, however, sufficient funds had been acquired to allow the committee to commission a sculptor.

The man chosen was William Philip Smith, of Peas Hill Road, off St Ann's Well Road, in Nottingham. Smith had been active here for some years, appearing in the Nottingham directory of 1864 at a stonehouse, 10 Robin Hood Street. By 1866 he was resident at Peas Hill Road, where he was to live for the rest of his life. The 1876 directory indicates that he had at that date business premises in Shakespeare Street; a studio perhaps.

Many years afterwards, the Nottinghamshire Guardian's column of local notes and queries briefly revived the memory of W.P. Smith, in a sequence of reminiscences contributed by readers during the winter of 1920-21. These help to throw some light on this rather shadowy figure. The Nottinghamshire antiquary William Stevenson recalled that Smith had carved for him, in 1863, a pilgrim's head on a walking stick made from a yew tree in Scrooby churchyard. Stevenson had first encountered Smith carving the stonework on Terrace Royal, Clarendon Street: this row of houses was named in honour of the wedding, in 1863, of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra. One would dearly love to know whether William Philip Smith was the only sculptor engaged on Terrace Royal: the work around the doorways, depicting rural activities and scenes, is infinitely more accomplished than the rather inept, though enjoyable, heads of monarchs above the windows. Stevenson related that he had considered Smith's work "more artistic than usual in the town." He had believed the sculptor, at the time, to be "something over 30 years of age" (Smith was actually about 44), and described him as "sturdy in build, genial in disposition, and easily drawn on for a song - his favourite being 'The Friar of Orders Grey'." A blurred photograph showed a plump, full-bearded figure in artist's smock and floppy cap. William Stevenson thought that Smith had been commissioned by the Nottingham architect Thomas Simpson, to carve the statue of Michelangelo which used to adorn Angelo Terrace, Shakespeare Street, (now the University Department of Adult Education). Another correspondent, however, refuted this, stating that it was largely the work of John Stonehouse, sculptor of the figures of a boy and girl on the old Bluecoat School, Mansfield Road. The head of Michelangelo had, according to this contributor, been finished by Simpson himself. William Stevenson also wrongly attributed to W.P. Smith the statue of Benjamin Mayo, the 'Old General', at the Hyson Green pub of that name: this was, in fact, done by Joseph Holmes of Basford.

The sculptor's daughter, Miss E. Laura Smith, wrote from Worcestershire to give more details of her father's career. She claimed he had worked on the Martyrs' Memorial at Oxford, on the Houses of Parliament, and on "several cathedrals". In 1848, W.P. Smith had been presented with a silver medal by the Prince Consort, "for the best model of a bracket, to support a figure two feet high at the International Exhibition of Art." Miss Smith further stated that he had been awarded three silver and two bronze medals for works of art - these were still in the family's possession - and recalled that "all the carvings, pillars, and porch of St Ann's Church, Nottingham", were his work. (Designed by Robert Clarke of Shakespeare Street, the church was demolished in 1971). In short, William Philip Smith had, according to his daughter, "left the print of his craft and handiwork in many places." A Mr Wheelodon, of Western Australia, supplied the additional information that Smith had, in 1875, "wrought the carving on the Basford Cemetery pillars, where I assisted him." A further facet of W.P. Smith's career was touched upon by William Stevenson:

"He was as expert at modelling in plaster as at carving, and in this calling he had charge of a class at the School of Art."

More information appears in the annual reports of the School. That for 1872-73 notes the start of a ladies' class for modelling and wood carving; a year later it was recorded that this class had made very satisfactory progress, "three of the modelled works having been selected for the National competition; which is alike creditable to the students, and to the able instruction of Mr W.P. Smith..." The 1874-75 annual report observed that Smith's modelling class had prospered, while the report for 1877-78 chronicled the "completion of the carving and external decoration of the building." This had been carried out "by Mr Birchenough, assisted by Mr W.P. Smith" under the direction of Samuel Dutton Walker, architect and member of the School of Art Committee. Dutton Walker had been one of the architects of Terrace Royal, so he had presumably been well satisfied with the quality of William Philip Smith's work there. The sculptor's resignation from the School's staff was noted in the 1882-83 annual report, which, however, made no mention of the Clifton Statue.

Stephen Best

(To be continued)

The Society is extremely grateful to Mrs Jean Betts who has agreed to take over the generous position of Organiser of Shop Helpers initially for one year. She will be assisted by Mrs J. Moodie. The revenue generated by the Gatehouse Shop is crucial for the existence of many of your Society's activities and so this is a key post in the Society's organisation. Molly Hayes, who has just relinquished the position, has worked long and hard on behalf of the Society. In addition to her endeavours concerning the shop helpers she is also responsible for getting your Newsletter to you as quickly as possible. Your Committee, on your behalf, takes this opportunity to thank Molly for all that she has done for the Nottingham Civic Society.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CITIES

Mention has already been made in the Newsletter of Leicester's achievement in being designated Britain's first Environmental City (Newsletter No.85 April 1991). Three more cities will eventually join Leicester as holders of the title Environmental City.

"The concept of Environment City is a search for practical solutions to the problems being generated by our Cities today such as air and water pollution, noise, industrial and domestic waste, traffic congestion, and the insatiable demand for energy - all of which lower the quality of life for city dwellers, and have a tremendous, and damaging, impact on the wider environment."\*

\* Quotation from Brendan Joyce (Head of Development R.S.N.C.)

The proposal to instigate the concept of Environment Cities came from the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Leicester Ecology Trust in 1988. The R.S.N.C. carried the idea forward with organisations with the Department of the Environment's UK 2000 Network with the result that Leicester was designated Britain's first Environmental City in June 1990.

For phase two, the second designation, the following nine 'cities' submitted bids: Gloucester, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Peterborough, Sheffield, Southampton, Stoke, and Swindon. Middlesbrough was selected, the organisers felt that partnerships between businesses, local authorities, voluntary organisations and the public in the town was impressive.

It is rather sad that Nottingham, in the wake of its Green Charter was not in the list. Was it interested? In addition to the designated Environmental Cities a network is to be established so that any city interested in the programme, but not one of the four chosen, can benefit from the experiences of each Environmental City and also pool data on environmental practises. The programme will ultimately set a standard to which all towns and cities within the United Kingdom will hopefully aspire.

The key word for cities bidding to become the next Environment City is Partnership. There must be a close and co-ordinated working relationship developed between the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Selection Committee will be looking for changes which cannot be achieved by one group or organisation on its own.

Local authorities may take the lead but they must realise that this is an initiative for everyone; individuals, industry and commerce all have a vital role to play and must be able to make their own contributions.

Any organisation or group keen to secure designation for their home-city must form a 'bidding group' with representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The bidding group is responsible for drawing up a written response to the conditions and questions laid down by the National Environment City Selection Committee. This is then sent to the R.S.N.C., The Wildlife Trust Partnership.

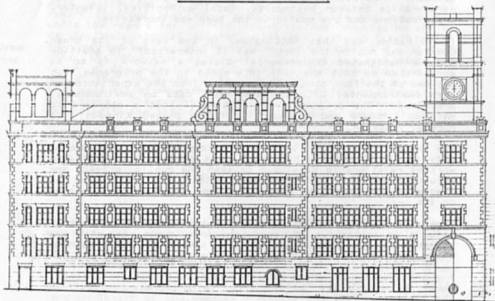
This submission can be considered as a city's environmental CV and forms the first stage of the selection process.

Short-listed cities will be visited by representatives from the National Selection Committee and some, or all, of the bidding group members may be expected to provide additional detailed information on specific topics - the weight of recyclable material dealt with over a certain period, for example. This year the submissions had to be in by 30th September and the selection of Middlesbrough was announced on 12th December. Next time - Nottingham?

Ken Brand  
[Based largely on material provided by  
Nicola J. Simpson, Environment City  
Co-ordinator (R.S.N.C.)]

Postscript: Leicester City have recycling bags in the car park, unleaded petrol in the club vehicles and low-energy lightbulbs in the office. They use organic fertilizer on the pitch and collect rainwater off the stand roof. And last there is still any doubt that they are by far the greenest team the world has ever seen, they have installed a kestrel nesting box on one of their floodlight pylons.

(Robert Pryce: Soccer Diary,  
The Guardian, 14th December 1991)



A special, extra, Mark of the Month for December 1991 has been awarded to James McCartney Architects for the completion of the restoration and partial rebuilding of Lambert's Factory Talbot Street for Pickering Developments Ltd. (Thanks to James McCartney for the architect's drawing for the restoration work).

#### MARK OF THE MONTH

At last the Society's Mark of the Month commendation scheme is up to date. This is largely due to the number of good projects recently completed. A very encouraging sign is the high standard of craft skills engaged in restoration and refurbishment in the Nottingham area. More builders and contractors are proudly inviting close scrutiny of their finished work.

The batch of awards listed below brings the number of commendations which I have handed up to 80. Not all have met with universal approval but there should be something for all to savour. Sometimes there is a deliberate time lag in order to show a project has settled down, fitted in or even survived vandalism.

Coming attractions will include the extension to the back bar at The Bell inn and the refurbishment of the Norris Aims Houses on Berridge Road, Sherwood Rise.

Please remember that this is a Society Award, and I, or any of your Committee, will always be very pleased to receive suggestions. We do get publicity from time to time. There are occasions when I feel I am involved with Nottingham's best kept secret, however, as I have hinted the recipients are very pleased even grateful at being publicly acknowledged.

Ken Brand

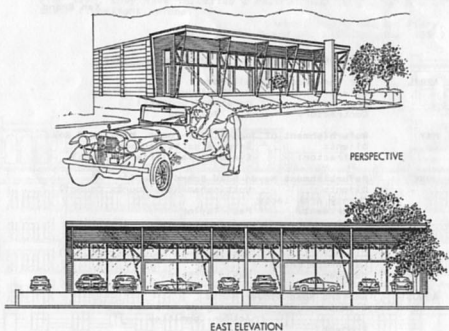
#### MARK OF THE MONTH April 1991-January 1992

- |           |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| APRIL     | <p><b>Car Showroom, Nuthall Road</b><br/>Client: C. Wheelhouse<br/>Architect: Marsh &amp; Grochowski<br/>Contractor: T.K. Building</p>                          |
| MAY       | <p><b>Refurbishment of Judges' Tea-rooms, Mansfield Road</b><br/>Client: Brian &amp; Netta Jackson<br/>Contractor: Evenbuy (Radcliffe-on-Trent).</p>            |
| JUNE      | <p><b>Refurbishment Haydn Road Board School</b><br/>Client: Nottinghamshire County Council<br/>County Architects<br/>Department: Paul Taylor</p>                |
| JULY      | <p><b>Environmental Improvement<br/>Nuthall Road-Bar Lane</b><br/>Client: Nottinghamshire County Council<br/>Landscape Group<br/>Manager: David Richards</p>    |
| AUGUST    | <p><b>Radford Road Flower Boxes</b><br/>Client: Nottingham in Bloom<br/>Action Committee<br/>Project<br/>Co-ordinator: Colin Weaver<br/>Planning Department</p> |
| SEPTEMBER | <p><b>Refurbishment of 5-7 Bentinck Road</b><br/>Client/Architect: Najim Aziz</p>                                                                               |

- OCTOBER** Day Centre for heavy Drinkers, 1a Handel Street  
 Client: Nottinghamshire County Council  
 Architects: Clarke & Wright
- NOVEMBER** Improvements on the Forest  
 Clients: Nottingham City Council  
 Leisure & Community Services  
 Project Co-ordinators from several departments
- DECEMBER** Refurbishment of Lamberts Factory  
 Client: Pickering Developments Ltd *Special Award*  
 Architects: James McArtney  
 Contractor: SOL Construction
- Refurbishment 225-227-229 Mansfield Road  
 Client: H. Marett  
 Architect: Geoff Stephenson  
 Contractor: Four Seasons Building Co

**1992**

- JANUARY** Refurbishment and Landscaping 20 Park Row  
 Client: Huntsmans Solicitors  
 Contractor: David Frudd Contractors Ltd



The Car Showroom for C. Wheelhouse on Nuthall Road by Marsh & Grochowski, Mark of the Month for April 1991. A low cost solution with some style for what might have been a plain or over-elaborate box.

**A610 NUTHALL ROAD IMPROVEMENT - WHITEMOOR. (July 1991)**

In 1987, Nottinghamshire County Council commenced an extensive traffic management and environmental improvement scheme at the A610 Nuthall Road, Whitmoor.

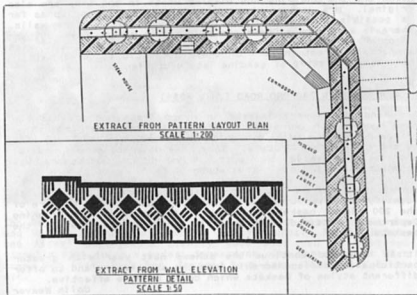
The traffic management works involved widening the road, improving the Bar Lane Junction and provision of laybys for parking to improve the traffic flows.

The associated environmental improvement work was designed to improve the image of this busy approach to Nottingham with new paving, feature walling and semi-mature trees. It also provides a better environment for those using the area for shopping with easier parking, a better walking surface, improved access for the disabled and facilities such as seats and bins. Planters at the junction of Bar Lane and Melbourne Road provide welcome winter colour whilst screening the car parks from passers by.

The concept of the striking 'rendered and clad' wall to the Commodore car park and the diagonal paving pattern with contrasting brick bands, was designed by Nottingham based Textile Designer, Beatrice Williams. This was developed into a detailed scheme by Landscape Architects and Engineers from one of Nottinghamshire County Council's Environmental Improvement teams, and bollards, trees and street furniture were integrated into the pattern.

This project was one of the first to directly involve an artist/craftsperson in the design of a scheme and was a catalyst for further successful collaboration.

Ella Davies  
 Planning and Economic Development  
 Nottinghamshire County Council



#### JUDGE'S TEA-ROOMS, MANSFIELD ROAD (May 1991)

The new refreshment rooms for G.W. Judge were originally opened in 1899; architect was Gilbert Smith Doughty (see Newsletter No.81). However, after their hey-day earlier this century, the Rooms were closed and left to deteriorate for many years, although the baker's shop stayed open until October 1990, in that month Brian and Netta Jackson took up a lease on the shop and rooms, which had been listed Grade II in August 1990, mainly to protect internal features.

The appalling condition of the tea-rooms at that time can be seen on photographs in the refurbished tea-rooms. However, in a few months, Mr and Mrs Jackson (who did much of the design work themselves) supervised the reconstruction of these unique tea-rooms. Evenbuy of Radcliffe-on-Trent did the building work and the architects employed for the kitchen extension were Marshall Architects, Forest Road, Nottingham.

Many of the original features have been retained, and the dimensions remain as they were. The tea-rooms are 32ft long by 8ft 6in wide and about 18ft high at the highest point of the skylight. Mr Jackson believes that the Rooms were designed to follow the lines of a railway carriage. There are plans for a dining room upstairs, which contains a fine original marble fireplace.

One of the most attractive features is the glass, both in the tea-rooms and the shop where there are many attractive mirror glass panels. Most of the original multi-coloured glass in the long, high skylight has survived, but that which did not in the rear wall windows has been well matched by the glassmaker Michael Stokes, of Longdale Craft Centre. The original wooden framework has been retained, although part of it was damaged during a break-in. The counting house and stool in the tea-rooms and the shelving and display units in the shop are also original. Mrs Jackson chose the wallpaper, matching up as far as possible with scraps which had been left on the walls. There is a Cadbury's Chocolate advertising mirror from 1909 and Jacob & Co's biscuits advertisements from the 1920s. With sympathetic treatment all of these authentic features help to re-create the style of genuine late Victorian tea-rooms.

Terry Fry

#### FLOWER BOXES IN RADFORD ROAD (July 1991)

The Hanging (Flower) Baskets in Hyson Green project has now been running for two years. This initiative, under the banner of the Nottingham in Bloom Action Committee, has been supported by the Hyson Green Traders. They have obtained some financial sponsorship towards the cost. Mrs Erica Beardsmore was prominent in bringing in this support.

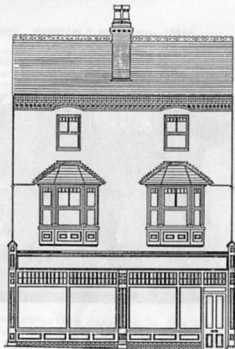
The Recreation and Planning Departments worked together to identify those buildings which could accommodate one or more of the 200 flower baskets available. Subsequently the Planning Department obtained the owners' agreement to install the baskets.

It is hoped to continue the scheme next year with greater participation and sponsorship from the shopkeepers and to offer different styles of baskets which could be more effective.

Colin Weaver  
City Planning Office  
(Project Co-ordinator 1991)



The Day Centre for Heavy Drinkers 1A Handel Street by Clarke and Wright for Nottinghamshire County Council. These 'Before and After' photographs clearly show what can be achieved visually with quite a modest investment. The Centre has a Wash Area, Wet Area, Sick Bay, Lounge, Rest Area, Kitchen, Toilets etc.



Refurbishment of 5 & 7 Bentinck Road by Najim Aziz on his own behalf with the intention of creating a quality Indian restaurant. It should open in next Autumn.



Refurbishment of 225-227 Mansfield Road for H. Murette by Geoff Stephenson. The work of the contractor, the Four Seasons Building Company of Bulwell is particularly worthy of praise - and inspection. More on these 'houses' of 1825-27 will appear later.

#### LACE MARKET STREET SIGNS

One of the conclusions of the study by Tibbalds Colbourne Karski Williams Monro into the designation of the Lace Market as a National Heritage Area was the lack of awareness, both real and perceived, of exactly what constitutes the Lace Market. After all lace is not made there and there is no market. To address the problem of identity, the Lace Market Development Company Limited, in conjunction with the City Council, decided to replace all the street signs in the area, with unique signs incorporating the new Lace Market logo.

The first of these signs, which was designed by the City Council's Design and Property Services Department and made by local company B. & B. Foundry of Dunkirk, was recently unveiled by Baroness Hooper, the government's City Action Team godparent Minister for Nottingham. The cost of the signs is being jointly met by the L.M.D.C., the City Council, the C.A.T. and the Lace Market Heritage Trust, a newly formed body involving Lace Market based businesses keen to see an improvement in the area. The remaining 70 signs will be erected over the next 18 months.

Work is also due to start in March on the next phase of the Tourist Trail linking the Castle to the Lace Market. Plans are now well advanced for work on High Pavement, starting at the Stoney Street junction and working westwards.

Alan Swales

Members who attended Alan's recent talk to the Society were given a sneak preview of the first sign 'Weekday Cross'.

#### STORAGE OF PUBLICATIONS

Since my original report all the steel cabinets have been installed, repaired and new locks fitted.

The boxes of books are fairly weighty and when one is stacked on another, the bottom box is often crushed. I am trying to put an extra shelf in each cupboard to accommodate another 1000 books but I have had no luck with spare steel shelves. I have been offered some 1/2 inch thick chipboard which must be supported on all four sides by angle iron (i.e. Dexion) to take the load. Can anybody help with steel shelves, angle iron or 1/2 inch plywood (not stripboard)? The sizes are from 47" x 16" to 29 1/2 x 16". Let me know if you can help please.

The total stock held in 9 cupboards and one steel box is :	
Nottingham Series of books (e.g. T.C. Hine)	- 13,450
Look at the City of Nottingham	- 1,850
Maps, in sets of four	- 500sets
Posters, including single sheet maps	- 1,500

There is spare room for approximately another 1000 books which with extra shelving could be doubled to 2000.

Cliff Deane - of the book Repository.

## REPORT ON 1991 PUBLIC TOURS PROGRAMME

Persons participating in the tours:  
(Last year's figures in brackets)

Shire Hall	1,547	(1,231)
Heritage Walks	328	(485)
Mortimer's Hole and David's Dungeon	3,340	(900)
Council House	325	408

It has been a year of mixed fortunes for the walks group. At the beginning of April it appeared that the Shire Hall had finally closed its doors. However, due to John Severn's timely intervention and George Akins' continued goodwill, the Shire Hall tours were again available and proved to be as popular as ever, even with a reduced season.

With regard to the Heritage Walks, despite a 4-walks programme instead of the usual 3 (which included a brand new walk - Royal Castle/Ducal Palace), the numbers taken round were appreciably down on previous years. This lack of numbers proved to be a blessing in disguise as we are now down to only 3 regular guides, which would not have been sufficient for past attendances. However, we sold nearly £50 of merchandise from the shop on these evenings - thank you, Molly!

In contrast, the Sunday tours of Mortimer's Hole and David's Dungeon have been highly successful, such that the season was extended to the end of September. This, together with weekly instead of fortnightly tours, means that this year sees the best ever results from the Castle tours.

All of the above means that the combined efforts of only 14 members have created a total of more than £2,800 for the Civic Society. Thank you to all these members.

The Council House tours were confined to 4 weekdays in August with, disappointingly, no Saturdays this year. As ever, all those who were conducted round were very appreciative of the opportunity to see inside 'their' Council House. My thanks to Scottie for the organisation involved.

My thanks, too, to the staff of the Tourist Information Centre and to the Nottingham Evening Post 'What's On' team. I also wish to thank Barry and Bev of the Salutation Inn, the Jackson family of the Bell Inn, Les at the Castle and George Akins. Without the invaluable help and co-operation of these people, the Civic Society's tours programme could not have functioned as well as it did and would not have been half so interesting!

David Newham  
Walks Organiser

## MEMBERSHIP

This year we have had 108 new members and 29 resignations giving a total membership of 1,104. The individual totals for last year and the current year are:-

	INDIV	FAMILY	CORP	TOTAL	FAMILY*	GRAND TOTAL
1991	496	298	12	806	298	1104
1990	456	267	15	738	267	1005

\* Families count as 2 members - the second entry gives the Grand Total.

In accordance with the new procedure we warmly welcome the following new members who joined after the September Newsletter:

Mr & Mrs C. Kells	Mrs J.H. Astle	Mrs Anne M. Wright
Miss Catriona Scott	Mr Mason	Miss J. Amat
Mr A.M. Clarke	Miss Padgett	Mrs B.J. Davis
Mrs J.A. Cracknell	Mr & Mrs Hadfield	Mr P. & Mrs S. Smith
Mrs M.Gillespie	Mr & Mrs Gelsthorpe	Mrs J. Wheatley
Mr Graham Marriott	Mr & Mrs M. Rossiter	Mr & Mrs Swinscoe
Miss M.C. Feigham	Mr & Mrs Risley	Mrs D. Sheard
Mr & Mrs D. Ward	Mr R.G. Willcox	Mrs I.H. Browne
Mrs J. & Miss S. Wilkinson		

I shall be glad to pass on any address subject to the approval of the new member.

My annual plea is for all subscriptions to be paid before the end of March, when according to the Constitution membership lapses. The number outstanding is decreasing each year but subscriptions were still being paid in August last year.

### PLEASE SETTLE ON TIME

As I have said before - it is less than ONE PENNY A DAY.

Cliff Deane      Membership Secretary.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

We were not able to produce a Christmas card this year but made up mixed packs of five from previous years. We managed to sell some which helped with our storage problems. I hope you were all out in the hoar frost with your cameras! Hoar frost photographs better than snow. Slushy snow is not very attractive.

Cliff Deane.

The continuation of the feature on the Society's proposals for the Castle: 'Nottingham Castle: A New Future' has been held over until the next issue due to lack of space.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, 7th January John Harris R.I.B.A.  
'Views of Country Houses and Gardens'
- Tuesday, 11th February A.G.M. followed by a presentation by  
the Chairman on the Special Projects  
undertaken by the Society in 1991.  
(Inland Revenue, Castle, and General  
Hospital sites).

The meetings will be held in the Cathedral Hall, College Street,  
Nottingham, Commencing at 7.30 pm.

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#### GARNET JOSEPH BEDNALL

With the death of Garnet Bednall earlier this year, the Society lost one of its most faithful supporters. He had been a member for many years and, although suffering from a muscular condition which made walking difficult, he was a regular attendee at our meetings and even managed to join many of our outside visits.

He was an active member of the Oddfellows, a large and influential Friendly Society with international links.

He had an interest in music and the performing arts and was a member of the Nottingham Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

He spoke little of his early life, but latterly he had been employed by Trumans Motors. This was his last regular employment, before being made redundant.

He showed his great interest in and support for the Civic Society by a very generous and greatly appreciated bequest of over £6,000. He made a similar bequest to the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust.

Ray Banks

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Your Chairman's architectural practice Cullen, Carter and Hill recently received a R.I.B.A. Regional Housing Design Award for Woodvale, a scheme for frail elderly people. The scheme, at Wollaton Vale, Nottingham, is large, with 53 self-contained two storey flats with lifts, assisted bathrooms and laundry rooms. The assessors were impressed with the standard of care and the happy atmosphere. The residents thought the scheme deserved recognition. Woodvale was designed by Geoff Carter for Metropolitan Housing Trust at a cost of £1.35m. The builders were Glenlion Construction.

(It is hoped to feature this practice's involvement with Metropolitan Housing Trust in the next Newsletter).

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I fully expected to receive some nominations for a Minus Mark of the Month. (See September's Newsletter page 11). In the absence of outside suggestions may I propose the new building work next to the Corner Pin, on Parliament Street and just in Clumber Street - 'Toybox Revival'? (Editor).