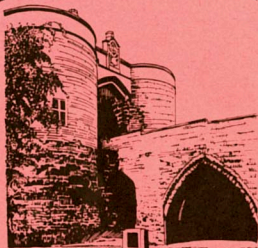


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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

President: Professor J. F. Garner
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.
Annual Subscription: Individual £3 Family £5

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Further details: C. Deane, Membership Secretary,
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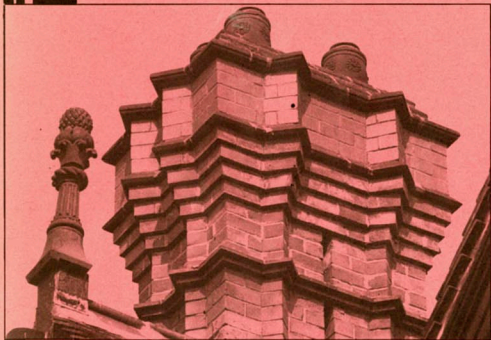
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LETTER

**Nottingham
Civic Society**

88

April 1992



Another fine chimney stack from Watson Fothergill
on the Norris Homes, Berridge Road, Sherwood Rise.
(Mark of the Month, March 1992).

60p

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CIVIC TRUST: 'HERITAGE OUTLOOK'.

For many years the Civic Trust has published a magazine 'Heritage Outlook' to heighten public awareness of its activities and to keep amenity societies informed of each other's work and the wider environmental issues. It has only had a limited circulation and has been expensive to produce.

The Civic Trust is now faced with the urgent need to economise and has decided to cease publication of 'Heritage Outlook'. The gap will be filled in one respect by a regular newsletter addressed to the officers of amenity societies, giving them the day-to-day news, but there is obviously a need for the wider treatment which was given by 'Heritage Outlook'.

This is where you come in. It is planned to produce a free magazine, sponsored by advertising. It is in the interests of the advertisers to make it a high-quality, well produced publication, so we need have no misgivings on that score. Other organisations, such as the Wildlife Trusts Partnership have already taken up this idea successfully.

To be attractive to advertisers, there must be a large assured mailed circulation. Amenity societies registered with the Civic Trust have a membership of some 300,000 and the aim is to achieve at least 50,000 of them on the mailing list. We have been asked to make available our list of members' names and addresses, with the assurance that these will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Your Committee has agreed to this request, but they wish to give you the opportunity to withdraw your name if you do not wish to take part. So, if you do not wish your name and address to be used in this way, please write to me and I will see that your wishes are respected.

Ray Banks, Secretary

PLANNING PERMISSION AND THE COURT OF APPEAL

BATH AND THE LAKE DISTRICT

Lansdowne Crescent is one of the most beautiful streets in Bath, and there is a large open space to the north overlooking the Georgian houses in the Crescent. The neighbourhood is one of the many conservation areas in the City, so designated under the Town and Country Planning legislation. Under this legislation it is the duty of the local authority to ensure that any development will "preserve and enhance the amenities of the area."

Consequently, when an application was received by the council for the construction of a number of houses, albeit of a high quality design, the application was rejected. An appeal through the statutory machinery to the Court of Appeal by the developers was eventually unsuccessful as the development would not preserve and enhance the amenities of the area.

On the other hand, the South Lakeland District Council were not so successful in their refusal of planning permission for the erection of a new building in the grounds of an existing vicarage in a conservation area. The Court of Appeal, in this case, held that the development would enhance the amenities of the area, and so the local authority's refusal of the permission was overruled.

The two decisions may appear to be inconsistent. Both concerned outstandingly beautiful areas though the circumstances were different. The City of Bath is one of our outstanding architectural treasures, and the Lake District is one of our most beautiful examples of unspoilt countryside. The proposed development in the Lake District was comparatively minor, whereas the Bath development consisted of a substantial development of new buildings. Both decisions turned on an application of the words 'preserve and enhance' in what was then S27(8) of the Act of 1971 (now a section of the Town and Country Planning Historic Buildings Act 1990). The Bath decision practically amounted to saying that no development would preserve or enhance the architectural glories of the area. In the Lake District case, a well designed simple building was capable of preserving the amenities, especially as it amounted to little more than the infilling of the curtilage of an existing building.

The two cases are of considerable importance when considering projected development elsewhere. Reference to them will be essential in any future questions of this kind.

The House of Lords has very recently agreed with the decision in the Lake District case without substantially altering the reasoning of the Court of Appeal.

J.F. Garner

Professor Garner is the new President of the Society

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1991

This report effectively covers the period up to the end of January 1992, continuing the policy I adopted last year.

We can again congratulate ourselves on a year which has seen a great deal of activity. It is not long since we were welcoming our 1,000th member and now we are over 1,100. We are one of the largest Amenity Societies in the country and our financial stability is the envy of many.

The year has, however, been one in which we have sustained very sad losses. The death of Maurice Barley, after an illness which he had borne with great fortitude, deprived us of our 'elder statesman'. He had been our President since 1973 and was our first Chairman when the Society was founded in 1961. His great experience and wise counsels will be sorely missed. Earlier in the year, we were shocked by the sudden and unexpected death of Tony Mitche[[l at a comparatively early age. He had been our Vice-Chairman for a number of years, though his many other commitments prevented him from succeeding to the Chairmanship. He too will be greatly missed for his good judgment and sound common sense. We could always rely on him when difficult decisions had to be made.

We also have to report the death of one of our most faithful supporters, Garnet Bednall. 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. We are immensely grateful to him for his bequest of over £6,000 to the Society.

The Castle Gatehouse Shop has had another good year, actually up on turnover, though with a somewhat reduced profit margin. A rationalisation of our pricing structure, which is now planned, should improve this aspect. We are immensely grateful to Thoresby Bradley and to the devotion of the band of helpers who make all this possible, year after year. Mollie Hayes, who has organised the helpers - and done much else - in the shop for several years, has reluctantly found it necessary to relinquish that position and we have been fortunate in finding Jean Betts and Joan Moodie to take over.

Our Guided Walks and Tours have again proved very popular. Four walks had been programmed, including a new one round the Castle grounds. The Shire Hall tour had held up very well, again taking over £1,000 and the total takings were over £2,800, compared with £2,200 last year. We thank David Newham, Robert Needs, Stan Saunders and all the guides for their sustained efforts.

The Recording Group, under Julian Owen, is now looking to a selection of schools of special interest. They have already made arrangements with the Nottingham High School for Boys and the Nottingham High School for Girls and hope shortly to start work on County Local Authority Schools.

Domestic and other commitments have led Ann Mitchell to give up the leadership of the Special Events Group and Eric Widdison has kindly agreed to take over. Attendance has been made at a number of shows and events, including the City Show in Wollaton Park. Income is not great, but this is a valuable service in making the Society more widely known and recruiting new members.

During Civic Trust Environment Week in May we arranged a number of walks around the City, including a novel one including an ascent of the tower of St Mary's Church. We had a full complement for a bus tour of the outskirts of the City to look at 'some unfamiliar views'.

An exhibition in a prominent site in the Victoria Centre attracted a lot of attention. It was staged by Bob Cullen on the theme 'Views of Nottingham: Protecting the City's Skyline'. It was manned by members of the Special Events Group. We are hoping to repeat this success in 1992, with an exhibition on the same site.

Ken Brand has continued his first-class work as Editor of the Newsletter. He writes many of the special articles himself and has made the content of our Newsletter outstanding amongst similar publications. The book of the Lace Market, written by Geoff Oldfield, to which reference was made last year, was duly published. It has been very well received and has filled a very valuable place in our list of publications.

Ken Brand also continues to look after the 'Mark of the Month' awards. This involves him in a great deal of work which is not immediately obvious, not only in selecting suitable candidates for awards monthly, but in chasing up clients, architects and developers/builders to complete the record. Thank you Ken.

We have continued our association with the Civic Trust. The Secretary is one of the two elected members for the East Midlands on the National Council of Civic Trust Societies, which has just completed its first year. We are also members of the Midlands Amenity Association (MASA). We were represented at the Annual Conference of MASA in June, in Burton-on-Trent, when the theme was 'Education' and at the Heritage Co-ordination Group Conference in London. In 1992, a Conference is being held in Hull, largely organised by NCCTS.

Our link with the Thoroton Society, the Sneinton Environmental Society, the Wollaton Village and Park Conservation Society and the Nottingham Historical and Archaeological Society has been maintained, with a representative of each co-opted onto our Executive Committee.

It was our turn in 1991 to organise the Keith Train Memorial Lecture. Our guest speaker was Piers Gough, the well known London Architect who has done important and original work in the London Docklands and elsewhere. He proved a most entertaining and stimulating speaker. For some of us, the interest was the greater for having visited London Docklands only a few weeks before and seen some of his work, including a building

which recently received a Civic Trust Award. We are grateful to Bob Cullen for organising this visit and for all the careful planning which went into it.

We are represented on the Wollaton Park Working Party (though regrettably it has not met since the maintenance of the Park passed to a private company), the City Council Anti-litter Committee, the City Council Consultative Committee on Environmental Issues, the Lord Mayor's Award Judging Panel and the Nottingham Centenary History Committee. Our Chairman represents the Society on the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.

We have continued to make clear our general support for the proposed Light Rapid Transport System, but was have felt obliged to lodge a Petition in objection to aspects of those proposals insofar as they would adversely affect the Forest Recreation Ground and its amenities. There are objections by other bodies, some of them more sweeping than ours, so the Bill will be subjected to very thorough scrutiny before it can be passed through Parliament.

The first phase of the Wollaton Hall Architectural Interpretation project is virtually complete and awaits publication. The second phase, to which the Society has promised further financial support, is presenting greater problems of implementation, but we are confident that Philip Dixon and Pamela Marshall will be able to bring it to a successful conclusion. We intend this project and its publication to stand as a memorial to Maurice Barley, who suggested and originated it.

Reading our comments in last year's Annual Report regarding the Sneinton Railway Lands, it would not seem that we have anything new to say. Nevertheless, progress is being made. A Charitable Trust is being set up by the initiative of the Sneinton Environmental Society and John Severn will be our representative on it. The setting up of an industrial Heritage Centre in the station buildings and the transfer of the Industrial Museum from Wollaton are now, at least, distinctly more probable.

Apart from our routine monitoring of planning applications, we have focussed on three major issues during the year.

In recent time, the City Council has commissioned three major - and expensive - reports on the Castle and its environs. All have been seriously defective in our view in their proposals for the protection and enhancement of this unique historic monument. No action has so far been taken on any of them. We decided to commission our own Report with two main aims: to get away from the present 'Victorian public park' layout, which has no real relevance to the history of the site, and to effect changes which would accentuate the history and layout of the Norman Castle insofar as this can be done by imaginative landscaping, without imposing the pseudo additions championed by some of the previous reports. We interviewed five major firms of landscape architects, all of whose proposals were excellently produced and had a great deal to offer. We chose

David Shaw Associates and received their Report in June. Since that time we have been publicising it and promoting it with the City Council, so far with somewhat disappointing results, even though it was well received by them. Incidentally, our proposals would be much less expensive to implement than those put forward in other quarters, an important consideration in these times of local authority financial restrictions.

As foreshadowed in my Report last year, we initiated a detailed design study for the redevelopment of the General Hospital site. Our proposals very strongly advocated the demolition of the incongruous Trent building, which dominates the site and prevents its proper planning and redevelopment. At the time of writing, tenders have been reduced to a choice of two, both of which indeed plan for this demolition.

The plans for the transfer of the Inland Revenue Department to Nottingham from London, with some 2,000 staff, involved proposals for major building plans for the site between the Railway and the Canal, just beyond the proposed Magistrates' Court site. In our eyes, a major consideration is the relationship of such a major - and very large - building or set of buildings to the Castle and their impact of the skyline and views of the Castle from the south. We strongly objected to the original design and we were joined by English Heritage and other influential bodies. The City Council, too, did not like the design. The concerted opposition led the Treasury to the quite unprecedented decision to scrap the original plans, even though the foundation piles had already been driven. They set up a competition and invited entries from a wide range of architects. The entries were, as expected, widely different in their approach. They were reduced to six by the Panel of Assessors and these were put on exhibition in Nottingham and in London, to select a short-list of three. Your Committee made its own selection. The Assessors have made known their short-list, one of which is the same as one of our most favoured two. We await their decision. Whichever is chosen should be a great improvement on the original proposals!

In all the foregoing initiatives, the credit must go to our Chairman, who has given a vast amount of time, thought and effort to them, in exercise of his long experience and architectural expertise. The enhancement of the Society's standing and prestige as a result has been very significant.

The Pearsons' Store site problem is still only too visibly with us, but recent initiatives, which we have welcomed, give promise of an eventual solution, possibly not too long delayed.

Cliff Deane continues to look after our growing membership most ably and he also has charge of the bulk stocks of our publications and deals with all postal and incidental sales.

The Christmas Party was held at Holme Pierrepont Hall, where we were able to accommodate over 150 guests. There have been some incidental criticisms of the arrangements and there is a feeling that, with our greatly increased membership, the time is ripe for a new look at this event.

All our outside tours and visits proved very popular and all were booked to capacity and were enjoyed by all those participating. I have already mentioned the London Docklands visit. We paid a return visit to the Nottingham Evening Post to cater for those who were disappointed last year. Unfortunately, the Saturday editions are no longer printed at Forman Street so we were not able to see the presses running. Nevertheless, there was much to see. We returned to Shrewsbury after some years and were handsomely entertained by the local Society. They are small in numbers, but make up for it in enthusiasm. We paid a visit to the historic city of Bath, a very memorable day and finally, we took in Flag Fen, a truly fascinating working prehistoric excavation site and Boughton House near Kettering, a very impressive and important historic mansion, the family home of the Duke of Buccleuch for nearly 500 years.

Our Guest Speakers at members' meetings were equally diverse, including James Howlett (one of our own members) on 'The Facade - Illusion or Reality', Jim Taylor (City Planning Officer), 'The Image of Nottingham', Alison Hancock (Chemical Industrial Association), 'Safety and the Environment', Alan Swales (Chief Executive, Lace Market Development Co Limited) 'Regeneration of the Lace Market', Prof. John Beckett, 'Writing the History of Nottingham' and finally (an unexpected gem), John Harris, 'Views of Country Houses and Gardens'. There were good attendances at all of them.

I am quite sure I have omitted some matters worthy of mention in this Report and have failed to give credit to some of those whose hard, and often unsung, work is so essential to the Society's well being.

Finally, as your Secretary, may I thank most sincerely the Chairman, Bob Cullen, the other Officers and Committee members for their support. My work in trying to keep together all the many strands of the Society's activities can be onerous, but I hope it will never become burdensome!

February 1992

Ray Banks, Secretary

Social Committee.

Now that we have over 1 100 members there is a need to take a new look at the way we organise our social events such as the Christmas Party. Would an annual dinner be a possibility? Can we again arrange to provide coffee at members' meetings? Are there other ways in which we can encourage members to get together socially and talk to one another?

Margaret Earnshaw has very kindly offered to form a social committee to consider these matters. She is asking for volunteers to serve on her committee. You can contact her on Nottingham 283724. Let us make this a success.

Ray Banks (Secretary).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The development of local government until the 1960s was an evolutionary process in which changes took place in response to changing needs and responsibilities. These were very much stimulated by the industrial revolution and by the stirring of the public conscience in matters of public health, etc.

The result was far from uniform, with large and small authorities exercising a wide range of powers, not always related to their size or resources. Nevertheless, local authorities usually could be identified with a distinguishable community, urban or rural.

In 1974, a radical reorganisation took place, implementing the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government in England, which sat under the Chairmanship of Lord Redcliffe-Maud 1966-69.

The Report findings retained a two-tier structure of counties and local councils, which were uniformly designated District Councils. In addition, 36 metropolitan district councils were created, with wider powers than other district councils. They operated within six metropolitan county areas - Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. These metropolitan county councils were abolished in 1985 and the metropolitan district councils became almost autonomous.

One member of the Royal Commission, Derek Senior, produced a dissenting Report, which advocated a Regional two-level system. There would have been 35 directly elected regional authorities, with wide powers, including police, fire and education, planning, transportation and development. Within them he proposed 148 directly elected district authorities, responsible for the health service, personal social services, housing management (but not house-building?), consumer protection and what he described as 'all other functions involving personal contact with the citizen'. There would have been four 'hybrid' authorities to meet special circumstances, in particular areas. 'Local' contact would have been provided by directly elected common councils at 'grass-roots' level, representing existing parishes and towns or parts of towns small enough to have a real feeling of community. Additionally, five appointed provincial councils with members predominantly nominated by the regional authorities would look after long-term strategic planning.

The rationalisation which came about in 1974, has had many critics. In the process many curious amalgamations of disparate communities and areas took place. To achieve greater uniformity of size, rural district council areas were parcelled out to neighbouring urban areas, incompatible areas were brought together and, most unforgivable in many eyes, cherished names such as Rutland disappeared and residents with a strong county identity (in sport and cultural activities and history) found themselves transferred to a newly created county area with an unfamiliar name. The abomination of Humberside is one example. What conceivable affinity, cultural, historic or

commercial, is there between that area which was the East Riding of Yorkshire and the northern parts of Lincolnshire? There are many such examples, but to cite just one, Avon, widely considered to be the most vulnerable county in any further reorganisation. Artificial and unloved, it has struggled from birth to convince those brought together, from Bristol City and County, Somerset and Gloucestershire, to identify with it. All its districts want unitary status.

The demotion of large and historic cities such as Nottingham to the status of district councils, with the transfer of important powers to the County Councils, has rankled and has led to friction on many occasions even when both tiers were of the same political persuasion.

The Local Government Bill, which contains the proposals to set up a new Local Government Commission, started in the Lords, where it had its third reading on January 13. It had its second reading in the House of Commons, Friday, January 27, and committee proceedings continued until February 20. It was hoped to become law before the General Election. Labour has suggested that it will 'adapt' any Commission already set up, but its Commission would carry out a simultaneous review of all shire councils, instead of the area by area approach favoured by the Government. Sir John Banham has been selected to chair the Commission, on a four-year agreement, which gives some indication of the envisaged time-scale of the operation. Sir John has already spoken of his plans for the conduct of the proceedings. He has said that the Commission will organise local public hearings and conduct new opinion polls to decide the fate of shire councils. He has said that any review would have to be done quickly to avoid 'planning blight' and any loss of morale amongst officers.

DoE guidance to the Commission favours unitary authorities, but Sir John has indicated his belief that existing local government should not be changed if there is no evidence of significant benefits for users of local services. In the light of his previous experience as head of the Audit Commission and then as Director of the Confederation of British Industry, he can be expected to take a practical view.

Although Sir John Banham has said that he wants the review carried through quickly, all the areas cannot be considered at once and the overall estimate of four years to complete remains reasonable. Humberside CC, where the expectation of change is greatest, is to be examined first, probably followed by Avon and Cleveland CCs.

Meanwhile, the battle lines have been drawn. The costs of preparations for reorganisation have already exceeded £1.5m, as a recent survey shows. Counties and shire districts are spending this on consultants, public relations, market research and opinion polls to defend themselves against change and possible abolition. This is a low estimate, because a number of councils have refused to reveal costs or the cost in staff time. More than 150 councils in England are known to have commissioned reports for the Commission.

if we look at Nottinghamshire as an example, the 'Local Government Chronicle' asserts that "if the likelihood of reorganisation is related to the amount of money spent then Nottinghamshire is set for a redesign". Already three contracts with Price Waterhouse have been placed and they are enjoying a district level bonanza in the county. Last summer, the three councils surrounding Nottingham City - whose boundaries would be most at threat from an expanded all purpose City authority - commissioned a report from Price Waterhouse at a maximum cost of £45,000. The report for Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling DCs should be ready by the end of this month. In November, Newark and Sherwood, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Ashfield DCs commissioned Price Waterhouse to provide each with a report at a cost of £15,000 each.

On December 17, the City commissioned the same consultant to report in the Spring at a cost of £23,700. The City Council says that the report will focus on the case for unitary status on existing boundaries, but will also examine 'other options', giving the impression that expansion is on the cards. Needless to say, any such proposals would be strenuously resisted by the districts.

Nottinghamshire CC commissioned consultant KPMG to examine structure in their area at a cost of £30,000. It duly reported in May 1991, that Nottingham City Council had no compelling case to become a unitary authority. Four years ago the county commissioned a MORI opinion poll to discover what residents thought of the council. Videos and a poster campaign followed as part of 'an awareness campaign'. The total cost was a staggering £200,000!

Let us now consider some of the arguments and options.

1. Although the majority of the money for local services comes from the Government and is paid for by national taxation, there is still a substantial locally raised element, dependent upon the levy of rates, community charge, council tax or whatever.
2. The local money is raised by the District Councils and the County Council precepts them for its requirements. This precept amounts to nearly 92% of the total.
3. The principle behind the change to the Community Charge was to increase the number of those benefiting from the Council's services who actually paid towards them. This was intended to heighten the perception of the accountability of Councils for the level of charge. Ignoring all the problems which have arisen in the collection of the charge and all the complications of transitional adjustments and the special concessionary payment of £140, would this principle of accountability ever work equitably, having regard to the huge preponderance of the County's requirements? In a two-tier system, would not the District Council, who collect the money, inevitably be blamed for the expenditure? Rightly or wrongly, this would always be extremely galling for a District Council which regarded itself as thrifty when it saw the County

Council as prodigal. They may be wrong in their judgments, of course, but that does not affect the argument. Is this an argument in favour of unitary authorities?

4. If the larger cities, such as Nottingham, do secure the increase in their powers and functions for which they are campaigning, with or without expansion to take in surrounding districts, what should we do with the 'rump' county councils remaining? Would they still be viable with the remaining district councils in their area?
5. Is this an argument for thorough-going regionalisation under one tier? If so, what becomes of truly local government? Would this system of large one-tier authorities be too remote and foster public apathy? Would it matter? Or would a system such as that put forward by Derek Senior be more appropriate, with some district councils and parish/town councils supplying the local contact? Would it work or prove too cumbersome?
6. How can the wider, 'regional' planning problems best be dealt with - strategic planning, main traffic arteries, etc. Under the present set-up collaboration and joint discussion between county councils is needed and does operate. Would it work better with larger, regional authorities? Are the perceived disadvantages of such regional authorities, in terms of remoteness and bureaucracy, too great to accept?
7. In a one-tier system made up of multi-purpose councils of manageable size, wider issues could be dealt with nevertheless by setting up joint committees or boards, both ad hoc, to deal with a particular problem, or permanent, with a wider brief.
8. It may not be desirable to plan for a system uniform throughout the country. Would not a flexible approach be better, accepting that what is appropriate for a relatively sparsely populated area such as Cornwall, would not suit more densely populated and heavily industrialised areas of the Midlands and the North and that each should be given the system best suited to it? So there might be a one-tier system in one part of the country and a two-tier system in another.
9. Should some of the more expensive functions of the (upper-tier) authorities, such as education, be completely funded nationally? If so, should they be controlled and organised nationally. Should there be a national police force, a national fire service? And how about social services?
10. A side-effect of the introduction of the Community Charge was a change in the non-domestic rate - the levy on business and industry. A nationally levied Uniform Business Rate was introduced. The product goes to the Government and is (nationally) returned to local authorities as part of Government grant. There have been gainers and losers from this new system and it has been

proposing a vote of thanks to W.P. Smith, was similarly effusive: He thought the likeness was a very good one, and they all appreciated the artistic merits which Mr Smith had displayed. They must not forget that Mr Smith was a Nottingham man bred and born, and it was much better that such work should be done by a Nottingham man. The sculptor thereupon replied, and it says much for his tact that he forbore to correct the speakers who had claimed Nottingham as his birth place - William Philip Smith was a native of Solihull, where he had been born in 1818 or 1819. Now that he had done chiselling Sir Robert Clifton he felt as if he had lost a time old friend. He thanked them for complimenting him so highly, and he could assure them that he never felt easy without chiselling something or somebody. This sally was greeted with laughter. After further mutual back-slapping, the National Anthem was played, and the crowds dispersed.

It is to be hoped that W.P. Smith made the most of his brief spell of public acclaim. Only three days later it was abruptly ended by the publication, in the Nottingham Journal, of a letter written on the very day the statue was unveiled. Under the heading 'Our Statues', a correspondent using the non-despume 'Chisel' lashed out freely at the statues of Feargus O'Connor, Michelangelo, St George, and Shakespeare, all features of the town in 1883. Chief scorn, however, was reserved for the work of the hapless Smith:

"But what shall we say of the last production of plastic art, the culmination of the sculptor's skill in Nottingham, the statue of Sir Robert Clifton? Well, the best part of the work is the pedestal; there is some really good stonemason's work in it. The statue is utterly wanting in expression and character; there is not dignity about it; its attitude is weak and hesitating, and so far as the tailoring department is concerned, the coat and trousers appear to have been bought at a slop shop, and their fit is worthy of their origin. The head is not well set on the neck, and if the moustache were removed, the chief feature in which there is any likeness to the late baronet, would be taken away. It is a pity that so fine a site should have been appropriated to such a work. Under the deep shadow of overhanging trees, in the Arboretum, side by side with the late lamented Feargus, would have been a more fitting position, then these 'Arcades ambo' might, in the stillness of the night, have held ghostly conversations about Clifton Colliery and Snig's End."

A number of readers in 1883 would, no doubt, have recognized Snig's End as one of Feargus O'Connor's chartist land colonies: fewer, perhaps would have made anything of the short quotation from Virgil. Sometimes translated as 'sweet innocents', or 'simplertons', the phrase had been rendered by Byron as 'blackguards both'. 'Chisel', whoever he (or she) was, certainly had a way with words, and a fine command of invective.



It is clear, then, that a low opinion of the Clifton statue was entertained from the start. The Nottingham local historian and literary dabbler, Cedric Bonnell, wrote in 1920 that, even before receiving its 'worst trousers' title, it had long been "a popular butt and mild laughing-stock for whittling art critics." Even Miss Laura Smith conceded that the statue was far from perfect, and hinted that her father was aware of the work's deficiencies:

"The adverse criticism of the statue of Sir Robert Clifton is not out of place, but as the committee chose a certain design for the figure, on one hand, and another design for the pedestal to fit in with a certain price, it rather grieved the sculptor that the statue would be much lower than he intended."

A Mr Zalasinski, writing from Hull during the same newspaper correspondence of 1920-21, had been at the unveiling ceremony, and was an old pupil of Smith at the School of Art. He, too, pleaded mitigating circumstances for W.P. Smith, stating that he "had to work to instructions on the Clifton statue, hence the somewhat poor result."

(To be concluded)

Stephen Best

LOTS

The Civic Trust is urging the big high street names to join in the Government's new £25 million initiative 'Living Over The Shop'. Local authorities are being invited to bid for Government grants to develop 'Over The Shop' schemes in partnership with private retailers and housing associations.

A phone call produced the information that Nottingham has at least one member of the Development Department interested in the new initiative.

The first deposited plan of Evans and Jolley was "Additions to Premises" for Dr Robertson near their office on Wheeler Gate, and dated July 1871. Also in this year Evans and Jolley won the award for St Leonard's Church, North Gate, Newark, now demolished. The competition was judged by Jolley's former boss Sir George Gilbert Scott.

In the following year several major assignments were undertaken. In January 1872 new shops and offices in a block with entrances on Pelham Street and Victoria Street were designed for J. Preston Esq. In March a new warehouse for Messrs Birkin Brothers was undertaken on Stoney Street. This building was soon to be extended into King's Place by further plans dated September 1872. Also in March new shop premises were prepared for William Hammersley on Parkinson Street. In June a new warehouse on Fletcher Gate was commissioned by Messrs Hollins and Co. Later in June, the Imperial Insurance Company's office on Victoria Street got its handsome neighbour when the Nottingham Joint Stock Banking Company appointed Evans and Jolley as architects for their new bank premises. Out of town a start was made on a south aisle which was to be added to the church of St Mary Magdalen in Hucknall's Market Place (1872-4).

In February 1873 Evans and Jolley obtained the prestigious appointment as architects for the first of the Nottingham School Board's new Board Schools, this to be erected on Bath Street. The firm of Lewis and Grundy needed two sets of alterations, in May alterations and additions were required for their warehouse on Victoria Street and in June alterations were needed in order to build stables on Broad Street and High Cross Street. (It is likely, but not proven, that Evans designed the Lewis and Grundy main premises on Victoria Street). Finally plans for three houses were submitted for Wartonby's Charity in July 1873.

In 1874 the major project was for Moses Stanley, new shops and warehousing, including Bar Iron Stores, on Parliament Street. Designs for six more houses for William Hammersley were prepared, this time located on and near Gamble Street.

As noted, from September 1874 plans of all buildings to be erected in Nottingham had to be submitted for Council approval and a copy of each plan deposited with the Council. Thus 1875 was the first full year in which this procedure was followed and a comprehensive record can be compiled of the work undertaken by all architectural Practices within the town.

For Evans and Jolley 1875 proved to be a quiet year with just two housing projects, one in Lomax Street, Meadows, and the other on Alfred Street South and Ford Street.

1876, however, saw them very active particularly on Lower Talbot Street. First a covered and open Skating Rink for E.B. Cox, next a Turkish Bath Establishment with Attendant's Residence, and then a second large covered and open Skating Rink adjoining Lambert's Factory, this rink was for the Leicester and Nottingham Skating Rink Co Ltd.⁴ A new range of buildings, and the adaptation of a dwelling house, for the

managers of the Children's Hospital, Postern Street and Russell Street, was another major assignment. Housing and the preparation of plans and sections for new streets off Arkwright Street and off Woodborough Road completed the year's work in the town. In Sneinton, the Sneinton Local Board approved a submission for 10 houses on Storer Street and 13 houses on Lowdham Street.

Church work figured largely in the projects undertaken during 1877. At St Peter's, Nottingham, the south aisle was extended and the chancel renewed; the chancel windows were renewed on All Saints, Cotgrave, and construction work started on St Jude's, Woodborough Road, Nottingham. Other work passing through the office included New Strong Rooms for a solicitor on Friar Lane, alteration and addition to the Midland Hosiery Company's premises on Thurland Street, a new workshop for D. New and Company's Moscow Works, Norton Street, and housing in the Manning Street area.

Two separate sets of shops and offices in St Peter's Square, an 'Isolated Ward' at the Children's Hospital, Cumberland Place, a New Coffee House on St Ann's Well Road, alterations and additions to Hart Fellows and Co, bank on Bridlesmith Gate, a four storey warehouse for Messrs Caporn on Stanford Street and a Presbytery for the district of St Patrick, London Road, provide the bulk of a very impressive list of work carried out in the Practice during 1878.

Plans and sections of new streets on the Woodville Estate, Sherwood: Cannon Street, Newstead Road, St Albans Street, Daybrook Street, Broxtowe Street, Woodville Road; on the Loscoe Hill Estate, Mansfield Road, Carrington: Watcombe Road, Watcombe Circus, Loscoe Road and Church Drive; and on the Mapperley Park Estate: Cyprus Road and the upper portion of Magdala Road, tested the surveying side of Evans and Jolley's office in 1879. The architectural side was busy with its usual varied programme. This schedule included six cottages on Woodborough Road, two dwelling houses etc Willoughby Street, Lenton, a Sale Room and Warehouse for Thomas Forman on Sherwood Street, a new Board School on Duncombe Street, St Ann's Hill Road, extensions for Dixon and Parker, Lister Gate, and for Blackburn and Attenborough, Kirk White Street.

The highlight of 1880 was the design for the Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, London Road (now demolished). Perhaps the strangest job was for the Reverend Mother Superior of Lenton Priory, a new piggery. New offices for F. Wadsworth Esq, Weekday Cross, a new foundry and a two storey factory for Mellor and Woodard, Grosvenor Street, alterations to the Zion Chapel, Fletcher Gate, and housing on Mansfield Road, Lamas Street, Carlton Road, were among other assignments of 1880.

This catalogue of the first 12-13 years of Robert Evans' Practice is given at some length as an attempt to show the wide range of building types undertaken and also the wide geographical spread across the town and outside. Of course, in the months following the Borough Extension Act of 1877 plenty of land became available for development in a broad crescent around the town bringing in its wake plenty of opportunities for architects.

As will be seen later there were many good buildings still to come from Evans and Jolley and then later Evans and Son. On

some buildings a 'house style' in certain brick features - gable ends for example - helps to identify the work as an Evans and Jolley creation.

In 1875 Robert Evans became a magistrate, work he took very seriously. Such was his dedication that when he died in 1911 he was then the Senior Magistrate in the City and this aspect, and not his architecture formed the basis of his obituary in the local newspapers.

During the 1870s he became one of the leading active members of St Peter's Church. Between 1873-6 he was People's Warden and then from 1876 onwards he was Vicar's Warden. Thus he was especially pleased to be associated professionally with the restoration of the church.

By 1874 the firm opened a branch office at 22 Iron Gate, Derby, and then another branch opened at 60 High Street, Burton-on-Trent, about 1878.⁵ Robert Evans changed his private residence from College Street to South Road, The Park Estate, around 1873, this remained his residence for the rest of his life.

(To be continued) Ken Brand

⁴ For further details on the skating rinks see John Severn's article on Shorts Warehouse etc, Newsletter 79, April 1989 p10-15.

⁵ What has not yet been established is whether or not at some point the firm had all three offices open at the same time.

I would like to thank Adrian Henstock for drawing my attention to the George Eliot connection (Refer to Part 1)



Two assignments of 1872. Above Shops & Offices Pelham Street (and Victoria Street). Right Nottingham Joint Stock Bank Victoria Street.



MEMBERSHIP

All annual subscriptions are due on January 1 and ALL MUST BE PAID by March 31 or membership lapses. There are today (Mid March) 161 or 20% of payments still outstanding, despite my request in the January Newsletter. My thanks to all who have settled up. If you receive a reminder with this Newsletter PLEASE pay by return.

Once more we extend a warm welcome to the following new members who joined after the January Newsletter -

Miss K.M. Reddish	Mr P. Birkin-Tebbutt	Mrs M.J. Thompson
Mr B.P. Bradley	Mr M.S. Askey	John and David Kerry
Mr D.J. Sloan	Mr G.C. Hall	Mr A. Stevenson
Mr R.J. Cook	Mr I. Prince	Mrs Jacqi Harrison
Miss M. Mahoney	Mr & Mrs J.M. Hurst	Mr & Mrs M. Adcock
Mr F.B. Key	Mr S.E. Pate	Miss S.E. Phillips
Mrs N. Hare	Mrs S.A. Kendall	Mr & Mrs A. Massouras
Mrs Hanni Dove	Mr Martin Davies	Mr & Mrs G.E. Marshall
Mr R.W. Wood	Mr Alan Dell	Mr & Mrs D. Cartledge
Miss R. Phizacklea	Mr D.I. Frudd	Mr & Mrs N. Williams
Mr M.J. O'Connell	Mrs E. Beardsmore	Dr & Mrs E.A. French

In the last Newsletter (No.87 January 1992), I promised to put members in touch with one another. In two such cases introductions have been rewarding.

I have been approached by a married couple, mid-forties, living in Ravenshead, who would like to join with other members within the Arnold/Farnsfield area, forming a small group for Society functions.

If there are any interested members, please let me know and I will do the rest.

Cliff Deane
Membership Secretary

ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1992

Once again BT is sponsoring Environment Week which will take place between May 16-24. This year your Society will have two main events.

1. A display through Environment Week in the Victoria Centre
2. On Wednesday May 20 Bob Cullen and A.N. Other will lead a bus tour along the proposed Route One of the L.R.T. The single deck bus will leave the Salutation Inn, Maid Marian Way, at 6.15pm. The cost/fare, which is subsidised, will be £1. Obviously, places will be limited so early application is advised.

Various themes will be picked out in the Society's display including: The type and maintenance of paving, Mobility, the Oops Scheme, Street furniture and clutter, and some glances down onto pedestrians.

If you have or need other ideas about Environment Week an 'ideas' booklet is available from

The Co-Ordinator, Environment Week, Civic Trust,
17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW

TOURS PROGRAMME - 1992

First, an update on the money collected by the tours in 1991. The total money collected now stands at £4,578, due to further tours being undertaken from the Shire Hall and Mortimer's Hole during September.

This year's tours are as follows:

Mortimer's Hole and David's Dungeon

Sundays 2pm to 4pm April 5 to September 6 inclusive

Shire Hall
(From Hall steps)

Thursdays at 7.15pm Phone R.S. Saunders (0602 231335)
for dates

Historical Walks (From Castle Gatehouse)

Wednesdays at 7.15pm from June 3 to August 26 inclusive

The Park	- June 3,	July 1, July 29	August 26
Royal Castle/ Ducal Palace	- June 10,	July 8,	August 5
Lace Market	- June 17,	July 15,	August 12
Victorian	- June 24,	July 22,	August 19

If you would like to be trained as a Guide, please give me a ring on 0602 607819 - you will be most welcome.

May I also remind you that Wednesday and Thursday tours are FREE to members of the Society.

David Newham
Walks Organiser

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING GROUP

The Group was formed in January 1989, to provide a photographic record of buildings of interest, initially notable churches like St Augustine's, New Basford, which was in danger of imminent demolition. Now, even though all traces of this church are gone we have a detailed photographic record of its existence.

In the past we have had the pleasure of visiting many beautiful and interesting local churches, including St Wilfrid at Wilford, St Andrew's on Mansfield Road, (where we discovered the present font is on the site of former gallows!), and All Saints, Raleigh Street, with its unique surviving group of church, vicarage, school and parish buildings - a 'matching set' by the distinguished Victorian Architect T.C. Hine. There has also been the occasional unexpected gem, such as St Matthias, another Hine church, off the Carlton Road, where a dull exterior conceals an eccentric construction inside.

Two complexes of buildings extensively photographed were the General Hospital and the Shire Hall, including the famous condemned cells cut into the rock of the cliff; a spooky place to photograph alone on a quiet Saturday morning! Both of these sites at present have a very uncertain future, but at least we have a record of their condition, before any of the extensive alterations which are expected over the next few years.

At present, we are photographing schools in the City, starting with the Nottingham High Schools. If anyone reading this article knows of a school or other building of interest they feel may be in need of recording, please let Julian Owen (tel. 229831) know, and arrangements can then be made for a visit.

If any of this interests you, new members are very welcome. A camera and an interest in your City are all that is required. We would also like to find someone to research a little of the history of some of the sites. Do not think that only experts need apply, enthusiasm is far more important! Come and discover Nottingham with us and have some fun at the same time.

Derek Little

NOTTINGHAM CAVES REGISTER: UPDATE

Jennifer Walsby of the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, has kindly listed caves 'new' to the register.

1. Further caves found during extension work at the Bell Inn and the Salutation Inn.
2. Caves in use at the County Tavern; the Royal Children, and a wine cellar on Castle Gate.
3. Caves found during building work but now filled in: at Wimpey Restaurant, Upper Parliament Street; Corner Pin Public House; on Mount Street; and in the middle of Stamford Street - where a lorry wheel went through the road surface.
4. Revealed by building work: a Malt Kiln under Fletcher Gate; caves under Huntingdon Street (ex Foresters Inn); Broadway/St Mary's Gate; and Alpine Street, Basford.
5. Other caves: under Woodborough Road; Goose Gate and Long Row.

An update to the Caves Register will be produced in June 1992 containing details on all new cave sites. The base maps for the register are updated on a regular basis and may be viewed at any time. Copies of the revised maps will be made available with the other additions/changes to the register in the summer.

Editor

Information and observations on the L.R.T. and the opening of Metrolink, Manchester's new transport system is held over until the next Newsletter.

MARK OF THE MONTH

Recent recipients of the Society's Mark of the Month commendations are:

- January 1992** **Refurbishment and landscaping, 20 Park Row**
Client: Huntsmans Solicitors
Contractors: David Frudd Contractors Ltd
- February** **Extension of the Back Bar, The Bell Inn**
Client: The Jackson Family
Architect: The Howitt Partnership
Contractor: Frederick Harrington (Nottingham) Ltd
- March** **Renovation of the Norris Homes, Berridge Road**
Client: Nottingham Community Housing Association
Project: Grant Butterworth
Co-ordinator: City Development Department
Builders: Clarke and Wright (Hucknall)
- April** **New Arts Centre, University of Nottingham**
Client: The University of Nottingham
Architect: William Saunders and Partners

Alderman Huntsman founded the firm of Huntsmans Solicitors in 1904, with an office in Bridlesmith Gate. The practice moved in 1954 to its present Nottingham address, 20 Park Row. The practice opened a second office at St Silas House, Sheffield, in 1989. Alderman Huntsman had the unique privilege of being Nottingham's last Mayor and first Lord Mayor.

In the spring of 1991 David Frudd Contractors Ltd were engaged to clean and restore 20 Park Row under the Nottingham City Council's Operation Clean Up scheme. The work was extended to include the rebuilding of the boundary walls and improving the car parking facilities.

During the work the clients decided to restore the boundary walls to as near the original specifications as possible, with new metal railings, stone pillars and cappings. At this stage Bob Harrison, Mark Chambers, and Alison Dudley of the City Planning Department were very helpful in providing the Contractors with detailed information and expertise on the current specifications for restoration of this nature.

The completed work has given a little sparkle to the corner of Park Row and East Circus Street, where some of the more modestly proportioned buildings were tending to be overwhelmed by newer buildings. The Development Department (ex City Planning Department) is considering pointing new applicants for restoration work in the direction of 20 Park Row to see enlightened good practice in action. Much of the credit must go to Stan Yeomans (Contracts Development Manager) and to Ken Pitcher (Foreman Mason).

David Frudd



Mark of the Month
January 1992
Huntsmans
20 Park Row

In June 1990 the Jackson Family of the Bell Inn, Angel Row, asked the Howitt Partnership to provide a better fire escape from the ground floor back bar, known as 'The Snack Bar'.

For this purpose Jackson (The Bell Inn) Ltd had acquired Nos. 8 and 10 St James' Street and an extension was finally built to provide additional bar space and two fire escapes, increasing the permitted occupancy of the room to 230 people.

The Snack Bar is a bar created in the 1930s, from a rear yard and is panelled in dark oak with a plate rail at 2100mm (7ft) above the floor. Since then the original rooflight had been covered over when the kitchen was built above, and Mr Jackson was anxious to replace this light and extend the room in the original style, preserving and reconstructing the original fireplace over mantel and adjacent panelling.

Messrs Craske Building Limited were contracted to carry out the intricate building operation involving the construction of the two storey extension, the alterations to Nos. 8 and 10 St James' Street to provide two fire escapes and cellar access, the demolition of poor quality out buildings at the rear of St James's Street, and the removal, by hand, of 150m of sand had to be lifted out to reveal a storage cave, partly bricked up. The brick wall was breached to discover the extent of the cave and the City Council's archaeologist was invited to carry out an inspection. Mr Jackson insisted that the cave be left accessible from the new basement area and it can be viewed by those with a specialist interest.

The matching oak panelling was designed and installed by Frederick Harrington (Nottingham) Ltd and the rebuilt chimney and mantelpiece was complemented by a Jetmaster coal effect gasfire installed by Roystone Fireplaces Ltd. The new rooflight was installed to a design by the architects based on the photograph of the 1930s alterations which hangs in the Snack Bar.

The final result, opened on August 6, 1991, was a reconstruction of a 'nouveau traditional' bar of the 1930s so that the join was hardly visible.

David D. Atkins
The Howitt Partnership



"NORRIS HOMES"

Sherwood Rise, Nottingham

Exterior

Watson Fothergill's proposals for Miss Norris's Almshouses (1893).

The Norris Homes, Berridge Road, Sherwood Rise.

Built in 1893 by Miss Mary Norris
Architect: Watson Fothergill

"...for widows or spinsters being ladies of superior education, reduced to indigence...."

Refurbished in 1990/91 by Nottingham Community Housing Association for general elderly tenancy.

The Norris Almshouses are a group of eight cottages at the junction of Berridge Road with Sherwood Rise. Corner sites were much favoured by Watson Fothergill where his well developed sense of the Gothic could be best employed. The buildings have over the years generated enthusiasms among local people and professionals alike, although increasing concern was expressed in the late 1980's as they suffered mounting vandalism and neglect. Two fires had caused extensive damage, in addition to the need for their renovation and modernisation.

The City Council succeeded in persuading the Department of the Environment to list the terrace in March 1988, at which time a local housing association was expressing interest in taking on responsibility for these buildings.

The architects, conservation and planning officers worked closely together to preserve as much as possible of the building's character. A specialist consultant, funded by the City Council's Conservation Action Budget was employed to prepare a detailed survey of the soiling of the building with specification schedules for cleaning and remedial works.

The aims of introducing efficient heating and sanitation, reducing damp and draughts were balanced with the desire to protect the special charm of the homes. Planning standards today require a far more rigorous submission than those originally submitted for by-law approval! One house still remained largely as built with a brick encased copper boiler for heating water in the kitchen. An apparently endless set of choices had to be addressed, from gas meter boxes through to

the ironmongery on the doors. Fire damaged windows were faithfully replicated, and illustrated a reversal in priorities during the century - each took about ten days to make, including the replacement of the leaded lights.

The battery of ornate chimneys demanded particular care and attention and discussions about the authenticity of a stain and varnish treatment to the windows instead of the original creosote were fully pursued. Finials, moulded bargeboards and cast iron rainwater goods were repaired or replaced and finishing touches like the renewed window boxes tend to give the project a completed look although work remains to be done. It is hoped to reinstate the terracotta dragon; the sundial face and gnomon shortly as the danger of vandalism recedes.

Painstaking research to establish the pattern of the original railings was partially successful; the pattern of railings and gates together with the cleaning of the boundary wall will complete the scheme.

The cleaning of the building has effected a complete transformation; black roofs and walls became red, blue string courses emerged and contrasting terracotta fish scale tiling at the gables was reasonable. Sandstone sills and lintels complete with ogee mouldings are now crisp and clean and sit well with bright orange red brickwork.

Problems of a more unusual nature may require further action; a plague of masonry bees appears to enjoy the soil conditions in the vicinity and the generosity of the bathroom sizes - formerly the attendant's bedroom - may raise eyebrows. Overall the new tenants appear to enjoy their homes and the accommodation will hopefully play a useful role for years to come.

The circle of whimsy was completed when, at the reopening by Lady Benson of the Almshouses Association, a Fothergilla Major was planted, a shrub noted for its beautiful autumn foliage.

Client: Nottingham Community Housing Association
Funding: The Housing Corporation
Main Contractor: Clark and Wright
Cost: £190 000
Contract Period: 35 weeks
Cleaning Consultant: Adriel Consultancy
Planning: Conservation Officer and Development Control, Nottingham City Council (Grant Butterworth)
Architects: NCH Architects (Eleanor Millard)

The view expressed above reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the City Council or NCHA.

* The quotation from the Trust Deeds continues "...but no widow or daughter of the working classes... - a condition that NCHA removed immediately they took over the trust. (Editor).

This is the thirtieth issue of the Newsletter that I have prepared....that's TEN YEARS! Thank you for your kind words. Ken Brand Editor.



A splendid photograph of the newly refurbished Norris Homes Berridge Road, Sherwood Rise. Mark of the Month, March 1992.

The Society's Mark of the Month for September 1991 was awarded to Najim Aziz for his refurbishment of 5-7 Bentinck Road. Although Najim's efforts have not been acknowledged in this year's Lord Mayor's Award competition this may be because of the incomplete nature of the interior of the ground floor. Maybe he will get another chance when the restaurant proposed for the ground floor has been completed.

After comparing the before and after photographs, and indeed inspecting the building, one can see the highly satisfactory improvements Najim has brought about. In the 1960s the bay windows to the first floor were removed and replaced with flush fitting modern windows. Similar windows were also inserted at second floor level. The chimney stacks were destroyed.

In the mid 1980s Najim installed a new roof and replaced decaying brickwork as part of the process of creating two self-contained flats above the shops. Then in 1990 he obtained planning permission for the change of use of the ground floor to a restaurant. He successfully applied for an Operation Clean Up Grant which helped to create a new shop front, new bay windows, rebuild the chimney stacks and replace ridge tiles.

This is how he explained his philosophy:

"It has been my aim to carry out work to the best possible standards allowed within a modest budget. I wanted to recreate an exemplary facade within an area in need of further investment to achieve the full potential it once enjoyed. It is now on the way to doing so again so any improvement, however small, I feel is a step in the right direction.

I have tried as far as possible to recreate a traditional style in bay sash windows, shop front and the chimney details. It seems to have worked; all the elements have come together to give an impression of the whole where parts fit together nicely. A simple colour scheme was chosen in order to make the facade unafussy in colour but with more detail in the woodwork."

Najim has lived in Nottingham since 1970 and in Forest Fields since 1976 where he now lives with his family. He studied Building at Nottingham Polytechnic and has been working in building and related trades since 1980. He is determined that when his restaurant opens, hopefully before the end of the year, "it will above all provide excellent quality in food."

Ken Brand with information provided by Najim Aziz

Some information is now available on the refurbishment of the old Haydn Road Board School, a Mark of the Month award winner in June 1991. The school, which is now known as the Haydn Primary School Annex, Burnham Street, Sherwood, was actually designed for the Basford School Board by the Architects Samuel Dutton Walker and H. Walker just as Basford was being incorporated within the town of Nottingham through the Borough Extension Act of 1877. The plans, dated February 6, 1878, are missing. This seems to be the case with all school plans of Victorian, Edwardian and later dates. Is there a long lost cache of these plans tucked away in some council office? I located the plans of the lamented Mundella School on a microfiche at the top of County Hall.

The total cost of the external renovation and repair work was approximately £24,000 of which £14,000 was funded from the 'Operation Clean Up' programme. Cleaner Surfaces of Egypt Road, New Basford, carried out the work after submitting the lowest tender.

The cleaning of the masonry surfaces resulted in many defects previously hidden or unapparent becoming glaringly obvious and necessitating attention. Considerably more stonework was renewed or restored/refaced than was originally intended. A rear elevation high level dormer window, which had deteriorated considerably, and of no light value because of the modern suspended ceiling, was removed and then slated over. The repaired area is barely apparent now the work having been done to a very high standard. During the course of the window repair work we discovered that the flat roof and first floor of the Tower were extensively deteriorated. Both were replaced and the roof to the Tower covered in 'Nuralite'.

Prior to the 'Operation Clean Up' work all of the double hung sash windows were overhauled, eased re-corded and new security bolts fitted. Both pairs of entrance doors to the building and the door to the external store were renewed in framed ledged and braced doors to match those originally hung. All new timber used for all contracts has been pressure preservative treated and all sound exposed existing timber treated with an insitu timber preservative treatment.

The school building and site were in full use and occupation throughout the entire contract period. All contractors were very grateful for the positive and helpful attitude and co-operation of the School staff and pupils which made a potentially difficult contract much easier to complete.

Paul Taylor, Senior Building Surveyor
Notts County Council Construction and Design

Funny old game architecture, within days of receiving the nomination of the new Headquarters of the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society on Wollaton Street, for a Minus Mark of the Month, I saw that the building had reached the short-list of finalists in the New Building Section (A) of the Lord Mayor's Award.

I have often wondered about the selection process for the finalists in the Lord Mayor's Award Competition, but in truth I cannot suggest a practical alternative. This year there were 15 suggestions in the New Building Section available for the selection panel's approval.

The Refurbishment, including Shopfront Section (B), had 31 contenders, including the 'Corner Pin'. From a different source, this was another proposed Minus Mark of the Month - "A new dormer window reminiscent of 'White Horse Inn'."

In the other categories, Landscaping (C) had 10 entries, New Shopfront (D) 10, and Small Scale Works (E) 18. A few schemes were entered in two sections.

Still, as Pauline Healey said in her letter, one can avert one's eyes from the back of the new Co-op building: "...with its lavatorial brickwork and look at the beautifully reconstructed Lambert's Factory which gives much pleasure and satisfaction in belonging to the Civic Society."

Ken Brand

The presentation of wards takes place at the Council House on Wednesday, April 29.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND VISITS

(Booking forms and details for visits enclosed)

Tuesday 7th April 'Planning for Conservation in Historic Towns'
Dr. P.J. Larkham (Birmingham Polytechnic)

Tuesday 8th September 'Nottingham's Water Supply and Quality
Maintenance' Speaker from Severn Trent
Water Ltd.

Both meetings in the Cathedral Hall, College Street, Nottingham
Commencing at 7.30 pm.

Saturday 13th June Visit to Boston

Saturday 18th July Visit to Wigan Pier and Hoghton Tower
(near Preston)

Saturday 15th August Visit to Beverley and Burton Agnes Hall

Saturday 12th September Visit to Stamford