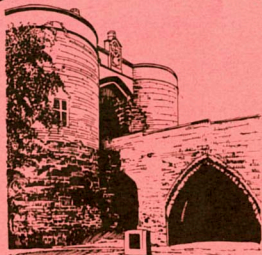


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NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

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Secretary: R. Banks Tel: 254679
Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand Tel: 858821

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

We need your support. We invite you to join.
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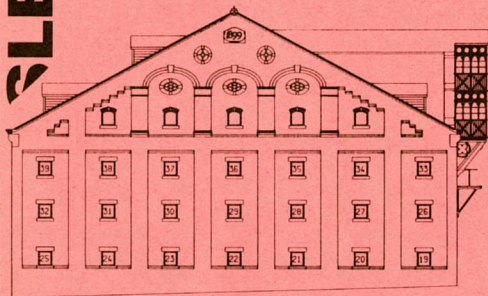
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LETTER 95

**Nottingham
Civic Society**

September 1994



The Basford Phoenix
Student Housing for Nottingham Trent University created from the
fire damaged Basford Maltings. Alpine Street, Basford.
Architects Sutherland Craig Partnership
Contractors Thomas Fish and Sons Ltd.

75p

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

at

The Town House

8 - 10 Low Pavement, Nottingham

on

TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER

7.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Fabulous French/Italian Buffet

Wine - Fruit Juice

Entertainment

Cost £8.75

(Application form enclosed with
this Newsletter)

(Refer to Newsletter No. 90, Cover and pages 18/19)

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

COMMENTS BY NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY, JUNE 1994

The plan is generally welcomed and supported, particularly the purpose of the plan on pages 1 and 2 of the summary and the strategy on page 5.

Our differences are ones of priority and a few of principle.

Our principal objection is to the fourth Trent crossing which is now unnecessary and indeed very undesirable, as the Eastern outer loop road it was to have served has been abandoned by the County Council as part of the Structure Plan.

The road structure on the City side of the proposed bridge is designed to support the third Trent crossing at Lady Bay and increased traffic will make this part of the network heavily congested, if the anticipated flows over the fourth crossing are ever realised.

We believe that expenditure should be diverted to LRT, to serve West Bridgford and the south commuter area together with park and ride sites, which will not only make a fourth crossing completely unnecessary but also significantly relieve Trent Bridge during peak times.

The other beneficial effect would be to reduce the need for central area commuter parking and make the City centre much more viable as a business and shopping centre.

Articles and previous submissions are attached which expound the arguments.

If the City do not after consideration of the substantial weight of objections, withdraw their proposals for a fourth crossing, then we will be forced to prepare detailed technical evidence for the public enquiry to prove our case in detail.

Our second objection is to the release of green belt land at Clifton H1.29, a playing field which should remain as a playing field and at R16 E1.18.6 where the land is too close to the M1 and on the wrong side of the Western outer road and will prejudice the setting of Strelley Village, a Conservation Area.

Our third objection is to ST.1, if any of the proposals (and it is impossible to determine this from the plan) compromise the historic skyline of the Lace Market and St Mary's Church.

The Society fought a successful campaign to safeguard the Castle skyline and improve the Castle skyline, by preparing proposals which promoted the demolition of the Trent Building. It is against this background where we were working with the City, that we still have doubts about the proposals for the Broad Marsh. Here the City have a financial interest and should not be judge and jury in their own case. Earlier proposals and the City's design brief are unacceptable. If we were not successful in getting assurances limiting the height of development, then we would be forced to appeal to the Minister for a separate enquiry on this aspect of the plan.

Here our objections stop and our observations are to add strength to the proposals in the plan, which we feel could go further and realise the following objectives. We believe more specific and programmed proposals are required.

1. Open space and green corridors.
2. Cycle and pedestrian ways.
3. Further pedestrianisation.
4. Bringing back the market to Old Market Square.
5. Reduction in traffic speeds in residential environmental areas.
6. The creation of a landscape structure within existing housing estates so that a mature landscape will exist when the housing is redeveloped. Existing residents will benefit immediately if the proposals are thoughtful in this respect.
7. The reduction in parking ratios and the sheer size of the roads being constructed in new housing development, contrary to the recommendations of DB.32.2. At present two parking spaces are needed, whether the house has 1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms and regardless of its location and type. Generally all roads in housing are 5.5m wide with two 2m wide footpaths, whether there are 14 houses on a cul-de-sac or 300. Parking for sheltered housing is 50% with a warden and 150% without a warden - a gross over-provision. More flexibility is required by the system which is rigidly applied, regardless of content. There is no appeal against Highway legislation, which is why parking in residential areas should form part of the plan to give Housing Associations and developers the right to appeal.
8. A positive policy is needed on open space. The proposals map is ambiguous, eg in Mapperley Park is the old Police playing field which has been the subject of a public enquiry and development opposed and refused **BUT** this is still whiteland on the map and should be safeguarded by designation in our opinion. There are many other similar situations. We believe that unless these sites are protected **NOW**, development pressures will increase to a point where they cannot be resisted in the absence of a clearly defined policy in the plan.
9. LRT proposals should be shown on the development plan, together with the park and ride car parks needed as part of the concept. This is particularly important in view of the latest Government policy on LRT provision.
10. If the Open Space Strategy published in June 1994 is adopted then some of our concerns are dealt with but its status is not completely clear. In addition, we believe that car parks are now being promoted in such numbers within the proposed open spaces, that a clearer policy on car parking is needed. We believe that in most cases open space should mean space which is green and can be used for amenities and car parking should

be excluded. We have already lost four acres of open space for a park and ride site on the Forest and ten acres at Wollaton Park and twelve acres at Colwick Park. Losses on this scale cannot be tolerated in the future or the amenities are lost. Proposals for car parking should need planning permission in the normal way, if not included in the plan and should be restricted in principle if they reduce open space.

The LRT plan should include stations to serve our major parks, to make them accessible to people without a car and encourage those with cars to use the LRT system of transportation. This may enable the reduction of parking in the future within existing parks.

Robert Cullen

MARK OF THE MONTH

Recent recipients of the Society's Mark of the Month Commendation have been:

1994

APRIL

Refurbishment Peoples Hall Cottages, off Heathcote Street

Client:

SPC Precision Engineers

Architects:

Allan Mulcahy

MAY

Alterations and Refurbishment, 248 Radford Boulevard

Client:

E.M.I.C.S.

Architects:

Allan Mulcahy

JUNE

Refurbishment Basford Maltings (Phase II)

Student Housing Nottingham Trent University

Client:

Monk Estates

Architects:

Sutherland Craig Partnership

Structural Engineers:

B.W.B. Partnership

Main Contractor:

Thomas Fish and Sons Ltd

JULY

Conversion of former Co-operative Store into Wollaton

Day Nursery, Wollaton Village Square

Client:

McGowan Family

Architect/Designer:

Andrew Robertson

Contractor:

GP Heating and Ventilation

AUGUST

Repair and Restoration,
The People's Hall and Institute

Trustees of the People's Hall

Client:

Sutherland Craig Partnership (R G Craig)

Architect:

Foston Builders

Contractor:

Flight Cleaning Services

Cleaning:

Adriel Consultancy

Specialist Advice:

THE CREATION OF HINE LODGE, RANSOM ROAD Mark of the Month, March 1994

About 140 years ago T C Hine was commissioned to design an exclusive residential asylum for the mentally ill of Nottingham. Located on one of the highest hills in town, then just outside the city limits, the Coppice Hospital was born.

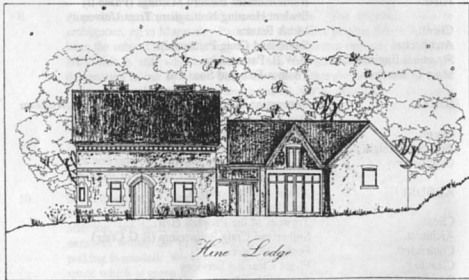
The hospital had a considerable number of residential staff among those a gardener for which this particular house was built. The gate house was built in 1857-9 and has served as a residence, office and a derelict home for local wildlife. It stood empty for a number of years before its current refurbishment.

Set in a sea of concrete and tarmac but surrounded by trees, the building presented the client with a unique architectural opportunity. The tarmac was lifted to reveal the original cobbling that once covered many of Nottingham's streets. The concrete was hammered out and it too was replaced with cobbles. Forty tons of soil were imported to create the lush gardens that now surround the house.

As the refurbishment progressed, one became aware of the quality and finesse of T C Hine's work. The architect carefully thought out the scale and proportion of the rooms and the quality of light that pervades them. He subtly orientated the building to ensure morning sun in the dining room and evening sun in the lounge. The absolute minimum of circulation space is lost to corridors and stair cases.

The extension into the former coach house via the new conservatory has almost doubled the size of the lodge and made it a delightful place to live. The cobbled yard and wooded setting lend authenticity to the new name of the house - Hine Lodge.

KERRY ROSS



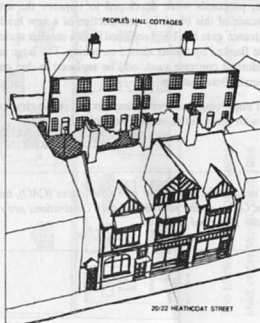
PEOPLE'S HALL COTTAGES Mark of the Month, April 1994

People's Hall Cottages form a terrace of four three storey residential units situated at the rear of 20/22 Heathcoat Street. The cottages were built during the first half of the nineteenth century, well set back from the edge of the narrow pavementless Beck Lane, the lane being widened to form Heathcote Street about 1875. Salmon's map of 1861 suggests each house in the terrace had a garden in front, the rear of the terrace being tight up against the rear of the houses on Holland Street. Before street widening even People's Hall, a former mansion, retained its front garden.

The building was in extremely poor condition and none of the units had internal toilets. The cottages were vacant and semi-derelict and one had recently been used as office accommodation. A full scale repair and improvement scheme has been undertaken which forms the first phase of a development including 20/22 Heathcoat Street and the shared yard. Work on the cottages was completed earlier this year.

The refurbishment of 20/22 Heathcoat Street is currently underway and incorporates a scheme to restore the yard as a communal, social facility. Work carried out on the cottages included chimney stack repairs, re-roofing with natural slates, replacement of plastic gullies and downpipes with cast iron fittings; some brickwork repointing; rebuilding of part of the main facade brickwork which was badly affected by rising damp; door and window repairs; provision of kitchens, bathrooms and toilets; replastering, insulation etc.

ALAN MULCAHY



BASFORD MALTINGS – MARK OF THE MONTH, JUNE 1994

Hutchinson's Basford Maltings, located where Whitemoor Road meets Alpine Street, have been mentioned in the Newsletter before, April 1990 No. 82, just after the upper floors and roof of the main building had been severely damaged by fire. To recall the details of the original building: revised plans for Maltrrooms for the Brewers and Maltsters, W.H. Hutchinson and Sons were approved on 11 August 1899. The architect was Richard Hardy with a Nottingham address of Bentinck Buildings. The builders were Edward Wood and Sons of Park Street, Derby. One further point, picked up on a recent visit to the site, was that the iron columns left exposed but treated in the refurbishment were by Goddard, Massey and Warner of Nottingham (see last Newsletter).

In any restoration-refurbishment project there are always several points of view. This is how the developers viewed The Basford Maltings:
Monk Estates are pleased to announce the completion of the Basford Maltings refurbishment project. The scheme, which involves the restoration and refurbishment of a Grade II Listed Maltings will provide 110 units of student accommodation for Nottingham Trent University. The scheme will complement the development of 160 new units of student accommodation that was completed by the company in September 1993 adjacent to the Maltings scheme. Robert Monk, Managing Director of Monk Estates commented, *"We are delighted with the finished scheme, the refurbishment of this fire damaged Victorian building proved to be a difficult exercise but in taking a careful and sensitive approach to the restoration program we believe that the character of this industrial landmark has been fully preserved and a formerly derelict site brought back into worthwhile use that might otherwise have remained as a local eyesore for many years."*

Monk Estates plan to use the experience they have gained in historic building restoration in a further student accommodation to provide 300 bedspaces for the University of Derby. The scheme at Nuns Street involves the restoration of a listed timber framed Medieval house which was formerly part of a Convent on the site and is reputedly the oldest building in Derby.



Basford Maltings (opposite). TOP: Many of the building's original external and internal features have been retained. BOTTOM: One of the 112 fitted study bedrooms designed and fitted by Thomas Fish and Sons Ltd (Specialist Joinery)



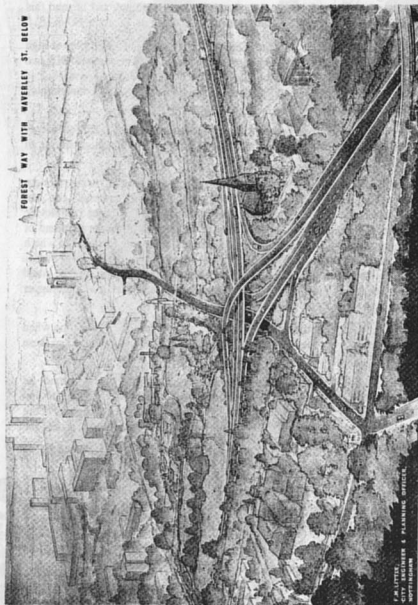
TRAFFIC-IN TOWNS

It never ceases to amaze that solutions to planning problems vary so much with time. What is considered a reasonable, logical and satisfactory proposal one year, a decade or more later is looked upon with horror, if not completely dismissed as being totally and utterly inappropriate. Relating this turnaround to Nottingham, the suggestions made in 1965-6 to solve the City's traffic problems to beyond the turn of the century, "Traffic in Nottingham 1965-2005", today are seen as a conservationist's horror comic.

Nobody would argue with observations made in the section "An Appraisal of the Urban Traffic Problem" as they are just as relevant some thirty years on. A few quotations will suffice: "Traffic if uncontrolled exercises a massive invasive pressure on towns, a pressure that, unless the right action is taken, will disrupt all urban activities including traffic itself"; "The motor vehicle is a bad master but a good and necessary servant..."; "The factor that makes the problem so difficult is the use of the private car..."; "One cannot shut one's eyes or say 'if we don't provide for traffic it need not or won't come', because transportation is important to a city, and if one's own city does not provide it, then trade and people may go to another place that does". Agreement then on the problems posed by traffic but what a change there is in the approach to the answers.

A key element in a 1965 document was an Inner Motorway around the Central Area whose route was to be carved through or implanted on some of the City's most attractive areas. This motorway had five segments: The Eastern Segment named Sheriff's Way, The Southern Segment named Meadows Way, The Western Segment named Park Way, The North-West and Northern Segment named Forest Way. Looking at the last three segments will reveal the destructive nature of the scheme: "The Western Segment runs northwards by a route on the eastern fringe of The Park to a tunnelled length at Canning Circus", and "The North-West and Northern Segments connect Canning Circus to the Mansfield Road/Huntingdon Street point by a route cutting the corner of the General Cemetery, running to near the Waverley Street/Raleigh Street junction, thence along the northern edge of the Arboretum". This would have meant a two tier highway cutting across the lower roads of The Park, running along the eastern side of Huntingdon Drive, through the end of Park Valley to Tunnel Road and plunging into the low numbers on Newcastle Drive, obliterating much of Newcastle Terrace before disappearing into the Canning Circus tunnel. Further on it is not clear if most of All Saints Church and Schools would have survived but certainly the Arboretum Tearooms would have been parted from the Arboretum. A surprising feature is the consideration given to the visual delights afforded the motorist at this excerpt shows:

"What is perhaps an outstanding feature of the proposals is that the traveller on the Inner Motorway will from Wilford Road to Mansfield Road have a sequence of open views. First he will see the Castle, then on his left glimpses of The Park in its valley setting, before he enters the tunnel under Canning Circus. Emerging from this



The INNER MOTORWAY, looking Southwards, Waverley Street runs north-south, the proposed Forest Way would have gone east - west. Notice i) the disregard for All Saints Church, ii) the three tier interchange over Waverley Street, iii) Forest Way cutting into the Arboretum, iv) the northern slip road under Forest Road West.

he will see on his right the green space of the present cemetery, and on the whole of the next length as far as Mansfield Road there will be an uninterrupted prospect southwards over the town, with the Arboretum in the foreground, and beyond this the future buildings of the Civic Centre and Victoria Station". (section 117 p.18).

Mention has been made of the Canning Circus Tunnel but further examples of high tech engineering would have been displayed at the main road intersections with two or three levels of interchange. One three level intersection, for example, was planned for the crossing of Waverley Street by the new Forest Way, with a slip road running around All Saints Church.

So from the brief details given here it will be seen that compared to the fortunately thwarted Inner Motorway, the cutting of Maid Marian Way might even appear an acceptable exercise.

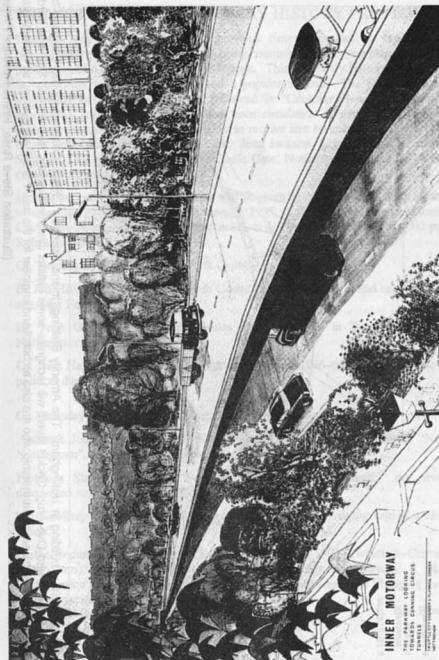
On the role of public transport the document relies largely on then existing railways and buses, it flirts with and dismisses "Underground railway systems" and "the Mono-rail", it refers to rail-motor and ignores trams and trolley buses completely. A novel "form of more local collective transport" is mentioned, "a development of the escalator known as the travolator, being a horizontally moving platform on which pedestrians can travel". A suggested application was between the Victoria Station scheme and the Lacemarket areas. The report felt escalators of a normal type could be considered as a link between the lower town, say Broad Marsh and the upper level at High Pavement.

It is difficult to have thoughtful last words in any article on traffic. At a time when the City is about to get the final "go ahead" for a Light Rapid Transport system these thoughts, not the concluding statement in the 1965 document, are offered:

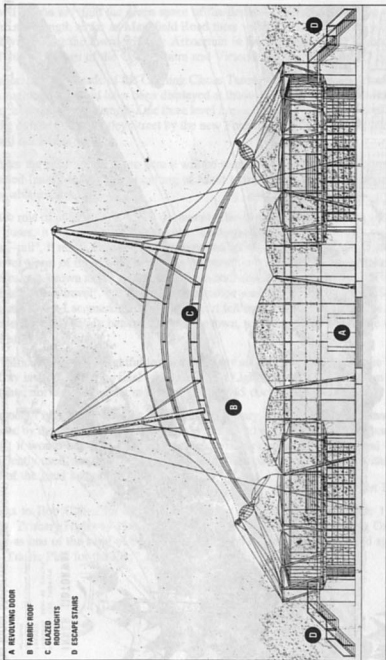
"A modern highway system is at any rate necessary for the future and cannot be avoided by the use of new transportation systems, and the outcome of this discussion is that it would be unwise to rely on such systems coming into being and being sufficiently used, and it would be preferable to rely on methods that are within the field of the local authority".

Ken Brand

Thanks to Bob Cullen for the loan of his copy of "Traffic in Nottingham 1965-2005" Primary Highway Plan by F.M. Little City Engineer and Planning Officer. Bob was one of the band of Society Members and others who campaigned against this "Traffic Plan for the City" and largely won.



The Inner Motorway to be known as The Parkway. This drawing shows the two level section below Park Terrace heading towards the proposed Canning Circus tunnels.



The most exciting building in Nottingham? The Amenity Building, Inland Revenue Offices, Castle Meadow, designed by Michael Hopkins and Ove Arup. Cricket lovers will recognise some distinct similarity with the new Mound Stand at Lords Cricket Ground by the same partnership who are also architect and engineer for the new Parliament Building at Westminster. (Illustration Steve Rose, Inland Revenue Project)

THE NOTTINGHAM CENTENARY HISTORY PROJECT

Members will recall from items in previous Newsletters that the centenary of Nottingham being designated a City is being commemorated by the preparation and publication of a major History of Nottingham. This Centenary History will appear in two forms, a scholarly volume and a popular volume. The progress of the preparation of the History can be followed in "Centenary News", the project newsletter; issue number five has just been circulated. If any Society member wishes to be included on the mailing list to receive free Newsletters regularly then please send your name and address to: Jean Jackson, Leisure and Community Services, Castle Gate House, 24-30 Castle Gate, Nottingham NG1 7AT. A few copies of earlier issues are available.

In addition a series of public seminars will be given by contributors to the scholarly volume this autumn and in the Spring of 1995 at the Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham commencing at 6.30 pm and finishing at 8.00 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

On Tuesday 25 October, a Twentieth Century Programme :

Dr Jeff Hill, 'Recreation in Twentieth Century Nottingham: sport and entertainment since the First World War'.

Dr. Julie O'Neill, 'Foibles and Fables of Family Life in Twentieth Century Nottingham'.

Dr. Nick Hayes 'Building the Nottingham Playhouse 1956-64: Civic enterprise or political duplicity?'

On Thursday 24th November a Nineteenth Century Programme:

Professor John Beckett and Mr Ken Brand, 'Enclosure and the Rise of "New Nottingham", 1845-67: a new look at an old problem'.

Professor Stanley Chapman, 'Domestic Industry in Nottingham: the newly discovered records of I and R Morley, merchant hosiers'.

Mr. Geoffrey Oldfield, 'The Mayors of Nottingham: the changing role of a civic office'.

Further seminars are planned for Thursday 26th January 1995 (Twentieth-Century Nottingham), Tuesday 7th March (Medieval Nottingham), Tuesday 2 May (Reformation and Civil War Nottingham) and Thursday 8 June (The Changing Face of a Provincial Town: Nottingham 1550-1750)

Ken Brand

Two years later, more likely than not still suffering from being tucked away in an outlying suburb, the Club was on the move again. On this occasion the move was back close to the town side of Trent Bridge, to Woodward's Field, Arkwright Street, land belonging to the Council. In modern terms this site was approximately that of the Trent Bridge depot of the City Transport Department. On 12 September 1890 the Council received plans for a "Wooden Pavilion" or "Members' Grandstand" for Nottingham Forest Football Club at Woodward's Field. The plans were sent in by J (?) Widdowson from an office in Maypole Yard.

The contractors were certainly well organised for on 27 September, only 15 days after planning approval, the Nottingham Evening News carried a short highly favourable account of "The Forest Club's Town Ground". The report gave some details of the Members' Grand Stand "... on the south side, 50 yards in length, and with eight tiers of seats, and should accommodate about a thousand spectators. (A note on the plans indicated 800). It is of sufficient height to permit the seated spectators in the front row seeing well over the heads of those standing below". The writer ended with a note of personal satisfaction "it will be roofed, and places bang in front well under cover are reserved for the football reporters". There appear to have been other structures containing standing room for between 3,000-3,500 further spectators.

The ground was formally opened the following Thursday, 2 October. The Evening News carried a match report and noted "Alderman Goldschmidt, the Mayor of Nottingham who had kindly consented to open the ground, kicked off the ball in the direction of the town at four minutes past four, amid cheers and applause, and the game opened very fast". (Note 1).

Almost eighteen months later on 5 February 1892 plans were approved for a Proposed Wooden Stand to be erected at the Town Ground by William Edgar of 23 Market Street. The Committee of the Forest Football Club still had their offices in Maypole Yard.

The Club was forced to move again in the summer of 1898. A note in the Annual report of the Estates Committee presented to the City Council on 5 September gives the details. Trent Side developments "... necessitated the termination of the tenancy of the Forest Football Club of the ground they have occupied for some years past, off Arkwright Street. Your Committee have granted to the Club a lease of another piece of land on the south side of the River Trent ... for a term of 21 years ..." A move must have always been likely for on 7 October 1895 the Public Parks (etc) and Estates Committees in reporting on the proposed new recreation ground in the Meadows included the information "That the Corporation shall within seven years form a public walk and carriage way from Wilford Bridge to Trent Bridge" - the Trent Side development of 1898.

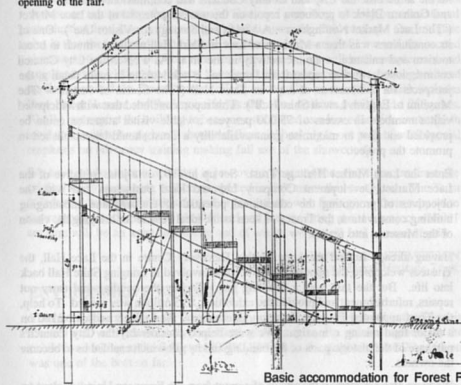
Working in advance of the Estates Committee's announcement Harry Gill, a well known local architect of the time, submitted his proposal for a Football Stand for Nottingham Forest Football Club Trent Side on 3 June 1898. It was turned down

as the "Construction of gallery, closets not shown". It was a bad day for Gill for his plans for a furniture store, the current Central Library, Angel row, were also "Disapproved" at the same sitting. However, a week later on 10 June the amended plans were approved, subject to the approval of the Estates Committee. Later that year Gill had further plans "Additions to Pavilion" approved subject to the same proviso. In that way Forest celebrated their winning of the F.A. Cup in April 1898 with the creation of their first real stadium, which today is loved or hated as the City Ground.

Ken Brand

Note 1:

1. At the formal opening of the Town Ground, Forest then in the Football Alliance, played and beat the Scottish Club Queen's Park 4-2 in a "friendly". Queen's Park were second choice opponents. The first choice were Wolverhampton Wanderers, a Football League team. They were prohibited from playing by the Football League Management Committee as a game against the Forest would have provided unfair competition for Notts County's home league match against Bolton Wanderers at the nearby Trent Bridge Ground played about the same time that day. Thursday was of course early closing day and being 2 October it was the opening day of Goose Fair. Perhaps the kick-off time of 4 pm was arranged to allow the Mayor to recover from the celebrations following the official opening of the fair.



Basic accommodation for Forest FC supporters at the Gregory Ground, Derby Road 1888 (By Marshall Brothers of Lenton) (C. A. O.)

SHIRE HALL - THE GALLERIES OF JUSTICE

Many readers will be familiar with the saga of Shire Hall. Its sale by the County Council 1988 and the lack of action to reopen it since has prompted many column inches in the local press.

The history of various buildings which have stood on the site up to T.C. Hine's magnificent show courts which now occupy the front of the site has been well documented by Ken Brand in his Civic Society publication "The Shire Hall and Old County Gaol, Nottingham". That history asks "What future use of this historic building will be the most satisfactory for the people of Nottinghamshire?".

Back in 1988 Geoffrey Goldsmith, a Reading solicitor, had been looking for a home for his brainchild, the Museum of Law, and saw Shire Hall as being the ideal location. Having failed to buy the building, Geoffrey had made much progress on establishing the Museum in Lancaster when, in 1992, he was persuaded to have another look at Nottingham.

At the same time the City and County Councils had commissioned Andrew James and Graham Black to produce a report on the tourism potential of the Lace Market ("The Lace Market Nottingham - A Vision and Strategy for Visitor Use"). One of its conclusions was that a Museum of Law in Shire Hall would do much to boost tourism and enhance economic activity in the area. As a result the City Council commissioned a further report from James and Black looking in more detail at the prospects for a Museum of Law in Shire Hall ("The Scales of Justice - The Museum of English Law at Shire Hall"): This report concluded that with anticipated visitor numbers in excess of 75,000 per year a viable visitor attraction could be provided and that to maximise grant availability a Trust should be established to promote the project.

Enter the Lace Market Heritage Trust. Set up in 1991 as a joint initiative of the Lace Market Development Company Ltd and local businesses and with the objectives of promoting the educational potential of the area and encouraging building conservation, the Trust was seen as the ideal vehicle for bringing the vision of the Museum into reality.

Having already funded the Lace Market Discovery Centre in the Lace Hall, the Trustees welcomed the opportunity to become involved in bringing Shire Hall back into life. But the task was a daunting one. To buy the building and carry out repairs, refurbishment and provide the exhibition, £3.5 million was needed. To help, the Trust appointed Everalld Compton, international fund raisers and embarked on a major fund raising campaign. We were helped considerably by the City Council's purchase of the historic parts of the building and its gift which enabled us to become the owners.

We were also assisted by the award of a grant from the European Union of close on £1 million. This, however, brought with it an enormous problem for the small

dedicated team who were involved in the project. The Scales of Justice report had been published in February 1993. To obtain the European grant we needed to have in place by 31st December signed contracts for the building and exhibition works. This meant appointing consultants, carrying out detailed surveys and producing design briefs, specifications and tender details in a very short space of time. It should be remembered that the Trust is still a very young body and its resources are, therefore, limited. To fund all this pre-contract work was a daunting task but I am proud to say that shortly before Christmas we signed contracts and work is now at an advanced stage.

Fund raising continues - we recently had the opportunity of presenting our campaign to many notables from the world of law and commerce at a reception at Downing Street hosted by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, himself a patron of the campaign. However, as I am sure most readers already know, fund raising for projects like ours never really ends. There is always more to do when funds are available.

The Galleries of Justice, which will open its doors to the public at Easter 1995, will in fact combine a trinity of law related activities. Phase I will consist of a visitor experience interpreting the Courts and Gaol and providing a lively but educational introduction into law, crime and punishment since the 18th century. Our ultimate aim is that the centre should become the National Museum of Law and the second element of the trinity will be a museum of justice which will both complement and supplement the visitor experience. Artefact collecting is already progressing well and we have secured the Ross Simms collection of police memorabilia which includes Bow Street Runner and Peelers uniforms and other artifacts over the last 250 years. Finally, we expect the building to become established as a law education centre (both local universities have given substantial financial backing to our project) with special emphasis on advocacy training making full use of the showcourts.

We have made enormous strides in just over a year and the whole process from the original study to opening will be completed in little more than two years. The Trust is indebted to many individuals and organisations who have given their support to the campaign and who have slaved hard and long to bring about a project which I am sure will be an asset to the city and of which we can all feel a sense of pride.

R. MICHIEL STEVENSON
Chairman - Lace Market Heritage Trust.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1994

Your Society's exhibition for this year's Environment Week displayed in the Victoria Centre was well received by the Nottingham public. By general agreement the exhibition looking at the Society's 1970's publication 'Nottingham Now' 20 years on was one of the best so far.

Much of this success was due to a more professional presentation made possible by the generous sponsorship provided by the drawing office suppliers, John E Wright, and the architectural practice of Cullen, Carter and Hill.

EDITOR

THE LORD MAYOR'S AWARD 1994

This year the Lord Mayor's Award for Urban Design was divided into four main categories: New Building, Refurbishment, Landscape and Shopfront. In addition there was a Special Award for Small Scale Work.

The results were as follows, with an indication (M) meaning a winner of the Society's Mark of the Month Commendation.

NEW BUILDING

Winner	Housing for the Elderly, former Denman/Connaught Gardens
Finalists	Housing for the Elderly, former Carrington Lido Colville House YWCA Hostel (M)

REFURBISHMENT

Winner	The 'Irish', Wilford Street (M)
Finalists	Former Daks Simpson Building, Lenton (M) Former Shipstone's Maltings, Basford St. Nicholas Court, Castle Gate (M) Coach House Conversion, Ransom Road (M) 10-10a Wilford Crescent, The Meadows (M)

LANDSCAPE

Winner	Play and Amenity Area former Carrington Lido
Finalists	Environmental Improvements, Wasnidge Walk, St Anns Office Frontages 1 Woodborough Road

SHOPFRONT

Winners (Joint)	Supercycles, 219-223 Mansfield Road (M) Shopfronts to Queen Street (former Elite cinema) (M)
Finalist	H.F.C. Bank plc, 4-6 Low Pavement

SMALL SCALE WORKS

Special Award Entry gates, St. Stephen's Road, Sneinton
The Access Award went to Byron House, Nottingham Trent University

Special Awards in the Landscape section were given for the Pedestrianisation of Smithy Row and as the formal acknowledgement of the Sponsorship of the replica Weekday Cross by George H. Akins and your Society. "The Indian" restaurant on Bentinck Road (M) was given a Commendation, in the Shopfront category. Once again the whole event was well planned and well organised by John Maslen of the City Development Department. The best way to show some appreciation of John's effort would be a greater involvement of Society members in nominating entries and, later, voting.

Editor

BOOK REVIEW

"The Changing Face of Nottingham in Old Photographs".

Compiled by Geoffrey Oldfield

Alan Sutton £7.99

(Similar format to "Victorian Nottingham in Old Photographs" Collected by Michael Payne, already reviewed in the Newsletter).

Providing the word gets around Geoffrey has a winner here – and deservedly so. This is a book to buy and linger over. This collection of photographs, taken between 1955 and the mid 1970s, recalls the Nottingham we all knew when we were just that little bit younger.

Unlike many collections of photographs gathered in a somewhat random fashion from newspaper or library archives, making the most of what was there, Geoffrey has taken all of these himself. It was in effect a planned initiative.

Once he knew of a building or a street that was under threat Geoff was on his bike – long before that act became politically debased – and off to record the setting for posterity. Often he returned a little later to photograph the results of demolition and sometimes he would pluck up courage to come back yet again to make a visual note of the new replacement.

Although the greater city centre area is well documented Geoffrey has not neglected the suburbs, there are separate sections on Sneinton, Radford, Lenton, Basford and Bulwell.

An early section entitled 'The Making of Maid Marian Way' recalls the range of buildings from the magnificent eighteenth century Collins Almshouses and Fothergill Watson's St. Nicholas Rectory to several modest two hundred year old houses, all of which had to go, lying as they did on or close to the line of the new road. Properties needed were bought up stealthily by the Council after a proposed Local Act of Parliament was rejected by a referendum. Members will recall the resulting Maid Marian Way long carried the stigma of being called the Ugliest Street in Europe (Note 1).

It is astonishing how much has gone, how much altered, how much we just let slip away. Restoration and refurbishment appear to have been unconsidered options. The promises of "replacement with something better" were somewhat less concrete than the eventual reality. The approved specification for the Victoria Centre is a prime example.

So here Geoffrey has carefully arranged reminders of yesterday's Nottingham. Much is so long forgotten but now it can be so easily recalled. I heartily recommend this book, it is not just a collection of pictures but a record of what was, together with a hint of what might have been. Perhaps we are all a little guilty of letting so much disappear.

It is comprehensive but not complete for Geoffrey has several hundred unused photographs covering the same period. I hope the book has the success it deserves.

Ken Brand
Note 1. The title started with a remark made on 26 February 1965 by Professor Arthur Ling then head of the Department of Architecture, "Maid Marian Way is an insult to Maid Marian and one of the ugliest modern streets in Europe". Somewhat surprisingly several other cities tried to take the accolade for themselves. An eminent American architectural historian assured me several years ago that Bristol had succeeded!

N.B. I am well aware that in the period under consideration a number of changes were for the better. However, the points I wanted to make out of the wealth of visual evidence were, "Look, this is what we lost, did it have to happen?" and "Why did the bulldozer rule?" It is a pity we cannot carry on the debate upstairs at The Kardomah Cafe (Lincoln Street/Clumber Street page 13) and afterwards, of course, at The Black Boy Hotel (page 12).

THE EBERS ENIGMA (Newsletter 94, p.28)

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the snippet about Georg Moritz Ebers in the Newsletter. It seems highly likely, especially if you can find out if Ebers appeared at The Mechanics, as many Victorians with his sort of qualifications did. John Smith Wright, the brother of Ichabod Wright was a key figure in establishing The Mechanics Institute, and it is possible that Ebers was either a guest of some members of the Wright family or simply much admired by them.

A few years ago I researched the history of Emerson Lodge, a house at the corner of Mapperley Street and Hood Street in Sherwood. It was built c.1848 by a builder from Carrington called John Cooper, but considerably altered between 1857 and 1869 when it was acquired by James Manderfield, a master tailor. His premises were at Albert House, St. Peter's Square, Nottingham, and for many years he also made the rough suits for the pauper patients of the General Lunatic Asylum at Sneinton. Sometime in the 1860's his "new" house in Sherwood was given its first name, Emerson Villa. It became Emerson Lodge in c. 1908 but did not acquire the number 27 Mapperley Street until c. 1950.

In the absence of any other hard information, such as family surnames, I had to make what I believe to be a reasonable assumption about the name Emerson Villa. James Manderfield was very likely an admirer of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the American essayist and poet, who made a successful tour of this country. Indeed he may well have heard Emerson speak on Reading at The Mechanics Institute in 1845, and determined to name his house after the man who believed in "the divine sufficiency of the individual". If a house could be named in honour of a poet, why not a road in honour of a novelist called Ebers?

Yours etc., TERRY FRY

THE GATEHOUSE SHOP

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to my appeal to keep the shop open this summer. I had replies from over sixty people offering help and support. I was in effect overwhelmed.

Rather than appoint one person as a shop manager I decided it was better to split the job up into more manageable parts and to form a team of organisers. This has worked well, though clearly it would have been much easier to set the system in motion before the shop opened full time. Unfortunately that was of course not possible.

I have listed below the members of the team and their various responsibilities. I am extremely grateful to them for having taken on these tasks and for expending so much time and effort on the shop. I would also like to thank all those shop helpers, both old and new who responded to the appeal and who work so valiantly behind the counter. More volunteers are always welcomed.

In December the City Council will or may decide whether or not to put the museum shop out to private franchise. If that happens they may incorporate or close our shop. That will be a great loss to this City. We are doing everything we can to ensure that this does not happen and thus, with your continuing support, the shop will remain open for many years to come.

It is pleasing to note that the City's draft plan for the Castle Conservation Area includes some dramatic plans for the Castle. These are very close to our own proposals submitted in our report "Nottingham Castle. A Medieval Revival" in 1991. A large number of our suggestions have been adopted. The cost of the report, £5 000, was paid for out of shop profits. So we can all feel that we have contributed to these exciting ideas. Let us hope that they come to fruition and do not remain yet more, thwarted, good intentions.

Andrew Hamilton.

Shop team:

Jean Betts	Rota organiser - Ph 257173
David Hand	Banking - Ph 523690
Doris Hand	Books and Lace
Alfred Savill	(Ordering, pricing
Malcolm Bradstock	(and stock control
June Lacey	Stocking shelves
Diana Gutteridge	Committee secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers as at the beginning of July 1994 now stand at:

Individual memberships	333
Family memberships	163 = 326
Corporate memberships	11
TOTAL	670

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Cullen, Carter Hill, Architects	Mr C Horne	Mrs F Newton
Mr M L Noutch	Mr A Harvey	Mr M Lawrence
Mr and Mrs Plumb	Mrs V Peterson	Mr M Gibbons
Miss P A Messenger	Miss P Severn	Dr J M Heron
Nancy Rains	Miss K Maddocks	Ms A Raymond
Mr and Mrs J P Palmer	Mr and Mrs Smalley	Mr G Godfrey
Mr G Briars	Mrs S G Walker	Mrs M Davis
Matthew Dransfield	Mrs H D Bond	Mr N Munro
Ms E Rosaleen Rush	Miss D E MacNee	David Clamenza
Paul and Margaret Chambers	Mrs G Leigh	Jean Barton

THE EBERS ENIGMA (CONTINUED)

One of the Newsletter's keenest readers John Davis, a long time exile in Ambleside, Cumbria, has written to give me some details about Georg Moritz Ebers (1837 - 1898 but perhaps 1895). One of his points of reference was the 1946 edition of Britannica. A number of novels by Ebers with an ancient Egyptian background are listed. The first novel published in 1860 was very popular, this and the subsequent novels were originally published in German but later several were translated into English.

Perhaps as an international novelist or celebrity of the day, Georg was invited to speak at the Mechanics Institute.

KEN BRAND

NEWSLETTERS: BACKNUMBERS.

Copies are available of most Newsletters from No 61 onwards. For a single copy of any particular issue just send a stamped addressed envelope to the editor, but in case this note starts a stampede it would be better to phone and check first. For larger numbers a nominal contribution to Society funds would be welcome. For such requests collection or delivery can be arranged.

Ken Brand (Ph 858821).

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

ARCHITECTURE '94

An exhibition ARCHITECTURE '94 will be held in the Upper Foyer, Nottingham Playhouse from Monday 29 August to Saturday 17 September. Local architects and architecture students will present drawings, models and computer simulations that include Nottingham landmarks.

THE MEADOWS AWAITING DEVELOPMENT

An exhibition of photographs taken twenty years ago which show streets, terraces, corner shops, public houses etc., shortly before and during the arrival of the bulldozer.

The photographs, taken by Bernard and Pauline Heathcote, will be on display at the Brewhouse Yard Museum, Castle Boulevard, Nottingham from 2 November 1994 to 3 January 1995.

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at the Society of Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham, starting at 7.30 p.m.

1994

Tuesday 13 September

'The Avoncroft Museum'
Dr Simon A C Penn (Curator)

Tuesday 11 October

The Keith Train Lecture
'The Mystery of the Adam Fireplace'
Dr Ivan Hall (Consultant to English Heritage)

Tuesday 8 November

The Changing Use of Land in Greater Nottingham
Dr Ron W E Blake (Nottingham Trent University)

Tuesday 13 December

Christmas party at the Town House
8-10 Low Pavement, Nottingham
(See separate notice)

1995

Tuesday 10 January

'Preserving the Present'
Ian D Wells (EC Member and Secretary of the
Victorian Society and 20th Century Society)