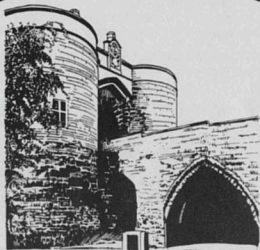


Built by command of Henry III between
1252-55, Nottingham's Oldest Shop:

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Open Weekends only until Easter
11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Nottingham Civic Society

President: Professor J. F. Garner
Chairman: John Severn
Secretary: R. Banks ☎ (0115) 925 4679
Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand ☎ (0115) 985 8821

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 £9 Family £14
Unwaged/Senior Citizens: Individual £7.50 Family £11.50

Further details: Lynn Irvine, Membership Secretary
57 Woodhedge Drive, Nottingham NG3 6LW ☎ (0115) 958 8247



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LETTER

Nottingham
Civic Society

96

January 1995



THEY SAID IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!

The demolition of the Trent Wing of the General Hospital Summer 1994.
T. C. Hine's earlier work at the hospital is now revealed, the third storey
on Simpson's Infirmary (1854-5) and the Chapel of 1856.

75p

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The Centenary History of Nottingham Seminar Series 1994-5

Thursday 26 January 1995, Twentieth-Century Nottingham

Chair: Councillor Carole Jones

Dr Colin Griffin, "The Nottingham Race Riots of 1958"

Dr Brian Tolley, "Higher Education in Nottingham since 1945"

Dr John Giggs, "Nottingham's Changing Society and Social Areas"

Tuesday 7 March 1995, Medieval Nottingham

Chair: Mr Bob White

Dr David Rolfe, "The Danes and Nottingham"

Dr Trevor Foulds, "Before "Maistre Mayre" : Nottingham 1155-1284

Evidence before the Borough Court Rolls"

Mrs Pamela Marshall, "Nottingham's Royal Castle"



FROM VILLAGE AND FARM TO CITY STREETS

A portrait of eastern Nottingham

This booklet provides details of the development of Sneinton, Thorneywood, Porchester and Carlton. It is illustrated with photographs, maps and pictures throughout. It can be obtained from Hogarth Primary School, Porchester Road, Nottingham NG3 6JG (tel 0602 505351). £4.00 per copy.

THE GALLERIES OF JUSTICE

The National Centre for Law through the Ages

In the September Newsletter the article by the Chairman of the Lace Market Heritage Trust, R M Stevenson, outlined the background surrounding the creation of The Galleries of Justice, the country's first Museum of Law. Following on from that, this piece will give readers a preview of exactly what the new museum will have to offer visitors.

The Galleries of Justice will, eventually, combine a trinity of law related activities through a Visitor Experience; a Museum of Law and a Legal Education Centre.

PHASE I

The completion of Phase I will be the opening next Easter of 'Condemned', the Visitor Experience at the Galleries of Justice. 'Condemned' is a major Crime and Punishment Experience based in and around Shire Hall, a magnificent 19th Century Courthouse and its adjoining County Gaol. 'Condemned' will offer visitors an introduction to the Law through the following:

- An understanding of the rise of the courts, covering the time prior to the establishment of the courts with 'Trial by Ordeal' down to the present day. Associated with this will be an exhibition of Legal Robes including the posts of The Lord Chancellor and Coroner.
- A chance to experience through audio-visual presentation in the Criminal Court some of the most famous trials to be held at the Shire Hall.
- A demonstration of how prisoners spent their time in The Gaol in the 1800's. This will include:
 - The night cell
 - The day rooms where prisoners spent their time oakum picking or rag sorting.
 - The punishment cells including finally the condemned cell.

It is hoped that visitors will also be able to view a full size working gibbet in the exercise yard.

A small number of costumes from the noted Ross Simms Police Collection (see Phase II) will be displayed within the exhibition. These include a Bow Street Runner, a Peeler and the uniform of the first female Police Officer.

The exhibition will incorporate a small tea shop and a gift shop offering a range of themed merchandise.

CIVIL COURT AND GRAND JURY ROOM

The Civil Court will not form a part of the exhibition programme as it will be utilised in a number of other, mostly educational, ways. However when not in use the Civil Court and the Grand Jury Room will be opened to the public as an added bonus. The Grand Jury room will offer an exhibition 'The Law and You' linked with a complementary audio visual presentation in the Civil Court. Topics to be covered initially include: Why have Law?, People Involved in The Law, Young People and The Law, In Trouble with the Police, How courts Work, The Family and Law, The Consumer and Law, Human Rights and Civil Liberties, The Law in the News.

Diamond Cable are providing video conferencing equipment for the Civil Court. This will enable the Courts to be used in a variety of ways.

- Solicitors will be able to communicate face to face with barristers in any part of the UK.
- Solicitors could also communicate face to face with clients in any of the prisons with video conferencing facilities (equipment is gradually being installed in all of our prisons).
- It can be used for 'Expert' witnesses to give evidence to courts around the world.
- The Child Protection Agency could use the facilities to give children who have to appear in court an idea of what to expect. They could also train their own staff.
- Educational institutions including the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University can utilise the equipment as they will be using the Court for advocacy training.

In addition to the above, the Grand Jury Room and the Civil Court will provide a useful source of revenue as they will be available as corporate facilities. They could be used for daytime and evening conferences and seminars; corporate entertainment i.e. 'Trial by Jury' performed by the Magdala Opera Trust; as a location for filming and photographic work.

It is also planned to run a programme of Special Events in the Civil Court throughout the year. Provisional events scheduled at the moment include:

Short plays from around the world.
An exciting national lecture programme.

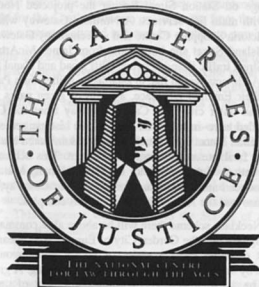
These events will take place at lunchtime and will last for approximately 45 minutes, catering for the working community of the city.

PHASE II

Phase II of the project will continue the development of The Galleries of Justice with special emphasis on the Museum of Law and the Legal Education Centre. The Museum of Law will feature the Ross Simms collection and have displays relating to Criminal Law, Civil Law, Detection, Enforcement, Technology. The special facilities of the museum will be a conservation laboratory, library, photographic studio/darkroom and separate curatorial offices.

The Legal Education Centre, which will be used by the Universities for Bar final examinations, will have project rooms for school use. The Centre will provide a base for the Educational Outreach Programme involving work with community groups and young offenders. There will be a Research Centre with its own small archive and with links to law based information networks. Hopefully the Museum will build up a number of collections and a study room will be available for students and researchers wishing to consult them. Finally the refreshment facilities will be enlarged to a cafe/restaurant with nearby a children's play area.

Karen Wyer, Marketing Manager



NOTTINGHAM MILLENNIUM

On Saturday 29th October selected guests were invited to a presentation, in the Dining Room of the Council House, of Nottingham's proposals to mark the Millennium. The main feature of the event was the unveiling of the City's "Gateway Project", which has five linked major gateways to the City together with a "necklace" of green spaces.

Four city architectural practices and a landscape architect were invited to put forward ideas, good outline schemes which could be worked up into practical proposals which would fit easily each into the others.

The overall plan based on a "revised" landscaped inner ring road has been put together by the architectural practice of Crampin and Pring. This enhanced smoothed out ring incorporates several street sections already mooted for upgrading or widening. Starting where Fulforth Street meets Huntingdon Street and moving clockwise, the sequence is Huntingdon Street, Lower Parliament Street, London Road, Crocus Street(?), Waterway Street, Wilford Road/Street, Maid Marian Way, Toll House Hill, Clarendon Street, Peel Street and so back to Fulforth Street.

At key points on this circular roadway it is proposed to create five gateways. The Transportation Gateway, also by Crampin and Pring, is based on a new passenger transport interchange on Station Street linking the projected Nottingham Light Railway System with main line services. A Northern Gateway which includes an extension to the Victoria Shopping Centre and a Technology Gateway focusing on the former Boots Island Street site both come from James McArtney Architects. Across the Canal Street traffic island between Cliff Road and Canal Street, Dawson Taylor Landscape Architects would like to establish a Millennium Park. This would be a highlight of their Emerald Necklace, a chain of green parks and walkways around the inner and outer city. The Castle Gateway from the Graham Brown Partnership is intended to re-instate Friar Lane as the historic pedestrian link from the Castle to the Market Place. Friar Lane would cross a sunken Maid Marian Way on a deck so as to facilitate uninterrupted movement. This scheme, it is hoped, would logically fit into the future plans for the Castle. Finally Marsh-Grochowski Architects have produced ambitious plans for the Culture Gateway, extending and linking the Playhouse and the Albert Hall into an Arts complex.

Beside the Green Necklace scheme there will be above all a commanding initiative to transform Nottingham into the Garden City of Europe. As a means of achieving this ambitious yet daunting goal, a series of pocket parks would have to be established, backed by an intensive programme of tree planting. A green city of airy boulevards would be a just reward for a heavy investment of time, labour and money.

A figure of £65 million has been suggested as a global sum for the East Midlands through Millennium funding from the National Lottery. Thus perhaps £12-13 million could be a likely if optimistic figure for Nottingham. How much of the

Gateway Project could be put in place even if this amount is considerably augmented by private investment is a matter of conjecture.

For the present Bill Crampin, of the architects Crampin and Pring, and co-ordinator for Nottingham's Millennium Bid, can have the last words, "The Gateway Scheme began by looking at the whole of the City and where it wanted to be. We now have a vision for the city for the next 10-20 years. The Gateway Projects are part of a long term plan".

Ken Brand, based on material supplied by

Judith Askew, City Public Relations Office

The Millennium Exhibition was briefly on show in the Playhouse Foyer, I tracked it down in a dark unlit corner on the upper floor. It was later set up in the reception area of the Development Department on Floor 2 of Exchange Buildings. I feel it was a pity that more people did not see this imaginative, colourful, if controversial, display. Maybe it will reappear for it has a fairly long shelf life.

It is hoped that the City Councillors have more success with this bid for funding than some of their Victorian predecessors. On 19th February 1877, whilst the Castle was being transformed by T C Hine and Son from the legendary "blackened ruin" into the first provincial museum of art, the School of Art and Exhibition Committee brought a proposal before the Town council. They recommended that Government grants be sought for the Castle Museum out of profits from the Great Exhibition of 1851 which they suggested should in future be applied to provincial towns.

As a result of this suggestion and from the ensuing discussion the Council resolved to send memorials to three government departments. One in particular is of interest here, the memorial to the Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 would be asking for grants from the surplus funds in their hands in aid of the Castle Museum.

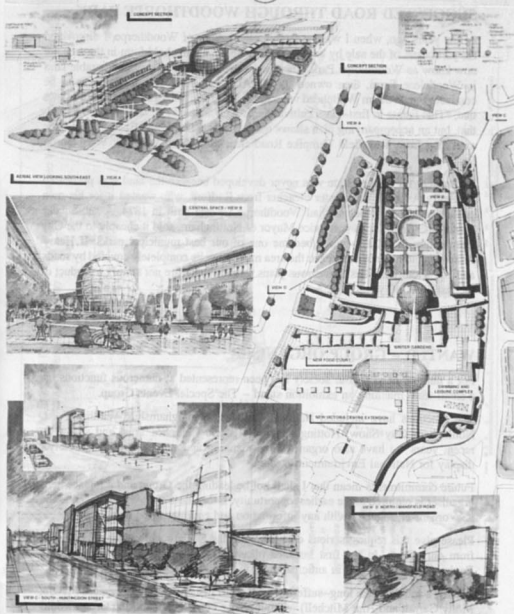
At the Council meeting held on 9th April 1877, letters were read from Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, saying that no funds were available for local museums. The letters continued, pointing out money would be raised by disposal of landed property for the establishment of scholarships, "to enable promising students in the Art and Science institutions of our manufacturing districts to pursue their studies, either in the Colleges in their vicinity or in the institutions in the metropolis". This response was referred to the School of Art and Exhibition committee and there it remained.

Ken Brand

Bob Cullen's proposals for a Millennium Greening of the city will be revealed in the next Newsletter.



MILLENNIUM MASTERPLAN



NORTHERN GATE

James McCarthy
Consultant Architects

SUGGESTED ROAD THROUGH WOODTHORPE PARK

A few years ago, when I was researching the history of Woodthorpe, I discovered the particulars of the sale by auction in May 1871 of a freehold farm in the area we now know as Woodthorpe Park. There were over 40 acres of grass and arable land in Woodclose Farm, then owned by Mr Alfred Pogson. The auction was to be conducted by William Whitehead who, in the advertisement of the sale, boldly states that, "This Estate in first-class cultivation, is well adapted for Villa Sites". Not only that, but an accompanying plan shows quite clearly a Suggested Road 50 feet wide extending from Mansfield Turnpike Road clear through what is now Woodthorpe Park.

Fortunately for us the estate was never developed because the land was purchased by Henry Ashwell, the master bleacher from Radford, who wanted it for his own private estate, on which he had Woodthorpe Grange built in 1874. A subsequent owner, J C Small, who was twice Mayor of Nottingham, sold it cheaply to the City Corporation in 1921, when it became one of our best municipal parks. If Henry Ashwell's bid had not succeeded the area might now be completely covered by roads and late Victorian villas, Disastrous plans for new roads are not simply a product of the last 30 or 40 years.

Terry Fry

WANTED - GROUP ORGANISER

For a number of years our society has been represented at numerous functions by a small team manning an exhibition stand - The Special Events Group.

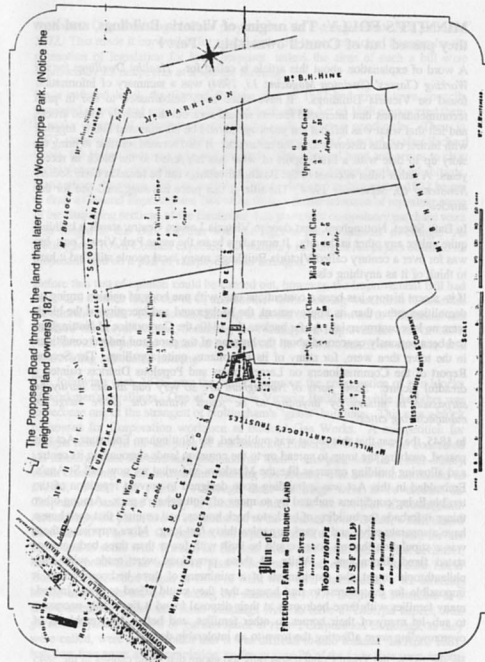
The functions have included National Heritage, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Nottingham City Show, Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust and so on. In recent years we have also organised the manning and execution of the Society's display for National Environment Week.

Future commitments mean that I shall not be leading the Group and a replacement organiser is required at the earliest opportunity. Every assistance will be given to the new organiser, together with any information and equipment required.

Please give this request serious consideration; the Society and public alike benefit from our efforts. In the first instance please contact our Society Secretary, Ray Banks. May I thank you in anticipation.

Finally, a tribute to the long-suffering team (Carl Fisher and Jenny, Frances Flewitt, Molly Garratt and Ann Mitchell) without whose constant support the Group would not function and to all members of the Society who 'did their bit' on Environment Week exhibitions.

Eric Widdison



MINNITT'S FOLLY: The origins of Victoria Buildings, and how they passed out of Council ownership. Part 1

A word of explanation about this article is called for. *'Healthy Dwellings for the Working Classes'* (*Sneinton Magazine 13, 1984*) was a summary of information found on Victoria Buildings. I have since been embarrassed to see in print recommendations that interested readers should seek out that heavily edited article, and felt that what was left out ten years ago should be incorporated into it, together with further details discovered in the meantime. It also seemed sensible to bring the story up to date with a brief report of what has happened to the block in recent years. A rather fuller account of the Basford dwellings can be found in *Civic Society Newsletter 65, September 1984*. The title of that piece has suggested one for this article.

In Bath Street, Nottingham, next door to Victoria Leisure Centre, stands a building quite unlike any other in the city. It nowadays bears the name Park View Court, but was for over a century called Victoria Buildings; many local people still find it hard to think of it as anything else.

If its recent history has been a contentious one, with one body of opinion urging its demolition rather than its improvement, the background and inception of the block were no less controversial. As far back as the 1840s the Corporation of Nottingham had been seriously concerned about the housing of the poor, and indeed conditions in the town then were, for many of its inhabitants, quite appalling. The Second Report of the Commissioners on Large Towns and Populous Districts painted a dreadful picture: *"Some parts of Nottingham are so very bad as can hardly be surpassed in misery by anything to be found within the entire range of manufacturing cities"*.

In 1845, the year that this report was published, the Nottingham Enclosure Act was passed, enabling the town to spread on to the common lands surrounding its centre, and allowing building on areas like the Meadows and what we now call St Ann's. Embedded in this Act was a building code designed to prevent repetition of the terrible living conditions endured by so many of Nottingham's poor. Among other things it forbade the building of back-to-back houses, and required that each house have a separate privy and a yard or garden thirty feet long. More surprising, there was a stipulation that no house could be built with fewer than three bedrooms of stated fixed dimensions. While all these provisions were made with truly philanthropic intent, the requirement of a minimum of three bedrooms made it impossible for the poorest to find houses that they could afford to rent. Indeed, many families with three bedrooms at their disposal found it financially necessary to sub-let many of their homes to other families, and before long problems of overcrowding were affecting the town to an intolerable degree.

By the 1870s, the Town Council was only too aware that some clauses in the 1845 Enclosure Act needed altering, and that other municipal improvements were urgently

desirable. One stumbling block to progress was the Borough Funds Act, passed in 1872. This made it impossible for a local authority to use municipal finances for the promotion of legislation for local purposes, unless the aims of such a bill were approved by its ratepayers at a special meeting.

On a national level, the Second Reform Act of 1867 had given town councils increased powers and responsibilities, and the Torrens Act of 1868 empowered them to make owners of insanitary properties put such houses in good order. Then, in 1875, came the Artisans' Dwellings Act, usually known as Cross's Act, after Richard Cross, the Home Secretary responsible for it. This allowed local authorities to clear entire districts by compulsory purchase, and to build new houses for their inhabitants. Nottingham, however, did not wait for Cross's Act, and in November 1872 began to draft a General Improvement Bill of its own, with the intention of repealing some of the damaging sections of the Enclosure Act; powers of compulsory purchase were also sought in this Bill, together with the right to put up artisans' dwellings. As Nottingham Town Council expected, the statutory meeting of ratepayers defeated its proposals, and so a poll of ratepayers was arranged.

Before this test of opinion could be carried out, however, the Improvement Bill had some 170 clauses taken out of it, and another town meeting was called to consider the shortened Bill. The meeting finding in favour of this, it went to Parliament and received the Royal Assent, becoming the Nottingham Improvement Act of 1874. Armed with the powers conferred by this Act, the Town Council set about its task of providing affordable housing.

The following year, 1875, saw the council approve the construction of two blocks of workmen's dwellings. One of these was Victoria Buildings, while the other was to become one of the strangest of Nottingham's "ghost" buildings. This was a block of houses for Corporation workmen at Basford Gas Works. A competition for designs resulted in the adoption of a scheme by Fothergill Watson, who concealed his identity under the arresting pseudonym "Gas". His plan was for a four-storey block consisting of 63 houses and totalling 154 rooms. The cost was estimated as £7,800, or £51 per room. Although these buildings were to be erected on Corporation land, the site lay in Basford, which was not yet part of Nottingham. Accordingly the plans had to be submitted to the Basford Local Board, which turned them down. The Gas Committee thereupon decided to abandon the plan for the block and to settle with Watson on the best terms they could agree. The architect, however, produced an amended plan which proved acceptable to Basford Local Board. Construction began in 1876 of what was, after amendment, a 40-dwelling block, and tenants moved in during the summer of 1877. Despite a statement in a Gas Committee report that these buildings were to have a *"cheerful aspect, with gardens in front and yard or garden space at rear"*, Corporation Buildings, as they were called, were so unpopular that it was difficult to find tenants. In April 1881, less than four years after completion, no fewer than 26 of the forty flats were empty, and some four years later a caretaker was the only occupant. There is evidence that from about 1887 the block was renamed Albert Buildings for several years, in an

attempt, perhaps, to banish its drab image. Any such hope was to prove a vain one, however, and in 1891 the Town Council asked the Gas Committee to demolish the building. Over the next decade there were several unavailing endeavours to find an alternative use for it; Salvation Army accommodation; public baths; workhouse: all were suggested. Examination of the electoral registers, however, indicates that the block, by now Corporation Buildings again, was completely empty in 1896. At about the turn of the century it was pulled down without any publicity and its end is not recorded in the printed Borough Records. No trace now remains of this unhappy housing venture, whose site lies on the west side of Nottingham Road, facing the end of Scotland Road. The whole episode must have been a source of great embarrassment to the architect, who had, by the time the buildings were demolished, changed his name to Watson Fothergill.

It is now time to return to the events which led to the construction of Victoria Buildings. At a meeting of the Town Council early in 1875, Councillor John Earp Minnitt, chairman of the Health Committee, proposed that the town put up dwellings for workpeople in its employment. Minnitt had fairly recently been elected to the Council as a member for St Mary's Ward; he considered that better housing would attract better employees, would protect their health, and help them to be more efficient at their work. On February 8 a committee was appointed "to advise as to the desirability" of such a plan, and the following week the Industrial Dwellings Committee met for the first time, under the chairmanship of Councillor Minnitt. Unhappily, Minnitt was not to remain on the Council long enough to see the fruits of his proposals completed; in May 1877 he was declared bankrupt, and was obliged to stand down from political life. A lace manufacturer, J E Minnitt lived in Regent Street, and had business premises in Stoney Street and in Thornton Street, off Alfreton Road. At the end of 1877 he published a rather remarkable pamphlet, "Homes for the People, a monograph of Victoria Buildings". In this little work he set out the case for model dwellings for the working classes, and described Victoria Buildings in some detail.

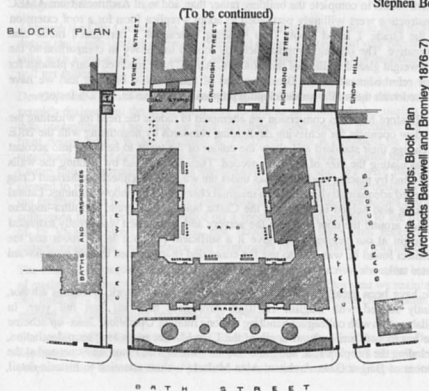
Minnitt wrote that, while model cottages for agricultural labourers, similar to those designed by T C Hine, were the ideal dwellings for working people in the country, it was necessary in large towns to obtain the maximum of residential accommodation on the minimum of land. Improved dwellings in London, of five, six, and seven storeys, had seen a death-rate substantially lower than the average. In addition to improved industrial housing, he was anxious to raise the standards of registered lodging houses, and stated that in Nottingham lodgers gladly paid 30 per cent more for beds in houses properly managed by the Health Committee than they did in ordinary registered lodging houses. His hope was that, in a better standard of home, the working man, aided by the improved system of education then taking shape, "will shrink from the dram-shop and the stew, and find satisfaction in the tranquil and happy sphere of home pleasures and home duties". Minnitt asserted that when

* Printed by Thomas Forman & Sons, Nottingham 1877

a man had a comfortable home, a capable wife, and well-kept children, he acquired self-respect, which was a protection against temptation to drunkenness: "The working man's misfortune is that, too often driven from home by discomfort, he takes drink recklessly and in large quantities, so that what would be harmless if taken at meals or by the fireside, becomes a cause of drunken degradation when taken in the tap-room or the dram-shop".

Minnitt also perceived another important social gain inherent in the concept of the block of Industrial Dwellings: "While perfect privacy and quietude are secured to each home, any considerable breach of decorum becomes very conspicuous, and as the inhabitants become more and more drawn together by their common interest in their social club, their clothing and coal clubs, and other subjects of mutual concern, a public opinion is created which strongly tends to correct any individual irregularity". Another development which J E Minnitt strongly advocated was the investment of Trade Union funds in improved dwellings. These would, he declared, return a higher rate of interest than any other equally safe investment, and the resulting benefits to the tenants would "render this a class movement of a highly desirable character". We must now see whether these high-minded aspirations were to be realised in Victoria Buildings, and what obstacles were encountered in the creation of the block.

Stephen Best



THE CONSERVATION AND DESIGN SERVICE

Review of the year 1994

The City Council Development Department's conservation and design service this year continued to develop the promotional side of our work while attempting to maintain high standards of aesthetic control and listed building restoration. Listed buildings restored include some of the most prominent landmarks in the city such as The Playhouse, Pearsons and the Midland Station.

Our main contribution to the Midland Station refurbishment was to redesign the layout of the *porte cochère* area by eliminating some waiting areas to create much more space for pedestrians. Architects Derek Latham of Derby who were also responsible for the Castle refurbishment have again persuaded their clients of the benefits of incorporating works of art into the building fabric - watch that space!

Tim Kellett, with our colleagues from Development Control made meticulous efforts to ensure the restoration of as much of the historic fabric of Pearsons as possible and although much has been lost, we should perhaps pay tribute to the work of my predecessor Bob Harrison for the fact that the building did not go the way of the Black Boy. Architect Julian Marsh has produced a fine extension to the Playhouse which seems to complete the building rather than add to it. Architects from AMEC construction were willingly persuaded to adopt a replica form for a roof extension to the Grade 1 listed Boots D10 building instead of a corrugated metal-clad alternative. The original proposal actually looked top heavy in comparison to the lightweight glazed walling of the structure. AMEC have received many plaudits for their refurbishment of the Broxtowe end of this massive building and we have worked with them all year developing proposals for its sister, the D6 factory.

For Basford Maltings conversion we attempted to reduce the need for widening the window openings for achieving daylighting standards by negotiating with the BRE to change their standard and allow the colour of the walls to be taken into account in calculating the size of window needed. They agreed, and by painting the walls white and by placing students' desks under the windows, architects Sutherland Craig achieved adequate daylighting with minimal change to the window openings. Lateral thinking also helped in designing the Castle buttry. The grand and ultra-modern portico around the door between the servery and the kitchen was greatly extended in height at our suggestion to give it a sufficient presence in the room and the architect found he was able to use the concealed space created to hide an awkward water tank.

We have been greatly assisted by Sarah Higgins, our Historic Buildings advisor, jointly funded with English Heritage throughout this, her first full year. In collaboration with colleagues handling the long running 'Operation Clean-up' scheme she has helped 'turn-around' some of the Lace Market area's long term dereliction, including the People's Hall and the Georgian buildings on Plumpton Street and at the bottom of Barker Gate. Architect Alan Mulcahy's close attention to historic detail,

and our insistence upon high standards of craftsmanship have achieved some of the city's finest restoration to date. Meanwhile, work on the Shire Hall continues apace.

Next year we hope to gain approval to increase funding by transforming the Town Scheme into an English Heritage 'Partnership' scheme.

A Conservation Area assessment guide has been approved for the Castle, as a result of Rick Simpkin's dedicated efforts. In this we have identified some trees and tall buildings which need to be removed to open up the views of the Castle and restore it to civic prominence. The landscape element running through conservation work can surprisingly prove controversial from time to time. Our second conservation assessment guide this year, also produced by Rick Simpkin for Wollaton Village is currently going through public consultation. Rick, our landscape specialist, and members of the local conservation society have developed a landscape preservation scheme, involving restoring old boundaries, enclosures and replanting gardens with trees and shrubs which are native to this area rather than with exotic conifers.

In our role as urban designers for the City council and working with colleagues from the City Centre Team we have come up with concept designs to improve the area between the station and the city centre, including Broadmarsh East. We have also advised on the details of the proposed Light Rapid Transit System - from shelter designs to ideas for a logo!

Although the City Council was unable, due to financial constraints, to fund an urban design study into the links between crime and design, we have had very encouraging talks with a potential private partner and remain optimistic that this important work will get underway in 1995.

Development Control is an area in which the planning authority reacts to other people's designs, but the department sees its role as promoting design quality rather than controlling it. This year we have developed good practice guidance for shop front design which is due out early in 1995. The team is consulted on the most significant 20% of development applications, which this year included the Victoria Centre flats, Mapperley Hall and the General Hospital site. We were particularly pleased to receive a Mark of the Month award in recognition of the design work of our architect Tim Kellett, who, in conjunction with the clients, their agents and other colleagues in the department, pulled off a spectacular improvement to the frontage of 15 Victoria Street. The brand new double height shop front restores in a contemporary style, the elegance and proportions of an imposing Victorian facade.

The work of the service also involves getting the message across about the benefits of quality and sensitivity in restorations and new schemes. This year we maintained our links with Nottingham University Planning and Architecture Departments and guested at a conservation conference at Newark.

Our small staff virtually took over Clifton Village for the Heritage Open Day in September, causing traffic gridlock as we struggled to cope with the queues of people wishing to see inside the Hall, the church and other buildings opened for the

day. Thanks are due to all who helped, including historian, turned guide Ken Brand, and particularly our own Trish Harrop, who marshalled the guests and volunteers like a veritable headmistress! One upshot of our focus on Clifton Hall is that its listed status has now been re-assessed. It becomes Nottingham's sixth "Grade I" Listed Building. This may help with plans for its restoration now being worked up with its owners Nottingham Trent University.

We recently undertook a survey of conservation areas in Nottingham and identified some potential gaps in the spread of our outreach work. With this in mind, the team, backed by our department's highly professional Technical Support service, entered into a joint venture with the Civic Society and sponsors Thomas Fish and Sons and Frank Goulding builders, to produce a photographic exhibition of the Old Meadows area. This is now touring and will visit Angel Row library between January 16th and 30th, before being given to local schools to help in national curriculum core studies.

Finally the conservation and design service will be brought bang up to date next year when we take possession of a package of new technology, including computer, printer, fax and scanner. These will be put to immediate use in commencing marketing listed buildings at risk. From filing system to the desk of a potential purchaser we will be able to transmit details electronically including photographs of buildings within seconds rather than days or weeks as at present. Is there a volunteer out there with a little spare time each week and with some knowledge of filing systems to help us with the mammoth task of transferring our paper based files to disc?!

Priorities for next year remain as this: Listed Buildings at Risk, community safety and quality in the 'public' or street environment. We shall also be helping to develop the large and small schemes now emerging for the Heritage Fund of the National Lottery. And on the Millennium Fund how about a tall, elegant sculptural tower on the top of Colwick Woods Hill to set the scene for the next 1,000 years in the way new developments on the Castle Rock did for this millennium back in 1068? Ideas on a postcard please.

Jerry Greer-Spencer, Service Manager, Conservation & Design,

Development Department, Nottingham City Council

If any members were inconvenienced by the change of date of the Centenary History of Nottingham Seminar from 24th November to 23rd November I offer my apologies. I tried to point out the change of date by having a correction slip sent with every Newsletter.

Ken Brand

MARK OF THE MONTH

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

1994
OCTOBER Restoration of 3 Derby Terrace, Derby Road
Client : Park Industrial and Commercial Holdings Ltd
(Stephen Gibson)
Architectural Consultant : John Rhodes
Contractor : Paul Bowers Building Services

NOVEMBER The Playroom, Nottingham Playhouse
Client : Nottingham Theatre Trust Ltd.
Architects : Marsh and Grochowski

3 DERBY TERRACE, DERBY ROAD

Mark of the Month October 1994

The refurbishment of No. 3 Derby Terrace, Derby Road, provides a good example of how attention to detail can bring a poorly altered building into something close to its original appearance.

John Rhodes with the aid of later Victorian photographs persuaded his client into agreeing with proposals to reinstate the front balconies, and fit an exact replica front door. Further restoration to the rear, involving the installation of natural stone steps and a reclaimed cast-iron balustrade, has created an impressive clients' entrance.

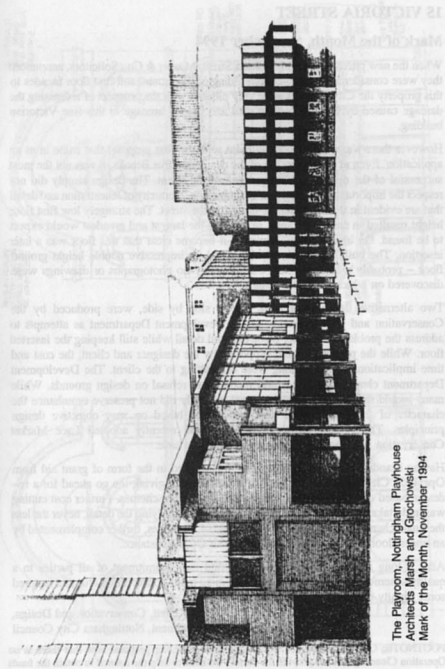
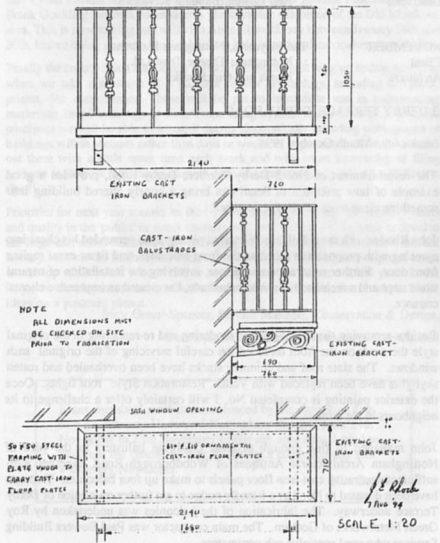
Besides removing the existing upper rendering and re-rendering in the original style the work on the front included the careful servicing of the original sash windows. The slate roof and chimney stacks have been overhauled and rotten skylights have been replaced with Velux "Restoration Style" roof lights. Once the exterior painting is completed No. 3 will certainly offer a challenge to its neighbours in the terrace.

John managed to find enough original Georgian balusters in the yard of Nottingham Architectural Antiques of Woodborough Road, together with sufficient decorative cast-iron floor panels to make up four balconies. Two sets have been donated to No. 2 as a friendly nudge to get further restoration of Derby Terrace underway. The fabrication of the balconies was undertaken by Roy Green Metalworks of Gotham. The main contractor was Paul Bowers Building Services who used specialist sub-contractors.

A grant of £500 was obtained from the City's Conservation Fund to "encourage sensitive restoration" of No. 3 Derby Terrace, this terrace being one of Peter Frederick Robinson's earliest works for the 4th Duke of Newcastle, c.1830.

Ken Brand

PROPOSED BALCONIES TO BE REINSTATED
TO FRONT OF 3, DERBY TERRACE,
DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM



The Playroom, Nottingham Playhouses
Architects Marsh and Grochowski
Mark of the Month, November 1994

15 VICTORIA STREET

Mark of the Month, September 1994

When the new purchasers of 15 Victoria Street, Masser & Co., Solicitors, announced they were considering a complete rebuilding of the ground and first floor facades to this property the City Council were very pleased with the prospect of redressing the damage caused by the 1960's slate clad and glazed frontage to this fine Victorian building.

However there was some disappointment with the first proposal that came in as an application. Even at the admission of the designer Clive Brooks, it was not the most successful of the options he had put before the client. The design simply did not respect the important characteristics of proportion, hierarchy of fenestration and detail that are evident in the Victorian buildings on the street. The strangely low first floor height resulted in small windows, just where the largest and grandest would expect to be found. On investigation, however, it became clear that this floor was a later insertion. The building could only have had an impressive double height ground floor – probably a banking hall. Unfortunately no photographs or drawings were discovered on which to base a design.

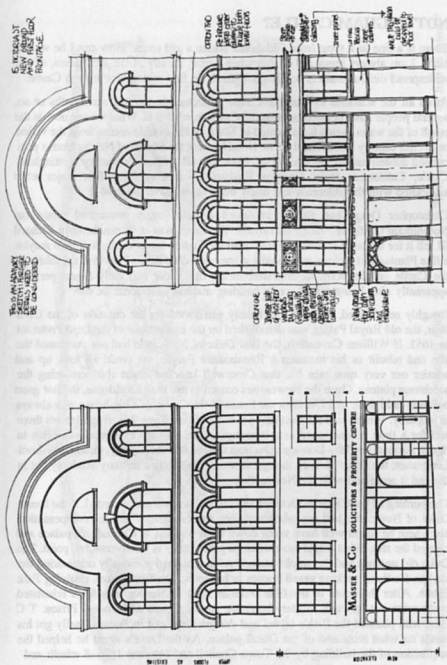
Two alternative design proposals, shown side by side, were produced by the Conservation and Design section of the Development Department as attempts to address the problems of scale, hierarchy and detail while still keeping the inserted floor. While the principles were supported by the designer and client, the cost and time implications in redesigning were off putting to the client. The Development Department clearly stated it would recommend refusal on design grounds. While many would say it was an improvement it clearly did not preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area which was based on very objective design principles. These were clearly laid out in the recently adopted Lace Market Conservation Area policy which strengthened the case.

Having brandished the stick, the carrot was offered in the form of grant aid from Operation Clean-up. This resulted in Masser & Co. giving the go ahead for a re-design based upon one of the Conservation & Design schemes. Further cost cutting was undertaken by using reconstituted stone and simplifying the detail, never the less the final scheme was produced to the delight of all parties, further complemented by an upper floor clean-up and restoration with OCU assistance.

After a long and difficult negotiation period the commitment of all parties to a quality scheme resulted in a major enhancement to the conservation area and restored some dignity to this important Victorian building.

Tim Kellett, Conservation and Design,
Development Department, Nottingham City Council

FOOTNOTE: One wonders what would happen to a similar proposal now that there is no Operation Clean-up fund to provide the carrot. We need to help the council to obtain the funds to re-establish Operation Clean-up.



15 Victoria Street, the evolution of a satisfactory design.

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE?

There is a line in a song from Oklahoma where a girl sings "How can I be what I ain't". I am always reminded of this when I read, mainly in the local press, of the widespread disillusionment or disappointment on first seeing Nottingham Castle.

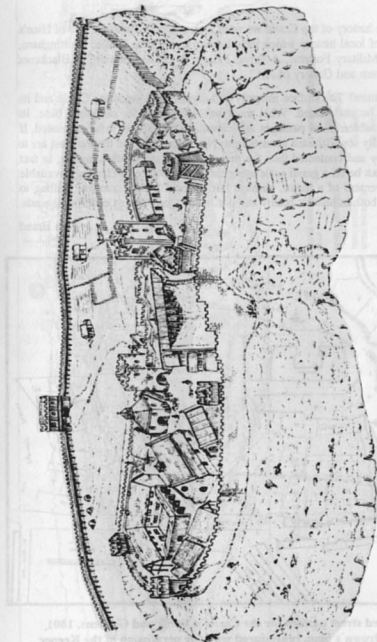
Amid all the schemes to alter the Castle publicized in the last six months or so, several people have pointed out that the Castle is what it is. What we see now is the result of the ways events have treated it. Much of the trouble comes from the vision of twelfth century Robin Errol Flynn Hood hunting the Sheriff of Nottingham, a post created subsequent to the Charter of 1449, around a fifteenth century Nottingham Castle, Californian style. Douglas Fairbanks Senior was the first major artist associated with this dilemma and many other actors have nurtured it.

Christopher Drage has already produced a meticulously researched report on Nottingham Castle, *A Place Full Royal**. The castle was at its zenith when Richard III left it for defeat at Bosworth Field. Had the Tudors taken kindly to it then maybe a fine Plantagenet fortress would now grace our Castle Rock. However the fabric of the Castle and its walls deteriorated during the Tudor and early Stuart periods, apparently after being raided for its building materials for domestic use.

Roughly refurbished, fortified and hastily garrisoned for the duration of the Civil War, the old Royal Palace was demolished on the instructions of the Lord Protector in 1651. If William Cavendish, the first Duke of Newcastle had not purchased the site and rebuilt as his mansion a Renaissance Palace, we could all look up and admire our very own ruin " .. that Cromwell knocked abait abit" crowning the sandstone plateau. Once the Newcastles ceased to use it as a residence, the last great ball was held there in 1776, then the future of the Castle as a big house was always in jeopardy. Whilst over the next fifty years a number of people had apartments there and for a time it functioned as a boarding school its very existence was often in doubt. Around 1800 the Dowager Duchess offered it to the County, through the Lord Lieutenant; the Duke of York thought it would make a fine military academy but in the end it remained with the Newcastles.

The burning of the Castle in October 1831 is well known and recorded. If the fourth Duke of Newcastle had not taken umbrage and his money and his compensation elsewhere he might well have taken down what was left of Cavendish's palace and cleared the site. What might have taken its place really is a conversation point. The Duke did nothing and the smoke stained ruins remained eventually dominating the skyline for those seeking grand houses in his son's, (the fifth Duke), evolving Park Estate. After the death of the fifth Duke in 1864 alternative uses for a reinstated castle were put forward: military barracks, Assize Courts and County Prison. T C Hine who planned the Park's layout and designed most of its houses finally got his hands on what remained of the Ducal palace. As the Duke's agent he helped the acquisition of the building by the Town Council and between 1876-8 rebuilt and

*T.T.S. 1989 Vol. XCIII. Funded largely by your Society.



Nottingham Castle, at the time of Robin Hood.
A reconstruction c. 1188. View from the west. (TTS 1989 Vol XCIII)

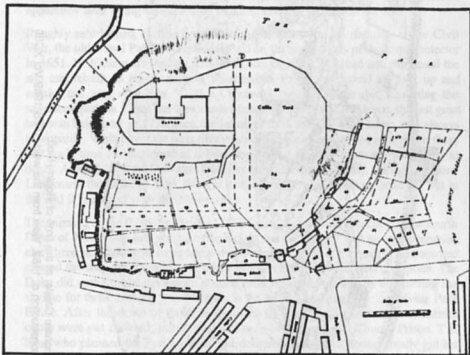
"Not quite what we had in mind."

restyled the Castle in a manner, for the time, fit for the first provincial Museum of Fine Art

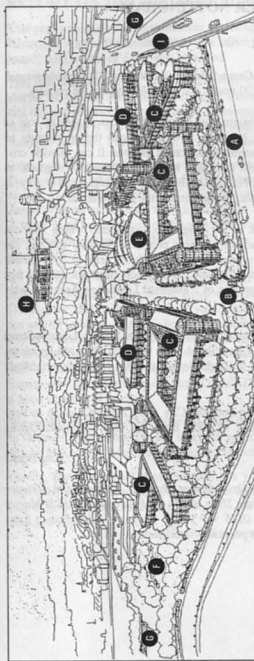
To sum up the history of the Castle we need look no further than the title of Hine's compendium of local history which includes much about the Castle, "Nottingham, Its Castle, A Military Fortress, A Royal Palace, A Ducal Mansion, A Blackened Ruin, A Museum and Gallery of Art."

What of the future? The surface integrity and dignity of the existing Castle and its grounds must be maintained. What must be exploited is its sandstone base, its dungeons and subterranean passages and caves and tunnels yet to be excavated. If the electronically sophisticated tourists from North America and the Far East are to go home happy and contented then the presentation of the Castle's history, in fact and fiction, must be on a grand scale using the most advanced technology available and the involvement of a major, perhaps international leisure company willing to invest heavily both in historic reality and one of the world's most enduring legends.

Ken Brand



A proposed street pattern for the Castle's Yards and Gardens, 1801, (Part of Brown's plan, reproduced with the permission of the Keeper of Manuscripts University of Nottingham).



VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS CASTLE

- A CASTLE MEADOW ROAD
- B VEHICLE ENTRANCE
- C THREE STOREY OFFICE BUILDINGS
- D FOUR STOREY OFFICE BUILDINGS
- E AMINITY BUILDING
- F SECURE CAR COMPOUND
- G CANAL
- H CASTLE
- I WILFORD ROAD

The Inland Revenue Offices, Castle Meadow.
Architects: Michael Hopkins and Partners

GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

Action for the Environment

Have you heard of Groundwork? Groundwork is the leading UK environmental partnership organisation active in 120 towns and cities throughout the country.

Groundwork specialises in the environmental needs of business. It sees its role as working in partnership with local business, government and the community to improve the environment and economic prospects of an area. It can provide cost effective environmental services and can often attract sponsorship and grants to support some commercial schemes. Nationally Groundwork, a registered charity, is sponsored by The Post Office and the Department of the Environment.

A recent initiative of Groundwork is the Brightsite programme which sets out basically, to improve the appearance of business premises. Security fencing, car parking, lighting and signage are among features which help to give better impressions to clients and create a more pleasant work place. Brightsite offers a free design consultancy involving the services of a qualified Landscape Architect who will supply cost effective solutions.

Two early Brightsite Schemes in Nottingham were for Ristes Motors, Gamble Street and for J Stirland and company in Willow Road. With the latter there is a knock on effect for work has just started on a Brightsite solution for Stirland's neighbour National Autoparts.

For Ristes, grants were secured from both the City and County Councils to help towards costs of £60,000, including £15,000 from the City Council's Urban Programme.

Ken Brand

Thanks to Stephen Hare, Projects Development Manager, Groundwork Greater Nottingham, who supplied information. Their offices are located at 35-37 St Mary's Gate, Nottingham NG1 1PU. (Tel 0115 979 9227). They are quite distinct from Groundworks Architects featured in previous Newsletters.

REPORT ON 1994 HISTORICAL WALKS

This year was again a disappointment regarding the numbers of public taken on the Historical Walks. Fortunately this was offset by the private parties that we took round! And a total of £459 was achieved.

This year we featured the 'Three Parks' walk which started at 10 a.m. - a new time slot for us - but as the majority of people who attended were OAPs (at 50p a time), this did not produce a large amount of revenue. But having started these daytime tours, I consider it worthwhile persevering with them for another season at least. My thanks to Maurice, Fred and Ken for guiding and to Molly for collecting the money.

Once again the council House tours were thrust upon us with very little warning, and Stan Saunders did a very good job of organising the guides at short notice. For the second year running the City Council advertised these tours in the Nottingham Arrow without mentioning that all the guides were members of the Civic Society. A letter from our secretary pointing out this omission resulted in a very apologetic letter from the editor of the Nottingham Arrow. We do not receive any money from this service.

As last year, the tours of Mortimers' Hole and King David's Dungeon have proved extremely popular. This year the tours were started 2 hours earlier than in the past (12 noon instead of 2 p.m.) and the season was extended by a further 3 weeks until the end of October. This resulted in a revenue of £2,193 which, at 50p a time and 25p concessions, represents an amazing total of 3,600 adults and 1,572 students, OAPs and children. This is a marvellous result and my thanks to Brian, Ken, Stan and to our new guide Graham Godfrey. I hope that the council's plan to 'commercialise' the Mortimer's Hole/David's Dungeon caves does not take place for a good number of years.

We were hosts to two other Civic Societies this year - Hull in June and Chesterfield in October. I am pleased to say that both parties enjoyed their visit immensely. My thanks to Ken and Maurice for helping me out on those occasions.

Finally, due to personal commitments, this year I was unable to fulfil my role of organising the guides rota and also to guide tours as often as usual. I would therefore like to give special thanks to Ken Roberts for taking over these duties for me this year and next.

David Newham, Chairman, Walks Sub-Committee

Hull Civic Society

Institution since Hull Civic Society
Registered with the Civic Trust
Registered Charity No. 126483

Our Ref:- PLJA.

6th July, 1994.

R. Banks, Esq.,
1 Ashley Close,
Chilwell,
Nottingham. NG9 4BQ

Dear Ray,

On behalf of the Hull Civic Society may I thank you and your colleagues, David & Ken, for your hospitality and attention given to us on our visit to Nottingham.



Chesterfield Civic Society

0246 278031

Mr. R. Banks,
Nottingham Civic Society,
1 Ashley Close,
Chilwell,
NOTTINGHAM NG9 4BQ.

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18.10.94

Dear Ray,

We were very pleased to meet you and your colleagues
last Sunday. Our members found the afternoon extremely
interesting.

Nottingham & Notts Photographic Society

Dear David

Just a note to say an official 'Thank You' on behalf of all the participants who enjoyed your guided tour last Saturday afternoon. I can assure you that it was very well received by all of us, my only regret being the necessity to restrict its length.

Grateful Thanks '94



Chandlers Court
158-159 High Street
Hull HU1 1NQ
Telephone 0482 227467

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND

Many of our members will already be more or less familiar with the work of the CPRE and its aims. Mrs Valerie Gillespie, the Chairman of the East Midlands Region, spoke to us in October 1993.

CPRE is a vigorous national organisation which aims to cover all aspects of the conservation of the countryside. Its campaign material and its reports are well-researched and of high quality. The Civic Society is a member.

We have collaborated with CPRE in its Transport Campaign Group and in other ways and are at present concerting our efforts in opposition to the proposed fourth Trent River Crossing.

CPRE are now offering, for a limited period, a concessionary membership subscription of £10 for our members. If you are interested, will you please contact me either by phone or letter and I will make the necessary arrangements. This is an excellent opportunity to help in the preservation of the countryside in a positive way.

Ray Banks, Secretary

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Ray Watkinson (author of 'William Morris as Designer')
will give a talk on

WILLIAM MORRIS, ARTIST

at Cecil Roberts Room, County Library, Angel Row, Nottingham
on

Thursday 23 February 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

A VICTORIAN SOCIETY PRESENTATION

VICTORIAN SOCIETY NATIONAL EVENT

May 19-21 1995 'The Victorian Country House'

Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria

A residential conference at Higham Hall, itself once a Victorian country house, near Cockermouth. Lecture by the historian of Higham; visit to Ruskin's house Brantwood, combining steamer trip; excursion to Mirehouse where Tennyson visited; option of sketching party led by professional painter. Inclusive cost approx £95.00 per person (ensuite extra £5.50 p.p. per night; single extra £3.50 p.p. per night). A limited number of non-residential places could be available at a slightly reduced cost. Expressions of interest and s.a.e. for information to Sheila Smith, 2 Hermitage Walk, The Park, Nottingham NG7 1DR.

As soon as possible