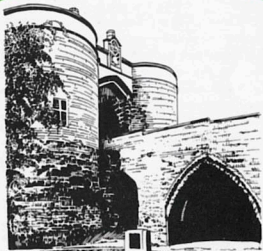


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NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

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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.

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September 1996
NEWSLETTER

Nottingham
Civic Society

101



The Atrium

The New Magistrates Courts, Canalside
(Photograph: Martine Hamilton Knight)
The venue for the Christmas Party (see enclosure)

75p

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APOLOGIES

Due to several unforeseen circumstances the preparation of this issue of the Newsletter was delayed. As a result it was not possible to publicise the Heritage Open Day held on the 15th September. I do apologise to all those involved in the organisation and running of this event.

Ken Brand

Mark of the Month July 1996 DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL SITE

The redevelopment of the former Nottingham General Hospital site has resulted in the recent completion of Royal Standard Place, a major new open space in the City, close to Nottingham Castle.

This significant environmental improvement to an historic part of the city was realised when the opportunity was taken to demolish the ten storey concrete Trent Wing, which had previously dominated the near and distant views of the Castle.

Due to changing requirements and the provision of replacement facilities elsewhere, the General Hospital site became surplus to medical requirements. The Nottingham Health Authority decided to dispose of the site and, because of its strategic and historical importance commissioned Crampin and Pring to prepare a masterplan, in conjunction with the City Council, in order to ensure the cohesive development of the area.

Nottingham General Hospital was established in 1781 as the result of a bequest and public subscription. A site was chosen just outside the town wall on Derry Mount, where King Charles had raised his Standard in 1642, precipitating the Civil War. The original building was designed by John Simpson of Budby on land given jointly by the Corporation of Nottingham and the 3rd Duke of Newcastle. It was completed in 1782.

As Nottingham expanded the original building was extended to cater for increased demand. In the mid 1850's a third storey was added by the eminent Nottingham architect of the day T C Hine. He also designed the Gothic style Chapel erected at the same time adjoining the main building.

Further Growth in demand necessitated further extension and the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897 was marked by another new wing built in 1899. Alfred Waterhouse was chosen as the architect for the impressive five storey circular Jubilee Wing, similar to his work in Liverpool and London,

Since the turn of the Century, numerous extensions and separate buildings had cluttered the site to the point that it presented an almost impenetrable maze in which the buildings of quality and historical importance were hidden.

The Masterplan proposed clearing a large part of the site whilst retaining the best buildings, including the original Hospital building, the chapel and the Jubilee Wing. These buildings are given an appropriate setting by the provision of an elliptical arena-like space. This will provide a much-needed

area for public events in a part of the city visited by many tourists. Beneath the arena is a car park with 42 spaces all completely hidden from view.

To the South of this space are four sites for new office developments. Beyond these sites a new road provides the infrastructure backbone, linking to the existing site entrances which are signalled by the magnificent existing wrought iron gates.

The former nurses' home "Memorial House", recently listed, which overlooks the Castle is retained and earmarked as a possible hotel. The remainder of the plan identified a variety of possible uses including the erection of residential apartments or offices along the natural escarpment to the west side of the site overlooking the Park Estate and with superb views down the Trent Valley. Outline planning permission was obtained for the Masterplan.

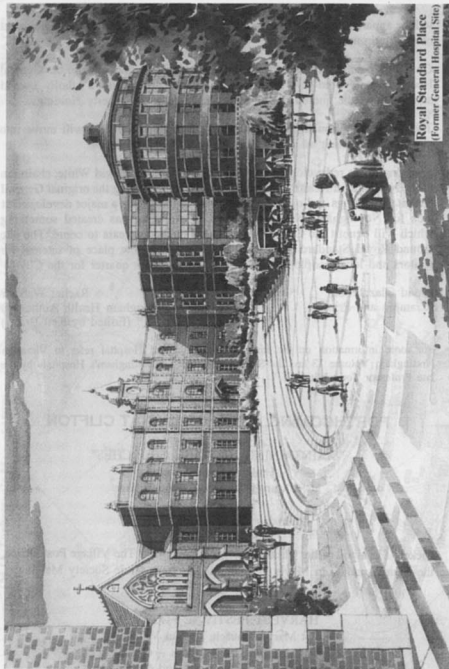
The Nottingham Health Authority decided to establish their administrative offices on the site. Detailed Planning Permission was obtained for the conversion of the original building and Jubilee Wing, together with a new glazed link block, for their needs. Their new address is 1 Standard Court, which houses over 200 staff. Detailed permission was also obtained for all demolitions, and the construction of the arena and access road. A substantial European Regional Development Grant of almost one million pounds was won to assist the funding of both the formation of the arena and the restoration of the facades of the original building.

Construction work commenced in January 1994, and on Thursday 7th December 1995, after the Nottingham Health Authority moved into their new offices the Duke of Kent formally opened and named the arena, Royal Standard Place.

The environmental benefits of this development to Nottingham are significant. It has introduced open space of a form and in a strategic location that is of benefit to both people working in the surrounding buildings and to tourists.

The removal of the oppressive Trent Wing and other unsightly buildings such as the Hospital boiler house, its associated chimney, and a large substation have transformed the site.

In addition to the arena with its dynamic form of steps, seating, and ramps offering disabled access, the Masterplan provides the framework for the sensitive location of further new buildings respecting the natural form of the site. These buildings will be set in landscaped surroundings appropriate to this urban location. Crampin and Pring's design for the whole development fully exploits the potential of this magnificent site. For those working on, or visiting the site the dramatic physical and historical aspects of this part of Nottingham



Royal Standard Place
(Former General Hospital Site)

will be apparent, contributing significantly to their appreciation and enjoyment of the environment.

On the 20th May this year the Nottingham Health Authority sold the General Hospital site to the Old Hall Development Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the quoted public Company Southend Property Holdings.

The first letting on the site is to Eversheds Solicitors who will move into purpose built office accommodation later this year.

Speaking of the redevelopment of the Hospital site, Sir David White, chairman of the Nottingham Health Authority, said, "In refurbishing the original General Hospital buildings and opening up the rest of the site as a major development area for Nottingham, Nottingham Health Authority has created something which will benefit the City of Nottingham for many years to come. The site around Royal Standard Place will not only be a new place of interest for visitors and local people, but also as a new business quarter for the City."

David Glazebrook
(Crampin and Pring)

Rachel Webster
(Nottingham Health Authority)
(Edited by Ken Brand)

For more information on the history of the General Hospital refer to Victorian Nottingham Volume 13 and the Society's booklet on Nottingham's Hospitals by the late Professor Tony Mitchell.

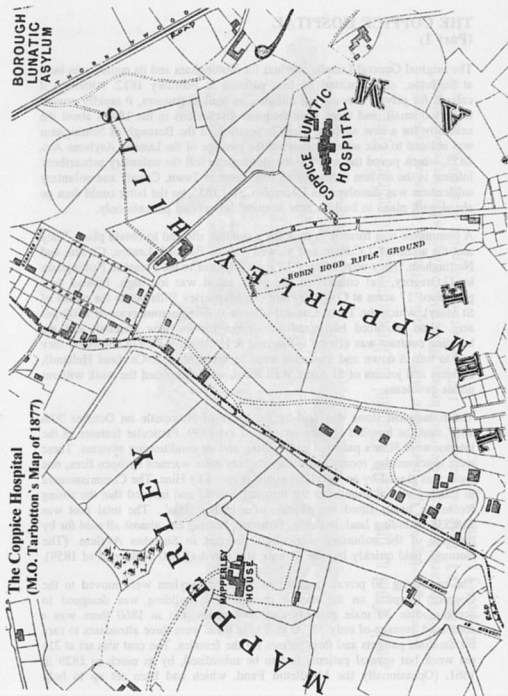
FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT CLIFTON

"MAINTAINING HISTORIC CHURCHES"

A talk by John Severn
at St Mary's Church, Clifton Village
on
Thursday October 24th, 7.30pm

Tickets £1 (in aid of the Church Fabric) obtainable at The Village Post Office, the Church and from Mavis Forsythe at October's Civic Society Meeting.

HARVEST FESTIVAL FLOWERS
St Mary's Church, Clifton Village
will be open from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
on Saturday and Sunday 5th and 6th October
for the Harvest Festival Flowers.



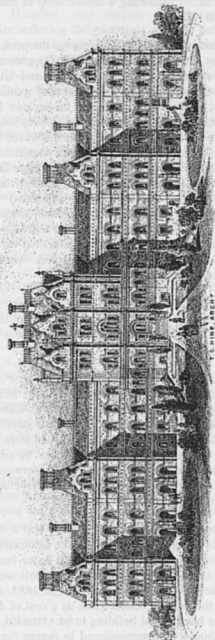
THE COPPICE HOSPITAL (Part 1)

The original General Lunatic Asylum for Nottingham and its county was built at Sneinton, and admitted its first patients in February 1812. Although it catered for private fee-paying inmates, as well as paupers, it rapidly proved to be too small, and there were frequent discussions in the 1840s about the necessity for a new asylum. The Corporation of the Borough of Nottingham was obliged to take action following the passage of the Lunatic Asylums Act, 1853, which paved the way for the Borough to sell the voluntary subscribers' interest in the asylum at Sneinton. The Union of Town, County and voluntary subscribers was dissolved on December 31st 1855, so the latter could then go ahead with plans to build a new hospital for private patients only.

A committee was formed to look for a suitable site and to obtain plans. They met the architect T.C.Hine and viewed sites in Basford, Lenton, Carlton and Nottingham. They were offered 17 acres adjacent to the Forest in Nottingham by G.Gregory, but considered the price asked was too high. Instead they purchased 17 acres at Coppice Farm (on Mapperley Hills but in the parish of St Mary), which the Town Council offered at the generous price of £100 per acre. Hine produced his grandiose design for the new hospital, and the building contract was offered to Garland & Holland for £9,975. However they had to turn it down and instead it went to Ward Mills & Co. (and Holland), builders and joiners of St Ann's Well Road, who completed the work without undue problems.

The foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Newcastle on October 30th 1857, and the hospital opened on August 1st 1859. Particular features of the interior were Hine's patented gas lighting and air conditioning systems. There were spacious day rooms and all apartments were warmed by open fires; one room was graced by an 'excellent piano' donated by Hine. The Commissioners in Lunacy visited soon after the hospital opened and insisted that the sitting rooms be 'better fitted for patients of a higher class'. The total cost was £18,538 including land, building, furniture, heating etc, almost all paid for by the sale of the voluntary subscribers' interest in Sneinton Asylum. (The Borough paid quickly but the County still owed £8,000 at the end of 1859).

The remaining 30 private patients at Sneinton Asylum were moved to the Coppice Hospital on the day it opened. The building was designed to accommodate 30 male patients and 30 females, but in 1860 there was a combined average of only 38. At that time there were three attendants to care for the male patients and three nurses for the females. The cost was set at 21s per week but several patients had to be subsidised, by as much as £829 in 1861. (Occasionally the Middleton Fund, which had been set up to help



South Front of the Lunatic Hospital for the County and Town of Nottingham.

This engraving was the frontpiece in the Coppice Hospital's Annual Report for 1860. The architect's son, George Thomas Hine, added wings which were completed in 1883. G.T. Hine had earlier, in 1875, won the first prize of £100 for the new Mapperley Lunatic Asylum.

paupers at Sneinton Asylum, provided assistance). The cost rose to 40s in 1868 but had to be reduced following a drastic drop in numbers, although it was up to 40s again in 1872.

Dr William Barney Tate, one of 27 candidates for the post, was appointed as medical superintendent a few months before the Coppice opened. He was a Londoner, educated at King's College, Aberdeen and University College, London. He was a qualified physician, surgeon and apothecary. On leaving University College in 1849 at the age of 22, he became for the next three years the sole surgeon in charge of all troops on various ships sailing to India and back. Then he turned to a career in the treatment of the insane, apart from ten months during the Crimean War when he was responsible for the medical care of 500 men of the Army Works Corps, whose former Director-in-Chief, Sir Joseph Paxton, wrote from Chatsworth to add his approval of Tate's appointment to the Coppice in 1859. Tate submitted no less than 25 testimonials, including those referring to his excellent work at the Lancashire County Asylum, at Grove (a private asylum in Suffolk) and at St Luke's Hospital for the Insane in London. Many commented on his patience and kindness, as well as his professional skill, virtues which were much in evidence during his long career at the Coppice.

He died 'in harness', aged 86, in 1913 after 54 years there which, not surprisingly, was the longest period of service of any asylum superintendent in England. (From 1867 to 1923 A. Heymann was a Governor of the hospital).

Until 1886, when Frank Percival was appointed as first Assistant Medical officer, Dr Tate ran the Hospital single-handed, apart from the nurses and attendants by then numbering thirteen. Percival was followed in 1899 by Ernest Forward, he stayed for 30 years. Many patients stayed for long periods, none longer than the last survivor of the group moved from Sneinton Asylum in 1859, who died at the Coppice in 1915. However by no means all of the patients became institutionalised: the recovery rate between 1859 and 1890 was 29.3%. Dr Tate complained that the rate would have been higher but for friends removing patients before they were ready.

However the high percentage of long stay patients was a contributory factor in the shortage of beds in the 1860s. In 1863 the Commissioners in Lunacy advised that a new wing was needed, but eight extra beds were provided instead. Still demand exceeded supply potential patients were turned away in the 1870s until two new wings were completed in 1883, each for 20 beds. They were built with the help of benefactions at a cost of £9,000. T.C.Hine had wisely allowed for his original building to be extended, and it was fitting that his son George should be commissioned to design the new wings.

Although for private patients only, Dr Tate was at pains to point out that it was a registered Hospital. Any surplus funds were used for making improvements or for reducing the payments of some patients. He felt obliged to state this in his Annual Report for 1895, following the heated discussion in local circles about using the site for a new workhouse, when he realised there was 'considerable ignorance' about the hospital. The idea of a workhouse next door appalled Dr Tate; fortunately for him it was built at Bagthorpe.

There was always freedom for some patients to come and go. Some went for walks in the pleasant grounds, there were trips to the seaside, visits to theatres and concerts, attendance at morning services at St Ann's and St Jude's, meets with the hounds, and in 1861 two female patients were taken to the Great Exhibition in London. By 1915 carriages were kept for daily drives into the countryside. But not all were suitable for such treatment: a female patient escaped from the grounds one day in 1892, and in her few hours of freedom became pregnant. Dr Tate never felt it necessary to use restraint or seclusion even though some of the patients when at last brought to the hospital are found dirty, violent and destructive.

In 1894 the commissioners reported that all patients were quiet and orderly, always the acme of perfection in their eyes. They said the building was in excellent order and there were "no bad smells anywhere". By the early 1900s prospective female patients were turned away. It appears to have become a haven for all well-to-do ladies.

Tate always said that he wanted the hospital to be as home-like as possible. Judging by photographs of the official brochure for 1915 it was an up-market home suitable for the upper class, with a billiard room for the gentlemen and an expansive drawing room for the ladies, who were always kept separate. Both had access to a library with 1200 volumes, 25 daily and weekly papers, and ten weekly and sixteen monthly periodicals.

There was constant praise for the nurses and attendants, although the ratio of patients to carers was favourable - 87 patients to 12 nurses and 10 attendants in 1912. Many stayed for a long time, such as John Hill who served for 37 years, 34 as head attendant. He was 'beyond all praise' according to Dr Tate who felt the loss personally when Hill died in 1904.

Terry Fry

(to be concluded)

NOTTINGHAM MAGISTRATES COURTS AND BRIDEWELL

Building History and Design Philosophy

The Nottingham Magistrates Courts and Bridewell project was conceived ten years ago. Following the formation of a single Nottingham bench, created by the merger of the Guildhall and the old Shire Hall, a site was required that would be able to accommodate 28 courtrooms together with all the ancillary facilities needed to run them. The County Council also took the decision at the same time to site a new police Bridewell, or central cell block adjacent to the new courthouse to cater for all overnight and weekend arrests in the city area. Several sites in the City Centre were considered, the one eventually chosen was thought to provide the best opportunity to locate a civic building of the importance of a new City Courthouse. A new city square off Carrington Street alongside the Nottingham Canal would be created around which the buildings could be sited.

The buildings have been designed by the County Council Architectural Services Design Division as a series of linked blocks that form the new square, with principal pedestrian access to the building from Carrington Street. It was always hoped that a similar size square would be formed on the opposite side of the canal so that the buildings could be approached from a new bridge linking the two squares. The design of the building as a series of linked blocks enable the different functions of those blocks to be easily appreciated and enable more of the rooms within these to have opening windows. The central and largest block contains the Adult Courts, 18 courtrooms, of which 12 are custody, i.e. with docks, and six non-custody, which tend to deal with less serious offences.

The Family and Youth Courts are in the block to the west of the Adult Courts. Here are 6 courtrooms, 4 custody, and 2 non-custody, which deal with all juvenile crime together with domestic court work. This is not a public building with the free access of the Adult Courts, but may only be entered by those directly involved in the cases being heard. To the east of the Adult Block is the Administration section of the Courts which contains the offices of the Justices Chief Executive. The staff in these offices carry out all the administrative requirements for the processing of court cases. The Administration Block also contains a suite of large committee and training rooms that may be converted into courtrooms if and when the number required goes to the full twenty-eight. Further to the east and linked to the Administrative Offices by bridge, is the magistrates and staff car park that has been converted from the old British Rail goods loading-dock. The wall of the car park that faces the canal and the main pedestrian access to the Courts, is the last original wall from the first railway station, built in Nottingham in the nineteenth Century.

The layout of the Adult and Family Blocks, with the use of lifts and stairs to provide circulation routes for the building users, has enabled the designers to provide all courtrooms with natural light and ventilation.

To the rear of the Adult and Family Courts is the Bridewell containing 80 cells with direct links to the custody courts in these blocks. Defendants in custody come up to court from the accommodation on the ground floor, magistrates descend from their areas of the upper levels of the buildings, while the members of the public walk in to court off the court halls at each level.

A principal feature of the Adult Block is the central glazed Atrium space that forms the main entrance to the Courts, the 3 court halls, for waiting to appear in court, and the circulation to these areas. On the ground floor are the payments counter to pay fines incurred in earlier visits to court, and a refreshment bar. The Courtrooms, while all having opening windows, also have blown warm air in winter to provide heating, which is then circulated through heat exchangers in the roof plantrooms to cut down on energy costs.

Visitors to the 3rd floor of the Adult Courts will see a particularly fine view of Nottingham from the south of the City Centre. Though appearing in court is never a pleasant experience for those involved, it is hoped that the pleasant airy waiting spaces provided may make this more acceptable.

The Bridewell contains many innovative ideas in the provision of custody accommodation, principally in the grouping of cells around an 'association' space where defendants in custody may eat, read, or watch television. All cells have integral toilet and washing facilities to make being held in custody a little more civilised than in the present Guildhall cells.

The new buildings are all reinforced concrete frame construction on piled foundations, with brick and artificial stone external walls, and a Cumbrian natural slate roof.

The main feature of the public square is the old canal bridge that was actually only the front of a tunnel that went into the site to a warehouse that provided the interchange between canal and railway. The new face of the bridge has been built to match the existing face as far as possible, and to provide a small water feature in the new square to reflect the old links with the canal.

The small Victorian office block that faces Carrington Street has been refurbished as part of the whole development to provide archives for the courts, and ancillary office space.

The main contractors have been Higgs and Hill (Midlands) Ltd., who have been building the project from October 1992. Courthouses are difficult

projects to build because of their complexity, and the many problems encountered during the construction period have been dealt with in a competent and professional manner.

The building that has been produced is the result of close co-operation between the design team, construction team and the County Council, and has provided a building that will serve the city for a century.

The building opened for business on the 20th November 1995 but the formal opening ceremony took place on Friday 3rd May 1996.

David Hoar / Geoffrey Truman

STATUES AND MEMORIALS

Following our recent indulgence in the matter of "Statues" in the Newsletter I am grateful to Eric Horriben for a photocopy of a letter in the Nottingham Daily Guardian 9th August 1875 concerning the lack of a Byron Memorial. The letter is incomplete and the newspaper itself is missing from the Local Studies Library's Collection.

Two quotations from a long letter will suffice to convey the writer's sense of the injustice:

"It is greatly to be regretted that your endeavour to arouse the people of Nottingham to a sense of their duty to the memory of Byron should at the outset have been marred by the advocacy of one of your correspondents. I trust, however, that the public will not be allowed to rest until we have wiped out this disgrace of allowing the most notable man of our county, and, as has been well said, the most notable man of the nineteenth century, to remain without public recognition. The longer the recognition is deferred the greater is our disgrace in the eyes of the world."

"This is not the place to treat of Byron as a poet. His fame is secure whatever we may do, but we owe it to ourselves not to delay to recognise what the world has long recognised. As a Nottinghamshire man whose love for his county was perhaps the strongest attachment to life, we ought at once to honour him who has so imperishably honoured us."

Perhaps something could be arranged for 1998, the bicentenary of his time at 76 St. James's Street (1798 - 1799) aged 10 years. The open space now available opposite his old home, on the redeveloped General Hospital Site, might well provide a suitable location.

Ken Brand

CANALSIDE DEVELOPMENT.

At last Nottingham has become aware of its inner city waterfront. For long neglected, the stretch of the Nottingham Canal from Castle Marina to the Trent is seen now as a valuable resource.

That part between the Canal Museum and Wilford Street is the latest and perhaps the most exciting section to be redeveloped. The proposals are for major office and south facing leisure facilities. The glimpses shown here are the much adjusted designs of the architects Franklin Ellis for the developers, Monk Estates. Demolition of the existing buildings is currently well underway. The former Stevex factory and the British Waterways building will be the only survivors, the latter being refurbished separately by its owners.

A feature of interest is the proposed bridge over the canal which will link the new leisure areas with the refurbished canal tow-path and the public square in front of the new Magistrates' Courts.

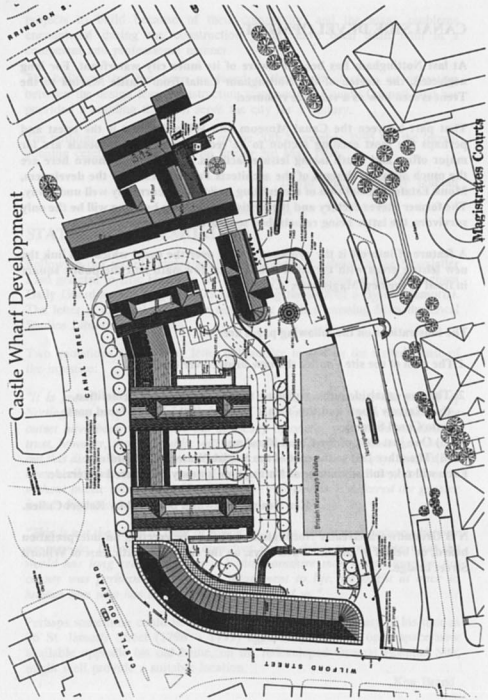
The illustrations on the following pages are:

1. The plan of the site - notice the new bridge over the canal.
2. The two canalside pubs, replacing the two lost through demolition, the 'Narrow Boat' and the 'Canal Tavern'. (Which both faced north onto Canal Street).
 - i) One just west of the Canal Museum.
 - ii) The other just to the east of the British Waterways building.Each will take full advantage of Nottingham's newly discovered waterside.

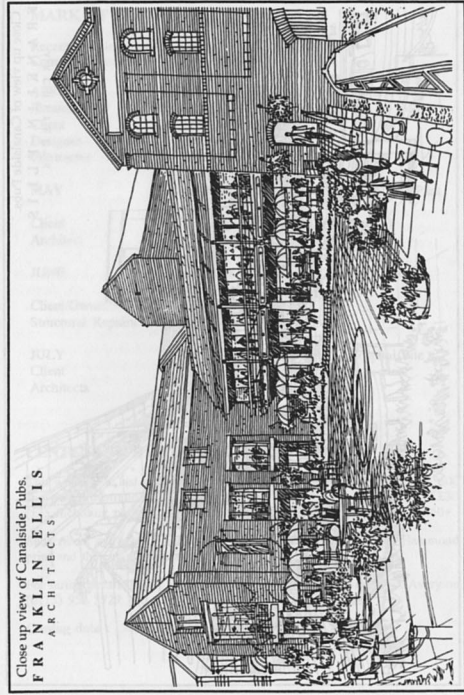
Ken Brand / Drawings provided by Robert Cullen.

N B Groundwork Greater Nottingham will soon be erecting an interpretation board, on behalf of British Waterways, on the canal tow-path, east of Wilford Street bridge.

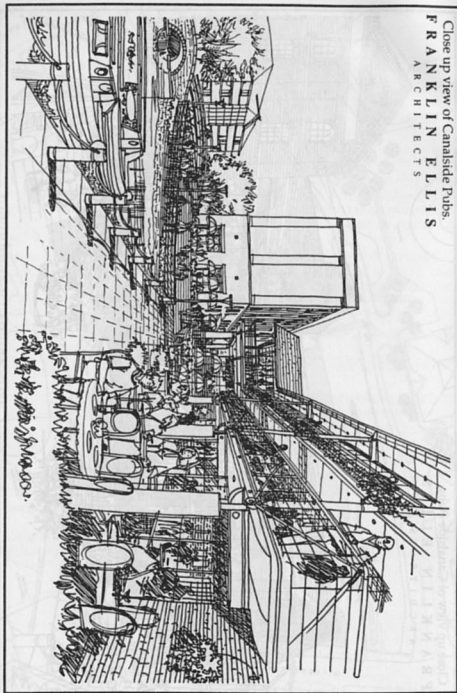
Castle Wharf Development



Close up view of Canalside Pubs. FRANKLIN ELLIS ARCHITECTS



Close up view of Canal-side Pubs.
FRANKLIN ELLIS
ARCHITECTS



MARK OF THE MONTH

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| APRIL 1996 | Refurbishment: Kitchen & Bathroom Centre
Ilkeston
Client : G.W. Willbond Ltd
Designer : William Fish
Contractor : Thomas Fish & Sons Ltd |
| MAY | Refurbishment of 2 Western Terrace, The Park
Estate
Client : Hammond Estates (Bill Hammond)
Architect : Cox Freeman Partnership |
| JUNE | Roof repairs "TIL House" 52 Village Street,
Clifton Village
Client/Owner : M Ackroyd
Structural Repairs : C R Crane & Son Ltd |
| JULY | Redevelopment of the General Hospital Site
Client : Nottingham Health Authority
Architects : Crampin and Pring |

CENTENARY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM

This will be the last reminder that the Centenary History of Nottingham, 600 pages and illustrations, can be ordered now at the "Subscribers' price" of £30 (£35 including postage and packing). The normal retail price will be £50+.

Subscribers will receive a certificate with a reproduction of a Tom Hammond print and their name will appear in the book.

For further details phone Brian Playle on (0115) 921 3003 or Janice Avery on (0115) 951 5929.

Closing date : 30th September 1996.

MARK OF THE MONTH APRIL 1996

G W Willbond Ltd of Ilkeston Road celebrate their centenary this year. The firm started on Radford Boulevard in 1896 and in the ensuing one hundred years have remained loyal to the Radford district, operating from sites in Old Radford Station Yard, St Peter's Street and Faraday Road. Their present Kitchen and Bathroom Centre on Ilkeston Road has just undergone a £50,000 refurbishment with the help of a grant from Nottingham City Council.

The work, undertaken by Thomas Fish and Sons Ltd, has given the premises a new roof, cleaned brickwork and the replacement of aluminium windows with wooden sash windows in keeping with its original style.

William Fish, Design Director of Thomas Fish has introduced more display windows into the new shop frontage, and signage which reflects the traditional nature of the clients business. Internally there are new reception and tile areas. Overall the Victorian buildings have been respected.

Last year Willbonds purchased a derelict two acre site at Deakins Place, off St Peters Street, on which they established a new Trade Centre for their Plumbers' Merchant business through an investment of £750,000.

Tony Hogg, Managing Director of G W Willbond Ltd observed: "Radford has to be a good location for our businesses. It is convenient to be just outside the City Centre with ample free parking and easy access to the ringroad and motorway. We have a very loyal customer base which is comfortable with our location and we saw no point in uprooting from the area".

William Fish/Ken Brand



G W Willbonds Ltd, Ilkeston Road
After Refurbishment.

Mark of the Month June 1996

"TIL HOUSE", 52 VILLAGE STREET, CLIFTON VILLAGE

A young Nottingham couple Julia Loach and Mick Ackroyd are proud owners of an extremely rare example of a mediæval hall in Clifton Village. The house was described by Maurice Barley in his book "The English Farmhouse and Cottage" (1961, reprinted 1982).

Julia and Mick bought the house from Nottingham City Council in 1994 in a very dilapidated state and have been repairing and restoring it to its former glory. The opening up of the recent finishes has confirmed Professor Barley's scholarly analysis of the evolution of the structure.

A severe set back to their work was caused by a fire started by vandals in July 1995 which destroyed much of the roof. The roof structure has been repaired by West Bridgford specialists C R Crane and Son Ltd using home grown oak selected from local woodlands. Traditional methods of shaping the timbers with an adze and jointing with oak pegs were used to replicate the burnt timbers. Thatching work is being undertaken by Paul Deer and his men using traditional methods with straw and hazel spars from local sources. The roofing work was completed in June.

The building is timber framed, L shaped in plan, currently with two storeys. The main hall was built as a single storey three bay cruck framed open hall. The principal truss has a fine crown post supporting the ridge beam dated by dendrochronology to 1319. The hall consisted of a buttery or service area at the west end separated from the main hall by a cross passage leading from front to back door. A cross wing with brickwork dated 1707 is attached to the east end. The timber frame of the cross wing is dated 1476.

There is evidence of three successive fireplace arrangements in the hall originally the fire would have been on an open hearth slab with the smoke percolating out of a vent in the roof, later a smoke hood constructed from oak studs with mud infilling was inserted. This arrangement of conducting the smoke outside would have improved living conditions in the hall drastically. It also enabled a first floor to be inserted.

The mud and stud chimney has been repaired by Julia and Mick using a mixture of clay, straw, cowdung and lime. A brick fireplace and chimney breast were inserted inside the smoke hood in the 18th Century. The exterior walls are now brick dating from the 18th to 19th Centuries but must have been timber or mud prior to the introduction of the brickwork. Some interior partitions are still of plastered mud and straw which have been carefully preserved.

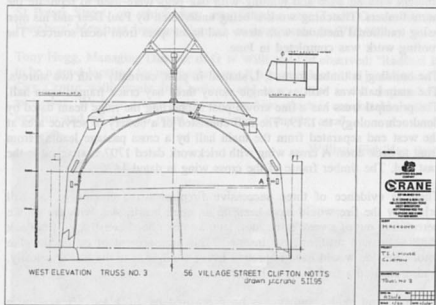
The west end has a brick extension dating from the 18th Century containing a fire brick faggot oven and cooking range. The east end and cross wing has the inscription TIL 1707 in projecting header bricks.

Maurice Barley pointed out that the TIL House was so called because Thomas Lambert and his wife Joan were responsible for casing the parlour wing in brick in the year 1707 and their work is perpetuated on the south gable in brick headers. (Pevsner refers to Thomas and John Lambert).

Maurice used this house to remind his readers that the date on a house may not be the date of its building. (Editor)

External works to secure the building are nearing completion and Julia and Mick are looking forward to around two more years of careful repair and restoration of the interior.

C R Crane



REFURBISHMENT OF 2 WESTERN TERRACE, THE PARK.

MARK OF THE MONTH MAY 1996

This Victorian house of 1863, probably designed by T.C. Hine, has been used as a school since the 1920s. Falling rolls have forced the present owner to sell off one of the two school buildings and part of the playground.

The long neglected fabric of 2 Western Terrace has undergone extensive renovation, an essential part of the project to convert the building into four large self contained flats. The roof has been re-slatted and leaded, and the old capped stacks have been rebuilt. A dormer has been added to the northern elevation and a roof terrace formed on the southern elevation. In each case appropriate attention has been given to detailing.

Internally, decorative plaster work has been carefully restored. Victorian fireplaces have been reinstated in the living rooms and in the communal entrance hall. The original heavy, panelled, internal doors survive and have been refurbished.

The former playground will benefit from extensive landscaping and access to it will be by a spiral staircase from the off street parking area. The long glazed porch from the ornate street door to the front door has been reintroduced, again with careful attention to detailing.

Bill Hammond.

WHY ? (1)

Why are many house builders attaching signs to lighting columns and other poles ?

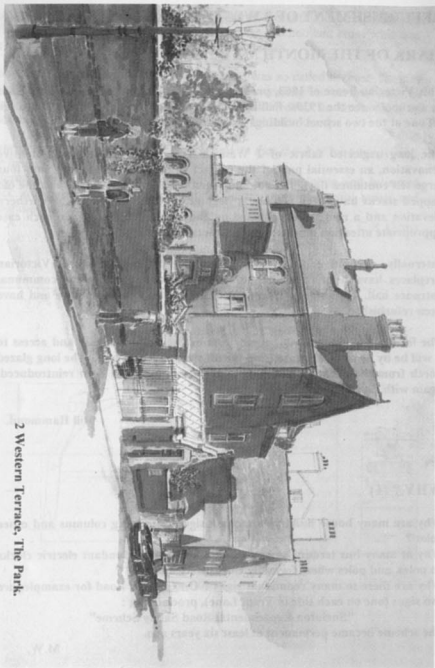
Why at many bus termini and ex-termini are there redundant electric clocks on poles, and poles where formerly clocks were mounted ?

Why are there so many redundant signs ? On Colwick Road for example, are two signs (one on each side of Trent Lane), proclaiming :

"Sneinton Experimental Road Safety Scheme"

The scheme became permanent at least six years ago.

M.W.



2 Western Terrace, The Park.

PLANNING FOR WHOM?

It was, I felt sure, a temporary structure. Alas the greenhouse on York Street has turned out to be the permanent replacement for the Victoria Bus Station - with the long distance coach services being transferred to the Broad Marsh Bus Station.

In discussing this bus station with a number of people, a common reply has been "Well it isn't one, is it!". I and others endeavoured to raise the topic in the Evening Post. Responses from Council Officials sidestepped the issue by being emotive about the creation of jobs, which I think applied to the "House of Fraser" store.

Perhaps I have it all wrong but I remain convinced a decent well designed bus station is a civic amenity, that a city as ambitious as Nottingham claims to be should strive for and later be proud of. It appears that Nottingham's planners rather than designate an appropriate site are happy with what seems to be a small piece of land reluctantly conceded by shopping Centre developers. The new bus station in Leeds was recently described to me by a member of their Civic Trust office as "being like an airport terminal".

Councillor John Peck in a letter to the Evening Post (9.8.1996) reminded us that he opposed the reduced bus facilities and added "However, it went through despite wide opposition". His main thrust came in his concluding paragraph "What the council needs to consider is the construction of a first class bus station in the Broad Marsh East area not linked to yet more shopping facilities but designed for maximum convenience and comfort of bus passengers...". I could not agree more.

Another story, another paradox, is the investment in the Park and Ride scheme and the encouragement given to the provision of 1,000 extra car parking spaces in the Victoria Centre extensions. But I will leave that for another time.

Ken Brand.

"Sheffield supertram falls victim to competition from cheap buses"

My attention was drawn to the article with this startling and worrying headline which appeared in "The Independent" 10 June 1996. The report outlined the operating difficulties experienced in Sheffield and closed with "Sheffield's problems are a big blow for supporters of light rail systems....."

More on this next time, Editor.

CITY BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

The April (No.100) issue of the Newsletter carried an article by the City Council's Conservation and Design Manager noting the substantial part which Society members had played in connection with the 1995 revision of the schedule of listed buildings. Acknowledgement was also made of the work done by the Society's Photographic and Recording Group in making a huge contribution to the first-time comprehensive photographic survey of all 792 listings.

The simple figures involved are impressive:

Number of Group members taking part:	8
Number of buildings/structures photographed:	342
Number of photographs taken:	1427

Whilst the City Council's Development Department provided most of the films, the Society stood the cost of developing and printing all the films used by the Group (£206). The real cost, however, was not in terms of money but of the enormous amount of leisure time spent by the eight members in visiting sites, taking photographs, getting these developed and recording all the relevant details on each of the 1427 prints. The Society is deeply appreciative of this most valuable effort.

AEW

TIME TO SPARE?

The Society's Photographic and Recording Group continues with enthusiasm in its task of making pictorial records of buildings and other urban features of architectural, historical or conservational interest. It has accumulated an extensive collection of photographs which are gradually being referenced and lodged with Nottinghamshire Archives on extended loan. However, the Group members regret that their preoccupation with the photographic aspect or with the preparation of summary histories, precludes their giving the additional time needed for exhibiting the fruits of their efforts.

Is there any reader with some spare time who could take up the challenge to seek out and make use of opportunities for organising occasional displays of photographs in public places, as well as for arranging more informal displays at Society meetings once or twice a year? The role might be well suited to someone who is approaching retirement and who would be glad to perform a very useful function on behalf of the Society; photographic or artistic expertise is not a requirement, but access to a word processor would be most useful though not essential.

Might you be the one? If so, please telephone Ray Banks on Nottingham 9254679.

AEW

NOTTINGHAM TOWN MISSION RAGGED SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING GROUP

This is an example of a brief history, written to accompany a photographic record of the building undertaken by the Group.

The Nottingham Town Mission Ragged School was founded on the 6th February 1839, housed in a building in the Narrow Marsh area. The aims of the Mission were:

- to extend the Knowledge of the Gospels
- to promote the circulation of the Scriptures
- to promote scriptural education
- to form a loan library

By 1846 there are reports of a Sunday School, a school on Monday evenings for boys and one on Wednesday evenings for girls. From 1856 to 1858 the Mission rented a room in Colwick Street (now Brook Street) for use as a school room. In 1858 the decision was made to build their own school and the Mission leased the present site from the Nottingham Corporation for 75 years, with payment fixed at £1 per annum.

The building was designed by Mr C H Wright Edwards of Camden Road, London; the contractor was Mr Carrington of Robin Hood Street, Nottingham. It was designed to accommodate up to 500 children and consisted of one "double classroom", two classrooms and a "large room" for assemblies and services. The architect was paid £76,12 shillings. The building was opened by Lord Shaftesbury on the 19th October 1859.

A contemporary report describes the building thus:

The plan embraces a main building and two wings, the principal front towards Pleasant Row presenting a highly effective combination of varied coloured bricks, to the doors, windows and wings, etc. The style is termed by some Italian Gothic but in resembles the Elizabethan. The architect, however, denominates it modernized Chromatic Byzantine, a style which is creating considerable sensation in London. The front is faced chiefly with Bulwell rubble stone, with a plinth of the same material and copper mould string courses. The windows are semi-arched, while the tri-coloured chimney stacks placed in front between the gables are prominent objects. The roof is high pitched and laid in ornamental colours of a geometric pattern. At the entrance of each school is an ornamental wooden porch, with circular brackets and stone corbels.

The interior presents a simple but effective aspect, having the upper parts of

the walls coloured French gray. The rooms are divided by large folding doors, running on a tramway, by opening which the whole space is made available for lectures, meetings, etc. The rafters of the roof as originally contrived not being found quite strong enough, they had to be braced by strong iron rods. At each end of the building is a large three-light window. In the east wing are two classrooms of ample size, a yard, lavatories, and other out-offices for the use of scholars.

In addition to the building's use as a school, it clearly performed the functions of a "community centre", housing the meetings of an Accordion Band, Mother's group and Industrial Sewing Class.

The building was soon found to be of insufficient size and in 1872 Her Majesty's Inspectors for Education advised that the numbers enrolled in the school be reduced to 305. Shortly after that, in 1873, the first qualified teacher was appointed, presumably so that the school would qualify for a government grant. He was aided by an adult Assistant Teacher and two pupil teachers.

From the 1st January 1878 the management of the school was taken over by the Nottingham School Board, on condition that the Nottingham town Mission could use the building in the evenings and at weekends (which they did until 1903). Sometime in the late nineteenth-century two single storey extensions were added to the main building. From 1878 until 1931 it was known as the Colwick Street Council School, housing 300 infant pupils. The building was "condemned" for use as a school by the Board of Education in 1924 but continued in such use until 1931.

In 1932 the building was leased to Nottingham City Council's Mental Deficiency Committee and used until 1939 as an "occupational centre for mental defectives". After that date it seems to have been used by the Council as a storage depot for furniture, fruit and vegetables.

Between 1947 and 1961 it housed the textile workshops of the technical school for the textile trades.

In 1983 the building was listed (Grade II) by the Department of the Environment, who described it as follows:

The Ragged School: 1858 with late nineteenth-century additions. Coursed rubble with ashlar and red, white and blue brick dressings. Patterned blue tile roof with stone gables. Main school-room block single-storey, 4 bays with 4 gables over large semi-circular headed windows, with red, white and blue brick voussoirs (the wedge-shaped stones forming an arch). Two decorated stacks rising between first and second bay, and third and fourth bay. To east and west are 2 lower 2-bay sections with similar gables over semi-circular

headed windows, single decorated stack between each, canted out from window at base. The eastern stack has date 1858 in brick and inscription which reads "Town Mission Ragged School". Two late nineteenth century single storey extensions project forward from main block. Coursed rubble perimeter wall topped with iron railings and plain ashlar gate piers at south-east corner. Listed for historical as well as architectural interest.

In 1983 it was purchased by Albert Pownall, a former pupil of the school, who had subsequently made his fortune in the family's scrap metal business. In 1992 Madge Pownall relinquished the ownership of the "Ragged School", now in a very delapidated state, back to Nottingham City Council.

Several plans for the future of the building have been considered and abandoned. The current plan (July 1996) is for the building to be occupied by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust as a Head office, with perhaps other organisations sub-letting space.

J.P.Sellars
Photographic and Recording Group

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The thanks of the Society must go to AEW, Eddie Woolrich, for his quiet efficiency in organising the work of the Photographic and Recording Group. It is all too easy to take the efforts of those behind the scenes for granted.

LANDMARK

One of the most neglected eyesores on the northern side of the city centre has long been the important, tapering site at the junction of York Street and Mansfield Road. Members who have been in the vicinity over the last few months will have seen a massive structure rising on what was formerly a nominal green patch and the ill fated "Bobby Brown's".

This "gateway" landmark has been designed by the architects Grogan Culling and developed by Mike Ellis. The building on this triangular plot is in three sections, with heights varying from five to seven storeys, and with a semi-circular tower on the northern apex.

On the ground floor, to Mansfield Road, there are three units suitable for retail, financial or professional services. On the floors above will be 77 self contained flats for the Nottingham Community Housing Association. They will be fully fitted, en-suite, flats to rent, starter homes for singles and couples. The projected completion date is February 1997.

Mike Ellis / Eleanor Millard.



THE OTHER CENTENARY.

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire celebrates its centenary in 1997 and the next Newsletter will include an article about the Society.

As a 'curtain-raiser' to centenary year there will be a concert on Saturday 30th November given by *Sarabande*, a group whose repertoire includes performances of music, poetry, song and dance, in costume, relating to various historical periods. On this occasion there will be a Victorian theme, with the second part of the programme having a Christmas flavour. *Sarabande* have performed in stately homes, at private and public functions and have recently toured S.W. France.

The venue is the Community Hall, Church Drive, West Bridgford. This venue was chosen for its parking facilities and its easy access by bus, services No. 12 (Beeston etc) and No. 90 (Sherwood and Arnold) have stops very near the hall.

The concert will start at 7.30 pm and will be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rushcliffe. There will be refreshments available before, during and after the performance. Tickets are £4.00 and may be obtained at Civic Society and Thoroton meetings.

For further information ring Geoff Oldfield on 923 4834

WHY ? (2)

Why is not an order made (presumably a by-law), banning roller-skating, skate boarding and cycling in the paved area of the Market Square ?
Why cannot something be done to prevent pigeons ruining the efforts of the Parks Department in the troughs and flower beds of the Market Square ?
Why are all and sundry allowed to hang about within the loggia of the Council House and on its steps, leaving litter and probably a lasting bad impression on visitors ?

These questions are asked after reading the article "Conservation Partners Forum" in the January 1996 Newsletter, in particular items 3 and 5, respectively, "Nottingham's Outrage" and "The Old Market Square - its use and misuse".

Maurice Webster (Historic Walks).