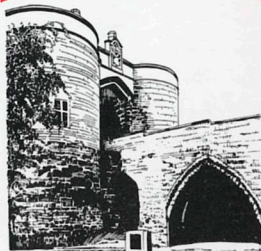


Built by command of Henry III between
1252-55, Nottingham's Oldest Shop:

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Open Daily
10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

President: Professor J. F. Garner
Chair: Rita Cooper
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



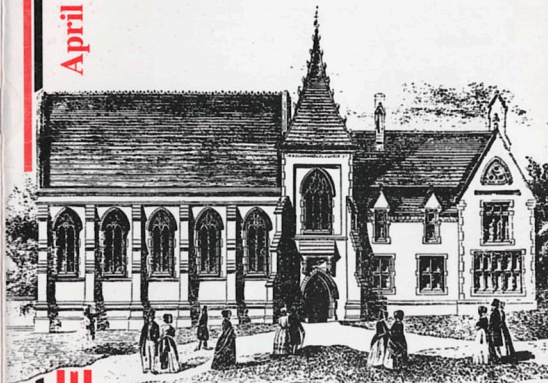
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April 1997

**Nottingham
Civic Society**

103



The People's College, Nottingham.

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE
ERECTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND
VESTED IN THE HANDS OF TEN TRUSTEES,
FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE WORKING CLASSES
OF NOTTINGHAM AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
FOR EVER

A.D. MDCCCLXVI

The People's College, College Street

Original building erected 1846-7

Architect: Isaac Charles Gilbert

Remodelled early 1880s by Evans and Jolley

NEWSLE

80p

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Due to a restricted number of exhibitions being held in the Victoria Centre this year through ongoing building work the Society's annual exhibition held as part of the Civic Trust's National Environment Week (May 10th to 17th inclusive) **will not** be held this year. There is a possibility it might be held in September in association with the Heritage Open Days.

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY, ANNUAL REPORT 1996

We can look back over the past year with some satisfaction. We have successfully promoted our many activities and can continue to claim a very positive place in the affairs of Nottingham. We do not always receive the publicity for our efforts which we would like, though there have been notable exceptions recently, where the press has been interested in seeking our views.

I make no excuse for returning to the question of recruiting. We have certainly made a few new members during the year, but progress is slow and we are still failing to attract younger applicants, who will be our "seed-corn" in the future. This is reflected in the membership of the Executive Committee. This year, two long-serving members, David Newham and Eric Widdison, have decided not to seek re-election, for very good personal reasons. So there will be two unfilled vacancies unless new nominees come forward. There is a distinct possibility that David Shelton may need to give up his position as Treasurer in the near future, posing a further problem.

The income from subscriptions is again down from the previous year. We can boost this with no cost to our members if they will enter into a covenant for their payments. This enables us to recover tax at the basic rate. This year we recovered nearly £400 in this way, a figure which could easily be more than doubled with your co-operation. It is quite painless! Forms can be obtained from me or from the Membership Secretary.

May I give special thanks to Lynn Irvine, our Membership Secretary, who has worked extremely hard, keeping our books in order and persuading sometimes reluctant payers.

Ken Roberts and Brian Massey have continued, with their team, to promote a very active Guided Walks programme. In addition to boosting our image, this provides a very substantial income.

Ken Brand has had a very busy and successful year, looking after the "Mark of the Month", the Newsletter and our publications. We are more than grateful to him. He has also had a continuing important role on the Nottingham Centenary Committee, which will reach the end of its work this year.

Congratulations to the Photographic Recording Group, under the guidance of Eddie Woolrich. This is a small specialised Group, all of whom are turning out consistently high quality work. Apart from its interest to the society, their product is adding to the City's archives of recorded buildings.

This year, the Wollaton Hall Architectural project should reach its culmination with the publication of its results. Our grateful thanks are due to Pamela

Marshall who has carried out the work and to Ken Brand for co-ordinating the publication. We are planning an official launch later this year, at Wollaton Hall. Members will not need reminding that the Project is dedicated to Maurice Barley, of late and affectionate memory.

Special thanks to Bob Cullen for his expert and enthusiastic efforts in matters technical – including membership of the Conservation Partners Forum and Panel, involvement in Local Plan Inquiries and his special promotion of the Emerald Necklace Heritage Fund Bid, which he has made very much his own, expressing his interest in the preservation of open spaces in the City.

The plans Sub Committee which we set up last year has continued to meet regularly every month and make known its views on current planning matters.

We have had two major disappointments in the planning field this year. We did everything we could to save The Nottingham Evening Post buildings from demolition, but without success. We also saw the City council renege on its promises for the Heritage aspects of the Low Level Station site. We have consistently supported these proposals, financially and otherwise, and it is a great disappointment not only to us, but to the Trust which has worked so hard over so many years to promote the scheme. The whole of the site has now passed into the hands of Simons, who are developing the adjacent Island Street site and have been bent on merging the two areas. They have swept away already the distinctive historic features such as the High Level Viaduct. Developers are beginning to come forward, but the ultimate outcome is still somewhat uncertain.

It has been of great relief to us that it has been possible to reinstate the Pearsons development on Long Row West after the recent disastrous fire. We have shown particular interest in a number of recent proposals, including Mapperley Hall and the Old Shipstone's Star Brewery in Basford. We have given financial assistance to the City council in the preparation of several of their Heritage Fund Bids. We paid a special visit to Wollaton Hall earlier last year, when the plans incorporated in the bid were detailed to us by Alan Mulcahy, the architect and John Cockroft. Those who attended were enthusiastic in their support.

We have a very special interest in Nottingham Castle Heritage Fund bid, which is based almost entirely on the proposals in our report of a few years ago. The City's chances of success may have been seriously damaged by the wildly unrealistic counter proposals – for re-building a mock medieval/Tudor castle on the site which have recently proliferated!

The social side has not been neglected. The Christmas Party in 1996 was held in the new Magistrates' Courts building. It proved a most enjoyable and

attractive venue, with record attendance of 160. We were entertained throughout the evening by a quite delightful string quartet.

In Environment week, we again staged an exhibition of photographs and supporting material in the Victoria Centre. This is always well received and provides valuable publicity for the Society.

We participated in the Heritage Open Days with an arranged tour of local architects' premises in the Lace Market, many of them in historic buildings. The programme of Members' meetings provided a wide range of speakers, including an outstanding talk by Dr John Baily, the architect to Lincoln Cathedral and Sheila Mason with a fascinating survey of the history of the Lace industry.

An ambitious programme of outside visits was highly successful. All of them were fully booked and the weather was quite kind to us. We began with an evening visit Bradmore at the invitation of our Chairman. We were entertained in her home, Mill Cottage and spent a very pleasant and relaxing evening, including buffet. The weather was superb and added to the enjoyment.

Visits were to Bridgnorth/Severn Valley Railway/Bewdley, Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, which included a hot supper and an extremely interesting visit to the archive library (even non-cricketers enjoyed it), Stafford/Shugborough and Ledbury/Hidcote Manor Gardens.

We have, I think, an equally attractive programme lined up for 1997.

During the year we entertained parties from Sheffield and from Leeds and Leeds Civic Trust have invited us to a return visit in 1997.

May I conclude by thanking our Chairman for her unfailing enthusiasm and support. Thanks also to the members of the Executive Committee. My apologies to anyone whom I may have omitted to mention

Ray Banks.

It is not often Society members get a chance to buy a Mark of the Month Award building ! Hine Lodge, Hine Park, Ransom Road (Mark of the Month for March 1993) is currently on the market at £135,000 Details on 985 1185.

ARCHITECTS ANONYMOUS?

While reading recently about Canadian architecture, I was struck by an illustration of the Old City Hall in Toronto. This is the sort of intensely nineteenth century public building which would not look at all out of place in, say, Nottingham, Birmingham, or Glasgow. Of banded sandstone, and built between 1889 and 1899, it possesses, at first glance, some of the character of the old University College building in Shakespeare Street, now of course part of Nottingham Trent University. At the time of its official opening it was Toronto's largest building and the second-largest municipal headquarters in North America. Though much dwarfed now by skyscrapers crowding about it, its architectural quality is not diminished by the latter-day intrusions. What especially caught my imagination about this building was an incident in its history illustrating the enterprise and wit of its architect, Edward J Lennox, who was clearly influenced in his designs by H H Richardson's Allegheny Court House in Pittsburgh. Lennox had asked to have his name recorded on a plaque on the exterior of his Toronto building, but the city authorities refused permission for this modest recognition. Lennox's solution to this rebuff was wonderfully appropriate. Binding his stonemasons to secrecy, he instructed them to carve a single character on each of the stone brackets below the upper windows. This was accordingly done, and the sequence of letters around the building still reads E J LENNOX ARCHITECT A D 1898. One sincerely hopes that the response of the Toronto City Fathers to this *jeu d'esprit* was suitably apoplectic.

This tale prompted thoughts about signed buildings in general, and Nottingham's architecture in particular. If you know where to look you can find in the City Centre the signatures of architects such as Watson Fothergill (and his previous incarnation Fothergill Watson), Gilbert Doughty and G R Isborn. The notion of architects being identified on their buildings is an attractive one. For one thing, Ken Brand and I could have been spared years of (so far) fruitless searching and conjecture about the architect of Windley's silk factory, now Bancroft's, in Robin Hood Street, had his name only appeared somewhere upon its exterior. I cannot remember a time when Ken and I have not been obsessed by this minor, but compelling, architectural mystery. On a similar theme, the long-running mystery about the identity of the architect of Lambert's factory in Talbot Street (now known to be Robert Clarke) would have never arisen had his name been recorded on the building. Though their wild-goose chases after architects' identities give much pleasure to an eccentric few, they so take up time and energy which might be expended in other fields of research.

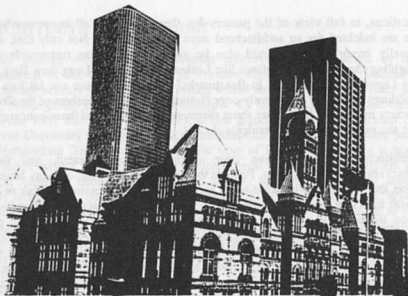
These thoughts give rise to a wider possibility. If all architects were allowed (or, indeed required) to have their names inscribed on the outside of their

creations, in full view of the passers-by, then we should all know to whom we are indebted for an architectural asset to Nottingham. Not only that, and equally important, we should also be aware of who was responsible for blighting the city with buildings like Littlewood's store on Long Row East, or the Lloyd's Bank complex in Beestmarket Hill. We all have our hit lists of buildings that lower offensively over Nottingham: many members of the Civic Society may know how to set about discovering the names of those concerned, but the majority of local residents do not.

Architects deserve to have their successes commemorated, and their achievements widely known. Perhaps the likelihood of having obloquy heaped upon their heads would cause some members of the profession to think twice about inflicting something hideous, or, more often, spectacularly insensitive, upon the city. There are real problems to such a proposal, even when put forward in a whimsical and fairly light-hearted vein, as it is here. Where does one stop? Would only commercial, industrial and public buildings bear the names of their begetters, with private housing remaining exempt from such requirement? What would happen if one architect substantially altered the work of another? Should the names of both be shown? Frankly I have no idea, and I readily concede that the whole argument is a fanciful exercise, with no chance of becoming reality. It does, though, contain a grain of commonsense: architects have, for good or ill, a significant effect on our environment, and it cannot be proper that the vast majority of the population are indifferent to and unaware of, their identity. E J Lennox's Toronto solution to this problem is unlikely ever to catch on but at least it showed that the man was proud of what he had created and wanted people to know who he was. In his 'Georgian London', John Summerson wrote memorably about houses in Milner Square, Islington, which had long both repelled and fascinated him. Considering them to be architecture 'of the most sinister description', and possessing 'an unreal and tortured quality', he concluded: 'It is possible to visit Milner Square many times and still not be absolutely certain that you have seen it anywhere but in an unhappy dream'.* Well, if the E J Lennox solution were officially adopted on all our buildings, we should, as suggested earlier, be able to put a name to those responsible for our worst architectural nightmares, as well as those who give us many moments of excitement and dream-like pleasure through their buildings.

STEPHEN BEST

* Those finding this description irresistably beguiling may care to know that the architects responsible were R L Roumieu and A D Gough, in 1841. If Summerson's verdict seems harsh, it should be mentioned that Ian Nairn, never one to mince words where architecture was concerned, said of Milner Square, that: "It is as near expressing evil as a design can be".

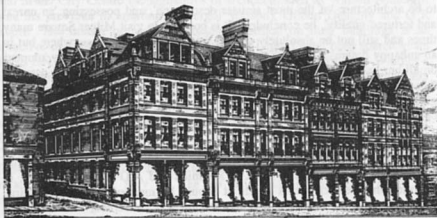


The Old City Hall, Toronto by E J LENNOX ARCHITECT A D 1898
 "Though much dwarfed now by skyscrapers crowding about it, its architectural quality is not diminished by the latter-day intrusions."

BUILDINGS UNDER THREAT (1)

The former Baker and Plumb Store, built in three stages, for F. Pullman, 1879-84
 Signs of "facadom" March 1997

19th Century [Toronto] [New York] [1844]



Shops and Business Premises, Derby Road, Nottingham © Brian Walker and Hewitt Architects

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, NOTTINGHAM – BEGINNINGS

On 2nd August 1997 People's College, Nottingham will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its opening for "The Education of the Working Classes of Nottingham and the Neighbourhood for Ever". A full account of this eagerly awaited occasion, illustrated with the often reproduced drawing of the College appeared in the Nottingham Review on 6th August 1847. The Review had enthusiastically supported the concept of a People's College at least since an advertisement requesting "The Friends and Subscribers of this projected Institution" to "... attend a meeting at Gill and Wright's Counting House on Monday Evening, 6th April at Half past six o'clock", was carried during March 1846.

Gill of Gill and Wright was George Gill (1779–1855) a noted local radical philanthropist. Living mainly before even the primitive stages of photography and seemingly too retiring to have a portrait painted, his appearance is unknown. Gill Street, off Peel Street, was a contemporary civic acknowledgement of his benevolence. His true memorials are People's College, the People's Hall, Heathcote Street and the lesser known Working Men's Retreat on Lamartine Street.

It is not known how long George Gill cherished his vision to provide an establishment where the children of the working classes could obtain an education as good as any provided in a reputable writing school or private academy. It was certainly sometime before 1844. He saw the chance to turn his dream into reality once the land enclosed by the Derby Road Lammass Fields Act of 1839 came onto the market.

The Enclosure Commissioners divided this area, a rough triangle formed by Park Row, Derby Road and the Ropewalk, nearly 18 acres, into 49 allotments. Gill did not attend the George Hotel on 16th July 1844 when some of the first parcels of land now released came up for auction. He instructed Lorenzo Christie, a Lace Manufacturer, to act on his behalf. Christie purchased lots 5 and 6, parts of allotment 24, putting down a deposit of £26 on an agreed price of £263–8–4d to be paid in full by 11th October 1844. Subsequently Gill bought the two adjoining lots which completed the acquisition of the whole of allotment 24, in all 2,411 square yards, a spacious enough plot for the new college.

The plot was situated between the newly set out West Circus Street, later College Street, and the existing Ropewalk Street. It was more or less to the rear of the new Catholic church, which from 1852 became the Cathedral of St Barnabas. Initially Gill promised £3,000 to be given in stages towards the cost of the College. As a person of some standing in the town he was an ideal

choice as the coordinator of fund raising for the remaining money needed. Although there were probably, as yet untraced, preliminary meetings, the main thrust for the College project appears to have started early in 1846. An architect, one of the best in the town at this time, Isaac Charles Gilbert, was appointed to design the new College building. No time was lost. The Nottingham Review of 28th August 1846, under a heading "Town Improvements" kept its readers informed of the development taking place on the former Lamas Fields.

"Houses in the Tudor and other styles of architecture are springing up there, having a much more palatial character than anything the town has formerly seen, and the People's College, which has reached a considerable height above the ground, is already a pleasing feature in that vicinage".

Several months later the Review in its issue of 13th November 1846 printed a very powerful editorial in endorsing the aims of the college, and education for the working classes generally, under the heading "THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE. The writer, most likely the proprietor Richard Sutton himself, though scrupulously well intentioned did get swept away by his own eloquence:

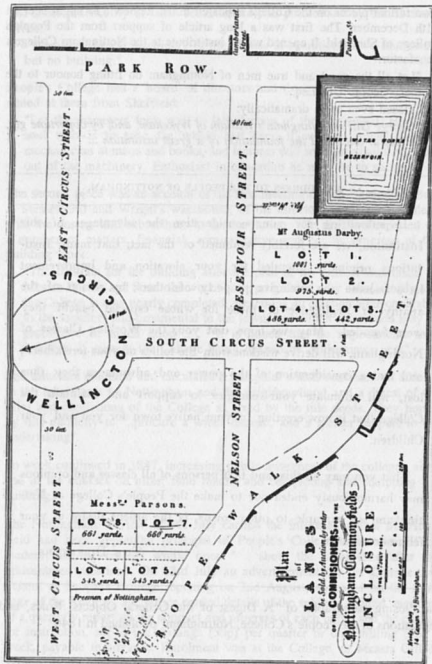
"There is not an edifice in Nottingham more truly sacred, or more calculated to aid the elevation and progression of the multitude than that graceful structure which each week approaches nearer to its completion." and

"The Nottingham People's College is a watch-tower from whence the thoughtful student may behold the dawning of a brighter day - a shrine in which the true spirit of the age will find a dwelling place ..."

There was no doubting the sincerity and warmth of the closing line:

"But, enough: we will but add from our heart of hearts, success, great and enduring, attend the Nottingham People's College!"

(Right) The Plan showing Lots 5 and 6 sold by auction at the George the Fourth Hotel, Nottingham on 16 July 1844 and purchased by Lorenzo Christie on behalf of George Gill. Gill later bought the adjoining Plots 7 and 8. It is worth noting that Plot 4 was purchased by T. C. Hine from Messrs Parsons on 19 September 1845 for £218. On this land he built his family home, later known as 25 Regent Street.



Two further pieces on the College appeared in the Review a fortnight later on 11th December. The first was a long article of support from the People's College of Sheffield. It opened with a just tribute to the Nottingham College's benefactor.

"Let all the good and true men of Nottingham do fitting honour to the man, George Gill Esq..."

and closed even more dramatically:

"George Gill is Nottingham's William of Wykeham, and, by opportune gift, he has at once laid the foundation of a great institution"

8

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF NOTTINGHAM.

In submitting for your consideration the advantages of this Institution, we are forcibly reminded of the fact, that many Institutions originally intended for your elevation and improvement have become the exclusive property of others, by reason of the apathy or negligence of those for whose especial benefit they were founded. May we hope that you, the Working Classes of Nottingham, will derive wisdom from the follies of your forefathers; and that a consideration of the power and advantages they thus lost, will stimulate your energies to support and maintain the College that is now erecting in your native town for you and your Children.

That you may do this, and that persons of all classes and opinions may harmoniously endeavour to make the People's College at Nottingham, an example to other towns, is the ardent desire of your fellow-townsmen,

THE DIRECTORS.

The closing paragraphs of "A Digest of the General Objects, Rules, and Regulations of the People's College, Nottingham" published in 1846.

The sheer practicality of Gill's commitment was pointed out by the Sheffield writer:

"We have had the machinery of the classes in operation above four years, but no building."

People's College had a 'board' of directors and there was a note of caution aimed at them from Sheffield:

"Let the managers look well to the election of their principal. He is the soul who is to tone the whole and keep it sweetly going. A mere mechanic at maps and books, and lectures will soon grind all the beauty out of the machinery. Enthusiast in education he must be to succeed."

The second piece was an account of the first meeting on 7th December 1846, at Messrs Gill and Wright's warehouse, of the directors of People's College with the donors and subscribers to the institution. The directors reported on a number of matters, financial, administrative and on the progress of the building work:

"The contract for the building after the plan of Mr Gilbert was taken by Messrs Burton and Sons: the works have progressed very satisfactorily and the College is now nearly completed, presenting an erection alike creditable to the architect and ornamental to the town; and which it is hoped may be productive of much good .." "It is hoped that no impediments may interfere to prevent the College being opened by Midsummer next".

The directors prepared and circulated a pamphlet which contained an address to the inhabitants of Nottingham and the neighbourhood and a digest of the rules and regulations of the College as fixed by the title deeds. They hoped by this publicity to "...procure a wider interest, and a greater support to the undertaking".

So work continued in 1847, increasing public awareness of the college's aims and of the courses on offer, fund raising and completing and equipping the building.

The Nottingham Review of 9th July carried the information that Mr Hugo Reid had been appointed principal of People's College and informed its readers that the college would open "... about the usual time after the midsummer vacation". On 23rd July an advertisement for the Commercial School of People's College, opening on 2nd August, appeared on the front page of the Review. The notice carried details of the subjects offered, mention of a quarterly report on the conduct and progress of each pupil, and the charge for instruction, set at ten shillings (50p) per quarter or one shilling (5p) a week, payable in advance. Enrolment was at the College, or Messrs Gill & Wright, Houndsgate.

The full account of the opening of the College, strictly initially only the Commercial Department, in the Review of the 6th August carried the assurance that Evening and Female Schools, together with a library and reading room, would be established as soon as funds permitted.

Within a year the library was in use. In the revised version of "The Stranger's Guide to Nottingham" published in 1848 not only is the new college written into the guide's perambulations around the town but the library is mentioned as a place where "...books of any religious or political description may be introduced if approved of by the Board of Directors."

By the beginning of 1850 the promised additional classes were being provided. An advertisement in the Review of 5th January 1850 gave the date and times of the re-opening of the Boys' Day School, the Male and Female Evening Schools and the opening of the Girls' Day School¹.

Although Hugo Reid appears to have left in 1851-52, the College continued to impress with the quality and breadth of its courses under his successor T Buckley Smith². He stayed for thirty years.

The College had seven rooms with four on the ground floor and three on the upper floor. The hall was the largest of the ground floor rooms at 50 feet by 30 feet. It was used initially as a lecture and music room but "by and by, and when the funds of the institution shall admit of it, a large cheap class will receive tuition therein".

One of the three other ground floor rooms was for "the English lesson department", another was used for Geography, History and Mathematics, whilst the third was a class-room for junior pupils. The upper floor rooms were occupied as classrooms for Drawing, Writing etc.

School Boards were set up nationally in 1870 and by the end of the 1870s the day schools of the College were transferred to the Nottingham School Board whereupon it was designated the town's first Higher Grade School. Much of what might now be termed further education work was taken over by the University College, set up in the town in 1877. At this time many parents were lobbying for secondary education provision for their children and the Nottingham School Board was re-assessing its approach to post-elementary education.

The popularity and the success of the College put some pressure on its facilities. For its new role the College was too small. The Nottingham architects Evans and Jolley submitted plans for "Additions to People's College" to the Council on 19th and 31st December 1880. Further alterations and additions were carried out from plans by the same practice on 9th October

1891 and 12th February 1897. The work of 1880-81 enlarged the College to the rear towards the Rowpewalk. With the completion of all of this work the College was virtually rebuilt and the building must have looked very much like it does today. What does remain from the original building, relocated onto the present College Street elevation is the commemorative stone which tells all

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A.D. MDCCCXLVI

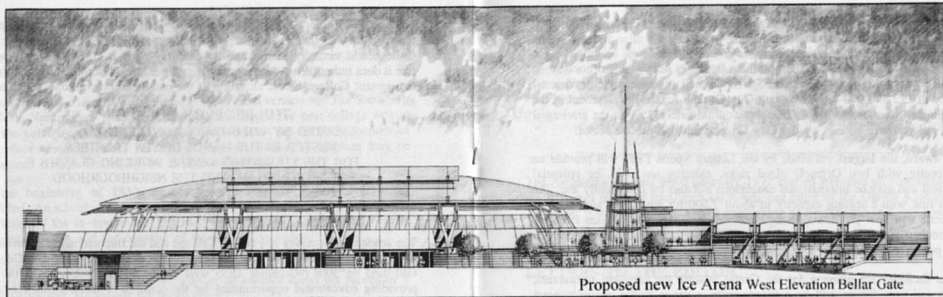
The academic successes of People's College and the fluctuations in its fortunes in the twentieth century makes another story for perhaps another day. George Gill died on 30th November 1855 well aware that his college was indeed providing educational opportunities for the children of the working classes.

People's College was relocated to its present site between Castle Road and Maid Marian Way progressively from 1958-9. By 1965 all the facilities of the new College were completed and in use. Not long afterwards demand was such that extra workshops and classrooms were added. The old premises currently house the County Council's College Street Centre for the Performing Arts.

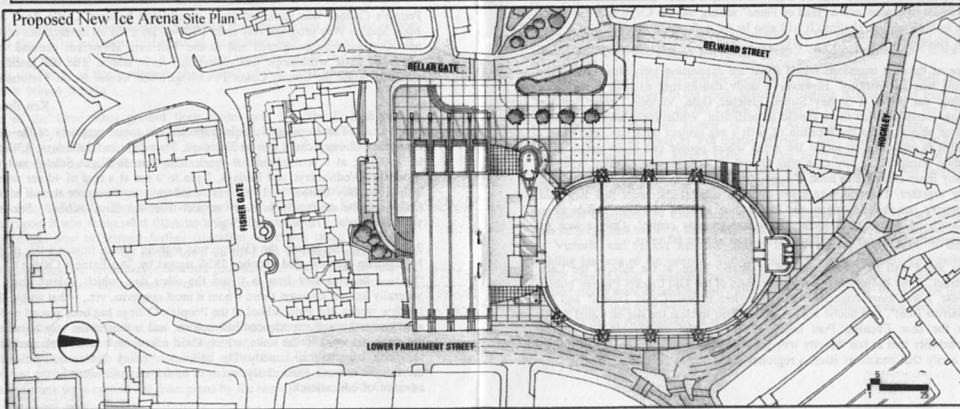
Ken Brand

NOTES: 1. The Evening Schools respected the social propriety of the day, the Male Evening School met on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, at a cost of 6d per week. The Female Night School met on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7 pm to 9 pm at a cost of 4d per week. The Girls' Day School in 1850 was "conducted in the upper rooms of the College, quite separately in every respect from the Boys' School". For this year there were 170 boys and 75 girls on roll.

2. An idea of the impact the College was making comes from a letter in the Nottingham Review, 3rd October 1856 signed by "An Earnest Citizen". "Sir - I heard a fact from a friend the other day, which I don't think is generally known amongst those whom it most concerns, viz., - that within the last few weeks, the girls' school at the People's College has been placed under a very superior and experienced instructress, and is thus in the way to supply an important want to the town, which I and others have often remarked that we did not see how to remedy. The children of many of the middle classes, the daughters more particularly, seem to be left out as it were in the present advance of education."



Proposed new Ice Arena West Elevation Bellar Gate



NOTTINGHAM ICE ARENA

Members may recall an earlier piece about the proposed new Nottingham Ice Rink in Newsletter no.100. The optimism then was fully justified because on 18th February this year the English Sports Council announced the provisional award of £22,496,600 to Nottingham City Council for the development of the Nottingham Ice Arena. This will cover approximately 75% of the envisaged cost, the rest will be met by the City Council and the private sector.

The award, the largest yet made by the Lottery Sports Fund will provide an ice centre with two Olympic sized rinks, catering not only for potential national and may be international champions but also for community use. The main rink with a seating capacity of about 7,500 for ice events and 9,000 at concerts will now provide a fitting home venue for the Nottingham Panthers ice hockey team. The secondary rink will be available for training, practice and public skating.

Other facilities are planned for the Centre besides the expected restaurants, cafes and bars. There will be a fitness suite, a dance studio, major concert facilities of course and a "Hall of Fame" setting out the City's rich history of ice hockey and ice skating. It will also be the national headquarters of British Ice Hockey.

One of the first questions raised about the supporting infra structure for the arena was car parking. However a study considering existing multi-story public car parks at Stoney Street, Fletcher Gate, Victoria Centre and the Broadmarsh felt that these should be sufficient. Whilst there have been some major objections to the location of such a big project on a city centre site I feel it is important to locate the arena where people can easily get to it by public transport. In any case why choose an out of town location when so many inner areas are in need of some development as a means of holding the city together. I would take issue over an official statement that Reginald Cooper's late thirties design, the Ice Stadium opened in 1939, "stands as an eyesore on a very prominent site within the city centre". Only a lack of maintenance has aged the front, even after almost 60 years.

The arena will sit across the end of Barker Gate, at the side of the Lace Market. Some have taken up the likely loss of the 'Old Cricket Players' public house. I was more concerned about the loss of the "Canal Tavern" and the "Narrow Boat", two public houses demolished to clear the site on Canal Street for the new Evening Post building. To me the excitement lies in the probability that at last the city will get a sizeable indoor venue, long overdue in a city that considers itself a regional entertainment centre.

The development of the site will take place in two stages. The main arena will be constructed with the existing stadium still in full use, and should be completed early in 1999. Once this arena becomes operational the existing stadium will close and be demolished. The second arena will be built on this site and will be ready late in the year 2,000.

Compiled as before by Ken Brand, from material supplied by Colin Dyson of the Council's Project Team

The Architects' Journal for 6 February 1997 carried a feature on Nottingham, the first in a series of spotlights on towns and cities of the United Kingdom. The cover was enhanced by a large photograph of Errol Flynn as Robin Hood!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I was very interested by the cover illustration on the recent Newsletter (No. 102 of January 1997) and by the note on page 25 on Booth Edison's house.

Although it is not strictly within the purview of the Civic Society I should like to refer fellow members to the book 'Medieval English Alabasters' by Francis W. Cheetham, published by the Castle Museum in 1962. On page 7 there is a reference to 'Peter the Mason' of 1367. According to Cheetham, he is recorded in 1379 as living in 'Via Beatae Mariae'. I have long thought that this must be the modern 'St. Mary's Gate'. If Peter 'lived over the shop' or at the side of it, then this was where some of the Nottingham alabaster was carved. Some excavation on the site could be interesting.

The panel illustrated by Cheetham on page 41 shows part of a farrier's shop with its forge and tools. A different version of the same subject in a piece in the Victoria and Albert Museum shows a little more of the roof of the building but less of the interior. The two pieces together probably give quite a good idea of what a mid-fourteenth century farriery was like. It seems that the two pieces were carved by two different carvers (kervers). What thrills me is the thought that they were producing models of something which they were familiar with in Nottingham at that date.

Yours sincerely
(Dr) J H Davis

Dear Editor

I would like to make a few brief comments on three items in Newsletter 102 (January 1997).

First, I found much interest in Nigel Lowey's account of his visit to St. Pancras Chambers (former Midlands Grand Hotel, London). St. Pancras Station itself has a local connection - albeit with an engineering works just over the Derbyshire border. The steelwork was fabricated and erected by the Butterley Company at Ripley, where I served my engineering apprenticeship in 1942/47. The notable feature of the Station was the innovative linking of the stanchions by ties hidden under the platforms and trackbeds, rather than by overhead ties which normally obstruct the view of an arched roof.

Secondly, I too was disappointed not to learn of Heritage Days and the opening of local buildings to the public last September, although my wife and I enjoyed a fascinating tour of Uppingham School whose open day came to our attention by chance and without our realising it was part of a national scheme. I do hope that future arrangements will be much better publicised.

Finally, I cannot resist lamenting on the several references (pages 12 and 16 and back cover) to an officer of the Society being referred to as a piece of furniture! I see no need for the Newsletter to yield to this deplorable trend especially when constitutionally the high office referred to is that of Chairman, which is a perfectly correct use of English whether the office-holder be male or female.

Yours sincerely
A.E. Woolrich

Editor's Moan

Listed Buildings

Call me naive, but I wish all listed buildings were buildings. Do not misunderstand me, I certainly want memorials, historic street furniture in the broadest sense, and other significant items well protected, but I want a list of Listed Buildings to contain just buildings. I counted 137 non buildings in the recent new comers list for Nottingham. Here are three examples, the two flagpoles in front of the Council House are two listed buildings, there are eight listed buildings around the boating lake in University Park, each of the seven parts of Wollaton Park wall is a listed building. I could go on, but I will stop and plead for some alternative legislation to protect the artifacts of the built environment.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING GROUP

1. FORMER TA DRILL HALL AND POSTAL SORTING OFFICE, DERBY ROAD

Bought by Leicester Housing Association for conversion into flats and offices. With the Association's consent their architects, Wilkins Hindle Halsall Lloyd Partnership, donated to our Society:

133 colour photographs taken before any conversion work was done

an archaeological assessment of the site

1967 floor plans prepared by the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works

2. ADAMS AND PAGE BUILDING, LACE MARKET

Now vacated for the expected acquisition by Clarendon College. Just as Group Members were planning how to set about making a photographic survey of this historic complex of buildings an approach was made to Maber Associates, (Architects commissioned by the Lace Market Heritage Trust), who kindly transferred to the Society:

138 colour photographs covering the entire premises - inside and out

a complete set of floor and roof plans

All this valuable material has been added to the Society's project files for depositing on indefinite loan at the Nottinghamshire Archive Office.

A. E. Woolrich

VICTORIAN GREEN BELT - VISION OR DREAM ?

The following letter was published in the Nottingham Review on 28 February 1845 in the form of an advertisement. I wonder how many of the newspaper's readers approved of the writer's concept of the "green belt" outlined in the third resolution ? The Nottingham General Inclosure Act received royal assent on 30 June 1845. The green walkway from Mansfield Road to St Ann's: Elm Avenue, Corporation Oaks and Robin Hood Chase was the nearest the Act came to providing any form of green belt.

Ken Brand

GENERAL INCLOSURE BILL TO THE INHABITANTS OF NOTTINGHAM.

February 27, 1845

THIS Bill deeply affect the rights and privileges of above a hundred thousand people in this town and neighbourhood **WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN CONSULTED** on the question; therefore I have called together the meeting announced for tomorrow (Friday evening). The following are four of those resolutions which I shall beg leave to submit to your decision :-

First resolution: - Understanding that, exclusive of the Forest land, which is open to the public *throughout the whole year*, there are around the town between ten and eleven hundred acres, or from *five million to five millions and a half of square yards of land* which are open to the public during part of the year, and therefore cannot be built upon; and understanding that tens of thousands of the poor of this town live in dwellings either badly ventilated or much too small, or very improperly built, back to back, without any private courts, *we anxiously desire* that about FIVE HUNDRED ACRES, OR AT LEAST TWO MILLIONS AND A HALF OF SQUARE YARDS OF LAND shall be made available for building purposes which will be sufficient to contain a population of more than a hundred and twenty-five thousand persons, allowing twenty square yards to each, or more than fifty thousand persons, allowing fifty square yards to each.

Second resolution: - We pledge ourselves to oppose in Parliament the present general inclosure bill, and will oppose any and every future bill that shall not provide for at least five hundred gardens of a thousand square yards each (or one hundred acres), to be enjoyed for ever by five hundred of the oldest inhabitants of Nottingham, who have the privilege of turning

out cattle upon the open lands; but which gardens shall never be built upon.

Third resolution: - We will not consent to any general inclosure bill which shall not provide for the leaving open for ever to the public **THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR** a belt of land all round the old town of at least a furlong in width, so that there shall be everywhere between the old town and proposed new town, a clear open space of at least 220 yards in width.

Fourth resolution: - We will not consent to any portion of the open fields and Meadows round Nottingham being built upon, except the five hundred acres, or two millions and half of square yards of land, mentioned in the first resolution.

Joshua Beardmore.

MARK OF THE MONTH

Recipients of the Society's Mark of the Month Commendation for the first three months of 1997 have been:

JANUARY
Client
Architects

Refurbishment of 53 Stoney Street
Gillborn Properties
Maber Associates

FEBRUARY
Client
Architects

Creation of Lloyd's No.1, Carlton Street
Mansfield Brewery plc
Richard Chadwick Associates (Manchester)

MARCH
Client
Contractor
Designers

Refurbishment of the Forest Tavern
Tynemill Ltd.
Peter Linstead
Tynemill Ltd.

MARK OF THE MONTH

The Society's Mark of the Month for January 1997 was awarded to Maber Associates for the refurbishment of 53 Stoney Street on behalf of Gillborn Properties. 53 Stoney Street is actually two distinct, but linked, warehouses. That part which faces St. Mary's Church and whose side elevation is at the top of Hollowstone was designed by Francis Williamson in 1873 for Pratt, Hurst and Co. The second part, adjoining, which faces onto Hollowstone was also designed for Pratt, Hurst and Co. but of a later date, 1904, and the architect was William D. Pratt.

Both buildings were prepared to receive the firms displaced from the Adams and Page building, further along Stoney Street, once it had been earmarked for development by Clarendon College as its City Centre campus. This was a quality refurbishment with great attention paid to details.

Tynemill Limited received the Mark of the Month for March for their straightforward refurbishment of the Forest Tavern, Mansfield Road. As one of the directors Chris Holmes expressed it: "What we have tried to do is to clean the outside of the building to show it in its true glory."

The interior has been transformed using high quality materials, light wood and ceramics, to give a continental feel in a traditional setting. The continental approach reflects the fact that a huge number of foreign bottled beers and spirits and genuine imported draught products are on offer.

It is hoped that new and vigorous life in the Forest Tavern will help to kick start some long awaited regeneration around this part of Mansfield Road.

The Mark of the Month for February was awarded to Mansfield Brewery plc and their architects Richard Chadwick Associates for the creation of a new bar / restaurant Lloyd's No.1, 1 Carlton Street. As the name suggests the building was long a branch of Lloyd's Bank but in the nineteenth century it was Wright's Bank.

The Wright family of Mapperley Hall started their banking business at No. 12 Long Row as an addition to their ironmongery business around 1760. At the beginning of 1795 the next generation of the family moved the business to Swine Green, at the top of Pelham Street (Gridle Smith Gate). The bank on this site was initially in a mansion of the late seventeenth century situated in an extensive garden which stretched back to Parliament Street. In 1807 much of the garden reverted back to the owner George de Ligne Gregory, who gave his name to George Street which was cut through the land soon afterwards. From about 1810 Swine Green became Carlton Street.

The 'mansion' was radically rebuilt about 1860 for £3,000. A drawing of the new bank was published in "The Builder" 25 August 1860. The accompanying text refers to the recent work, for which the architect was Charles H Evans of London. Whilst some of the features of this facade survive, though much obscured or lost through later additions, their splendour can be glimpsed on one or two early street photographs. Internally the north west corner of the building still has some Georgian features.

Some small alterations were carried out between 1875-77 but major rebuilding took place in 1888 and in the years following to 1893. The architects were Evans and Jolley of Nottingham. The external work produced the new front, whilst the internal work introduced pillars and pilasters of olive green and reddish marble. These distinctive marbles are said to have been quarried near Watcombe Park, Torquay, a residence Charles Wright had purchased from the executors of I. K. Brunel in September 1876.

The bank passed from the Wright family to the Capital and Counties Banking Company by a conveyance of 3 August 1898. In 1918 by further amalgamation it became a branch office of Lloyd's.

Ken Brand

Some information I gathered from a manuscript on the Wright Family and their banking activities written by Guy Sinclair who was on the staff at Lloyd's, 1 Carlton Street. The manuscript is deposited in the Local Studies Library, Angel Row. As I failed to make contact with the author I would like to thank him here. A note on the buildings adjoining No. 1 will appear in the next Newsletter.

THE RAGGED SCHOOL PROJECT

The Notts Wildlife Trust are planning to restore the Town Mission Ragged School, to provide a modern and innovative conservation centre, where people will be able to learn about wildlife conservation and have access to information relating to the County's wildlife.

The Ragged School is situated only a few minutes walk from Nottingham's Market Square, to the side of Sneinton Market. It played a central role in the development of education for poorer people in the 19th Century, but after the end of its education use fell into disrepair some years ago.

The restored building will be used as the Trust's new headquarters, as well as providing areas for exhibitions, academic and student research, environmental training courses and professional meetings. **The Friends of the Ragged School Appeal** has been launched to help raise the £45,000 needed to complete the project.

To make a donation or find out more, contact Notts Wildlife Trust at 310 Sneinton Dale, Nottingham NG3 7DN (phone 0115 972 7505).

Taken, slightly adapted, from 'Green Network News' March 1997.

The Civic Society has long supported the work of the Notts Wildlife Trust. An excellent lecture on the work of the Trust was given to the Society by Norman Lewis on the 11th March. It was one of the best lectures of recent years. It was a great pity that so few members felt inclined to turn up.

Editor

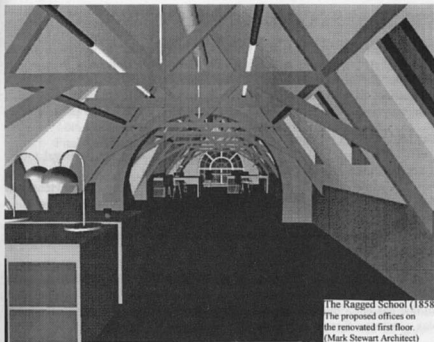
FEEDBACK

Nigel Lowey's article on St. Pancras Chambers, 'The Pile of Bricks at the end of the Line' brought an unexpected response from David Powell, Publicity Officer of The Peterborough Civic Society. He noted: "I was particularly interested in the 'Pile of Bricks at the end of the Line', as one of my great grandfathers (my mother was a Scott) was Sir George Gilbert Scott. I learnt quite a few points about it that were new to me, but I doubt if Nigel Lowey and his young son got right up into the clock tower as I did on one occasion, when two great great grand-daughters and I did a naughty bit of trespassing!"

A second letter came from Michael Jensen author of a forthcoming book 'Great Scott, A Biographical Account of the Lincolnshire Scotts' who wished to use Nigel's article in this book.

Sometimes I feel it is very quiet out there!

Editor



The Ragged School (1858)
The proposed offices on
the renovated first floor
(Mark Stewart Architect)

Thanks to Mark Stewart for the use of illustrations



The Ragged School (1858)
The new entrance on the
corner of Brook Street and
Gedling Street
(Mark Stewart Architect)

THE CENTENARY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM

The long awaited 'A Centenary History of Nottingham' edited by Professor John Beckett has now been published by Manchester University Press and is available in local bookshops. Those who took advantage of the pre-publication subscription offer will have received their copies, or will have them very soon. For those who forgot to take up the offer the price is £50.

The history of Nottingham is covered in four parts:

Part 1 (Chapters 1-6) 'The origins of Nottingham and the medieval town', edited by Philip Dixon.

Part 2 (Chapters 7-9) 'Early modern Nottingham' edited by Adrian Henstock.

Part 3 (Chapters 10-16) 'Industrial Nottingham 1750-1914' edited by John Beckett.

Part 4 (Chapters 17-23) 'Twentieth-century Nottingham' edited by Colin Griffin.

These are followed by 'Conclusion: Nottingham today' by John Beckett and Colin Griffin, a select bibliography, an index and a list of subscribers. Alan Sillitoe has contributed a foreword. In all there are over 600 pages, 66 plates plus numerous figures and tables.

Look out for the distinctive dust jacket featuring Jan Siberechts' painting 'Nottingham from the East' c.1700, with, as an inset on the back a recent photograph of the Old Market Square by Martine Hamilton Knight.

The first copy was expected to be given to Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Nottingham on 21st March, a visit which officially inaugurates the City's Centenary Celebrations.

Editor

A warning note: If you wish to read the history in bed or send it to a Nottingham expatriate in Australia, or elsewhere, it weighs in at 2lb 1loz (almost 1.25 kilos)!

THE ILLUSTRATED CENTENARY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM

A second volume, telling the same story of Nottingham but in a popular format, with many more pictures will be published by Manchester University Press during this summer, probably mid to late June. A substantial paperback, the book will be available for £12.99. However, watch out for a special pre-publication offer of £9.99, details available after Easter.

BINNS ORGAN RECITALS, 1997 SUMMER SUNDAY SEASON

Organised by The Binns Organ Restoration Appeal Committee

The FREE* organ recitals on the Albert Hall's Binns organ will take place on the following **Sunday** afternoons at **2.45pm**:

April 6 Christopher Herrick

June 29 David Butterworth

May 4 Tom Corfield

August 3 Simon Gledhill

June 1 Paul Stubbings

Sept 7 Kendrick Partington

*There will be a small charge for the final recital in the series

Sept 28 Wayne Marshall

No tickets - no bookings - no fuss

A new attraction for the 1997 season will be a pre-concert talk for all concerts, except April, by Ian Wells at the Albert Hall at 2.15pm. Admission will be by programme, price £1.

For further details phone 0115 950 0411.

The Dr. Sumner Memorial Recital 1997 will take place at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham on Saturday 2 August at 6.30 pm. The recital will be given by Andrew Teague.

Ian Wells is of course a member of your Society's Executive Committee and a noted local speaker on a wide range of subjects.

NEW PUBLICATION

The long awaited academic book on Wollaton Hall by Pamela Marshall, designated the Maurice Barley Memorial Volume, has been published by your Society. "Wollaton Hall, An Archaeological Survey" has 115 pages A4 with 13 colour plates, 65 further illustrations including colour coded floor plans and other scaled drawings by David Taylor, and black and white photographs. The book which can be inspected at Society meetings is obtainable from meetings or from the Editor* at £16.50 plus £1.50 postage and packing. Cheques to be made payable to The Civic Society.

*K. Brand, 6 Tavistock Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 5DW.

A well illustrated more popular book on Wollaton Hall is currently being written by Pamela Marshall and should be available in time for Christmas.