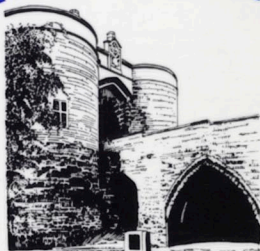


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NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Open Mid March

**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

President: Ray Banks

Chair: Robert Cullen

Secretary: Ruth Hardiman

Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand

☎ (0115) 910 7798

☎ (0115) 845 0153

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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January 2001

NEWSLETTER

Nottingham
Civic Society

114



FUTURE UNCERTAIN

The Soaring Tower of the Nottingham & Notts Bank, Thurland Street, Nottingham. Opened, lacking one wing, 21 March 1881. Closed as a branch of Natwest 24 November 2000.

80p

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REMINDER

Remember starting with the meeting on Tuesday 13 February, the monthly meetings for a limited "trial" period will be held at **The Post House, St. James's Street**, ex Albany Hotel. There are several car parks nearby and as a venue is not too far away from the main bus routes. There is a surface pedestrian crossing of Maid Marian Way almost opposite the Post House.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Your Committee and Chairman have been very active over the last three months. They have been able to influence Councillors and some Planners by persuading them that Nottingham deserves better architecture and urban design than it has at present.

Now that the redevelopment of the old Evening Post site with cinemas and nightclubs is nearing completion, we can all see the full impact of a building, which is really out of scale with its neighbours. Its architectural style is pop/classical with a bit of modernism thrown in and even for a cinema complex, in my own personal opinion, appears weird and out of context.

Your editor and the Committee would love to know what you think about major projects nearing completion in Nottingham - the one I have just mentioned, the Ice Arena and the major development on the Hooley Garage site on Derby Road. Please write and let us know what you think. Are we right in continuing to campaign for better architecture?

The redevelopment of Broadmarsh is back and we have held preliminary meetings with Westfield to look at their present proposals. Their proposals are certainly better than those of their predecessor, Hermes but it is early days. One of the major problems is the location of the bus station and ensuring that it does not impact on the skyline. A second problem is achieving direct, convenient and public routes for pedestrian movement from the south, east and west through the site to the City Centre. Thirdly there is a wonderful opportunity for a major public open space, which is required in the development plan but currently is not included. We will continue to press for these improvements against the background of a much-improved scheme, which breaks down the megalith previously proposed into a number of different buildings.

Our major battle is to save the skyline of the Castle and the Park ridge. We believe the current proposals by Crosby Homes are three storeys too high. They have reduced the height by two thirds of a floor but we think the absolute minimum that is necessary to safeguard views from the Castle Green has to be at least a two-storey reduction in height.

Two major schemes in the Lace Market have been refused by Councillors contrary to Officer recommendations - at Weekday Cross and on the A C Gill site. These are both very large schemes and the current view of the Council with which I personally concur, is that they should go out to competition. The

future of the Lace Market depends on the success of these schemes, both for future residents, the occupants of the buildings, developers and the City as a whole.

The present Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Jahangir Afsar and his Committee are extremely anxious to improve the quality of Nottingham's buildings. They need our help in promoting a climate of public opinion, which also wants better buildings. We need to be constructive and positive and come forward with ideas on how to improve Nottingham.

Bob Cullen

The Editor has a new phone number: **(0115) 845 0153** and can be e-mailed on: ken.brand@ntlworld.com

I would like to pick up Bob's plea to come forward with ideas. Most members visit other towns and cities, at home or abroad, during the course of a year. There must be some aspects of good urban design noted and worth passing on. Or, perhaps something different that flashes the message "They could do that in Nottingham." Please do think about and respond! It is worth recalling how Sheffield is re-inventing its city centre.

THE LECTURE PROGRAMME 2001

The lecture on Tuesday 16 January 2001 when Dr Hilary Taylor will speak on "Nottingham's History of Landscape and its future" will be held in the Society of Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street starting at 7.30pm.

Thereafter the monthly meetings for a limited "trial" period will be held at **The Post House, St. James's Street**, ex Albany Hotel. There are several car parks nearby and as a venue is not too far away from the main bus routes. There is a surface pedestrian crossing of Maid Marian Way almost opposite the Post House.

If there are any problems contact **Lynn Irvine** on **(0115) 958 8247**

The February lecture meeting on Tuesday 13 February, will be given by Jon Rouse, Secretary of the Council for Architecture and the Built Environment, (CABE). This organisation replaces the Royal Fine Arts Commission and is the Government's response to the work done by Lord Rogers and his team.

NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Society's Environment Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss current planning issues and policies addressing the environment and sustainability. Members of the Committee also represent the Society on a number of local and regional committees, panels and advisory bodies whose work ranges from consultation on buildings, such as Wollaton Hall to wide-ranging regional development matters

Among consultations, conferences and meetings attended recently are:

Public Transport Plan Meeting and Report

This dealt comprehensively with transport issues within the City, including green and sustainability concerns.

Nottingham Green Partnership

This body jointly reflects the views of the City Council, the private sector, higher education and the voluntary sector. It seeks to disseminate ideas for a greener life style to the citizens and businesses of Nottingham. I regularly attend Partnership meetings as a member of the Steering Group and the Publicity and Education Group.

EDAW Riverside Strategy Meeting

Members of the Committee attended a presentation of suggestions for the development and re-use of Nottingham's Riverside from Trent Bridge to Gunthorpe, followed by interesting workshop sessions. It is intended that the participants' ideas will form part of a forthcoming consultation document on this important, but under used and under estimated area of the City.

Rail Passengers' Consultative Committee

I recently attended the public session of the Midland Committee both as a rail user and as a member of the Society. I am due to attend the East Midlands Rail Passengers Summit to be held in Matlock. Among the speakers will be Councillor Mike Edwards of Nottingham City Council on "The Role for Urban Rail".

Highfields User Group

As a member of this City Council Group I visited the partially built D H Lawrence at Highfields which promises to be a most interesting and versatile structure. It was pleasing to see some decorative features of the old Lakeside Pavilion being incorporated into the exterior of the new building.

Launch of the Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Strategy

This seminar in Mansfield was held to launch the document, which sets out the policies and aspirations of the County and its component boroughs and local authorities in relation to environmental and sustainability issues within countrywide and global contexts.

The document puts forward ambitious, but on the whole realistic, aims on all aspects of quality of life, from safer communities, to supporting sustainable energy use. It includes a section on the built and cultural environment where it suggests the Civic Society can take a leading role.

As members of the Society are aware the Environment Committee already plays an active role in responding to and commenting upon proposed significant building development in the City, and among recent cases commented upon are:

The Lace Market

The Committee expressed strong reservations about the scale and design of the buildings proposed for the Pilcher Gate/Weekday Cross and A C Gill sites. The City Council has rejected the first named and put the second on hold.

Former General Hospital Site

The proposed apartment blocks here would, in the Committee's view be too high in relation to the other buildings in the area, would seriously affect the view from Nottingham Castle and are inappropriate in scale to both the Castle and the Park Conservation Areas.

Former Eye Infirmary

The Committee supports the City Council's view that the entire building should be retained rather than just the façade, and that the interior spaces should be incorporated into any residential design.

Castle Boulevard Caves Site

The Committee has been influential in preventing an inappropriate development going ahead on this historically sensitive site. Any development will impact on the caves site and on views to and from the Park Conservation Area. A design brief has now been prepared by the City planning officers which outlines appropriate criteria including the height of any new buildings.

Finally, new developments and restoration projects will have the chance to win an award in the 2001 Lord Mayor's Award for Design in the

Environment. Nominations were made in the autumn and photographs of the Judging Panel's finalists will be displayed in the City Centre* during February. So please go along cast your vote for the 2001 award-winners.

Hilary Silvester
Secretary, Environment Committee

*The actual venues have not been finalised but last year there were three City Centre locations for the finalists' display:

- The Broad Marsh Centre, Lister Gate entrance
- Under the Council House Dome
- The Victoria Centre, upper floor display area, north end

POOR FOTHERGILL

Besides the uncertainty surrounding the future use of the former Nottingham and Notts/Natwest bank on Thurland Street several other Fothergill buildings have seen a change of use or appearance recently.

Right alongside the bank on Thurland Street a rather plain early Fothergill of 1876, offices for the solicitors Wing and Welby is currently a chip shop. The *Fothergill Watson* bar on Castle Road, altered some time back to have a façade of folding doors, has had these doors removed and a mainly plate glass frontage inserted. The provision merchants Furley's shop of 1896 at the corner of Clinton Street West and Lower Parliament Street is now the home of the TSB, relocated from Trinity Square. Briefly the name Furley was revealed during refurbishment, but it was soon covered up with a fascia board in the TSB colours. When the new owners, Harlow, estate agents were altering the first floor windows in 1925, an ageing Fothergill charged into the building protesting they were ruining his work. How would he react now! *The Rose of England* public house on Mansfield Road was had several changes of name, whilst a finely carved rose still remains over the entrance. *The Filly and Firkin* is the latest.

Going back in time it must have been rather galling for Fothergill not to be invited to design the new *Albert Hall* in 1907, the work went to A E Lambert. The loss of Fothergill's work after the Second World War I will tactfully pass over - for the moment.

Ken Brand

FUTURE UNCERTAIN

On Friday 24 November the Thurland Street branch of the National Westminster Bank closed for business, permanently. The first bank on the site, leasehold premises on the Pelham Street side adapted by the architect/surveyor Henry Moses Wood, opened for business on 19 April 1834. The bank so recently closed was designed by one of Victorian Nottingham's most colourful practitioners and opened its doors, partially completed, in March 1881.

For those who know a bit about Nottingham's buildings the architecture of Watson Fothergill has a rather special place in their affections. These same enthusiasts will remind any who care to listen that this rather flamboyant man spent the first fifty or so years of his life as Fothergill Watson. He was born in 1841 and it was not until 1892 that he transposed his forename and his surname. He died in March 1928, having produced nothing architecturally since 1912.

Little is known of Fothergill Watson's earliest work, as building plans did not have to be submitted for Council approval until September 1874 (a few architects did voluntarily offer their designs for scrutiny by the Council from 1870).

His earliest known public building was a new school in Park Street, now Friar Lane, for the Society of Friends, whose plans carry the date 21 April 1871. About the same time he was designing his own house 7 Mapperley Road, to which he moved his family in early in 1872. His two houses for the Misses Woods, Nos. 5 and 7 Lenton Road in the Park Estate are dated 1873.

Although the 1870s started modestly for the relatively inexperienced Fothergill Watson by the end of the decade he was completing the third of three of the most prestigious commissions in town.

In 1873 he was chosen by the Directors of the Nottingham Albert Hall Company Limited to design their new Temperance Hall on North Circus Street, a building capable of seating 2,550 persons. As the architect described his creation "It will, having regard to size, form, and internal appearance, be the finest Concert Hall in the Midland Counties." The foundation stone was laid on the 1 September 1873 and the Hall was opened by the Mayor, John Manning, on 26 September 1876. It was destroyed by fire on 22 April 1906.

As the Albert hall was being erected Fothergill Watson submitted plans for new printing works and offices for the *Nottingham Daily Express* on Upper Parliament Street on 9 April 1875. That portion known as Express Chambers actually carries the date 1876. A discerning eye should be able to pick out the initials FW among the foliage on the right hand side of the entrance porch. When this building was enlarged in 1899, upwards and to the west, the new work carried the new name Watson Fothergill, carved in what was by now, his distinctive Gothic script. One building by one architect but bearing two different names must be unusual!

His third great undertaking of the 1870s soon followed. This was the new banking premises for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank on Thurland Street, the proposals being approved on 5 April 1878. The bank in an Early English version - some say early French-of the Gothic style was constructed between the years 1878-1882. The Thurland Street elevation carries the date 1882 and the name of the architect Fothergill Watson, although the bank, lacking one wing, opened for business on 21 March 1881. The reason for this was simply explained. The last day the old bank had been open for business was the Saturday prior to the new portion being opened. Now the old building could be demolished and work would recommence to complete what "will form one of the chief architectural ornaments of Nottingham." With additions and alterations to the premises the architect was involved with the project for some thirty years, the last planning application being approved on 3 April 1908.

The opening of the new bank was reported in the local newspapers. According to the coverage in the *Evening Post* there was no grand opening ceremony but "the doors...are to be thrown open this morning to the public for the first time." In many ways the bank retains its original features. A 1925 insertion by the local architects Brewill and Baily linked the two parts of the building across the Thurland Street/Pelham Street corner. Some internal and external alterations to the building in 1985-6 by the Seymour Harris Partnership improved the efficiency of the bank.

The account in the *Evening Post* gave some details of the decorative features of the building and the materials used by the builder engaged, Mr John Jelley, of Colville Street. These details are worth noting here, if only as a check on whatever a future owner might do. It is somewhat shortened and the original spelling etc has been retained.

"The principal entrance (is) under the dome, which is so conspicuous a feature in the erection, will then stand (when the second wing is completed) in the exact centre; and in looking at the front in Thurland Street it is

necessary to bear this fact in mind. The style of architecture adopted is the early French Gothic and the material used is Darley Dale and red Mansfield stone. Sculptured panels in the gables represent respectively incidents in the coal trade and the manufacture of lace, and are executed in Portland stone, (the third panel, depicting farming, was thus added later); while the whole of the exterior front rests upon a basement of red and grey Scotch granite. Sculptured shields and arms representative of the towns where branches of the bank are established are placed above the lower storey, and add much to the attractiveness of the exterior.

"As for the interior, the groined porch under the tower admits through two pairs of swing doors into the chief business apartment. This is circular in shape, and is lit from above by windows placed in the Gothic dome at such a height that their light cannot be intercepted. The chief material used in the construction of this apartment is Hollington stone, relieved with red Mansfield, the dome being supported by columns of Scottish granite, alternately red and grey. The fittings are of solid oak, and a beautifully carved oak dado, exhibiting much artistic skill in its treatment, runs around the whole of the walls. The floor of the customers' side of the counter is Italian mosaic pavement, elegant in design and well adapted for its purpose, as not being so slippery as encaustic tiles, and yet being hard and enduring."

The writer makes no mention of the large number of stone beasts and birds, which decorate the exterior and the banking hall. For inspiration on this aspect of his decorative work Fothergill Watson probably turned to the menagerie widely used by one of his admired architects William Burges (1827-1881). With that date of 1881 perhaps it was offered here as a memorial tribute from one architect to another. There is also quite an amount of stained glass around the bank, the beauty of which is usually lost on the passer by.

The "BANK PREMISES, THURLAND STREET NOTTINGHAM" are currently being marketed by the Nottingham office of DTL. It is not priced but "Offers invited." A figure of £1m to £1.2m is expected. Interested parties are recommended to make their own enquiries of Nottingham City Council Planning Department for alternative uses. On offer are 1,442.68sq.m (15,529sq.ft) of floor space in a three storey building plus basement which "has an ornate stone façade incorporating many architectural features."

Ken Brand

Does the Thurland Street Bank resemble Alfred Waterhouse's Manchester Town Hall (1868-77) or E W Godwin's Town Hall at Northampton (1861-4)?

THE NEW PUBLIC DINING HALL

The Society's "Mark of the Month" for November 1999 was awarded to Lever Hopley Architects for their refurbishment of No. 15 Byard Lane for Reiss Retail, initially a menswear shop. This autumn, I was contacted by the publicity department of Reiss for some details about the building, prior to the formal opening of the basement of No. 15 as a new Ladieswear Department. Its pointed arched windows suggested a former chapel. A little searching revealed all.

The Reiss shop, No.15 Byard Lane, was purpose built in the mid 1860s as the *New Dining Hall*, a commercial low cost public restaurant. The architect was Thomas Simpson of 16 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Designed in the Gothic style, the principal hall on the ground floor of the building was 87 feet long, 45 feet wide and 30 high and could accommodate 300 diners. An upper room could seat 80 persons. Although there was a commodious kitchen beneath the main hall, "placed under the management of efficient and experienced persons," a large cooking range was erected at the front of the hall for the most pressing occasions.

The Hall was in fact part of a national movement, which started in Glasgow in 1860, to provide cheap hot meals for the working class. Several local gentlemen felt such an establishment located in close proximity to the large lace and hosiery warehouses in Nottingham's Lace Market would be well patronised, for many workers lived well away from their workplace.

On the walls of the hall were fixed the busts of The Queen, Prince Albert, the Duke of Wellington, the late Sir Robert Peel, Mr Cobden, Mr Bright, Milton and Shakespeare. It was claimed there was splendid natural light from a glass skylight and windows at the back and on the left side. Two large, handsome mirrors hung over the mantle-pieces added a gracious touch.

The building was formally opened by the Mayor, Thomas Ball, on 14 March 1866. The event was covered in both of the Nottingham newspapers, the *Review* and the *Journal*. The Mayor addressed the large gathering, consisting not only of the businessmen/councillors of the day and their wives but including a large number of the working-classes. He outlined the many advantages the Directors proposed to promote by the establishment of the Dining Hall not only as a place of resort for refreshment, but also social enjoyment and improvement. He hoped it would "supersede the use of those reeky and dirty chop-houses where working men had often felt compelled to resort for a necessary meal." It would also cater for those who either brought

a cold pie to eat at their workplace or those who rushed home and ate their dinner in a great hurry.

The Mayor stressed that there was no intention to make the Dining Hall a charitable institution for it was based on a commercial principle, that of giving the best possible article at the least possible cost. After adding a few further general observations and wishing the success of the undertaking, he called upon the Rev. F. Morse, the vicar of St. Mary's to call for a blessing. The assembly then commenced to tuck into their three-course dinner of soup, meat, and plum pudding. Apparently "owing to a paucity of the regular waiters and the many requiring to be served many had to wait a long time. Every one was delighted with the soup, but some few were disappointed with the meat being cold. The plate of rich plum pudding was certainly a marvel of cheapness." The cost of this meal was 4/2d or about 2p.

"After the first party had partaken of the repast, hundreds more thronged the hall, the entrance to which was literally besieged by crowds of applicants for dinner." The *Review* considered "more than one thousand persons dined at the New Hall on Wednesday." The *Journal* reported "It is calculated that before the hour of closing there had been upwards of 2,000 visitors." Perhaps this discrepancy was due to the "dense crowd outside waiting with considerable impatience for their turn, but most of them, we are sorry to say, waited in vain." (The *Journal*).

The new Dining Hall was considered so important that the well-established Byard Lane was immediately renamed Dining Hall Street. This new name lasted for about 15 years until, presumably, its function changed slightly when it was purchased by the Nottingham Café Company c.1880-1 and reopened as a temperance restaurant. A Directory of 1881 refers to the "Nottingham Café Company's Dining Hall", Byard Lane with John Dabell as manager.

Around 1890 the Dining Hall closed down. Its immediate re-use is uncertain. William Foster, an auctioneer, appears in Byard Lane around 1900 and was still there in Kelly's 1941 Directory. The Hall would have provided an excellent auction room, certainly it did for Walker, Walton and Hanson from the 1950s to the mid 1990s. Then briefly it became *The Byard Gallery*.

As noted the building's Gothic style has caused confusion. It has even been suggested that John Wesley (1703-91) preached there! There is also a reference in some older Directories to a Chapel Court leading off Byard Lane. This is actually a corruption of the name Chappell; Charles Chappell had a message there in 1732.

NEW DINING HALL, BYARD LANE, BRIDLESMITH GATE, NOTTINGHAM.

HOT JOINTS EVERY DAY.

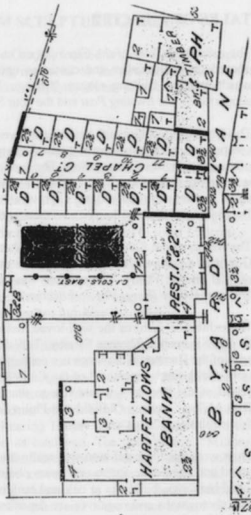
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| CUP OF TEA or COFFEE 1d. | SLICE OF BREAD..... 1d. |
| SALE OF & BUTTER..... 1d. | BASIN of SOUP..... 1d. |
| BOILED EGG..... 1d. | LIMONADE..... 1d. |
| PLATE OF MEAT, 6d. 6d. or 2d. | FUDDING (plain or fine)..... 1d. |
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Dinner every day consisting of the following dishes—Soup, Meat, Potatoes and Pudding, 4d.
The best materials only are used. Daily Papers provided. 300 may dine at once.

OPEN DAILY from 8 to 8.

THOMAS BOSWORTH, MANAGER.



New Dining Hall, on Goad's Insurance Plan 1886, shown as "Rest 1st and 2nd," now *Café Rouge*. Right: PH is *The Cross Keys*, rebuilt 1899/1900, architects Evans & Son. Notice *Chapel Court* with its dwelling houses

TALES OF THE CITY

The exhibition *Tales of the City* now on at the Nottingham Castle Museum opened on 9 December and continues until 25 February. The exhibition, which has the backing slogan "Change Your View of Nottingham" is supported by the *Evening Post* and the your Society.

The City's architecture and environment were the themes for a photographic competition, with prizes given by the Society and a poetry competition, with prizes given by the *Evening Post*. The results of both competitions were tied into the opening of the *Tales of the City*. Members of the Civic Society and other guests were invited to a preview of the exhibition on Friday 8 December and applaud the prize winners in the two competitions.

The winner of the £200 first prize in the photographic competition was David Gott with a picture of Green's Mill in Sneinton. The winner of the first prize of £50 in the Poetry Competition was Richard Phipps with his poem, *Sneinton Palace (Forgotten Architecture)*.

The exhibition features the well-loved historical paintings and watercolours by Jan Siberechts, Thomas Sandby, T W Hammond and others. Alongside each of the Hammond drawings is a contemporary photograph taken from the same viewpoint by members of the Civic Society's Photographic Group. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank these members, William Fish, Dick Miller, Geoffrey Oldfield and Philip Sellars for their efforts in making this exhibition a "must visit" event.

Their work for the exhibition was really an extra for they work all the year round and have done for several years photographically recording the City's listed buildings, buildings at risk and buildings before and after restoration. The photographs and negatives are deposited at the County Archive Office on Wilford Street. I believe the Photographic Group have now recorded 190 different assignments.

Philip Sellars, the co-ordinator of the Photographic Group says that there are plenty of other interesting views of Nottingham in the *Tales of the City* exhibition, some of which might be quite controversial. So what other incentives do you need to go up to the Castle?

Ken Brand

THE BOOTS MILLENIUM SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Boots Millennium Sculpture Garden, located at their Beeston complex, must be by far the most stunning memorial to the new millennium in the greater Nottingham area. It has sculpture, three distinct gardens, new woodland and a grassland area.

In 1996 the then Chairman of the company, Lord Blyth of Rowington, set out to enhance the working environment of the 8,000 plus work force employed at Beeston. He decided to create a high quality garden to complement the long established architectural gems on the site. The site chosen was mainly to the south of the amenities building D31, once a landfill site and more recently, with added topsoil and grassed over, a rather bleak sports ground. This area together with the approaches to D31 amounted to some 15 acres.

James Knox of *Art for Work*, an art consultant for Boots since 1992 was instrumental for the scheme's overall development. Mark Lutyens, a great great nephew of the eminent architect Sir Edwin Lutyens was engaged as landscape designer, plantsman and garden furniture designer.

James Knox commissioned five major pieces of sculpture. At what might be considered the entrance to the garden, to the side of D31, is a massive Portland stone arch, entitled "Interlocking Oaks", carved by Richard Perry of Nottingham. Three monumental bronzes have the woodland area as a backdrop. "Gaia", the earth goddess, by Edward Cronshaw is covered in tendrils and plant life. Next, "Rearing Horse" by Neale Andrew is a full bodied animal, well balanced on its hind legs. The third bronze, "Miltonic Herm" by Scotsman Alexander Stoddart, is a tall slender, headed, column. On the body of the sculpture are carved lines from *Paradise Lost*. The sculptor here makes a passing reference to Jesse Boot's Methodist background. The fifth piece, at the western end of the terrace in front of D31, is "Carboniferous Chimney" by Richard Aumonier. This sculpture, a small scale factory chimney bearing the imprint of carboniferous "coal measure" fossils, nods towards the former coal powered power station on the site.

There are three gardens, the *Herb Garden*, the *Rose Garden* and the *Plane Tree Garden*. Of these by far the most interesting is the *Herb Garden*, located off the middle of the D31 terrace. This garden emphasises that the foundation of the Jesse Boot's enterprise was herbs. At its heart is a stone pool carved with a botanical motif. In the centre of the pool is a bronze fountain, shaped as an apothecary's mortar, with three spouts carved as the leaves of herbs. There are five borders around the pool, each associated with a specific use:

medicinal, culinary, aromatherapy and scent. The plan of the *Herb Garden* is based around a goose foot, a *patte d'oie*, an 18th century landscape device and here acknowledging the Goose Gate address of the first Boot's shop. The other two gardens provide sunny areas, shaded in high summer.

The Woodland has two functions, it provides a screen from parked and moving cars and also encloses the sculpture garden on two sides. Over 3,000 specimens of native trees: oak, ash, yew, birch and black poplar have been planted as well as numerous shrubs, including broom, hawthorn and spindle. Among the oak trees planted are 50 cloned from the ancient oaks of Sherwood Forest including one from the *Major Oak*. In the woodland and woodland edges are colonies of wild flowers, with over 20,000 of the native bluebell, together with foxglove, violets, woodspurge and bellflower. Once established the *Woodland* will be managed organically.

The remaining large feature is *The Mound*, a sculptured mound surmounted by a Sarsen stone seat. It is in the centre of the southern edge of the garden, facing the *Mortar Pool* across open grassland, where it provides a commanding observation point.

Among the smaller works are two carved masks and two carved inscriptions, which are set in the terrace wall in front of D31. Also worthy of some attention is the high quality seating, the lighting and the rest of the garden furniture, much specially designed.

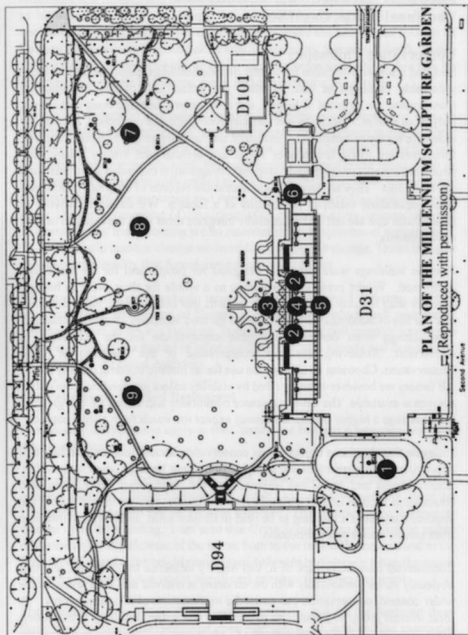
It is difficult to convey the special magic of this garden in words. A visit would be a treat to look forward to; hopefully it will be possible to organise a Society visit in the not too distant future. An approach has been made, but nothing will be decided until next year. Of course if a relation works on the Beeston campus watch out for the company's Open Days!

Ken Brand

* The original Herm, in ancient Greece, was a stone head of *Hermes* surmounting a square stone pillar. *Hermes* (Roman counterpart *Mercury*) was the messenger and herald of the gods.

MILLENNIUM SCULPTURE GARDEN, SELECTED KEY:

- 1 Interlocking Oaks by Richard Perry
- 3 Mortar Pool by Harry Gray & Richard Holliday
- 6 Carboniferous Chimney by Richard Aumonier
- 7 Milonic Herm by Alexander Stoddart
- 8 Rearing Horse by Neale Andrew
- 9 Gaia by Edward Cronshaw



MARK OF THE MONTH AUGUST 2000

The Canal House, Canal Street

Conservation Philosophy

Securing a sustainable future for worthy historic buildings, particularly those more vulnerable buildings at risk, is often the prime task of the Architectural Conservator. As a record of history, our architectural heritage must include not only those elite and chocolate box varieties with grace and distinction, but also the extensive legacy of commercial, industrial and ordinary simple buildings. Historic Structures are living artefacts of social and architectural history. Many such structures are still undervalued, have little imagination expended upon them and are being lost. They are tangible and accessible records of an area's history and often particularly establish the identity of a locality. We should endeavour to retain those that are left and to carefully integrate them with the creation of new environments.

Historic buildings were generally designed for people and for the tasks they performed. Whilst preserving buildings as a whole for their place in history, together with features that contribute towards that character we must recognise that our use of buildings - often the reason for their inception - has often changed. That change often demands inevitable compromise for the success of a conversion. Achieving the best compromise is the objective of good Conservation. Choosing an appropriate use for an historic building is a key factor. All factors are however strongly ruled by viability unless gap funding from public sources is available. The latter is a scarce commodity and unless we can give our built heritage a higher profile we cannot expect too much from public sources.

I suggest that the prime objectives of conservation should include enabling and improving public perception and interpretation of our heritage wherever possible.

Ready access and active use important to the commercial, recreational and educational success of a completed project. Any conversion should enable the important aspect of a building to be read in its final form, albeit with a little help from simple notice to a publication

Commercial interest, or lack of it, can heavily influence the outcome, and this obviously varies considerably with the economy at national and local levels. In the wider context, conservation can assist the regeneration of a local economy. A local interest group or perhaps an established charitable Buildings Preservation Trust experienced in the practical tasks of saving our built heritage may however be required to kick-start a particularly recalcitrant project. To demonstrate that a

redundant and derelict and decaying structure can be repaired and brought back to new life. This may be simply be achieved by acting as a catalyst, by encouraging owners to take the right action, to make the best use of sources of funding and put them to good use. It may be necessary to pick up the challenge and complete the undertaking of repair and or conversion. Often this can be achieved by example as to good repair and conservation principles.

The political rhetoric and present economic climate would appear to support conservation. Conservation is a recycling process that has been going on for a long time and buildings have a resource value. There is however much that can be done to improve the situation. We must avoid disincentives to repair, such as the anomalous situation with regard to VAT. We should move to improve our understanding of the principles and strive to gain general public support for the same. The initial recording of a building, of its parts and of its surroundings and an assessment of that recording are an essential aid to the process of conservation. In order to help manage change we must first understand change. Those changes should be of a quality that future generations will respect

New use and current standards usually demand improved services, sanitary accommodation and Means of Escape in case of Fire, which will necessarily impose themselves upon a building. Structural loadings and integrity have to be considered amongst a myriad of often conflicting design aspects and demands by the client and the Local Authority

The Canalhouse Bar and Restaurant

How does all this rhetoric apply to the Canalhouse Bar and Restaurant and what are my excuses?

The conversion was applied to a four storey warehouse building on Canal Street, once belonging to Fellows Morton and Clayton Ltd, who developed the site in the 1890s and was last in use as a Canal Museum. The lettering is still however evident upon the building. I am sure that Civic Society members will be aware of the historical significance of the name, both to the Inland Waterways and to the City. Unfortunately, the neighbouring establishment had already taken the name. The site must have come under significant pressure for redevelopment

The leaseholders (a partnership) made a successful bid for the lease on three floors together with a part canopied canal side yard and a detached but associated outbuilding. That bid included both a monetary offer and detailed proposals for use of the premises, which to the credit of the City of Nottingham appear to have

been judged equally. Although the project was undertaken to a limited budget, the conversion has enabled a competitive rent and a viable project. The leaseholders have had a considerable input into the building in many respects and I can neither take all the blame or credit, depending upon your perspective (duck). I have been involved in the use of, and in the design and refurbishment of pubs for most of my career and have worked closely for some years with one of the partners who has developed a chain of successful local pubs together with a small local independent Nottingham Brewery. The biggest plus for Conservation was that it provided an opportunity to retain public access to two floors of the building by the pub and restaurant use.

The warehouse is topped by a double pile roof and most significantly contains an internal basin/dock, which was retained as a feature of the pub. Although erring towards the "theme pub" idea (perish the thought), it is a significant feature and it is difficult to envisage many other uses which could have sustained that retention. It is still the hope that the basin may house working boats.

Significant works of conversion had already been undertaken to support the previous uses of the building. Those works included concrete staircases in brick shafts and a thick-sprayed fire resisting coating. This coating was removed to expose the profile of the steels and timbers, which are left exposed, as originally intended.

Spaces were divided by the previous user and further division was necessary for this conversion all that division is by non-invasive structure that can be removed in the future. The ground floor bar area was not subdivided. The Bar Servery is not too invasive. Although the first floor was divided, the restaurant area takes in all the fenestrated walls and gives some idea of the extent of the warehouse floor.

All the original door openings and their shutters and window openings were retained and some restored. Industrial detailing has been maintained. A bridge over the basin was necessary to improve circulation. The twisted rope like detail for the balustrading was suggested by the Contractor and continued over to a new free-standing staircase providing access to toilets on the upper floors. The latter was a compromise imposed by the constraints of the building. Wheelchair access and toilet facility is however provided on the ground floor. Access to the raised old loading bay door openings was undertaken by a non-invasive timber structure.

The loading bay doors were canopied and advantage was taken to expose the ironwork by replacing roofsheeting with glazing. This has lightened the building both literally and metaphorically, by exposure. Although the original lacked any finesse, a part open canopied structure on the canal side was similarly treated,

providing an outdoor facility with some shelter from the elements

Proper beer cellarage - a vital component - has been unusually incorporated on the second storey, enhanced by modern air conditioning systems. An attempt has been made to render other mechanical services as discrete as possible

The adjacent outbuilding is to be used as a Coffee House and Artists Display Studio and Craft Centre.

All of the above sounds very simple in hindsight but the project has been forged from a number of conflicting viewpoints and through statutory approvals. Despite the heavy restraints imposed by cost limits and commercialism, the leaseholders have made a considerable effort to respect the building whilst using it to advantage. This is perhaps the happiest compromise and I hope that I have assisted in both those respects. Most importantly the building is provided with a sustainable future and can again be accessed for appreciation by the community. You don't have to be a beer drinker to sample the contents.

Brian M Allebon

Brian M Allebon Dip Arch (Leic) RIBA. practices as an Architect, Architectural Conservator and Constructor. He is a Technical Adviser to the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, and Chairman and Area Representative to the National Committee, U K Association of Preservation Trusts (APT), Midlands Area. He tutored the *Maintenance and Repair of Buildings and Monuments* module for the Heritage Conservation (Advanced) Certificate Course at Nottingham University last year.

Brian received the 1992 Civic Trust Award for the refurbishment of a terrace of six traditional cottages at St. Leonard's Court, Newark on Trent. Since then he gained a Newark Civic Award in 1994 for a new residential development in the Millgate Conservation Area, and again in 1999 in the Building Conservation (Industrial/Commercial Section), for the Fox and Crown Public House, Appletongate, Newark, as both joint Owner, Architect and Builder.

MARK OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2000

THE RESTORATION & CONVERSION OF THE PROVIDENT WORKS, NEWDIGATE STREET, RADFORD, NOTTINGHAM

Provident Works is a four storey Victorian warehouse of about 1860, plus attic and basements, located on the west side of Newdigate Street. The building lies within the Gamble Street Conservation Area and is included on the statutory list as Grade II.

The building was purchased by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. in late 1999 from Ristes Motors Ltd (the Rolls Royce restoration specialists) and was prior to that a curtain factory for most of the 20th Century occupied by F.W. Barnes Ltd.

The brief from Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. required that the building be converted into lettable workshop units capable of occupation by small starter businesses. Good access and services would be essential with provision for loading/unloading. A variety of unit sizes was also desirable to allow firms to take more space or expand as necessary.

The brief also required that the building be given a distinct identity and as the first project to be undertaken by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd the scheme would be seen as a benchmark against which its other schemes would be judged.

A feasibility study was carried out. The resulting detailed report and costings were considered by the board of Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. Funding approval was obtained from a variety of sources by Alan Swales, Chairman, Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. These including SRB (Single Regeneration Budget), HERS (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme), EMDA (East Midlands Development Agency) and ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).

Competitive tenders were then sought, Wheatley Construction were appointed as main contractors and the work began in May 2000.

The scheme involved the total repair and restoration of the external facade of the building together with the conversion and improvement of the interior to comply with the brief.

As a listed building great care was required to ensure that all repairs and restoration were carried out to the highest possible standard and in total sympathy with the building. The involvement of the Development Department's Conservation Officer was essential and her frequent site visits ensured that the works were completed to everyone's satisfaction.

The roof slates and roof lights were in need of total replacement together with the parapet gutters. The parapet coping and brickwork was generally sound and required localised pointing and replacement bricks.

The existing steel and cast iron escape stair was in poor condition and substantial works of repair/replacement was required. The lightning protection was inadequate and was totally rewired.

The ground floor rear elevation had been altered to provide a large 'garage' door access to the upholstery shop used by Ristes Motors. Here there was evidence of cracking and movement and the total reinstatement of the facade was required to match the existing. The rear and front facades of the basement were restored and fitted with matching new windows and doors.

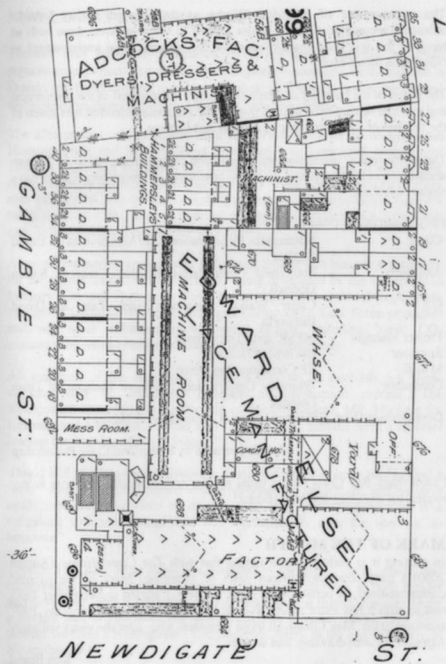
The stone heads and cills were also in good condition with the exception of 10 cills and string courses which required replacement. The cast iron window frames were also generally sound although the glass required replacing where damaged or where it was obscured. Some frames had expanded and their bottom sections were repaired with steel bars to prevent future movement.

The large chimney, now disused, also showed some cracking and movement and steel ties were installed to limit future movements.

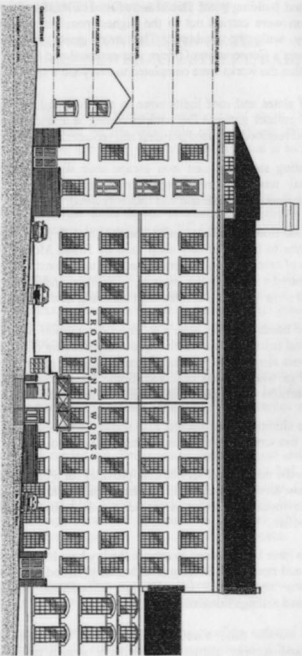
Internally the new central service core provides for a central staircase in steel with a new service/passenger lift, toilets, disabled toilet, central post boxes and meter rooms. Each unit is provided with its own kitchen and central heating boiler.

The walls have been cleaned to expose the brickwork, windows reglazed and repaired and new vinyl flooring installed on plywood over-boarding. Beams have been strengthened to take full commercial loadings and new plasterboard ceilings installed.

Services include dado trunking for electricity/telephones/computers, new lighting and security alarms. The sprinkler system has also been totally restored/renewed as necessary.



The Provident Works and surrounding area shown on Goad's Insurance Plan 1892. (The Provident Works at bottom of extract indicated as "FACTORY")



Newdigate Street Elevation

SUTHERLAND - CRAIG PARTNERSHIP

The improvement of Provident Works to create good quality lettable industrial accommodation is a major benefit to Gamble Street Area both in terms of the new floor space created and the environmental improvement to Newdigate Street itself.

The status of the building as Grade II required the standard of the conversion and external repairs to be of high quality and particular attention was given to the finishes of the paving, hard surfacing and lighting.

The entire repair, restoration and conversion programme costing £1 M was undertaken in 23 weeks and, as at the beginning of December, 6 units have already been let.

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Client	- Nottingham Regeneration Ltd./Alan Swales & David Hughes
Architects	- Sutherland Craig Partnership/Ray Craig & Simon Godrich
QS	- Carter Walker Associates/Nigel Tate & David Hurworth
Project Manager	- MPMCapita/Terry Perrin
Engineer	- BWB/Matt Baldwin
M & E	- EP Consulting/Ian Dixon
Contractor	- Wheatley Construction Ltd/Steve Redgate & Dean Gamage
Development Dept	- Melanie Morris (Conservation & Design)

Article prepared by Sutherland Craig Partnership

I must thank Ray Craig for his usual prompt and thoughtful response to my request for drawings and text. (Editor)

MARK OF THE MONTH

In passing it is perhaps worth noting that with *The Canal House* (August 2000) I have completed fifteen years of awarding "Mark of the Month" commendations on behalf of the Civic Society. I started in September 1985 and so with a few extra special awards I reckon I am approaching my 190th commendation. May I thank all those architects who, over the years willingly supplied me with drawings and articles.

Ken Brand

NEW LIFE AT RALEIGH SQUARE

Thomas Fish have an impressive record of being partners in urban regeneration projects, so they were delighted when they were awarded a Design and Build contract to help create *Raleigh Square*, a major commercial and residential development in Alfreton Road, Nottingham.

The £7m project, which centres on a partnership between the Metropolitan Housing Trust and Raleigh Street Properties - an associated company of Thomas Fish - will bring new life to the Alfreton Road area. It will see the regeneration of *Raleigh Square* as part of a "New Deal for Communities" area in the city. The scheme, which is a mixture of refurbishment and new build, includes a 20,000 sq. ft regional office for Metropolitan Housing Trust and 76 flats for sale through FHP City Living.

A unique partnering arrangement at Raleigh Square will become a prototype for the model heads of terms currently being developed by the Construction Industry Council Partnering Task Force. The new style of multi-party Partnering Contract will apply the Egan Construction Task Force principles and will meet ambitious environmental targets, including "zero" CO₂ emissions by using geothermal heating and green electricity.

All members of the team have signed a contract to establish full team-working and an integrated design/supply/construction process. The arrangement has received the backing of Nick Raynford, MP, Minister for Housing and Construction, who said: "It is a great scheme with a contract leading the way for others to follow."

David Hill of Metropolitan Housing Trust said: "Our priority was to find a "new" way to develop projects with environmental innovation, and we have established the right team to do this. The new partnering contract is a refreshing welcome change that will fundamentally alter the way we do business."

Thomas Fish have been strongly committed to the partnering approach, and increasingly take a lead role in major regeneration schemes as both builder and developer. This is well illustrated at neighbouring Russell Square, where a student hall of residence has been created in a former textile mill. This scheme received a Nottingham Civic Society's "Mark of the Month" award in November 1998.

Peter Woodhouse, Managing Director of Thomas Fish, supports the approach

of the Metropolitan Housing Trust. "Successful partnering exists when all members of the construction team share the same goals as their clients and are committed to working together for the mutual benefit of all parties."

The site is bounded by Alfreton Road, Raleigh Street, Gamble Street and Newdigate Street. The refurbishment of the older buildings is being carried out by the Sutherland Craig Partnership and the new buildings have been designed by Franklin Ellis Architects.

Based on material supplied by William Fish. (Editor)

TALES OF THE CITY (ii)

The following editorial appeared in the *Evening Post* on Monday 11 December and is reprinted here with permission.

Home truths will boost city pride

Tales of the City, which has opened at the Castle Museum and Art Gallery, does more than merely trace the historical development of Nottingham.

It is a reminder of Nottingham's reputation as one of the most aesthetically pleasing cities in Britain. It's a point those of us who live here risk taking for granted. Not any longer. All those who go to the exhibition will leave it with a heightened sense of pride in their "home".

Apologies

The delaying in posting out the September Newsletter was due to the initial choice of venue for the Christmas party, the Waverley Annexe, Nottingham Trent University, suddenly becoming unavailable. So another venue had to be found.

Two pages of Terry Fry's article on William Stephenson Holbrook were transposed (pages 24 and 25). If you didn't notice.....! Sorry Terry.

In Stephen Best's article "His Own Line of Country" the gentleman concerned was E L Ahrons. The "spellchecker" on my computer underlines strange words. Thus when I reformatted his article to B5 size, the base of a b when underlined looked like an h. So E L Ahrons it is and not E L Abrons.

COACH OUTINGS 2000

We had a very successful year. Our first tour was a Rural Ride with Geoffrey Oldfield, which was packed with interest from start to finish, ending up with a very large tea. Thank you very much Geoffrey and we hope to persuade you to do another in the near future.

The second trip was to Northampton, where we had a walking tour of the town in the morning. In the afternoon we had a rural ride around Northamptonshire, visiting the Eleanor Crosses and other places of interest.

Our August trip was a rural ride around London, believe it or not, led by Ian Wells! His knowledge of the City and the surrounding districts was unbelievable and he was able to answer every question put to him. During our lunch break we had a trip on the London Eye. So, another great day out for the Society, thank you Ian for sharing your knowledge.

On our final visit we were the guests of the Chester Civic Trust. On our arrival at the Trust's offices we were welcomed by the Sheriff of Chester. Over cakes and coffee we were given a brief introduction to the city. Later we were taken to see a variety of medieval buildings that had new commercial uses. In the afternoon we were taken on a walking tour of the city, again this was enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank Pauline Bird for her help and assistance in organising these visits.

We will be having a full programme of visits in 2001, so don't forget book early to avoid disappointment.

Ken Roberts

HERITAGE WALKS 2000 ANNUAL REPORT

The money raised on this year's Heritage Walks on Wednesday evenings came to a dismal total of £178.50. We shall have to consider whether it is worth continuing with these walks, for there was only one good evening. The walk around the Park Estate on August 30th produced £63.50, over one third of the total for the whole season! However the Tours of the caves of Nottingham Castle raised £2,469, which is actually more than last year.

Once again our guides helped New College Nottingham on Heritage Open Day by taking tours around the Adams and Page building on Stoney Street. This proved to be a very busy and successful day.

I would like to thank the guides for all their dedicated work. Fred Hudson did the tours on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, Graham Godfrey took tours on Wednesdays and Sundays and our new guide, Georgina Lyons, did sterling work on Sundays. I must thank Molly who opened the Gatehouse shop on Wednesday evenings and David Newham for his help on a Friday afternoon (Nice to see you back). The ever willing Stan Saunders is always ready to step into the breach when needed - thank you Stan. Finally I would like to thank the staff at Nottingham Castle for their assistance throughout the year.

I wish to inform members that I will be organising the tours for one more year then I will be retiring as I will be approaching 70 years of age and I feel it needs a younger person to do this job. I will continue to be a guide but doing Mortimer's Hole every week through spring, summer and autumn is taking its toll. If anyone is interested in being a guide, please contact me on 0115 932 5769. Full training will be given and it is a satisfying job, especially when you get compliments from the parties you have taken round.

Ken Roberts

MARK OF THE MONTH AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2000

AUGUST	The Canal House (ex Canal Museum) (See page 16)
Client	Chris Bruce
Architect	Brian Allebon
SEPTEMBER	Creation of The Roebuck, St. James's Street
Client	Wetherspoon
Conservation Management	Melanie Morris, Development Department, Nottingham City Council
OCTOBER	Holmes Place Health Clubs, Low Level Station
Client	Holmes Place plc
Architect	Simon Hastings (Trevor Coleman Architects)
NOVEMBER	Restoration of the Provident Works (See page 20)
Client	Nottingham Regeneration Ltd
Architects	Sutherland Craig Partnership

BUILDING PRESERVATION 1937

In 1937, the Nottingham Society of Artists and the Thoroton Society started worrying about 'objects of antiquity, beauty and interest in the preservation of which the influence of the City Council might usefully be enlisted'.

The Town Clerk was provided with the following list: (1) 'Bog Holes', Castle Road; (2) Brewhouse Yard and its Tudor houses; (3) Old Grammar School, Bulwell; (4) Bulwell Wood Hall; (5) Broxtowe Hall; (6) Bonington's House, Arnold; (7) Norman windows, Broadway; (8) Bromley House; (9) Nottingham Castle and its precincts; (10) 'Trip to Jerusalem' Inn; (11) Jessamine Cottages, Castle Road; (12) Entrance arch to old Children's Hospital, Postern Street; (13) Park steps; (14) Park tunnel; (15) Recently excavated site of Lenton Priory; (16) 'The Hermitage', Castle Boulevard; (17) Wollaton Hall; (18) Hospital of St. Anthony, opposite Wollaton Church; (19) Wollaton dovecote; (20) All 17th- and 18th-century houses in Castle Gate, particularly Newdigate House, Collins House, Earl Howe's house; (21) All 17th- and 18th-century houses in Low Pavement and Middle Pavement, particularly, Assembly Rooms, Willoughby House and Vault Hall; (22) Drury Hill; (23) Severn's Yard, Middle Pavement; (24) Lady Hutchinson's House (County Offices), High Pavement; (25) Shire Hall, particularly the dungeons; (26) 'Home's Castle' Inn, Hollow Stone; (27) Collins Almshouses, Friar Lane; (28) 'Salutation' Inn, Houndsgate; (29) Colwick Hall and its precincts; (30) Guide House, Red Hill; (31) Oriental Cafe, Wheeler Gate; (32) Sneinton Mill; (33) Prisons behind the 'White Hart' Inn, Lenton; (34) Caves in Church Cemetery; (35) Caves entered from Messrs. Onion's shop, Mansfield Road; (36) Newstead House, St. James's Street; (37) 64 St. James's Street.

Earlier in 1925 the Nottingham Society of Artists was very concerned with the threats to Sherwood Forest. These came from the rapid developments in coal mining and the proposal of the LMS and LNER to construct a railway line through the Forest. The future of one beauty spot in particular, Beech Avenue at Ollerton Corner, was particularly worrying. An effort was made to persuade the Nottingham City Council to acquire Sherwood Forest! Not unexpectedly the Town Clerk replied, 'I do not anticipate there is any possibility of Sherwood Forest being acquired by Nottingham City Council'.

It is interesting to reflect on the fate of some of the buildings listed, and also to consider what now would be thought of as serious omissions.

Ken Brand - with a little help from "*For the very Joy of Art*" the story of the first hundred years of the NSA by Marjorie Macmillan.