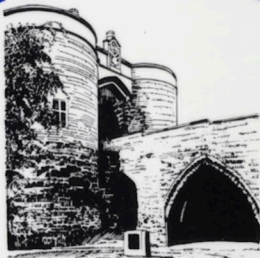


Built by command of Henry III between
1252-55, Nottingham's Oldest Shop:

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

Opens Mid March

Nottingham
Civic
Society

President: Ray Banks
Chair: Roger Perrott
Secretary: Ruth Hardiman ☎ (0115) 910 7798
Editor of Newsletter: Ken Brand ☎ (0115) 845 0153
Society Web Site: www.nottinghamcivicsociety.org.uk

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

Registered Charity No. 504768

January 2002

Nottingham
Civic Society

117



Refurbishment for Zara
High Street and Pelham Street
CPMG Architects
Mark of the Month December 2001

NEWSLETTER

80p

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WOLLATON VILLAGE DOVECOTE MUSEUM

Opening Dates - 2002

Sunday May 12th, Sunday June 9th, Sunday July 14th, Sunday August 11th,
Sunday September 8th, Saturday September 14th, Sunday September 15th.
2.00 pm to 5.00 pm each day

"Our working model Water Wheel will be in action to amaze you. See the development of a Village school from 1865-1999, and its rebirth as a nursery. There are many other interesting items. What did Sir Francis Willoughby want with 5,440 pigeons?

Arrange a group visit!

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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

As the year draws to a close I thought it would be a good time to review the past year and highlight some of the events we have to look forward to in Nottingham in the next twelve months.

In 2001 'Masterplan' became the buzzword of Nottingham. We have seen the presentation of the Waterside Regeneration Strategy, the commissioning of both an Eastside regeneration strategy and a Southside strategy, not to mention a masterplan for a transport interchange at the Midland station.

Les Sparks* has completed a review of Nottingham City Council's Development and Planning systems and found them lacking in both staff numbers and expertise. Hopefully his proposals will be acted upon and enough skilled staff recruited to safeguard Nottingham's future and preserve its historic past. Also on a positive note, the Urban Design Forum has firmly established itself as a valuable arena for debating development proposals in Nottingham.

Broadmarsh should have been well under construction by now, but due to a legal technicality the proposals by property developers Hermes were stopped and then scrapped. *Broadmarsh* was then bought out by Australian retail giant Westfield, who immediately set about redesigning the scheme. We can be hopeful that the new proposals will be much improved, given that the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have now taken an interest in the scheme, and back the proposals that Nottingham Civic Society have been putting forward. (Though Westfield and the Development Department have yet to be persuaded!)

The former Boots H-Block on Station Street remains subject to a planning application for an 18-storey structure, considerably taller than other buildings in the area. This project will form the basis of our next evening talk. 'Can quality architecture be achieved through teamwork?' on Tuesday 15th January 2002 at the Post House, St James Street at 7.30pm. Local Architect Tim McCartney of CPMG will be presenting his plans and answering questions.

The tram system has finally started to appear from amidst the roadworks. Noel Street in Radford has seen the first tracks laid and the rest of line one is soon to follow. The controversial new tram bridge over Canal Street will

also be taking shape. When challenged about its design by the Society and the Urban Design Forum, NET came up with the 'solution' of cladding it in Stainless Steel. It will remain to be seen if this is an effective remedy for a poor design. Meanwhile plans are being drawn up for the next phase, which promises more lines to other suburbs of Nottingham.

The Lace Market continues to see major change. The Western face has been ripped off, retaining only the Multi-storey car park to make way for 'luxury' 'executive' 'loft' apartments. Meanwhile the Eastern face has been completely rebuilt with blocks of, again, 'luxury' 'executive' 'loft' apartments. Similarly every possible site around the periphery of the Park is being filled with yet more 'luxury' 'executive' 'loft' apartments. Some of this development is even spreading into Sneinton Market with the conversion of the old *Archer* telephone exchange into 'luxury' 'student' 'loft' apartments.

The arrival of the 'Clear Zone' and implementation of on street parking charges have caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth from some of the cities more car dependent visitors. Both these measures will benefit Nottingham in the long term and once initial problems are overcome residents and visitors alike both stand to benefit from more open and pedestrian friendly streets.

The Forest Recreation Park remains under attack from Park and Ride car parking, and under threat from those who wish to erect on its eastern end their 'Water Leisure Park' proposal. Linked in with this the threatened closure of Victoria Baths sees the building under threat from developers (probably to make way for 'luxury' 'executive' 'loft' apartments). The former Co-op department store on Upper Parliament Street also lies vacant with no immediate sign of a new use, and extensive demolition a real threat.

2001 has also seen the Society offering its services and resources to Nottingham City Council for partnership projects around the city. The Parks Department has been first to take us up on the offer, with the Society being closely involved in the design of new street furniture for the Arboretum. The project is due to be completed by May 2002, in good time for the 150th anniversary of the Arboretum. Another project is proposed for Highfields Park in the New Year, and it is hoped that the Society will also be involved in the funding and production of a conservation plan for Nottingham Castle.

It has been a very busy year in Nottingham's development and for the Society, 2002 shows every sign of being equally eventful. The role of Nottingham Civic Society is as vital now as it has ever been. Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers who have toiled in the Castle Gatehouse Shop, run the guided walks and tours, contributed to this newsletter and managed our committees and various other activities. We would be unable to do anything without your tireless support... Thank you.

Roger Perrott

* Les Sparks has been engaged by the City Council as a consultant for design/planning/architecture. Richard Tresidder in the *Evening Post* called him a Design guru with a brief to help the local authority deliver better planning decisions. Mr Sparks has been behind the acclaimed regeneration of the city centre in Birmingham - much appreciated on the Society's visit there last September.

THE FOTHERGILL PROJECT.

Thankfully, the majority of Watson Fothergill's buildings are still intact. However, in spite of the Civic Society's longstanding interest, and Ken Brand's proselytising, the City of Nottingham has not made as much of the Fothergill heritage as it should have done. The ultimate aim of the Fothergill Project is to bring the works of Watson Fothergill to the public's attention and, in particular, to make his offices in George Street a centre of cultural tourism, focusing on East Midlands art and architecture.

The retail unit built by Fothergill (17, George Street) has already opened as an art gallery (*NeoArt*) exhibiting original works by local artists. The offices (within the same carcass) will be refurbished over the next year or so, and the space used to house a visitor/academic resource centre featuring Fothergillia, in all aspects, particularly the relationships between Fothergill and his contemporaries, and their contributions to the Arts and Crafts movement.

All the necessary permissions have been granted, and the planning of the various phases of refurbishment is in hand.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone with thoughts about appropriate ways of developing the project.

Terry Bennett

NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

December 2001

As we reach the end of the year, your Environment Committee continues to work to protect the architectural, historic and cultural (in its widest sense) heritage of the city and to encourage and advance new developments and endeavours which will enhance the life of the city and move it forward

Among comments made recently about Nottingham was that by a visiting Victorian Society officer who felt that the city 'has largely kept its grain' - its architectural character, this is a phrase which should be kept in mind in the coming months as we look at projects as the East Side Masterplan, the Waterside development and the introduction of large new buildings at sensitive sites. Move forward, but do not lose the distinctive 'grain' of the city.

The characteristics and unique features of Nottingham were also the topic for discussion at a recent seminar where representatives from local government, commerce and other organisations endeavoured to identify what was special about Nottingham. It would be interesting to have the views of Civic Society members regarding the city's most (and least) appealing features and those most worth preserving: let us know what you think.

The Environment Committee continues to have concerns and ask questions regarding some of the city's prominent historic buildings and sites:

- Wollaton Hall has recently been the subject of intensive study in the preparation of a Conservation Plan, a process in which the Society has been represented. We are, however, concerned about the future use of the Hall and its related Museum services.
- Clifton Hall is now the subject of plans for re-use and conversion to apartments, with the addition of a new wing and a small new housing development in the grounds (replacing the modern teaching blocks). Consultation on the designs is currently taking place.
- Colwick Hall continues to be a cause for concern and we would be delighted and relieved to see a rescue plan and re-use being found for this important building: perhaps the riverside regeneration plans will bring new hope for its future.

- The Thurland Street Bank, Watson Fothergill's 'town hall' style prestige building is rightly cherished by all of us both for its imposing exterior and for its splendid High Victorian banking hall. A watchful eye needs to be kept on this fine building and any plans for its future, though we hope that a sympathetic and imaginative re-use may be found before too long.

On the subject of re-use of a Fothergill building, I am sure that all members of the Society are delighted to see that the 'gem of George Street', Fothergill's office, has found a new use as a contemporary art gallery and saleroom. We must express our congratulations and gratitude to the new owners for their enterprise and imagination.

Another current cause for celebration is the re-awakening of interest in our public parks and the related investment of effort and funding in restoring these to their former attractiveness and accessibility. Members will recall the restoration of the Victoria Embankment Lily Pond to which the Society contributed. This has now been followed by a contribution towards specially designed benches for the Arboretum, our contribution to this major restoration project. Incidentally, the Arboretum's 150th Anniversary will be celebrated next May, a weekend celebration is planned for 11 and 12 May to take place in the park, organised by the City Council so watch out for notices.

Highfields Park has also been undergoing a renaissance, with the new D.H. Lawrence Pavilion, the restored MV Maid Marian and, more recently, the reinstated lakeside path, while consultations are now being undertaken in relation to the future conservation and use of Newstead Abbey and its park.

We all hope that once the restoration work is completed on Nottingham's very varied and well-loved parks more people will be drawn into them and that a high level of warden provision and maintenance will be provided to ensure the protection of the parks and the enjoyment of their users.

Hilary Silvester
Vice Chair/Environment Secretary

TRAMS WOVEN INTO NOTTINGHAM'S FABRIC

It's not just 11 million passengers a year who'll benefit from the first of Nottingham's tramlines.

First, there are the areas it runs through. There will be improvements to the street scene and the buzz of having sleek trams gliding through, of course.

At least as importantly, though, is the way the tram will act as a honeypot to developers looking to bring new homes and jobs to the city. Trams elsewhere have proved to attract inward investors - for example, 80 per cent of new development in Sheffield has taken place within 500 metres of the Supertram lines. Property prices can also be enhanced in the corridor of a new tram route, as has been witnessed in Croydon since the successful *Tramlink* system was installed.

Then, as two million car journeys are wiped from our streets, other road users will reap the benefit - increasingly so, as the tram network is expanded and even fewer journeys have to be made by car.

Nottingham as a city is the greatest beneficiary. The first line of the tram, and even more so, a network of trams, will make the city an even more attractive destination for shoppers, tourists and other visitors, as well as for those people who live and work here. The city's vibrancy, vitality and booming economy can only be enhanced by this new transport link - a link, which means we can sustain such growth without the detrimental effects, which so often come as part of development packages.

This is the case because the tram does not stand in isolation - it is being woven into the fabric of the Nottingham of the future. This new Nottingham has a fully integrated transport system, providing a realistic alternative to the car, so that our city does not choke to death. This transport network ties in with new development sites and compliments improvements in the city's urban design. This quiet, clean and smart tram will help to protect and bind together the old with the new and complements the desire to create sustainable development. This, in short, is part of a bold vision for a Nottingham where our children can thrive.

You can see the building blocks already. The first tram tracks are being laid and plans are underway to develop the next tramlines south and west of the city. This comes as new development is springing up all around the city - demonstrating a new wave of confidence and prosperity for Nottingham.

Stephen Richeux / NET

NOTTINGHAM TRAIL FOR VISION IMPAIRED PEOPLE

A tactile heritage trail is currently being created for the Lace Market, and is due to open in April 2002. The Trail, designed by photographer Alec Keeper, will comprise eight interpretative sculptures, and be accessible to those with vision impairment as well as sight.

The sculptures, seven in marble and one in clear resin, have been created in a 3-D relief form with the assistance of clients at the Nottinghamshire Royal Society for the Blind. The reliefs convey impressions of the area's architecture through the sense of touch, while an accompanying sound guide, written by Andy Barrett, will navigate visitors around the sculptures and provide historical notes. A bronze plinth at bollard height will contain all the sculptures.

Visitors to the Trail will be able to collect their guide equipment from the Lace Market Visitor Centre, 3-5 High Pavement. They can then set out on the Trail, considering the area from Georgian times through to the present day. Tactile maps will also be available. The sites for the eight sculptures are: the Visitor Centre, the *Pitcher & Piano*, the *Galleries of Justice*, St Mary's, Broadway, the Adams Building, the Fothergill Warehouse* (on the Stoney Street/Barker Gate corner) and the Ice Stadium.

The Project continues to work closely with various client groups and the City Council in developing the finished work. The Local Heritage Initiative has provided funding support, with additional awards from the Nationwide Building Society, the City of Nottingham, Arts & Business, Experian, and The Lace Market Heritage Trust.

Anyone requiring further information should contact:
Alec Keeper on 07977 900 275.

* For Cuckson, Hazeldine and Manderfield (1897)

A **BIG** thank you to Lynn Irvine for organising this year's highly successful Christmas Party at the University of Nottingham's Art Centre

I would like to thank Ken Roberts, on behalf of Civic Society members, for organising yet another interesting and entertaining programme of summer visits
(Editor)

BY DESIGN and the URBAN DESIGN COMPENDIUM

Early in October several members of the Executive Committee attended a meeting in Leicester addressed by Jon Rouse of CABA on issues raised in two recent important publications on urban design. These are *By Design* a companion guide to *Planning Policy Guide Note One* (PPG1) and the *Urban Design Compendium*.

After a brief preamble in which Jon suggested that all those attending were connected by their "pursuit of what is now termed best value, how can we gain the most economic, social and environmental value from the use of public resources and assets." He added "The question is how do we generate that value - what techniques do we employ, what products and what processes do we have to create?"

Before going on to set out seven principles of a well designed place Jon asked the meeting to look back over government approaches to the design process. "It is worth reflecting just very briefly where we have come from. It is just over 20 years ago that the then government stated categorically that quality of design was not a proper consideration of the land use planning system and indeed, was not really a legitimate interest of government at all. Over the last twelve years through successive governments, we have recaptured the ground so that now good design is an explicit goal of government, to be delivered through funding regimes and the planning system.

"At the heart of this shift is a key question. To what extent is good urban design just a matter of subjective taste and to what extent are there shared principles that have been proven to work objectively in lots of different contexts?"

"The answer of course is a mix of the two and this is where we need to be careful. It is not the job of government, and certainly not the job of the planning system, to be the arbiter of good taste. Of course, there will be times when the style of a building is an important consideration in terms of relationship to context, but style is not our main consideration today.

"Rather we are focusing on the design principles that have clear impacts in terms of functionality, sustainability, durability, safety, community and so on.

"At the heart of the analysis is the idea of an urban realm that is compact, reasonably dense, well connected, with a clear hierarchy of buildings, spaces

and uses, with high quality public space and so on. It is certainly not about old or new, historic or modern. The principles are timeless. They flow from the idea of the urban neighbourhood as place for exchange of ideas and commodities, as places where the key civic institutions were situated to provide identity and legibility.

Also at the heart of the analysis is the relationship between town and country. It is about recognising the unique role and characteristics of each landscape and the relationship between them."

Jon then moved to his main theme: **The Seven Principles of a well designed Place.**

"We start with the seven objective principles that the authors of 'By Design' consider to be the essential components of a well designed place. Later, I will give a series of examples to show how these principles or objectives can be achieved through the design process.

The first of these is **character** - how to create a place that strengthens or even creates for the first time that sense of unique identity. There are many attributes that contribute to character - landscape, building traditions and materials, patterns of local life and so on.

Concern with character encompasses respect for the past, but it does not translate as slavish imitation of the past. We have all seen enough gruesome outcomes of false pastiche - heritage range housing and the Tesco's clock towers - to know that imitation is not always the sincerest form of flattery. But whether we are talking about the use of a traditional vernacular, or a bolder contemporary intervention, they must flow from what already exists.

The second principle is **continuity and enclosure**. This is a principle that held fast within the English urban tradition for many centuries from the hill-fort to the Victorian terrace and then somehow we lost it. We allowed our urban form to fragment and sprawl. The result was a loss of coherence, increased reliance on the motor car, inefficient use of land and so on

At the heart of this principle is the recognition that the spaces between buildings are often more important than the buildings themselves and it is the places where there is a clear distinction between public and private space that seem to work the best.

Third on our list is the **quality of the public realm**. Perhaps this is the

principle where we have fallen down most badly in our recent past. We have often built selfishly without proper regard to external spaces. We have under-invested in the quality of our streetscapes. And we have neglected the relationship between design and management of public space. At the centre of this principle is the importance of attention to detail.

The fourth principle is **ease of movement**. As you have probably appreciated by now, the principles are fully interwoven, ease of movement flows directly from the concern for continuity and enclosure. Any intervention in the urban realm should be based upon an attempt to strengthen the urban structure by adding to a clear network of connected spaces and routes, bearing in mind a clear hierarchy of pedestrians first and private vehicles last. And when we design our transport routes, they should reflect overall urban design considerations first and traffic considerations second.

Number 5 on the 'By Design' list is **legibility** — does a place have a clear image and is it easy to understand. It is not primarily about signage. It is about the use of landmarks, gateways and focal points to help people find their way. It is about vistas that create visual links. It is about creating a sense of safety without taking away the element of surprise and exploration. This principle is of course no different to that which appertains to the design of a public building - hospitals, schools, libraries and so on.

The sixth principle is **adaptability**. When we design for today, we have to have more than half-an-eye on tomorrow. When Andrew Grainger laid out Grainger Town in Newcastle he could not have predicted the range of C21st uses — retail, leisure, office and housing, the needs of e-networking and the like. But his buildings and his urban structure have stood the test of time, in the same way that Georgian housing and the garden villages have retained their inherent value.

We have made great progress over the last fifteen years in the design of commercial buildings in terms of their flexibility but in other areas we continue to fall down. We are about the only country in the world that markets housing according to the number of bedrooms rather than the internal floor-space. And we have continued to zone uses in a way that has given our towns and cities a course grain that ultimately, leads to rigidity. In short, we need to loosen up.

Finally, we have **diversity** - creating places with variety and choice. Essentially, this is about mixing uses - the antithesis of zoning - but why is it so important? It is about creating continuity of activity through the day. It is

also about seeking to attract a balanced population that can be mutually reinforcing, residents to support local shops and businesses, workers to make use of public transport and so on. This includes, of course, from a housing perspective, diversity of tenure, achieving a broad spectrum of housing types that helps deliver a balanced population.

There are just two words of warning on this final point. When we talk about mixed use and fine grain development, we are not trying to re-create some Halcyon rustic chocolate-box image of urban living where the butcher, the baker and candlestick maker trade wares in the cobbled high street. Creating diversity can be achieved at several different scales, from the individual building to the urban district. The key is to create ease of access between uses and an economic and social relationship between them.

Second, this isn't a question of fine-tuned social engineering. There has to be room and scope for places to evolve and develop. Any urban plan or framework must be flexible enough to accommodate the unforeseen.

So just to re-cap on the 'by Design' principles - character, continuity and enclosure, quality of public realm, ease of movement, legibility, adaptability and diversity - tests that can be applied to any urban development."

Taken from Seminar Speaking Notes prepared by Jon Rouse, Chief Executive, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment).

By Design, the companion guide to *Planning Policy Guide Note One*, puts flesh on the bones of the statements about design made in PPG 1. It sets out the design principles that the planning system should be legitimately considering, and it demonstrates to local planning authorities how they can use a variety of tools to achieve their planning objectives. It costs £19.95.

The Urban Design Compendium is a different animal. It is concerned with how you do it - this business of urban design. Sequentially and thematically it takes you through different elements of a project from layout to lampposts. As the name suggests, it is an amalgam of principles and techniques, to be read as a whole but also to be dipped into as the need arises. It is free, which is not a statement of relative value, but of DTLR's inherent and admirable stinginess in the expenditure of tax-payers' money.

THE AFGHAN WAR MEMORIAL IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS

It is difficult for anyone to understand the reasoning behind the extraordinary attitude of the British towards Afghanistan; the Afghans must have found it impossible. While always protesting friendship, the British repeatedly invaded the country and shot at its inhabitants. Although unable to subdue the proud, fiercely independent Afghans, they always feared that Russia or Persia would, and this frequently served as an excuse for meddling in Afghan affairs.' So wrote Byron Farwell in 'Queen Victoria's Little Wars' (1973). Both the First Afghan War 1839-42 and the Second in 1878-80 were examples of aggressive imperialism which achieved nothing, 'except for the glory won by the soldiers' in the face of ferocious fighters, hostile terrain and, all too often, terminal disease.

The present war in Afghanistan has led to a fair amount of interest in the memorial erected at Nottingham Castle following the Second Afghan War of 1878-80. The Nottingham connection goes back to the middle of the 18th century. In 1755 the 59th Regiment of Foot was raised, recruiting in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Originally they had crimson facings on their jackets but were ordered to replace them with white. Hence they were eventually known as the 'Lilywhites'.

They fought honourably in the Second Afghan War but shortly afterwards in 1881, the British Army was re-organised. Historic regiments, such as the 59th, became mere battalions. For some years, the 30th Regiment of Foot had shared the same Brigade Depot at Burnley with the 59th. So it seemed logical to the mandarins of Whitehall to change their names to the 1st and 2nd Battalions, East Lancashire Regiment.

Along with many others the 2nd Battalion was determined to retain as much as it could of its former identity. Although it was stationed at Dover and the Regimental Depot was at Burnley the Battalion deliberately chose to have a memorial for its dead of the Afghan War erected in the grounds of Nottingham Castle. The monument was unveiled on July 3rd 1884, exactly six years to the day since the Castle Museum and Art Gallery had been opened. The curator, G.H. Wallis, was one of the guests invited that day.

The monument, an obelisk of Irish granite, was made by William Jackson, an architect and sculptor with premises at 199 and 74 Mansfield Road Nottingham. It records the names of the 42 men of the 59th who fell in action or who died of wounds or disease during the Afghan campaign. Most of the deaths occurred in the summer of 1879 while the 59th was based at Kandahar, nineteen of them in July alone.

The monument bears the following information:

IN MEMORY OF
THE OFFICERS
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
AND PRIVATE SOLDIERS OF
H.M.'S 59TH REGIMENT
WHO FELL IN ACTION OR DIED OF WOUNDS
OR DISEASE
DURING THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGNS
1878. 1879. 1880.

ERECTED BY THEIR COMRADES

There follows a list of eleven comrades who fell in action or died of wounds, and forty-one who died of disease. For each name there is rank, and place and date of death.

The dignitaries, led by the police, walked to the obelisk in procession. Next, playing a majestic march came the band of the 59th Foot. After local gentlemen came officers of the Robin Hood Volunteers, followed by a detachment of officers of the 59th led by Lieut. Colonel Lawson. With them was Euston Henry Sartorius V.C., now also a Lieut. Colonel, who had won that honour for his part in the action near Kalat-i-Ghilza in 1879.

In his speech, Lieut. Colonel Lawson said that, in his thirty years service with the 59th, he had been imbued with the idea of Nottingham being the 59th's town. The 59th had already presented its Colours to the town and the Chinese bell in the Arboretum. He regretted that the authorities had seen fit to cut the 59th's connection with Nottingham. Later, at the mayoral luncheon at the Exchange, the Mayor said the officers of the 59th told him how reluctant they were to part company with Nottingham; they wished to remain the 2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment, not the East Lancshires.

Apparently, General Eyre, the Colonel of the East Lancashire Regiment, had tried his utmost to retain the 59th's link with Nottinghamshire. This extract from a letter from the General met with applause: *May this memorial so feelingly erected for the men of Lancashire and Nottinghamshire to the memory of their heroic sons of the "Old Notts" Regiment, may it tend to preserve and strengthen the bond of relationship and attachments, which, in old times, existed between the military classes in Nottingham and was proverbial in the 59th Regiment.*

Actually the ties were less real in fact than in sentiment. The 'heroic sons of Old Notts' were more accurately the heroic sons of Ireland and Scotland. And Lieut. Colonel Lawson had to admit that he had never seen Nottingham before and had no idea what a splendid place it was. From what he had seen that day he thought it must be a very great pleasure for anyone to be associated with Nottingham.

Terry Fry

Much of the above information comes from 'The Lilywhite 59th' by A.S.Lewis, published in 1985 for the East Lancs' Regiment Museum.



The Fothergill Project, the First Stage: *NeoArts*, 17 George Street
To the left, off photograph, the doorway leading up to Fothergill's office
on the first floor, to the upper right the plaque to Watson Fothergill.

BLACKENED RUIN TO MUSEUM AND GALLERY OF ART (i) T C Hine and Nottingham Castle 1875-8

The Thoroton Society's meeting on Saturday 9 March 2002 is designated *The Maurice Barley Lecture*. This year the lecture will be given by Dr. Trevor Foulds and has the intriguing title '*This great house so lately begun and all of free stone*': William Cavendish's Italianate palazzo called Nottingham Castle.

William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, demolished the buildings in the Upper Bailey of the medieval castle at Nottingham and between 1674-9 built an Italianate palazzo, which was always known as Nottingham Castle. In spite of neglect in the eighteenth century, the disastrous fire of 1831, which gutted the interior, and T C Hine's conversion of the masonry shell into the present museum, what is seen today is essentially the seventeenth century palace, as erected by the 1st Duke of Newcastle.

What did the conversion entail? Hine's work has usually had a bad press. At the Council meeting held on 30th September 1875 the Castle Museum Committee reported that arrangements had been made with the trustees of the Duke of Newcastle for the lease of Nottingham Castle, and 25,000 square yards or more of the surrounding land, for 500 years at £40 for the first and second years, and subsequently at £200 a year. It was to be used for "Purposes connected with the advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, the education, recreation, and general good of the inhabitants of Nottingham and neighbourhood." The lease was signed on 11 October 1875. The Council was committed to spending £15,000 on the restoration and adaptation of the Castle for these purposes. The Castle Museum Committee was empowered to obtain plans and designs for the restoration.

Thomas Chambers Hine and Son was the only architectural practice invited to submit plans for the conversion of the "blackened ruin" into the "Midland Counties Museum and Gallery of Art." The Castle Museum Committee explained their reason at the Council meeting held on 17 January 1876 "Your Committee considered it expedient in the first place to ask Messrs. Hine and Son for designs, inasmuch as they had taken a very great interest in the development of the Castle Scheme, and are now acting as Surveyors to the Duke of Newcastle's Trustees, and would have, under the provisions of the Castle lease, to pass all plans, by whomsoever designed, relative to any works executed at the Castle. Your Committee made a distinct engagement with Messrs. Hine and Son, that in the event of the Council not approving

their designs a small remuneration only should be paid to them for their trouble." In fact the Council approved the plans and authorized the Committee to obtain tenders.

The architects estimated the cost at £21,000, irrespective of the laying out of the grounds and forming the approaches. The first contract tendered for by Messrs. Maw and Ingle for £15,935 was accepted and work started immediately.

Hine's report on the state of the Castle and the work envisaged, as sent to the Castle Museum Committee, was as follows.

OFFICES, 4 VICTORIA STREET,
NOTTINGHAM, Dec. 30, 1875.

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE.

To The Chairman of the Castle Museum Committee.

Dear Sir,

In compliance with the instructions of your Committee, I have made a design for the adaptation of the main or E shaped building to the purposes of a Public Museum and Gallery of Art, and which I have now the pleasure of submitting for your approval.

I have made a careful inspection of the shell or main walls of the edifice, and I am glad to state that, structurally speaking, they have suffered comparatively little from the effects of the fire of 1831, and in the case of the outer walls, simply regarding them as walls, the only portions which it will be necessary to rebuild will be the parapets, and those parts which come between the heads and cills (sills) of the window openings. The rent, which is so conspicuous in one of the partition walls I believe to be simply due to the contraction of the clay in which the masonry is bedded for the most part. The moulded and sculptured work is a matter of ornamental detail, and though necessary to be done in the fulfilment of the conditions of the lease, I only propose (if the Committee think it desirable) in the first instance to restore so much of it as will put the building into a decent and fitting condition, so that there may be no avoidable delay in opening it as a Public Museum.

It will be seen by the drawings¹ that, with the exception of the omission of the two flights of steps on the east² and west fronts, and the addition of some filling-in work to the small upper windows no longer wanted, the exterior of the edifice will be as near as possible what it was at its completion in 1680,

and that the new roof, though somewhat conspicuous in the geometrical drawing here furnished, will only be visible at a distance, and then only from localities which are on a level with the upper terrace.

The interior, with the exception of one corner of the building which is set apart as a curator's residence, I propose to divide into two storeys, the lower one being 18 feet high, and lighted by the two lower tiers of windows, and the upper one 23 feet high, lighted from the roof, the floor between the two being of fireproof construction.

The colonnaded portico and retiring rooms behind in the western or carriage approach to the building will, I consider, be a fitting, if not necessary, adjunct to the building, although the execution of these works may be postponed for a time.

The estimate with which I have furnished you will, I consider, cover the cost of completing the whole of the works above referred to, and shewn on the accompanying plans¹, and will include a perfect restoration of the exterior, the lighting, warming, and general adaptation of the building to the required purpose, according to the most modern and approved principles, but in case it may be found convenient to confine the outlay, in the first instance, to such works as I have described as being only immediately necessary, I would recommend that they should be specified under the heads before mentioned, and the tenders framed so that the Corporation may have the option of adopting either of them.

I am, yours faithfully,
THOS. C. HINE,
For T. C. HINE AND SON.

¹Few of these plans have been located.

²The flight of steps located on the eastern front of the building were removed to meet the requirements of the Volunteer battalion of the Robin Hood Rifles, whose recruits were drilled there.

Some of Hine's experiences during the reconstruction work will be related in the next Newsletter.

Ken Brand

MILLENNIUM GARDEN UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

The University's Millennium Garden was conceived as a desire for a 'secret garden.' It would be a quiet, reflective place for students and staff amidst the 'busyness' of a major University campus. The project started in 1998, when a design competition was planned and entries were invited from landscape architects and registered students.

Within the large-scale informal landscape, which characterises the Nottingham campus, the garden should, by contrast in scale, form and planting, demonstrate a special place an 'oasis' where landscape and architecture are brought together in a satisfying correspondence. The completed design should have a discrete presence, a 'haven' encountered almost by chance rather than expressing a prominent visual event within the landscape.

The garden should be capable of being used throughout the year so would not only provide shelter, but would also appeal to all the senses throughout each season. Apart from the obvious visual aspects of building, planting and water, these ingredients should also appeal to the other senses creating a 'magical' but integrated experience of sight, sound, smell and touch. The design will bring together building, planting and water as an integrated whole so that the appeal of shelter, colour, form, texture, sound and smell is maintained in ever-changing manifestations throughout the seasons.

Provision of disabled access to the garden must be considered and entrants should make the garden an experience for those with impaired sight or hearing. Planting should reflect the international nature of the University by including both, native and exotic plants.

At the first round, an impressive fifty entries were received, exhibiting a high degree of artistic ingenuity and variation in the treatment of the site. From these, four entries were selected for the second stage of the competition:

David Wilson Partnership, Quartet Design, JWP Landscape Architects, and Hyland Edgar Driver.

From these the scheme by Quartet design was chosen as the winning entry, to be constructed as our Millennium Garden. The judges chose this design, a theme based on time, particularly because of its likely appeal to students.

The garden has been created on land generously donated by the Boots Company, from the grounds of the adjacent Lenton House. The site is

approximately 0.58 hectare in size, slopes gently towards the Downs and included some existing trees, some of which have been retained in the new layout.

The design of the Garden is bold and exciting with lots to see and interesting places to sit. There is ample access for disabled visitors; consideration for wildlife and the overall scheme is quite unique. A strong central pathway leads the visitor into the garden and onto a series of interconnecting circular pathways. The layout of overlapping circular areas forms a strong pattern within the centre of the garden.

There is a formal pool with fountains, which 'tell the time'* and steel bridges to a central island. These are set low, almost on the water, creating a strange feeling of 'walking on water'. An existing specimen of *Ailanthus altissima*, the Tree of Heaven was retained as a centrepiece for the island and as a focal point of the garden.

The adjacent colour garden is designed to have interesting flowers and foliage at all seasons. It is known as the Teresa Duffy Flower Garden in memory of a former Chaplain and Lecturer of the University, who died as the garden was being completed in 2000. The centrepiece of this garden is an Armillary Sphere, a sundial, originally developed by a Greek astronomer in the 15C, as a navigation device.

A circular grassed area is intended as an informal seating area as well as a small open-air performance site. Twelve sentinel clipped yews, again reinforcing the time theme surround the lawn.

There is also a raised mound with clipped box hedges, which overlooks the garden and particularly gives views of the pool. The focal point of this feature is a stone sculpture by Peter Randall-Page entitled 'Flayed Stone', carved from a single piece of glacial granite.

The furthest end of the garden is terminated with a blue brick and turf maze. This ancient garden feature symbolises the rooting of knowledge in antiquity. Views from here look out across the meadows to the halls of residence and the distant housing. Here the design emphasises the University's open attitude to learning and knowledge and its involvement in the wider community.

At this stage there are a limited number of seats and it is hoped that members and friends of the University may wish to sponsor further seating to enhance

the garden. A bold canopied structure provides a strong visual feature on the main access and will give shelter, making the garden useable at all seasons.

Tree planting has included *Pyrus* 'Chanticleer', *Corylus colurna*, the Turkish Hazel, the golden-leaved *Robinia pseudoacata* 'Frisia', *Ginkgo biloba*, the maidenhair tree and *Paulownia tomentosa*. Shrub planting includes plants for interest at all seasons. In the winter, evergreens such as *Euonymus* 'Emerald and Gold' will give a touch of 'winter sun' and the blocks of dark green box will give structure to the garden. Dogwoods will provide colour from the bright red winter twigs. Flowering bulbs give spring colour to the garden. In summer there is much to appreciate both within the structure planting surrounding the area and also within the more detailed parts of the flower garden.

The time theme, so obvious to a Millennium Garden, has already been mentioned but it will only be those who have seen the plans for this garden, who will appreciate the underlying whimsy of the design. The interacting circular patterns of the garden components can be seen as the escapement of a clock, the patterns around the flower garden representing cogs, the box spiral, a watch spring and the main access path, the pendulum of a clock. Over the years, as the garden matures and the planting grows, the strong floor pattern of the garden and its meaning, will no doubt be forgotten.

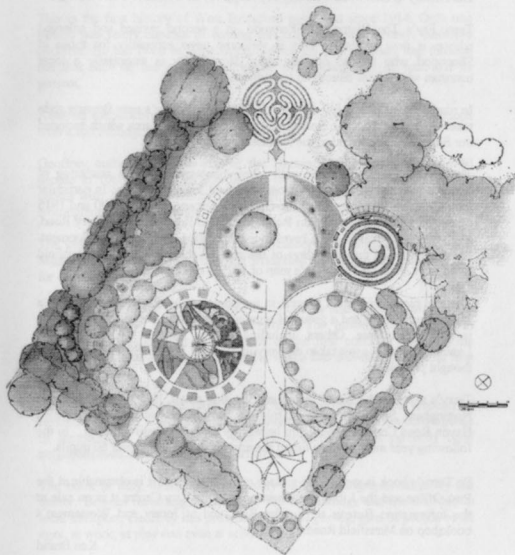
Lord Dearing, Chancellor of the University, formally opened the garden on Tuesday 4 July 2000. The planting within the garden grew well in its first year and already some areas are starting to look well clothed. Over the winter of 2000/2001 the University Grounds Staff continued to develop the surrounding areas and in particular the approach from The Orchards and University Club, which has been landscaped with a new approach footpath, tree and shrub planting. The garden has been entered for the British Landscape Industries' awards and for a Civic Trust Award.

The hard landscape was constructed by O'Dell Groundworks, and the soft aspects of the scheme by Frosts of Woburn Sands. Ailsebrook Pump Services installed the fountains.

*During the day the number of active fountains is directly related to the time, at 1pm one fountain is "on", at 2pm two fountains and so on.

Ken Brand, based exclusively on material supplied by Ian Cooke, Estates Department, University of Nottingham.

THE MILLENNIUM GARDEN University of Nottingham



Mark of the Month, October 2001

The Time Theme: The Clock Mechanism Layout with the Pendulum (centre)
(Drawing reproduced by courtesy of the University of Nottingham (Estates))

BOOK REVIEWS

The History of Sherwood by Terry Fry 68pp A4 £6-50 ISBN 0 9514938 2 5

Terry Fry's *The History of Sherwood*, in a second revised and enlarged edition is now available. This is welcome news especially for those in Sherwood who missed out last time. Here Terry is essentially a local historian who relates directly to his subject.

In nine sections plus a full reference bibliography Terry's easy flowing style takes the reader from the Basford enclosure of 1792, an area which included our Sherwood, to the end of the twentieth century.

The book is well illustrated with maps, photographs and a scattering of period advertisements. Terry's chosen maps all tell a good story. In particular the pairing on facing pages of the Ordnance Survey maps of 1900 and 1915 of the "box" formed by Haydn Road, Mansfield Road, the later Perry Road, and Hucknall Road is most revealing, pinpointing the area's development. For a glimpse of the early days of the area on the other side of Mansfield Road, part of M. O. Tarbotton's map of 1877 is reproduced.

There is plenty of human interest in the photographs selected. Some raise a smile, the landlord and a group of regulars outside the Sherwood Inn (1905) is a good example. Others, including George Brough talking to T. E. Lawrence, who has just taken delivery of his sixth Brough Superior, are more thought provoking.

Terry's text has the broad sweep and the fine detail. In 1911 the Mayor of Nottingham, Sir Edward Fraser, told the 364 children at the newly opened Haydn Road Council School, "to be worthy of their beautiful school." In the following year most of them found themselves in classes of over 60 pupils.

So Terry's book is well worth a place on your shelves. It is obtainable at the Post Office and the Library in Sherwood. In the City Centre it is on sale at the Information Bureau on Smithy Row and at Jerry and Westernman's bookshop on Mansfield Road.

Ken Brand

West Bridgford Past by Geoffrey Oldfield Published by Phillimore
£14.99 132pp + Map Endpapers ISBN 1 86077 168 8

This is the first history of West Bridgford published since 1914. Only one person was really capable of writing this comprehensive history, Geoffrey Oldfield. He has lived in West Bridgford for the past 40 years and through out that time he has recorded in words and photographs its past and its present.

After an introduction the book is divided chronologically into six sections with a full bibliography and index at the end.

Geoffrey outlines the slow rise of the Doomsday settlement of some 40 people in 1086, though its last days as a village as recorded in the 1881 census with 293 inhabitants and 54 houses, to its rapid expansion into one of Nottingham's more desirable suburbs.

The great change was initiated on 4 November 1878 when John Chaworth Musters, the owner of most of West Bridgford decided to sell off his estate for development.

Much has been made of West Bridgford's uneasy and at times antagonistic relationship with "them" across the Trent. The advantages to those in Bridgford were succinctly put in some of the first publicity extolling the blessings of the new estate in the 1880s, words that still have a familiar ring after 120 years.

"Few better opportunities have been or can be offered for the erection of residences so near to Nottingham, upon sites which combine the convenience of proximity to a large town, with the advantages of a perfectly rural neighbourhood, and freedom from urban rates."

The book is fully illustrated, with many of the photographs taken by the author. Besides recording the rise and fall of buildings and the changes in local transport, Geoffrey has provided plenty of photographs of people of all ages, at work, at play and even at school.

Geoffrey uses his knowledge of the workings of local government to take the reader carefully through the changes in the provision of utilities and facilities in West Bridgford in the years since the 1880s.

One can truly say this volume will fill that gap in your collection of books on local history. It gives a distinctly local perspective to the evolution of a Nottingham dormitory that has fiercely retained its independence.

The book conveys a very strong sense of local identity, in my mind's eye I really could look across that river boundary to the different world of the City of Nottingham. When I lived in Woodthorpe I always felt part of the city.

The book is available in local bookshops

Ken Brand

Early in December Geoffrey received his M.B.E. from Her Majesty herself. I really should have congratulated Geoffrey in September's Newsletter for getting this award "For services to the heritage in Nottinghamshire." (Editor)

MARK OF THE MONTH AUTUMN AND WINTER 2001

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

SEPTEMBER Raleigh Square Redevelopment
Client Metropolitan Housing Trust
Architects Sutherland Craig Partnership
Contractors Thomas Fish & Sons

OCTOBER Millennium Garden, University of Nottingham
Client University of Nottingham
Design Quartet Design
Co-ordinator Ian Cooke

NOVEMBER Refurbishment of the Victoria Club
Client George Akins Holdings Ltd.
Architects Mark Stewart Architects

DECEMBER Refurbishment 2a/2b High Street & 10 Pelham Street
Client Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund
Architects CPMG Architects Ltd.
Tenants Zara
Project (Zara) M G Project Management Ltd.

MARK OF THE MONTH

December 2001

Refurbishment of 2a/2b High Street and 10 Pelham Street Nottingham

In 1903 Boots the Chemist commissioned their first purpose-built department store and later added a further structural bay and return frontage in 1921. Both phases were carried out in a matching, highly ornate style using glazed terracotta as a facing material above a superb delicate art nouveau style shop front.

In the early 1980s the store was split into three units and purchased for investment by the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund (MNOPF). Twenty years later the opportunity arose to convert the majority of the building back to a single store. MNOPF also carried out some complex structural repair work and a comprehensive restoration of the terracotta facade.

CPMG obtained Listed Building Consent for alterations to this Grade II listed building to allow trading on Basement to Second Floors, leaving the Sub-Basement and Third Floor as ancillary areas.

Corrosion of the structural frame of the building, particularly to the curved southwest corner, had forced the terracotta dangerously out of line. This was carefully dismantled and the exposed curved beams strengthened in-situ with carbon fibre. The structural frame is prevented from further deterioration by the installation of a cathodic protection system.

The building has now been fitted out by *Zara*, the well established Spanish fashion store, and re-opened in November 2001

David Glazebrook CMMG Architects

Footnote:

The architect of the original building and the 1921 extension was Albert Nelson Bromley (1850-1934). The first submission of plans on 6 March 1903 for *Shop and Store, High Street and Pelham Street*, was made on behalf of Webster's Trustees. The plans for the *Extension of Salesshop* put forward on 10 June 1921 were on behalf of Boots Cash Chemists (Eastern) Ltd.

It is likely that Bromley's starry-eyed new pupil T Cecil Howitt first had his vision of designing a new Council House whilst being engaged in some modest way on this building, which of course until c1926 faced the rear of the rather shabby old Exchange (Editor).

HERE AND THERE

Some of the recent architectural blips at the National Ice Centre highlighted in the local media – let alone its aesthetics – should be avoided in future major projects. In the Nottingham Local Plan Review Section 8 is the encouraging statement “The City Council will encourage Architectural Competitions on particularly sensitive or prominent sites, in order to ensure that new development in these locations is of the very highest quality.”

The same document also refers in Section 6 R10 to “Development at the Forest Recreation Ground.” Within this section is revealed “The proposed development at the Forest will be a ‘state of the art’ major sports and leisure facility, to replace the Victoria and Noel Street Baths which are not capable of being upgraded to a suitable level and are on small sites which cannot individually accommodate development of the scale proposed.”

“In order for the proposal to be acceptable at the Forest, it will have to be shown there is a need for the development, there are no other sites available in more sustainable locations, and its impact in terms of the open space network will be mitigated by excellent design and compensatory improvements to open space locally, particularly in the Forest Fields area.”

So should this project go ahead in the future no doubt the conditions set out in paragraph one above will apply.

OooOOOooo

In *Nottingham's Citizen's Charter, Performance 2000/01*, which came as a supplement with the *October Arrow* in the Performance Indicator I noted “the number of public conveniences sites provided by the authority normally throughout the year” had decreased from 48 to 29. Two of those lost were in the city centre; in Theatre Square and on Maid Marian Way facing Mount Street, thus the inconvenience of this situation for visitors and tourists is painfully obvious. The toilets in the Market Square seem open all hours and although the janitors work wonders they are not exactly centres of design excellence. The conveniences on Milton Street have their shutters rolling down for a prompt 7.30pm closure; thank heavens for late night shopping. So knowing locals can of course, in shopping hours, head towards the Broadmarsh or Victoria Centre, visit department stores and some DIY outlets, truly a variation of the public-private partnership!

On the bright side there are fine toilets at the new D.H. Lawrence Centre!

In a recent article in the pink Commercial Property section that comes with the *Evening Post* on Tuesdays, I noticed the bleak lower end of Barker Gate described as “a continental piazza.” By inference I assume “continental” means Italian. I doubt if any Italian cities would wish to draw attention to such an inhospitable environment. When I photographed it a few weeks ago I looked in vain for the skate boarders but I suppose it has not got the challenges of the Market Square. I have been told it is the *Ice Arena Square*. Oh!

OooOOOooo

As Hilary Silvester has reminded us elsewhere the Arboretum celebrates its 150th anniversary on 11th May and this event is to be celebrated on the weekend 11th and 12th May. This is encouraging news; I understand there was no real celebration of a similar occasion in Derby! In Nottingham in 1952 the Arboretum's centenary was marked by a full weeklong programme, officially opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman G.H. Wigman, on Saturday 10th May, at 9.30p.m.

The City Police Military Band played every evening from 7-9p.m. and then at 9.30p.m. the illuminations were switched on. The other entertainment provided varied from night to night and included Open Air Dancing to Chas. Jones and his Orchestra (9.30 – 11.30p.m.), Dancing Displays, Square Dancing and two performances of an Open Air Play “Gossips' Glory. Admission was free as usual during normal opening hours but from 9.30p.m. to midnight each day including Saturday 17th May the admission charge was 6d. for adults and 3d. for children.

The official programme opened under the heading
The Centenary Celebrations.

“The main feature of the Celebrations will be illuminations in the Spring and in the Autumn. The object of the illuminations will not be to present a gaudy aspect but to bring out the hidden beauties of the flowers, trees and shrubs. There will, however, be a “Children's Walk” from Sherwood Street to the Addison Street tunnel where small animated features will be displayed.”

The dates for the Illuminations in the Autumn were to be announced.

Ken Brand, not necessarily reflecting the views of the Civic Society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I have found Stephen Best's articles on Sneinton house names most interesting, and would like to support his suggestion for a citywide register. He suggests that the *Newsletter* would be an appropriate forum for reporting and comparing all the names found.

One that is also relevant to Stephen's comment on the scarcity of British royal family names is to be found on the north side of Elm Avenue, just before the junction with Cranmer Street. Both pillars of a gateway from the garden of a house on Villa Road are inscribed 'Louise of Lorne House'. Princess Louise was the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and in 1871 she married the Marquess of Lorne, heir to the Dukedom of Argyll, and duly became the Duchess of Argyll when he succeeded to the title in 1900.

The house itself is now in commercial hands and bears no allusion to Louise on the entrance front, nor in any directory that I have traced. Her connection with the area, or even with Nottingham is tenuous, though there is a Lorne Close in St. Ann's, (there used to be a Lorne Grove before redevelopment), a Marquis of Lorne public house on Salisbury Street, Radford, a Lorne Avenue in Radcliffe on Trent and a Louise Avenue in Carlton.

Princess Louise was an occasional visitor to Bestwood Lodge and when Sybil, the Duchess of St. Albans died (aged 22) she sculpted a medallion head of her, which was placed in Bestwood Church, which Sybil had built.

The only other, rather vague, connection is that in 1885 Princess Louise had met Dr. Noel Paton, principal of the Congregational College on Forest Road West, and when he founded the Recreational Evening Schools Association (the forerunner of present day evening classes) she became President.

The origins of street and house names are intriguing and well worth investigating.

Yours etc,
Neville Hoskins

BINNS ORGAN CONCERTS 2002

The series will commence on 5th May with Professor Graham Barber of Leeds University. Other recitalists will include Adrian Partington, Donald Mackenzie, Cathy Langston, Waclaw Golonka & David Butterworth

Dates for your diary are:
2nd or 9th June, 14th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October

The Celebrity Concert will be on **27th October** (Recitalist to be confirmed)

All concerts commence at **2.45p.m.** (Pre-concert talk at **2.15p.m.**)

CITY VISIONS - A CALENDAR FOR NOTTINGHAM 2002

In April of last year I was approached by Roshni Parek of the City Information Bureau who wondered if she might be able to purchase a couple of images of Nottingham from my photographic archive for the City's 2002 calendar.

I politely declined, having seen the product in previous years, but instead offered to put together both the images and the text comprehensively for them.

They seemed delighted with the proposition and over the summer I selected pictures, which I felt represented the City's buildings, sights and amenities, and in addition shot several new views to complement those already in existence. Together with the designers at "Pennit" in Annesley, we produced an entirely new look to the style and layout. By the end of August I had themed the pages and written a brief text to introduce each section.

I was keen to have a forward underpinning the introduction by a noted Nottingham citizen and asked Ken Brand to write a short piece on behalf of the Civic Society. In this he refers to illustrators of Nottingham from the past centuries and finishes by suggesting that these architectural photographs offer us an ideal modern day viewpoint.

Early sales figures have been tremendously encouraging, with reports of copies going out as far afield as the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

I was asked to attend a launch and signing at the Council House in October and I have to say that I am really happy to have made something for Nottingham and hope that people will regard us fondly from their walls worldwide.

Martine Hamilton Knight