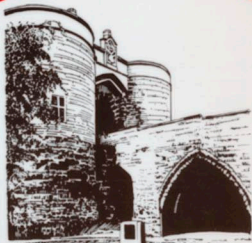


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NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY



CASTLE GATEHOUSE SHOP

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**Nottingham
Civic
Society**

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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 £10 Family £15.50

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NEWSLETTER

April 2003

**Nottingham
Civic Society**

121



Doomed.....

The best building on the square

£1

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WOLLATON VILLAGE DOVECOTE MUSEUM

Dovecote Drive, opposite the Library

Open in 2003 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Sundays

May 11th, June 8th, July 13th, August 10th

and

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For information & school visits contact Maureen Jones on 0115 928 2567

Cover Photograph

The Old Cricket Players public house surviving on the edge of Bolero Square is due to be demolished and replaced by an undistinguished block of flats.

NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members of the Environment Committee have recently been involved in a number of consultations and initiatives instigated by Nottingham City Council involving planning and conservation issues.

As members may know, there has been considerable concern regarding the condition of parts of Wollaton Hall and Park for a number of years. Conservation consultants and English Heritage have been involved in detailed studies of the condition of the Hall and Park and a Conservation Plan has been drawn up. A bid has now gone in to the regional Heritage Lottery Fund office (recently located to Nottingham) and it is hoped that this will be successful in enabling Phase 1 of the restoration work to be undertaken, including stabilizing the stone work, restoring the Camellia House and doing drainage and other repair work in the park to safeguard trees and such features as the ha-ha and the duck decoy. The Civic Society is represented on the Wollaton Park Users' Group Committee, which meets with the HLF officers and NCC officers to discuss issues related to Wollaton.

The Society is similarly represented on the Highfields Users' Group and here the current concerns centre to a considerable extent around the siting of the tram route planned to run to Beeston. Proposals have proved somewhat contentious as it is felt that they may detrimentally affect the activities in the Djanogly Arts Centre Recital Hall, the Tennis Centre and the Hockey Centre. Alternative siting of the tram tracks could affect amenities such as trees on University Boulevard.

As members will have read previously in the Newsletter, a new team of planning officers has joined the City to form its Urban Design Team. Already this team is contributing to the debate around design issues in Nottingham. The Urban Design manager regularly attends the monthly Urban Design Forum (a panel composed of architects, councillors, consultants and Civic Society representatives) where large, important or sensitive new developments are discussed with the architects and developers of the schemes. The Urban Design Team is also currently involved in two design guidance documents, the *Tall Buildings Strategy* and the *Streetscape Guidelines*.

The former aims to set out a policy for the design and siting of tall buildings in Nottingham, and was circulated among members of the Urban Design Forum for comment. The Strategy was discussed by the Society's Environment Committee, who felt that many elements of the Strategy were very sound, including statements about the visual impact on the character of the City's historic core and the impact physically in the form of shadowing and wind effects.

The Strategy did make clear that certain views, visual corridors and vistas must be respected. However the Environment Committee felt that the topography of the City needed more positive recognition – for instance the views across the City to the Council House, the Castle and St Mary's from the North-East heights.

The Committee was also unwilling to accept an encircling "necklace" of tall buildings outside the inner ring road, preferring to see a development on the South-East side of the City leading down towards the river. We shall be interested to hear the City Councillors' opinions on the tall buildings issue, particularly in view of English Heritage's current comments on the Renzo Piano London Bridge Tower: a good building in the wrong place. English Heritage feel that views from North London of the dome of St Paul's (which members will recall from our trip of three years ago) should be protected from being obscured or adversely affected by tall or massive buildings nearby.

The same argument must be made for views from North Nottingham of the Council House dome, the Castle and St Mary's.

Once views such as these are lost, they are lost forever and Nottingham has already lost too much. Our distinctive city centre with its surrounding hilly topography is to be celebrated, not compromised.

The City Council's Streetscape Guidelines are currently being written by a team comprised of planners, traffic engineers, landscape designers and safety officers. The Society has provided a grant to aid this project, which deals with issues such as street layout, signage, pedestrian safety, landscaping, paving, cleansing systems and so on.

Earlier this year, as part of the City/Society partnership on this project, I accompanied the Streetscape team on a visit to London where we were shown the impressive Camden Boulevard scheme which has concentrated on making the streets more acceptable for their users and communities: new paving and signage, cleansing, washing, graffiti- and gum-removal and so on, done

frequently and consistently. We were also shown the Kensington High Street project where, as well as regular "gum-busting" on the York stone paving slabs, the emphasis was on a new approach to pedestrian crossings, traffic management and lighting – at two heights on the same pole, one lamp at the top over the roadway and the other lower down over the pavement.

Both these projects have relevance to our Nottingham streetscape and environment, where some examples of this type of street lighting can already be found. It is encouraging to see that some aspects of Nottingham's street care are improving; for instance the litterbins are much less messy, and "litter-picking" is ongoing. However fly posting and graffiti still present a challenge, which has to be met swiftly and unceasingly until the perpetrators become discouraged. Also, the problems created by the "late night economy" remain to be addressed. The clearing of the associated detritus falls upon the City's cleansing section, already stretched, and funded by the City's residents and businesses. It would be encouraging to see financial support forthcoming from the establishments, which benefit from the influx of late-night diners and clubbers. This would result not only in cleaner, safer (minus broken glass) more acceptable streets but also a more positive attitude towards these late-night establishments.

As is often pointed out, we have a vibrant city, with beautiful buildings and a strong history. We have a duty to respect and protect the City's character by appropriate planning strategies and to enhance its environment by imaginative approaches to the design and management of streets and other public spaces.

Hilary Silvester

MARK OF THE MONTH, JANUARY 2003

Refurbishment of 10-12 Castle Gate for Homewith Ltd.

Tan L Gani, Tan Designs Ltd., writes:

"The property had been empty for the last 14 years when we found it. As developer and architect, with Kimberley Construction as the main contractor, we refurbished the property into seven luxury apartments and two retail units.

We received the New Homes 2002 City Living Award and are now very pleased to have our endeavours recognised by the Civic Society."

THE EASTSIDE

Following the publication of the masterplan for Waterside some months ago, a similar plan for Eastside has now been launched. Eastside, in the immediate future, has far more potential for rapid change than Waterside, which is more of a strategic plan for bringing about a fundamental change to our underused and largely forgotten waterfront from Trent Bridge to Colwick Park.

Eastside comprises an area of Nottingham stretching from the junction of Mansfield Road and Huntingdon Street as far down as the Holmes Place Leisure Centre on London Road, having an area of some 139 acres.

The Mission Statement is to create an area of the city which will combine the proximity of the city centre with the residential areas of St Ann's by the establishment of clusters of mixed use, each having a primary designation such as a student village, limited retail expansion, a Bio city high tech medical area and an office area. This should create the feeling that the city centre has been extended in an east-west direction. This would balance the present feeling that Nottingham is, in fact, a north to south city.

To do this one must overcome certain problems that the Eastside has in the major traffic flow along Mansfield Road and Parliament Street to Trent Bridge which tends to cut this area in half. Also there is the problem of bringing pedestrians from the east of the city through Hockley and crossing this major highway. There is little one can do to alter the traffic flows and therefore some form of plaza or wide bridge must be created to lift the pedestrians above the traffic in order to counteract the feeling of isolation currently felt by the Eastside. If one can pick up the pedestrian flows down Hockley and through the Ice Arena to the other side of Lower Parliament Street in a wide pedestrian plaza this will effectively deal with the problems of traffic creating an artificial barrier to the Lace Market and the city centre.

There are a number of limiting factors in the existing buildings within this area, namely Sneinton Market and the Victoria Leisure Centre, which create a local loyalty to the "no change" syndrome. Both need bringing into the 21st century but this does not necessarily imply demolition. However some change in emphasis on use is needed with perhaps a new leisure centre in the area and the creation of a covered market in the Victoria Baths building.

The most exciting prospect with regard to Eastside is the fact that there are large areas that are ripe for redevelopment and regeneration and, more to the point, are likely to become available within the next few years. The area will also feature in the plan for tall buildings in the city being prepared by the Director of Development.

It is no secret that Nottingham City Transport are looking at the future of the bus station site for redevelopment purposes. Similarly with Barton Trent bus depot this needs to relocate close by its existing premises. These sites would be a natural location for a mixed-use office retail and possibly residential development scheme, being so close to the edge of the Lace Market and with an appropriate access point as described above. This would enable some extension to be made to the canal basin to provide a water feature within the centre of this redevelopment scheme supported by British Waterways who wish for a city centre canal barge marina.

There are also other buildings and sites available now that one can see rapid redevelopment taking place over the next few years. Already the ex BASF (Boots building) now owned by the Trent University is the focal point of Bio city which could create unto 5,000 high tech jobs in the city and so lift the ability of St Ann's residents to find well paid employment within the immediate area.

This is probably one of the most exciting prospects for employment in Nottingham which has been seen for many years and it will create long term employment for those who are displaced by our traditional declining industries.

The student population of Nottingham is expected to rise from 35,700 in 01/02 to 40,000 in 04/05 and the style of accommodation also requires upgrading as students are now looking for much higher quality accommodation than is normally created by converting dwelling houses, and therefore, this area is ripe for the creation of a student village to supplement those properties already converted from industrial and office accommodation.

Demand for office accommodation may well be provided to the west of the city but there is a requirement for a specialised city office centre and the Eastside will provide the best location for this style of development.

Retail floor space in the city will largely be satisfied by the extension to Broadmarsh. However, there is a need for a more specialised shopping centre in this area and also a requirement for a food retail outlet somewhere close to the east side of the city. Already a number of supermarket operators are interested in this location. In view of Government policy over the siting of large food retail outlets, it is likely that it will be of a medium size and will be highly sought by retail operators but there are planning obligations to overcome as evidenced by the recent application on Sytners' site.

As far as employment is concerned, the Island Business Quarter has not been as successful as we had hoped. This area requires some regeneration skills and will provide relocation opportunities, which a change of emphasis will bring to a successful conclusion.

As far as the Civic Society is concerned, there are few listed buildings within the Eastside development apart from the Low Level Station and the Great Northern Warehouse. The Low Level Station has been satisfactorily brought into use as a leisure centre. The Great Northern Warehouse has been the subject of a planning application for demolition and was subsequently refused at appeal. One cannot but feel, however, that what remains of this structure is in such a poor state that it cannot satisfactorily be regenerated.

The masterplan was commissioned by Nottingham Regeneration Ltd. The consultant team was led by Latham Architects of Derby backed by a highly skilled team of consultants. The plan has been put out to consultation and the final draft has been submitted to the City Council. If approved, it will then be incorporated in the Local Plan for planning guidance. The regeneration of the area will take years to complete as conditions change, as will requirements for redevelopment therefore it must not become too rigid a document. It is supposed to represent a reasonable plan for this area of the city and I believe it is one of most exciting developments that has taken place for many years.

Peter Featherby

WHY ARE BUILDINGS SO INACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED PEOPLE?

Part (ii)

Partly as a result of the failure of the pre-existing legislation in removing the barriers in the built environment The Disability Discrimination Act has been enacted. This Act is designed to put an end to the discrimination experienced by disabled people. It came about as a result of pressure from disabled people and their organisations, which led to the establishment of the Committee on Restrictions Against Disabled People (CONRAD), which was established in 1979. It reported in 1982 that there was widespread discrimination and recommended the introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. With a change in Government the recommendation was rejected. Education and the promotion of good practise were seen as the way forward.

In 1985 Voluntary Organisations for Anti-discrimination Legislation (VODAL) was set up to secure the necessary legislation.

Over the next 10 years some 15 private members bills were introduced into parliament and failed. In 1991 the prototype Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill was introduced and reintroduced in 1992 and 1993.

By 1993 the campaign had gained momentum with support from both inside and outside parliament and it looked as if the bill might succeed. The Bill received a much higher profile in May 1994, with a huge lobby of Westminster. The Government still maintained that legislation was not needed, however, the high profile given to the need for anti - discrimination legislation and level of public outrage forced the Government to introduce its own legislative proposals.

The Government's Bill was tabled in January 1995, and finally made it onto the statute books in the form of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995).

The Act introduced new laws aimed at ending the discrimination that many disabled people face. The Act gives disabled people new rights of access to goods, facilities and services, as well as in employment and buying or renting property.

There are 8 parts to the Act:

- Part I Definitions
- Part II Employment
- Part III Providers of Goods, Services, Facilities & Premises
- Part IV Education
- Part V Transport
- Part VI Disability Rights Commission
- Part VII & VIII Supplementary & Miscellaneous issues

It is Part III of The Act that has the most impact with regard to the design of the built environment, the time table for its implementation is as follows:

- since December 2nd 1996, it has been unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably for a reason related to their disability
- since October 1st 1999, service providers have to make "reasonable adjustments" for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services and
- from October 1st 2004, service providers will also have to make "reasonable adjustments" to the "physical features" of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

These final provisions of Part III will require service providers to remove alter or provide a way of avoiding physical features that prevent disabled people from accessing their services.

With all this legislation are things getting better? Well the DDA deadline of 2004 has focused the minds of both service providers and those involved in the design of the built environment on the need to create a fully accessible environment. Unfortunately it is the fear of financial penalties that is driving this rather than a desire to create buildings that everyone can use but at least we are now beginning to see consideration given to the needs of all users of a building.

As I mentioned in the first article on this subject I consider the main barrier to creating a fully accessible built environment is the attitude of the individuals responsible for the built environment. Because of the lack of experience and understanding of disability, due partly to the lack of integration of disabled people into mainstream society, attitudes are shaped by often ill-informed information. Unfortunately under the DDA access to the built environment will again be determined by attitude. This time it will not be the attitude of architects, designers, planners etc. but the attitude of the courts, for it

is the courts that will be determining what level of accessibility it will be 'reasonable' to provide.

In my opinion it will take sometime before it can be said we have a built environment 'Designed for all'. I consider that it will be a slow process and will require a change in society's and individual's attitude to disability to bring it about, and I include in this disabled people who should not accept the role society has determined for them.

John Devonport,
Team Leader Access Mobility Section,
Development and Environmental Services Department,
Nottingham City Council.

RICHARD JAMES "Dick" MILLER

A sad loss to the Civic Society occurred in March when Richard James Miller died aged 80. Dick as he was always known and his wife Sylvia had been members of the Society for many years and were familiar figures at meetings of the Society. Dick had celebrated his eightieth birthday last December and he and Sylvia were present at the Christmas evening at the Council House. He was taken ill shortly afterwards and died peacefully at home, where he had been cared for during his illness by Sylvia and their three daughters.

He had been an active and supportive member of the Society's Photographic Panel ever since it started. It was typical of his generosity that he acted as host to the Panel at his elegant house on Regent Street, with Sylvia providing refreshments.

Dick qualified as a dentist just in time to enter the Royal Army Dental Corps in the early days of the Second World War. After the war he practiced in the house on Regent Street and on retiring stayed there in the upper floors, whilst the downstairs continued to be used as a dentists' surgery.

A memorial service to him was held at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham where he and his wife were regular worshippers. The large congregation at the service reflected the esteem he was held in by a wide circle of friends. Tributes to him were made by the Rector Canon Andrew Deuchar and Professor Brian Hopkinson. They mentioned his sense of humour, and his devotion to his family and the interests in opera and music he shared with Sylvia.

Geoffrey Oldfield

THEY KNOW THE MEANING OF GREENING

... or how a Nottingham couple have ecologically retrofitted their classic Victorian villa.

Take a Victorian thermal slum, add liberal amounts of cash and hey presto! You too can end up with an ecologically retrofitted home that beats current building regulations by a factor of at least two.

That was Gil Schalom and his wife Penney Poyzer's approach to making their five-bed semi in West Bridgford the greenest and leanest house on the block, just 5 minutes from Trent Bridge Cricket Ground and the Nottingham Forest pitch.

The couple bought the former nightmare pile in 1998 from a landlord who had 'maintained' it in a custom befitting herds of college students. This meant that the niceties of repair were by and large ignored, with wallpaper and paste holding bricks in place, instead of the more traditional mortar.

The property, which, was formerly owned by Sir Jesse Boot, yes, of Boots the Chemist fame, was bought for £84,500. Gil and Penney then started to work out just what they were going to do with the mouldering glory that was now theirs. Gil, an architect, with a particular interest in the green side of the profession, wanted to make the house as thermally efficient as possible, and to use the house as a laboratory to test new sustainable materials and products. Luckily, Penney went along with it: she is Ecoteam coordinator for a green charity, Global Action Plan, and was keen to put her principles into practice (see article on Ecoteams after this article).

Whilst it would probably have been easier and cheaper to re-build the house, the couple put together a wish-list of good green things they wanted to include in the refurbishment: rain water collection system, low flush toilets, and a solar hot water heating system, bought at low cost from Rushcliffe Solar Club, and natural, low-impact finishes.

As soon as you say solar power, there is usually an echo of scepticism bouncing off the walls, but when you consider that there are some 40,000 solar hot water systems installed in the UK, then you shut up and take notice. Solar hot water heating can provide up to 50% of hot water requirement for domestic use, and with a payback of around 5-7 years, it is not economic lunacy. It is also the single biggest contribution most households could make to CO₂ reduction

and is now recognised by enlightened banks and building societies, to be a justifiable case for awarding a home improvement loan. The National Solar Club (0116 222 0222) offers discount to members to buy a choice of systems. Members are then trained to install the systems - or they can opt, like Penney and Gil, to have it installed at a reasonable rate by a recommended contractor. You can make your own solar panels of course - from extinct radiators (and cased in glass, if possible) and paint them black. Not aesthetically pleasing, but it is certainly low cost and reasonably effective.

The DTI and BRE has just launched a scheme that provides grants to householders and community groups interested installing renewables; check out the website at www.clear-skies.org

As the couple both have full time jobs, they realised that they would not have the time or skills to do much of the heavy building work themselves. Then came the task of trying to find contractors that had experience of this type of work. Whilst there were a very few local specialist firms, Gil felt he could 'educate' a local jobbing builder to carry out most of the work, if he undertook all the project management and sourcing of materials. This approach worked well and for a full year, the builder was engaged on general building work to improve the structure and make good years of neglect. The fact that Gil works just a five minute walk away at Mark Stewart Architects, West Bridgford, Nottingham, meant that he could hold a site meeting every morning before he left for the day job, and was able to nip back at lunchtimes, or to run back in case of dire emergencies. Penney undertook a lot of the research: hunting for the right size tank to go into the cellar, finding out what was the most environmentally friendly paint you could buy and just where could you get non-pvc pipe work and electrical cabling?

Now even a bog-standard refurbishment of this scale would put a dent in even a healthy bank-balance, so why go down a route that would certainly cost more up-front and have a very long payback? It comes down to principle: Gil and Penney realised that they had hit on a major issue for the UK's built environment, that the domestic sector - and particularly pre-1919 housing was causing huge amounts of CO₂ to be released into the atmosphere - and they realised that very little was being done to address it. So, they decided to make their house a paragon of zero CO₂ emission, for it to be as green and stylish as their skills could make it - and to have an open house policy to the public to come and have a look at what they are doing. It is essentially, a completely privately funded demonstration project to show just how sustainable a Victorian home of typical construction, can be.

The thermal strategy for the house is the key to their ultimate aim that the house is low-energy, even for an older house. The roof space has 300-400mm of Warmcell insulation, the interior of the front elevation has been dry lined with a non-phenolic insulated board that is mechanically fixed. The cellar is next on the list with the boards being insulated with sheep wool, a breather membrane and eco board. We always think hot air rises and is lost through the roof, but if you have a cellar you can lose up to 25% through wooden floors. The next and final stage is to externally insulate the side and rear elevation, which they hope to carry out in September this year. Unfortunately, there are no grants for this, so they are currently saving up for the installation, which could cost around £18,000.

So what can you do to do your bit? Whilst Penney and Gil realise that few will be motivated to go to the lengths that they have, they do urge readers to consider green options when they plan any DIY projects around the home. This is their list of recommendations for the most common improvement projects:

- Consider installing solar hot water heating system - getting cheaper all the time (around £1300) and only basic plumbing skills needed in most installations.
- Insulation - eco alternatives to nasty stuff like fibreglass are becoming more common; try Warmcell, a highly effective material made from recycled newspapers.
- Check out non-pvc alternatives to piping and cables - it could be phased out in the UK in a few years, on the heels of an increasing number of European countries.
- Instead of reaching for petrochemical based paints, try more natural alternatives that are kinder to the environment and look fantastic too.
- If building in cupboards, shelving etc, look for sources of reclaimed timber that is often of superior quality and very competitively priced - and which has none of the brassiness of young wood.
- Next time you buy a light bulb, make it a low energy one - and scoop savings of up to £50 over the life of an eco bulb.
- You could choose to switch to a green electricity supplier such as the RSPB scheme - and make a contribution to the charity. Powergen do too, but you have to ask them for it.
- Use natural waxes on floors, you will find the wholesome smell quite addictive.

- When purchasing products, think about what they are made of and where they come from - the more natural the better, and the more locally they are sourced the less transport needed.
- Compost your kitchen and garden waste and improve your soil for free.
- Remember if you have a cellar to insulate under floors - up to 25% heat can be lost this way.
- Check skirtings, windows and doors are draught-proofed.
- Install efficient heat recovery fan units in wet areas to cut down on humidity and rapid air-cooling.
- Buy second hand furniture and repair it - go down the Carol Smillie road for cheery kitsch that you can alter by the season.

All this costs money, but the reward is that you can look smugly green and have a new angle to exploit when boasting about your latest DIY project - and even possible, to have a bit more fun. There is sadly, scant funding around: there are some grants such as HEES for people in receipt of benefits and some small-scale grants for insulation. Earlier this year, the Government made a partial VAT reduction on low energy products to 5% - but this reduction can only be claimed if a contractor installs it, so bang goes the benefit to the DIY-er more than capable of doing the work themselves.

Penney and Gil are about to install a wood-burning boiler in the cellar, which will make them autonomous in space and water heating. They are getting funding from the Clear Skies grant scheme and through the New Energy Foundation. The suppliers are Biotechnology Industries, who specialise in wood burning systems. The new boiler will of course comply with the Clear Air Act as it is in an urban setting. It will be the first of its type installed in a city setting in the UK.

In summary, there is a tremendous amount that we can do to improve the environmental performance of our homes. People like Penney and Gil are paving the way for green products to become more available, and more affordable. They accept that they are amongst the pioneers for eco-refurbishment on older housing and that is their choice. It is an expensive one, hard to justify in cold economics - but someone has to do it and make the concept of green living a familiar one to all. Check the website for the house at www.msarch.co.uk/ecohome for construction details and contracts. All suppliers and materials are listed with contact details.

Penney Poyzer

JOIN AN ECOTEAM: SAVE MONEY, MAKE FRIENDS AND PROTECT YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The Ecoteams programme is an environmental project new to the UK that is being piloted in Rushcliffe. It is supported by Global Action Plan - an international environmental charity and funded by Biffaward and Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The Ecoteams experience has already been successfully completed by over 110 households in Rushcliffe and it is now being extended to other areas.

Ecoteams coordinator Penney Poyzer said, "Many people want to make a difference to their environment, but don't know where to start. Ecoteams provides households with a step-by-step process that helps to reduce waste, use of natural resources - and saves money into the bargain. It is also a great way to make new friends and increase one's sense of being part of a community".

Here is what one Rushcliffe family said about it:

"...we've always been conscious of the pressures on the environment and the need to conserve the earth's resources; being a member of an EcoTeam, encourages us to greater awareness. It was helpful to come into contact with like-minded people and as an added benefit, a chance to get to know some of our neighbours..."

What is an EcoTeam?

An EcoTeam is a group of 6-8 households that meet over a period of 4 months. They look at key topics such as waste, energy and water. The aim is, that through measuring improvements, the household will be able to change its behaviour - thereby playing its part toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Here are the average results so far:

Waste	49.76%
Electricity	10.20%
Gas	17.31%
Water	22.73% (where metered)

Where did the idea come from? Ecoteams are new to the UK, but it has been running in the Netherlands as a highly successful project that has been taken up by over 10,000 households. You will be joining a growing band of like-minded Ecoteam-ers in Germany, Belgium, Denmark, South Africa, Poland, Austria and Turkey.

How does it work? An Ecoteam is not simply a discussion group; it is a practical, pragmatic programme where words and thoughts are translated into action.

The Ecoteam Programme is built upon a few simple principles:

- * The idea that no one can do everything, but we can all can do something
- * The work is shared by a group so that members can support and encourage one another and share experiences and ideas
- * It is a step-by-step process that helps you to change your lifestyle by small adjustments that become good habits, benefiting you and the planet
- * By measuring what resources you use on a weekly basis, you can see the improvements you have achieved during the course of the programme, as an individual and as a team

How much of my time will it take up? It takes surprisingly little time to really get results - around a couple of hours per month for your group meeting and a few minutes for measuring each week. If you need advice or are confused about any aspect of the programme, your team coach or the project co-ordinator is just a 'phone call away.

Who can get involved? Anyone can form an Ecoteam - with neighbours, friends and acquaintances, in the workplace or a community group such as pensioners or church groups.

Just imagine the impact if everyone in the county of Nottingham achieved these kinds of savings - it would mean that all the waste reduction targets would be achieved, there would be a marked reduction in CO2 emissions, and we would have a closer, more harmonious community!

The programme is shortly to be extended to Nottinghamshire so if you would like to see an Ecoteam set up in your area, contact:
Penney Poyzer tel 0115 9143893 email Penney.poyzer@btopenworld.

LEFT BEHIND

Nottingham is stagnating! The drive that in the past gave us the Playhouse and then later the Royal Concert Hall seems to have shuddered to a halt. Outside of that commissioned by the University of Nottingham, very little architecture of merit has been erected in the city in the last quarter of a century.

Yes I am well aware that all over the city the tower cranes are waving about, but in all honesty, it is a case of more of the same and that means some worthy but pretty bland stuff. The great "dumbo" of a National Ice Centre was a fantastic opportunity lost, and these chances do not come very often.

A walk along Fletcher Gate, from the top of Victoria Street to Weekday Cross, will give some idea of what is on offer. Where did the Lace Market go?

Recently the headlines of the local media were taken up with the fatuous proposal to link up the *Galleries of Justice* with the Broad Marsh Caves by a new tunnel. The cost was modestly put at £100,000, by an optimist but more sensibly at £2m by a realist. Unless there is a chance discovery of a really important cave in an historic context I would have thought Nottingham had enough caves to satisfy the most curious tourist. In any case there are a number of caves awaiting some kind of exploitation in and around Castle Rock.

In Nottingham there is currently some public discussion, through Focus Groups, about the establishment of a Museum Centre, probably out in Bilborough, to replace or compensate for, the intended closure of several of the city's existing museums. Its funding has yet to be fought for so nobody has any idea of its size and shape and even if architects will be involved in its design.

Meanwhile, in the heart of Sheffield the young architectural partnership of Pringle Richards Sharratt have designed the exciting new £5.5m Winter Garden and Millennium Galleries, which are located adjoining the intriguing *Peace Square*. As the architectural writer Jonathan Glancey put it "For a British city to give up so much space that might easily have been a lucrative shopping complex is almost unbelievable and very welcome." These form the focal point of Sheffield's *Heart of the City* project, a project, which was outlined to the Civic Society when Sheffield's city architect was a guest speaker several years ago. The investment for the *Heart of the City* is put at £120m.

Leicester City Council, yes Leicester (not a *Core City*), working with the Haymarket Theatre and the Phoenix Arts Centre, has commissioned Rafael Vinoly to design their new multi-million pound *Centre for Performing Arts*. Vinoly was the leader of *Team Think*, who were the unsuccessful practice on the short list of two for the replacement of New York's World Trade Centre. The Performing Arts Centre will be the main feature of the regeneration of the St. George's South area of the city. Birmingham is about to get a £130m library at Millennium Point, Eastside, Digbeth designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership. Manchester has had a couple of new museums and an enlargement of the Manchester Art Gallery in the very recent past.

Nottingham became the eighth member of the *Core Cities Group* just over a year ago; several of the other members are bidding to be the *European Capital of Culture 2008* and are investing heavily in infrastructure. Nottingham urgently needs an input of inspired forward thinking and planning and the vision to involve top-class architects if it is not to be left behind the rest of the group. Is there anyone out there fighting to get some of this money that is currently flowing elsewhere?

Ken Brand

MARK OF THE MONTH, SPRING 2003

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

JANUARY	Refurbishment of 10-12 Castle Gate
Client	Homewith Ltd.
Architects	Tan Designs Ltd.
Designer	Marc Garni
FEBRUARY	Portland Square Development
Client	Metropolitan Housing Trust Ltd.
Architects	Franklin Ellis Architects
Contractor	Thomas Fish & Sons Ltd.
MARCH	Refurbishment of <i>The Running Horse</i> , Alfreton Road
Client	Pubmaster
Architects	Allan Joyce Architects
Contractors	Beech Restoration

MAGIQUE AND UBIQUE—SHERWOOD HOUSE NAMES (Part ii)

These two changes were made at about the time when Leonard Avenue was being built, beginning in 1908. Significantly, nearly all the houses were called Villas especially those for which W. Holbrook submitted building plans in December 1906. Eleven pairs of semi-detached houses and two detached were put up by 1913, all with names. Holbrook didn't go in for anything fancy, preferring Christian names such as *Ethel*, *Iris* and *Albert* or bushes such as *Lilac* and *Laurel*. No.30, *Rose Villa*, combined the two. Renovation work on Nos.26 and 28 has led to the removal of most of their name, only ? *le Villas* surviving. Considering the similarity of names with several Villas on Ena Avenue, Sneinton, noted by Stephen Best, it seems likely that the missing name is *Myrtle*.

Changing house names and numbers can present problems, notably on Mansfield Road. On the west side, between Bingham Road and Devon Drive, is a row of imposing semi-detached houses built in the late 1880s, mostly for J.H. Clarke to designs by W.A. Heazell. In fact, there is a good terracotta plaque in the gable of one of them bearing the year 1887. The numbering then went from 305 to 321 but now it is 429 to 447. In Wright's Directory 1889 seven have names suggesting the kind of standing today's flats do not have: *Riseholme*, *Park House*, *Drayton Lodge*, *Longcliffe House*, *Burton House*, *Joyce Holme* and *Ravello*. By 1901 Drayton Lodge, No. 311, has changed to No.437 and is the home of Arthur Kirby, solicitor and prize-winning sportsman. No.447 is called *St. Alban's Tower*. To complicate matters even more the name carved in the stone gatepost of No.441 is *Sunny Side*, the residence of another solicitor, Arthur Dickens. Except for *Sunny Side* none of these names survive today but in the 1930s 433 and 435 became *Warwick House*, 441 and 443 became *Warwick Mount*, and 445 and 447 became *Warwick Towers*, and so they remain today. Thomas Warwick, a Nottingham estate agent, lived nearby on Mansfield Road before the First World War so perhaps his family name is perpetuated here.

I am indebted for the date of that change to another Civic Society member, John H. Davis, who lives in the Lake District but who grew up on Devonshire Road. He has kindly provided a list of house names, which were there 'before the Nottingham Corporation sent a man round to replace the names with numbers about 1924.' Sadly, only one name remains from that era - 2 Devonshire Road is still *Devonshire Manor*, and Mr. Davis thinks that the owners 'pulled a fast one' over others in picking this 'pretentious name'. Although a pleasant early 20th century house it is by no means a manor. He also remembers *llantaw* on Watcombe Circus, which looks Welsh but is really Watnall spelt backwards. It's a pity that's gone - it reminded me of *Llareggub* in Dylan Thomas' Under

Milk Wood. At 49 Watcombe Circus is *Arncliffe* with its original stone name plaque above the front door, as Mr. Davis remembered. He correctly suggests a connection with the village near Malham, and Stephen Best noted an Arncliffe in Sneinton. Along Watcombe Circus is *The Mount*, numbered 53, next door to 87, which is *High Peak*. This curious juxtaposition of numbers arose during the haste to develop the wasteland in the late 1920s and early 1930s 'as the Corporation hoped thereby to remove a criticism of its attempt to incorporate West Bridgford into the city.' (Davis).

To return to Mansfield Road briefly, I must mention *Mapperley Place*, which is the name on a 'blind' first floor window of No.476. Originally in the early 19th century it was the name of this small area but it lost out to Sherwood, and is now simply the name of the house. Next door at 478 is *The Beeches*, the only house I have seen in Sherwood with the name painted on the fanlight. Nearby is The Grange Dental Centre which takes its name from another 19th century house called *The Grange*, the name-plate to be seen just round the corner on Private Road. Next door is *The Chestnut Tree* pub, originally a large private house called *The Chestnuts* as is still to be seen carved in the stone pillars of the former entrance on Mansfield Road. Thankfully the brewery stuck close to the original name, unlike its previous incarnation in the mid-1990s, *The Oasis*, which soon dried up.

A large plaque on the blocked up porch of 490 Mansfield Road proclaims *Daisy Turner House*. It and its semi-detached neighbour 492 have been combined and converted into flats for The Frank Hodson Foundation. This is a charity started in c. 1950, which rents out properties in order to subsidise others. One such is *Hodson House* on Mapperley Street, five town houses purpose-built to provide such income. Daisy Turner was a founder member (with Frank Hodson) and its chairman for 25 years until her death in 1980.

A high percentage of houses on Edwards Lane are named. On the west side beyond the City Hospital trees are preferred like *The Beeches*, *The Yews* and *The Limes*. Among these early 20th century dwellings are *Highfield*, sporting a plaque high up on the front wall, and *Willerby House*, possibly a reference to Willerby Castle at Cromford. On the other side there's the overworked and unimaginative *The Cottage*, *Greystones* which is actually grey stucco, and *Keystone House*, which ought to be the home of police officers. None of the council houses has a name but there's an eye-catching notice on one of them: "Sod the dog beware of the kids!"

Surprising as it may seem there are over a dozen names on the Sherwood Estate, probably as a result of council house purchases in the last twenty years or so. Some owners are proud enough to put up a sign, those who rent

aren't. The Smiths live at *The Smithy* on Danethorpe Vale, Mavis and Don presumably at *MaveDon* on Valley Road, and M&T at *Emantee* on Costock Avenue. Geddit? (It's not on the Estate but of the same ilk is *Mongeor* on Glendon Drive, the home of Monique and George. And *Tulea* on Cannon Street is derived from the second letters of family Christian names). You can guess the favourite radio programme at 5 Whatton Rise, *The Archers*. *Penna* on Caythorpe Rise had me fooled at first until the owner revealed that he had a sister living in Pennsylvania. He knows that the U.S. Postal Service only requires the abbreviation Pa but he thought that the locals would jump to the wrong conclusion.

At 7 Upton Drive there's a *Sunny View*, although even on a good day you can see only other roads and council houses. This optimistic outlook on our weather occurs on three other houses, including *Sunnymede*, 154 Edwards Lane, and *Sunny Side* on Mansfield Road. On the garden gate of 2 Winchester Street, overlooking a car park is the name *Sunnybank*, which is often in the shade and where the nearest bank is Lloyds TSB.

One of the growth 'industries' of recent years has been Rest Homes, and Sherwood seems an ideal area for them, judging by the number we have. We have *Peacemills* on Perry Road, *Wendover House*, Winchester Street, *Ashleigh House*, Devon Drive and *Kingsbury House* on Mansfield Street, *Ascot House*, Percival Road, *Burlington Rest Home* on Burlington Road, *Richford House* on Hardwick Road and the afore-mentioned *Devonshire Manor*. *Abbeysfields*, in the area bounded by Trevoe Gardens, Mansfield Road and Elmswood Gardens, is a complex, which continues to expand and change. Work has begun on further re-development of the old Firs Maternity Hospital, including demolition of the former nurses' quarters. The original property from which *The Firs* was developed, Kilburn House designed by W.A.Heazell and built c.1895, can still be seen from Mansfield Road (2002).

There are three almshouses in Sherwood. *Pennhome* (1877), on Haydn Road, took its name from Penn in Staffordshire, the home of Sidney Cartwright whose wife Maria was the benefactor. *Cullen's Court* (1878), on Bingham Road, designed by Evans & Jolley, was a memorial to James Cullen paid for by his sisters and brother. *Robinson's*, at the corner of Mansfield and Bingham Roads, displays a fine stone plaque informing us that these almshouses were erected to commemorate John Robinson (founder of Robinson's, later Home Brewery) becoming Sheriff of Nottingham and the coming of age of his only son John Sandford Robinson, who laid the foundation stone on February 5th 1889.

It is perhaps ironic that ordinary two-storey modern houses should be named after 'push' areas of London. But on Newstead Street we have *Knightsbridge Court*, and round the corner on St.Albans Street both *Kensington Court* and *Hampstead Court*. I suppose there was a precedent - part of Radford was once known as Kensington. Byron Court would have been more fitting for Newstead Street, although poets are well represented at the corner of Compton Road and Hucknall Road where modern apartments are called *Tennyson*, *Burns*, *Milton* and *Browning Court*.

Palm Cottages and *Hooley Cottages* on Mansfield Street are unique in Sherwood. Built in c. 1845, they form a right angle around pleasant gardens to the rear, with the backs of *Palm Cottages* facing Mansfield Street and at an acute angle to it. The reason for this configuration is not clear, although the inward facing rooms will get the maximum sunlight. The 1851 Census reveals paper makers in Sherwood so were they here? If so, where was their water supply? James Hooley, a prominent lace manufacturer in Nottingham, was one of the first tenants in the area after Inclosure in the 1790s.

Alexander House on Perry Road is called that simply because it's a house converted into offices for C. Alexander & Partners, Financial Services. *St.John's House* on Osborne Grove used to be the home of the curate of St.John's Church, Carrington. Nearby, on Crossman Street, is *Bethany*, probably derived from a character in a soap opera rather than a Methodist mission, which may, however, be the reference for *Bethel* on Danethorpe Vale.

Up and down the country, not just in Sherwood, you can spot *Mon Abri* (My Shelter) and *Casa Mia* (My House), but has anyone seen *Ubique* before? It may reflect a classical education or Latin 'O' Level but does it mean that the owners have been everywhere? Is *Ubique* unique? It certainly is in Sherwood, where I have discovered over 200 house names. In the process I have walked along every street and road in the suburb, some for the first time, so I now have a more comprehensive view of the area. Conclusions are tentative. You can find house names on almost any road, influenced as much by education and travel as by class. There are more incomers in Sherwood than I thought and, for some, the house name is an important reminder of their original hometown.

Terry Fry

P.S. At least one more name has appeared since this article was written. 105 Hood Street is now called *Old Appleyard* an appropriate name for property built in what were once C19th. orchards.

(*Ubique* appeared on the Royal Artillery cap badge - Editor)

A HOSPITAL FOR THE PEOPLE

(In 1896 nine architectural practices submitted plans in the competition to design a new workhouse at Bagthorpe. This was to be a replacement for the old York Street Workhouse vacated and demolished prior to the excavations for the Victoria Station. The judges selected the scheme prepared by the Nottingham architects Arthur Marshall and George Turner. Over the years the former Bagthorpe Workhouse has been transformed into the present City Hospital - Editor).

The illustrated history of Nottingham City Hospital started in the early 1980s when, by chance, a collection of various items of historical interest came to hand. These comprised some original architectural drawings on blue paper (the 'blueprint'?), a ledger of the cost of various items needed to run the institution and a story about Arthur Marshall, a local architect who had won the competition to design the new Bagthorpe Workhouse and Infirmary. He later saw his dream built, not only in Nottingham but also in Russia. These items were put on display in the out-patients department.

Several years passed before Paul Swift, one of the hospital porters, started taking an interest in the history of the hospital. He collected an increasing amount of fascinating material by exploring parts of the hospital rarely visited, and this gathered momentum until he had an embarrassment of riches. Various attempts were made to use this material to form the basis of a book on the history of the hospital to continue the story written by Dr James Macfie in 1984, but there were no volunteers - until now!

In spring 2001 the hospital Medical Director contacted Dr David Banks, a retired physician, and asked him to help the hospital celebrate the 100 years since the first patient was admitted, on 18 March 1903.

A committee was established with representatives from many parts of the hospital, including Paul Swift, now officially recognised as honorary archivist, and David Lowe from the *Nottingham Evening Post*. Many ideas were put forward for celebrating 18 March and the whole of 2003, including the production of a book using the facts and photographs, which had been collected by Paul. David Lowe, who had written a history of the General Hospital when it closed, agreed to provide the words to go alongside the pictures.

A lot of information was available about the first half of the 20th century but the more recent history was harder to come by so Dr Banks, as Chairman of the steering committee, wrote to colleagues and friends as well as prominent personalities in the hospital, for their impressions of their time spent working there. What a rich seam this proved to be! Many of the contributors had been in Nottingham in the 1960s and some even earlier.

There was such variety in these recollections. We had first-hand descriptions of life in a children's ward as remembered by a patient who later spent several decades working in the hospital as a secretary. We heard anecdotes of car races around the campus by the doctors and a wonderful tale of a lion with kidney disease, which a local vet wanted to bring to the hospital for treatment! We were also told of the early attempts at cardiac surgery in Nottingham by one of the surgeons who carried out these operations with a great deal of success.

Many people responded to our request for information and anecdotes and they add a great deal to the interest of the book, helping to illustrate the incredible rate of change at the hospital over the last generation. The hospital has developed or redeveloped services, which were only a gleam in somebody's eye, into major facilities open to all.

Readers with an interest in architecture will also find plenty to interest them because the hospital has witnessed extensive development over the years. We have an 'H-Block' which is not an H, we have an oncology unit built in one style, an endoscopy centre in another and a breast unit in its final stages of completion, looking very different again. The old maternity unit, which, was built in the 1970s, used the technique of spraying asbestos onto the beams despite the advice of one of the pathologists who was an expert in asbestos disease. It was replaced in the mid-1990s after he had been proved right. Fortunately QMC, which was to have had the same technique used in its building, escaped as the authorities in charge took note of the advice.

This vast collection of material needed considerable sorting and editing, a job taken on by David Lowe. His *Evening Post* colleague Tony Rose then put the words and selected photographs together on the pages and designed 116 colourful pages for a book *The People's Hospital* for all to enjoy.

A great deal has happened during the 20th century. Man took his first flight in 1903 and now we all benefit from cheap fares across the globe. X-rays were only discovered in 1895 but less than 100 years later we are able to use them

to show three-dimensional images of the living body in a CT scan. During this period the workhouse and infirmary has grown from an idea to a major teaching centre, passing through various phases of medical and architectural development. Arthur Marshall would be astounded to see the embellishments to his original idea.

The People's Hospital will illustrate the changes in physical structure, which have taken place, but it will also show the continuing caring spirit, which underpins whatever the cosmetic changes, may be. We believe this is as strong today as it has ever been and is one of the powerful qualities of Nottingham City Hospital.

The hospital's year of celebration is already underway and *The People's Hospital* was published on Tuesday 18 March. Copies can be ordered from the hospital's PR office (Ph: 0115 969 1169 ext 34532) and will be on sale within the hospital retail outlets and in city centre bookstores. They will also be available at the hospital Open Day and Carnival on Saturday 5 July. At just £5 per copy, we hope it will be an affordable gift or commemorative item for most people to enjoy.

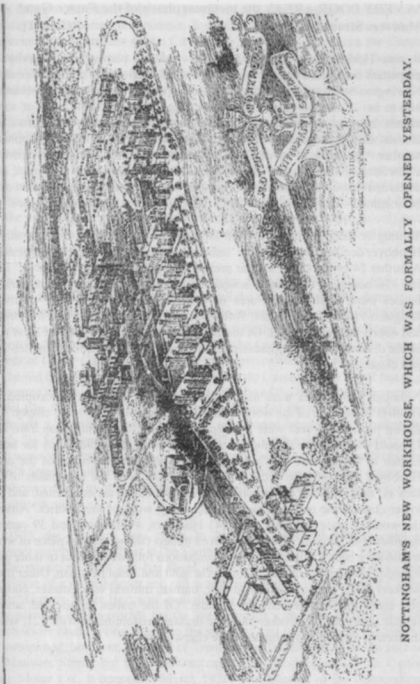
Elizabeth Reeson
Public Relations Manager
Nottingham City Hospital

- More information about the hospital's centenary celebrations is published on its website: www.ncht.org.uk or is available from the PR team.



Bagthorpe Workhouse Main Entrance

THE NOTTINGHAM DAILY EXPRESS, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1903.



NOTTINGHAM'S NEW WORKHOUSE, WHICH WAS FORMALLY OPENED YESTERDAY.

Bagthorpe Workhouse Formally Opened 18 March 1903
(Architect's drawing)

**'A VERY POOR AREA': the metamorphosis of the Carter Gate/
Manvers Street area. (Part 2)**

It was Health Department practice to make a photographic survey of properties considered ripe for demolition, and John Strong's marine store at 91 Newington Street was one of the premises recorded. Strong's sign proclaimed him to be: 'Coal and general merchant: Rags, bones, and all kinds of scrap metals: Laces, wool, waste purchased in any amount: Dealer in old iron, old clothes, etc.' Perhaps the most surprising feature of the sign was a telephone number - Strong must have been a go-ahead trader. In his adjacent yard was a bewildering confusion of carts, boxes and hampers, piles of old sacks, and discarded rubbish of all kinds. The number of rats about the premises can only be imagined - and within a few feet of all this squalor were family homes.

Turning to the dwelling houses in the Carter Gate/Manvers Street area, Dr Boobyer declared that 201 were 'unfit for human habitation, and irreparable.' A further 242 were 'unfit in their present state, but probably repairable.' This left 156 homes in the area in sound and sanitary condition. The irreparable houses were mostly in the area north of Kingston Street, with others in Kingston Place, Kelley Court, Pott's Square, Smith's Square, and the streets and courts off Water Street. Of the 201 worst houses in this 'lower class part of the district,' only ten possessed an inside water supply, and all but ten had pail closets.

Although 443 houses were not fit to live in, only 95 were unoccupied. In Pomfret Street, one of the worst streets, 16 houses out of 44 were empty. The lowest rents in the area were 2/- (10p) a week for houses in Baron Yard and Leopold Place, while the highest were 6/3d (31p) and 6/8d (33p) for some houses in Carter Gate and Manvers Street, on the outer edges of the area. Boobyer described the occupation of the majority of the inhabitants of the area as 'unskilled and casual labour, so far as the men are concerned, and the lower class of the common female mechanical work of this district.' Among the working male residents were 141 labourers, 49 hawkers and 39 carters, together with fourteen smiths and eleven miners (whose nearest place of work would have been Clifton Colliery.) Occupations followed by four or more men included shunter, twisthand, tailor, cycle hand and canal boatman. Other male workers in the area included a sawyer, tinman, mineral water maker, cooper, and agent for incandescent gas mantles. Of the trades represented among female residents, laceworker and lace dresser predominated with 121, while thirteen of the area's inhabitants were charwomen.

The deprivation endured by the people of the area was not accompanied by any very apparent lawlessness. Indeed, the medical officer was told by Superintendent Parnham of the City Police that in his experience the Carter Gate/Manvers Street area, 'though a very poor district is remarkably free from crime.' In this respect the area compared extremely favourably with the nearby Meadow Platts neighbourhood to the north-west of Gedling Street.

Public health however, was an aspect of the area, which compared very poorly with Nottingham as a whole. Here the evidence was damning indeed, and Boobyer's figures spoke for themselves. In 1911 the death-rate for the area was well over twice the average for all Nottingham, and the infant mortality rate nearly double the rate for the city as a whole; three out of ten babies born in the area did not survive to their first birthday. From these facts, and from all the other data collected by him, the medical officer could come to only one conclusion: 'that the area in question is unhealthy... and that it can best be dealt with under an improvement scheme.'

Although many of the houses became empty during the Great War, little was done to clear and redevelop the district until the early 1920s, when demolition began in earnest. This was a total clearance scheme, not a single old building in the area being spared. By the autumn of 1921 the first new building had appeared, in the shape of new premises for the Carter Gate Motor Co. on the corner of Carter Gate and what would be known as Stanhope Street. (The site of the old Stanhope Street was in fact obliterated, and the new street bearing that name was laid out approximately on the line of the demolished Pierrepont Street.) In April 1923 this building quite dominated the almost-cleared area, with just a couple of rows of old and abandoned houses still standing in Fredville Street and Newington Street. The only other buildings left in the area were one or two shops in Southwell Road, and a couple of warehouses in Patriot Street, which ran off it. The delay in demolishing all these properties had been caused by the inability of local authority officials to discover who the owners were.

In 1925 the decision was taken to build the Nottingham Corporation Tramways depot and offices at the Southwell Road end of the site. The growth of the municipal tram and bus fleets in the 1920s had made imperative the provision of a central depot and office complex. Nearly all the cleared Carter Gate/Manvers Street land was available for this, and other forthcoming and long-planned improvements for the area brought with them the prospect of much wider roads giving access to the site. The first bus garage in the area to be completed, however, was that of Trent Motor Traction; built at the corner of Manvers Street and the new Stanhope Street, backing on to the Carter Gate Motor Co., it opened in March 1926. Construction of the Corporation

depot began in April and proceeded rather slowly. Motorbuses were being garaged there by April 1928, and in the following June head office staff were transferred there. The whole building was in use by the end of the year. When complete, the depot was able to accommodate trams, buses, and trolleybuses: in the parlance of the day 'Tram Cars, Petrol Buses, and Rail-less Cars.' There was room for eighty trams on eight roads, and a total capacity of about 150 vehicles of all kinds. The decreasing importance of the tram was recognized in 1929 when the undertaking changed its name to Nottingham Corporation Passenger Transport Department. Although accurate, this was hardly a title to trip lightly off the tongue.

We should not forget Dr Philip Boobyer, whose devoted work had seen to it that the Unhealthy Area was expunged. Happily he lived to see the Carter Gate/Manvers Street area redeveloped, retiring at the end of 1928 after 40 years in charge of the Health Department, and speeded on his way by a 12-volume Oxford English Dictionary, subscribed for by his staff. Sadly, this notable servant of Nottingham survived for only thirteen months longer, dying in January 1930 of a heart attack, not long after taking his customary cold bath; he had never really recovered from being knocked down by a car some years earlier. Boobyer is one of the city's notable servants who deserves to be much better remembered. In March 1928, a few months before his retirement, he had attended the funeral of his father-in-law, whose name, unlike Boobyer's, is still instantly recognizable in Nottingham: the architect Watson Fothergill.¹

By now the transport-orientated nature of the block had been intensified with the arrival in Lower Parliament Street - as Carter Gate² had become - of the Dunlop Rubber Co., and Charles Mackintosh, motor tyre makers. The row of shops underneath the transport headquarters in Southwell Road was now open, and included the City Clothiers, the Meadow Dairy Co., the Home and Colonial Stores, Gardner's Drapery Bazaar, the London and Midland Piano Co. Ltd., Sydney Flitterman, clothier, and Lloyds Bank.

¹ It is good to be able to report the recent publication, in *The Nottinghamshire Historian* no.69, Autumn-Winter 2002, of 'Nottingham's health pioneer; Dr Philip Boobyer...' by Denise Amos.

² One feels that it was a great pity that the fine old name Carter Gate was ever done away with. It reappeared as part of the much more recent housing development in Fisher Gate.

May 1933 saw the opening of a larger Trent bus depot, running through from an entrance in Lower Parliament Street to an exit in Manvers Street. Having space for 145 buses, it enabled the Trent Company to vacate their 1926 depot, which was immediately acquired by Nottingham Corporation Transport Department. They were able to use it for night-time garaging for forty buses, which for about six months had had to be stabled in the former Cammell Laird factory in King's Meadow Road, which had been standing empty for some time. In 1936 the name of the undertaking changed yet again, to Nottingham City Transport. This had the twin advantages of brevity, and of the reversion to the old initials, already carved in stone on the depot building.

The 1941 directory recorded that the block was, apart from the Southwell Road shops, almost entirely occupied by the bus undertakings, the Carter Gate Motor Co., and Dunlop. For the duration of the war the area was the scene of unremitting hard work as City Transport and Trent strove to keep a service going, beset by fuel shortages, manpower crises, black-out regulations, and security rules. The last-named required, among other things that the word 'Nottingham' be painted out on all buses.

The post-war period brought a succession of changes to the area. The City Transport depot was extended, resulting in the building-over of the Manvers Street end of Stanhope Street. Carter Gate Motor Co. became Hanger Motor, with refurbished premises, and a new building was put up at the corner of Lower Parliament Street and Pennyfoot Street. Maintaining the area's association with transport, this served as the premises of Steyr-Daimler-Puch. Recent years have brought further developments: some good, others bad. The Trent bus garage now bears the name of Barton Buses - Barton is of course part of Trent - while the Hanger Motor building stands empty. Steyr-Daimler-Puch has been replaced by Machine Mart, which sells welding equipment, water pumps, power tools, garage equipment, and the like.

Stephen Best

(To be concluded)

ARBORETA

My dictionary defines 'arboretum' as a 'botanical tree-garden'. Now that our Arboretum has been renovated can the Society renew its earlier efforts to persuade the City Council to produce a guide to the trees there? The Society has in the past offered to help in the production of such a leaflet. There is a member of the Society, Claire Wells, whom I am sure would be willing to put her expert knowledge at their disposal. Two years ago Claire took a party of Thornton Society members on a guided tour of the Arboretum and gave us an interesting insight into the names of the trees and their characteristics.

An illustrated book would be of great educational value and would be a good way of informing visitors to one of Nottingham's lesser-known amenities.

An even more unknown arboretum exists on the boundary of the city, in Strelley Park. From the size of the mature trees the Edge family must have planted them long before the Council established a public park there. I have only recently discovered its existence and Claire Wells was kind enough to visit it and list the variety of trees there. These include beech, birch, sweet chestnut, sycamore, maple, several types of oak, a Scots pine, alder, ash, lime, hornbeam, prunus, apple and hazel.

Derby can show Nottingham how to publicise its parks. It has, perhaps in summer only, a series of combined bus routes which visitors can take to visit all or any of its parks. Nottingham has probably as good a selection of parks as Derby – the Arboretum, Wollaton, Woodthorpe, Colwick Woods, Bulwell Hall and Sellars Wood, both of the latter with nature reserves.

Geoffrey Oldfield

As if in answer to Geoffrey's plea, a note in *The Arrow* March 2003 informs that from the 1 April a half hour tree trail set out in a leaflet compiled by Keith Prowting, the City Council's tree officer, will be available at the Arboretum. Funding has been provided by the New Deal for Communities initiative.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street. It will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of Nottingham Civic Society Sales Ltd and followed by a Review of the Year. Members are of course welcome to attend all three parts.

RESTORATION NOTTINGHAM

(What's New?)

"To give you a little character of Nottingham, it may be called, as a man may say, paradise restored, for here you find large streets, fair built houses, fine women, and many coaches rattling about, and their shops full of merchantable riches. As to the situation of it, it is upon a pleasant rock of freestone in which everyone that will may have cellars, and that without the trouble of springs or moisture, so that excepting Bridgenorth in Shropshire you cannot find such another town in England.

It is divided into the upper and lower towns, for when you have a mind to leave the large and more spacious parts of this town on the plain of the hill and will go down to the lower streets near the river, you must descend down right many stairs ere you get to the bottom, and here you find as it were another town full of shops and people who have a convenience to cut in the rock warehouses, stables, or what rooms else they please for their own peculiar uses. This town hath in the upper part of it a large and long market place.

For public buildings here are four pillars with many stairs to ascend each of them, and three churches one of them bigger than the rest, in which they are now putting up an organ, *ann: 1675*: but that which will yet add a greater beauty and ornament to this town is the Duke of Newcastle's now building a sumptuous house in the ruins of old Nottingham Castle whose walls were demolished by the Parliamentarian and Oliverian people. This house is seated on a rock extending itself towards the river so far as the land will permit, where such as have a mind from this high precipice may tumble headlong into the river Trent many yards beneath it. They have got up this building as high as the first storey, having in it a noble staircase, each stair being made of one large entire stone, brought hither from Mansfield, carried up as to form in a large square without any pillars to support it, each stair geometrically depending one upon another. For wine here in this town, good claret, white wine, and Rhenish, but as to sack, I cannot say much, and I believe here are about half a dozen taverns in the town."

Thomas Baskerville (c.1675)

Journeys in England in the time of Charles II
H.M.C., Portland, ii (1893), 308N309.

SATURDAY JUNE 7th RURAL RIDE WITH IAN WELLS

After a very successful rural ride last year Ian is doing another one this year. This time it will be to Staffordshire where he will be featuring buildings by the Victorian Architect A.W.N. Pugin. For those who do not like to do much walking this will be ideal. There will be a commentary on the coach by Ian.

Meet: Salutation on Maid Marian Way 8.30 a.m. Cost £10 per person

SATURDAY JULY 5th VISIT TO MANCHESTER

On arrival we will be met by the Manchester Civic Society for coffee followed by a coach tour to look at some of the projects that the Society has been involved with. Break for lunch, then meet again at 2pm for a walking tour of the Centre of Manchester, which will last approximately one and a half hours. We will leave Manchester at 5pm.

Meet: Salutation on Maid Marian Way 8.30 a.m. Cost £12.50 per person

SATURDAY AUGUST 2nd VISIT TO CHELTENHAM

On arrival we will have coffee at the Cheltenham H.Q. then a brief talk will be followed by an orientation tour of the town centre. Break for lunch and meet again at 2pm for an approximately one and a half-hour walking tour with a Blue Badge Guide. We will leave Cheltenham at 5pm

Meet: Salutation on Maid Marian Way 8.30 a.m. Cost £12 per person

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6th VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

On arrival in Liverpool there will be a coffee stop where we will meet our guide for the day, after which we will have a familiarisation/orientation tour of the City Centre with a commentary whilst driving around. We will make our own arrangements for lunch.

In the afternoon there are two choices:

A) Walking tour of between one and a half hours to two hours with a Blue Badge Guide

B) To be left on your own to look round the Tate Gallery, Maritime Museum or The Museum of Liverpool (all admissions free)

PLEASE STATE A or B on your booking form so we know how many guides to book for the walking tour.

Meet: Salutation on Maid Marian Way 8 a.m. Cost £12.50 per person

PLEASE NOTE 8A.M.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

The Friends of the Forest are organising a commemorative walk through the length of the Allotted Recreation Grounds of Nottingham that were set aside to be permanent open air spaces for the people of Nottingham to enjoy in perpetuity, by the Inclosure Act of 1845. The Inclosure Act was unique in giving our city so much land, and we would like to inaugurate an annual walk to celebrate our unrivalled good fortune in this, and bring it to the attention of the rest of the city, and the country at large.

The Friends think that the Civic Society will have an interest in this event, and they hope that, as many members will be able to join us on the day, either for the full length, or join us for part of the way. The walk will start on the Embankment at the end of Queen's Drive at 2.00 pm and the final ceremony will be at around 5.30 pm at the Inclosure Oak, on the Forest at the Mansfield Road end.

It will not be a march, but a leisurely stroll from park to park, at your own speeds, roughly 5 miles in 3½ hours, with time to enjoy views and stop along the way for refreshments.

The date chosen is the Sunday afternoon nearest to the date of the passing of the Inclosure Act, June 30th, so this year it will be June 29th. Those who are able to walk the entire route will have a pleasing tour of inner Nottingham, with some unrivalled views, such as that of St. Mary's from Queen's Walk, and of the city from Belle Vue reservoir, and also of fine building details, of early buildings in the Lace Market and iron railings on Waterloo Promenade.

We hope very much to see you on the day.
June Perry, on behalf of The Friends of the Forest
Contact: (0115) 960 9221

A rough guide to distances:

1½ miles to Victoria Park; 2¼ miles to Belle Vue; 3½ miles to Arboretum Lake; 5 miles to Inclosure Oak