3A. The Lace Market & Sneinton Appendix – Further Information on Sites along the Walk

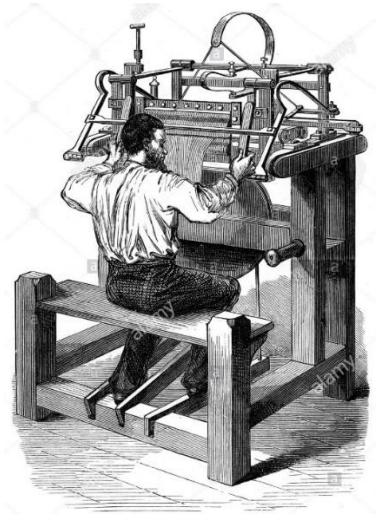
The walk routes are drawn using Open Street Maps from the internet https://www.openstreetmap.org, with some use of Google Maps https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=google+maps, and old maps are from Old Maps Online https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England and National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/
Facts, descriptions, old photographs and historical information used in the walks are from sources openly available on the internet. The sources are recorded with links – readers can use the links (available at time of writing - 2024) to obtain further information.

1. Lace Market

This was the area of the original Saxon settlement that became Nottingham. Once the heart of the world's lace industry during the British Empire and thus the principal engine of Nottingham's growth, the Lace Market is full of impressive examples of 19th-century industrial architecture and is a protected heritage area.

The invention of the knitting frame in 1589 by William Lee of Calverton started this industrial change locally.

When fully developed his machine made it possible for workers to produce knitted goods around 100 times faster than by hand. This was the first step in the mechanisation of the textile industry and led to framework knitting playing a key role in the early days of the Industrial Revolution.



www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk

The Heritage of the East Midlands Knitting Industry www.knittingtogether.org.uk warns that there are a number of stories regarding William Lee's life, but uncertainty remains as to how many of them are fiction rather than fact.

Lee was born in 1563 in Calverton where sheep from the area were well known for their long fibred fleeces that produced a valuable yarn suitable for hand knitting. With a local yarn supply available, hand knitting was popular in the area and Lee would have become familiar with the technique during his childhood.

In 1579 Lee was a student at Cambridge and after gaining his Master of Arts degree he returned to Calverton as a curate. He is sometimes referred to as 'the Reverend Lee' but it is uncertain whether he actually held this position.

There are at least two descriptions given as to why he wanted to devise a knitting machine. One is that he was in love with a woman who didn't give him enough attention as she was always knitting, so he invented a machine to, possibly unsuccessfully, impress and woo her.
The other reason, preferred by an article on Calverton Village Online, is that Lee's wife spent many hours hand knitting and, wishing to spare his wife the monotony of this daily task, he "thought out" the machine.

Engraving by William James Linton (1812 –1897)

Whatever the reason, Lee devised a machine which produced a coarse wool, for stockings. It was used within the local villages and then he went to London to seek a patent. This was refused by Queen Elizabeth I, apparently because the cloth was too rough. He built an improved machine that increased the number of needles per inch from 8 to 20 and produced a silk of finer texture, but the queen again denied him a patent because (according to The Encyclopeadia Britanica and other sources quoted in Wikipedia) of her concern for the employment security of the kingdom's many hand knitters whose livelihood might be threatened by such mechanization. The queen is quoted as saying to Lee: "*Thou aimest high, Master Lee. Consider thou what the invention could do to my poor subjects. It would assuredly bring to them ruin by depriving them of employment, thus making them beggars*."

Lee presenting his stocking to the Queen

Perhaps more likely, the Queen's concern was a manifestation of the hosiers' guilds' fear that the invention would make the skills of its artisan members obsolete. Nonetheless, the development of the machine continued.

The widespread use of the frame was a slow process but, by the early 1800s, framework knitting was the largest type of manufacturing in the East Midlands, where there were around 20,000 frames in use (nearly 90% of the UK total), with almost half in Nottinghamshire. The industry was predominantly rural with more than 82% of frames in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire being scattered among 253 villages.

In time, the frameworkers discovered how to adapt their machines to knit cotton and lace as well as wool – and the Nottingham lace industry was born and eventually gave the Lace Market its name. It was never a market in the sense of having stalls, but had salesrooms and warehouses for product finishing, storing, displaying and selling the lace.

In 1768, Richard Arkwright moved to Nottingham and established a small cotton mill in Hockley. The machines in this first mill were horse-powered, but later in his career Arkwright was the first to utilize the steam engine as motive power in a Nottingham factory. The move to mills led to the development of back-to-back housing for mill workers.

Lace was manufactured on a frame adapted from that of William Lee and was further improved by John Heathcote and John Levers in the early 19th century. By the 1840s lace making was changing from a domestic industry into an international export.

Nottingham's industrialists went on to build bigger and better machines to produce lace, and the old frameshops fell into disuse. In addition to lace factories, the foundries and workshops of the lace machine builders, bobbin and carriage makers, bar makers, and all the other auxiliary trades so necessary to the working of lace machines, were located in the industrial suburbs of Nottingham, as well as along the Erewash Valley. More than 90% of warp and twist lace machines working in the world were made in the Nottingham area. The Nottingham lace machine builders contributed significantly both to the world-wide fame of Nottingham and to the prosperity of the local economy.

The Lace Market was the industry's link to buyers. It was never a market in the sense of having stalls, but there were salesrooms and warehouses for storing, displaying and selling the lace.

The lace would be finished in the 'top shops' or top floors with large windows, and then displayed in the downstairs showrooms to buyers from the world of fashion and domestic furnishing.

Nottingham Lace became the byword for machine-made lace & while some factories made a very high-grade fabric, a staple of much of the industry was the lace curtain trade. The further introduction of the railway in Nottingham in 1848, made the trade much easier to develop and extend.

The local hosiery industry employed 25,000 mostly female workers at its peak in the 1890s and the lace industry continued to expand into the 1920s. However the depression that followed World War I had a devastating effect on the export-orientated lace trade. Export figures declined sharply from the peak of 1923 and the number of firms in the lace industry declined all over the United Kingdom. Lace declined as technology changed and the working population fell below 5,000 in the 1970s with many of the factories becoming derelict and the area falling into decline. This contraction continued through competition from abroad and, by the end of 2012, there were only four makers in the East Midlands and 2 or 3 elsewhere in the country.

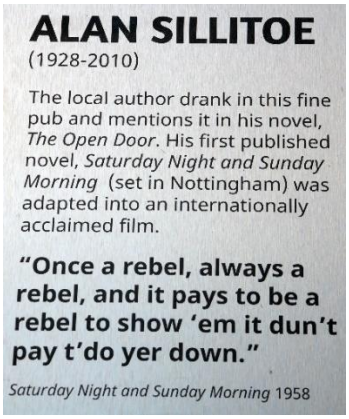
Lace is no longer processed through or made in Nottingham; the Lace Market has undergone a renaissance and, as part of the city's post-industrial regeneration, is now a place not just for work but for living and entertainment. This change started in 1978 when Nottingham City Council led the Operation Clean Up programme offering public grants to building owners to refurbish their historic buildings. The late 1980's and early 1990's saw the beginning of the re-gentrification of the Lace Market, as new businesses moved into the area. Nearly all of the old warehouses that were once run down have now been cleaned and renovated and have found new uses such as luxury apartments, high-spec offices and academic buildings. Much of this is thanks to Mich Stevenson OBE, who has spent his life championing Nottingham and working to help create partnerships between the private and public sectors. In 1994 Mich founded Lace Market Heritage Trust and, after 18 months of tireless effort by the new team, they first sought to preserve the Shire Hall building, former county prison, on High Pavement. The building was converted to what it is now the Galleries of Justice. In 1998 Mich was awarded an OBE and the city has him to thank for the survival of some of its most iconic buildings. Also, Mich served as Chairman of Nottingham Development Enterprise (NDE) for five and a half years before retiring in 2001. Working in partnership with Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils, NDE were very influential in and supportive to the development of the Nottingham Express Transit tram system.

www.frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lace_Market www.knittingtogether.org.uk
https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/explore/nottingham/the-lace-market https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lace_Market
https://www.lacemarkethotel.co.uk/new-page https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZgOP1oXzoc
https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/man-who-saved-lace-market-6969012

2. Old Angel Inn

Now The Angel Microbrewery, this pub has a long history thought to go back as far as the late 1600s, since when it has been a brothel and a chapel, as well as a public house.
Originally 2 houses, the current public house building dates from around 1800.
In 1878, the landlord W Robinson employed Lawrence Bright to make alterations, and 5 years later, in 1883, the landlord J Robinson made further alterations under the architect H Walker.
In the 1980s the pub developed a reputation as a rock and roll venue, with the old chapel on the 1st floor converted into a performance area. Many up and coming bands played here including Oasis, Kasabian and the Arctic Monkeys.
In 2016 it reinvented itself as an organic gastro pub and microbrewery (The Angel Microbrewery)

A plaque on the wall tells that Alan Sillitoe, author of *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, drank in the pub and refers to it in another of his novels, *The Open Door*.



A 2018 Nottingham Post article
https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/dick-turpin-arctic-monkeys-history-1045670
gives more history of the site:

The Angel is thought to have been in existence from around 1676, and due to its location on the original north/south route connecting London and York, it is rumoured that one of the earliest regulars was none other than highwayman Dick Turpin (although this could probably be said for most of the pubs on this route). But it is certainly listed on a map of Nottingham inns from 1744. The first floor, which was apparently a chapel, has a high ceiling and church windows, with its pews recently removed.
In 1801 the chapel was established as a meeting point for the National Ancient Imperial Union of Odd Fellows, being subsequently used by the Ancient Order of Druids and the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, who lined the chapel walls with grand portraits of the royal family.

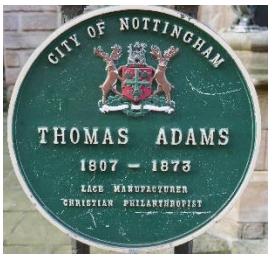
The Old Angel in 1971. (Image: George L Roberts and www.picturethepast.org.uk)

The layout of the top floor, with two long corridors adjacent to the outside wall and numerous interior rooms, testifies to its later use as a brothel. Interior walls are still covered with the wallpaper of the period, with rooms containing fireplaces for the comfort of the customers. As you walk the corridors, you get that eerie feeling of walking where so many feet have trod before.
And looking in the caves beneath the pub, it can easily be imagined that this site was inhabited hundreds of years before the present building was erected.
The numerous caves which seem to form the shape of a crucifix will have seen many varied uses, from dwellings to gaming and cock-fighting hideouts.
This underground labyrinth is presently unlit and not open to the public.
https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/dick-turpin-arctic-monkeys-history-1045670


Caves beneath the Old Angel

There was another 'Old Angel' pub in the Lace Market – see **7** below

3. Adams Building



Opened on 10 July 1855 (with further additions to around 1874), the Adams Building is named after its original owner, Thomas Adams (1807–1873), a Victorian industrialist with strong Quaker views and a deep social conscience.
Adams worked with the Nottingham architect Thomas Chambers Hine to create a building which served its industrial and commercial purpose while providing better conditions and facilities than was then typical for his workforce: the building had a chapel in the basement, indoor toilets, wash facilities and tea rooms and there are records of a sick fund, savings bank and book club.
The earliest phase is the building facing Stoney Street, with its elaborate symmetrical frontage behind a railed courtyard. It was designed as a lace showroom and warehouse, in which lace products brought in from outlying factories were finished off and then sold. The main display area seems to have been a two-storey light-well in the centre of the building, originally lit by decorative gas lamps; approached by a grand staircase. Secondary areas were used for mending and packing. The main power-source was a steam engine to the rear, with hydraulic engines for the hoists and packing machines.

Maximum lighting was provided for the lace repair and finishing shops. Hine provided innovative 'lace lofts' at roof level whose walls were almost entirely built from glass. Heating was provided by a mixture of coal and patent warm-air flues brought through ducts from a heat exchanger at the boiler. These amenities were at the forefront of mid-Victorian factory design, and the Adams factory was regarded as a model example of its kind by contemporary factory inspectors.

In 1996, the building was acquired by the Lace Market Heritage Trust, and later was restored and converted by New College Nottingham, assisted by grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund and European Regional Development Fund, and was a pilot scheme for the Government's Private Finance Initiative [as was the NET tram project]. CPMG Architects designed the refurbishment. The renovated building was officially reopened by Charles, Prince of Wales on 5 February 1999 and today it accommodates a number of College courses including Fashion & Textiles.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adams_Building,_Nottingham
https://www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/about-us/locations/campuses/adams-building

4. Barker Gate House

Barker Gate House was designed by the famous Nottingham architect Watson Fothergill in 1897. Fothergill was a prolific local architect responsible for some 100 buildings in the area between 1870 and 1906, including The Rose of England Pub on Mansfield Road, Queen's Chambers on Old Market Square, the Daily Express building on Parliament Street and his own offices on George Street. His work in the Gothic revival and Old English vernacular styles was very popular in Victorian times.

Before the time of the lace industry in Nottingham this area was the site of a number of large mansions, including Plumptre House (see 5 below) and Pierrepont House, which was constructed in the mid seventeenth century by Francis Pierrepont, third son of Robert Pierrepont, 1st Earl of Kingston-upon-Hull.

The house was sold by 1797 to Thomas Curtis and James Bellamy and converted for use as a fabric workshop. The buildings were demolished at the start of the 19th century.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierrepont_House,_Nottingham

Pierrepont House ca. 1705, a painting in the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Centre for British Art

5. Birkin Building, Broadway

The Grade 11 listed Birkin Building, designed by TC Hine for Richard Birkin and built in 1855 by Garland & Holland, was the international headquarters of the world-leading Birkin & Co. lace manufacturers

By the mid-1880s, Nottingham had little empty space for bulding, so, alongside Thomas Adams, Richard Birkin began transforming the area around St Mary's Church into the Lace Market we know today.

Birkin purchased Plumptre House, one of the most prestigious mansions in the area, for £8,410 in 1853 (£900k today). It was located on the corner of what is now Keyes Walk and Stoney Street, adjacent to the churchyard of St Mary's Church. The Plumptre family had occupied the site since at least the thirteenth century. The last of the Plumptre family to live in the house was John Plumptre (1711-1791), MP for Nottingham. Following Plumptre's death in 1791, the house changed hands a couple of times before being purchased by Richard Birkin.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plumptre_House,_Nottingham

Plumptre House (and St Mary's Church) 1844

Birkin demolished the mansion in 1860 and the site was cleared for the construction of his lace warehouses and a new street, 'Broadway', which was designed by architect TC Hine with a curve in the centre to give the illusion of a cul-de-sac from either end, thus making it more attractive to visitors. However, an article in 'Made lifestyle' magazine, 2020, tells that one story says that Birkin ordered this curve so that the perimeter of the building was one foot longer than the Adams Building, reinforcing the adage that size matters.
https://issuu.com/madeinn/docs/issuu_made_sepoct_2020_issue19/50

The stonework above the gateway, on the left of the photo above, shows Birkin's initials, a bee emblem, an architect's motif of dividers and squares, the builder's initials G and H (Garland and Holland) and a buider's motif of hammer and trowel, with the date 1855, the year the warehouse was completed. Constuction was complicated due to the discovery of a medieval sandstone cave system beneath the site, which was used for brewing ale. Further difficulty came from the need for a hugh rooflight designed to flood the sales rooms below to enable intricate work on the completion of the lace. The rooflight was also a problem in WW2 when it had to be covered in black curtains as 'blackout' protection against bombing.

Birkin & Co bee emblem.

The Birkin Building was bought by Mich Stevenson (see **1** above) and his brother Don in 1981 and is now managed by his daughters Becky Valentine and Victoria Green through the family business, Spenbeck. Following major restauration works, in October 2023 the building was put on the market in its entirety for offers in excess of £4m, or in smaller lots.

6. St Mary's Church

Often referred to as 'St Mary's in the Lace Market' the Church of St Mary the Virgin is the oldest parish church in Nottingham. The church is Grade I listed, one of only five Grade I listed buildings in the City of Nottingham. It is a member of the Major Churches Network, has acted as the Civic Church of Nottingham and part of the ancient parish of All Saints', St Mary's and St Peter's. The present building, over 500 years old, is believed to be at least the third church on the site.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary%27s_Church,_Nottingham

The church is believed to date back to the Saxon times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was clearly a royal church, described as "*within the King's lordship*" with about 75 acres of land, extensive property giving a good income and a priest named Aitard who had a croft of 65 houses.

About twenty years later it featured in the foundation charter of Lenton Priory when it was handed to the Priory by Castle governor William Peveril with St Peter's and St Nicholas' churches, newly built by the Normans, and was owned by the priory from 1108 to 1538.

During civil disturbances in the 12th century (including the 1140s civil war known as 'the Anarchy' between Henry 1's daughter Matilda and his nephew Stephen of Blois) Nottingham was burnt down three times and all three churches destroyed and rebuilt.

The church features in a legend told in the 14th century ballad of 'Robin Hood and the Monk', that Robin Hood visited St Mary's to confess his sins, was caught with the help of a monk by the Sheriff of Nottingham, imprisoned in the dungeons beneath the medieval town hall on High Pavement, and subsequently rescued by Little John.

The 14th century was actually a disastrous period with floods, famine, war and the tragic loss of half the population in the Black Death in 1348-9. Nottingham was showing signs of decay. As the Normans and English became more reconciled in Nottingham, people were thankful to have survived and prospered. St Mary's was rebuilt, supported by the newly affluent merchants and powerful merchant guilds.

The new church, completed before 1475, was built in the Perpendicular style of the time in the shape of a Latin cross with a tower at the crossing, huge windows, delicate tracery, and slender ribbed pillars. It is typical of the great mercantile-funded, urban churches that were being constructed at the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century. It is likely that the south aisle wall was the first part of the building to be constructed in the early 1380s, with the remainder of the nave and transepts being from the early 15th century. The tower was completed in the reign of Henry VIII.

St Mary's was the town's largest building and was used for civic and legal purposes including the election and swearing in of the mayor and corporation; it was here that quarrels were settled and oaths taken. In 1467 the Borough Records give an instance of an agreement made on a promise to "*swer upon a boke in the parisshe Chirch of Seint Marie*."

In 1513, a school was founded in the church by Dame Agnes Mellers as The Free School of the Town of Nottingham. This is now Nottingham High School. In the Foundation Deed, Mellers provided that a Commemoration Service should be held in the church "*on the Feast of The Translation of St Richard of Chichester*". With the exception of the Goose Fair, it is the most ancient ceremonial event still perpetuated in the City of Nottingham.

In 1526 the Crown acquired the valuable tithes of St Mary's but in 1598 it sold the rights to Sir Henry Pierrepont. The patronage remained in his family until 1885, when it was acquired by the Bishop of the newly-formed Diocese of Southwell.

Robert Thoroton, (The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire, Publ.1677. Revised by John Throsby 1790-1796, Republished: 1972) noted that the Civil War had left its mark on the church with the loss of most of the stained glass windows and memorial brasses. In 1643, at the height of the Civil War, Colonel Hutchinson climbed St Mary's Tower to spy out the land and plan his campaign to take the fort at Trent Bridge, newly erected by the Royalists.

The earliest known drawing of the church, by Thoroton in 1677

George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends (*aka* Friends Church or Quakers), commenced his ministry here in 1649. His diary records how, as he approached Nottingham, he saw a great "Steeple House", as he called St Mary's, and decided to attend the service. He did not agree with what was being preached and interrupted the service, correcting the preacher, for which he was imprisoned. His message converted the sheriff, whose name was Reckless, and led to the formation of the Quakers in Nottingham.

For several years from 1716, the church was used to house the town fire engine. It was kept at the west end, and was still there until at least 1770.

By the early 19th century, in a town engulfed in winter darkness, the gates to St Mary's churchyard were lit by globes of whale oil. The ring holder for the light at the gate at the Hollow Stone corner can still be seen.

St Mary's opened a workhouse in 1726 at the south end of Mansfield Road and ran it until 1834 when responsibility for workhouses was transferred from parishes to secular Boards of Guardians. The workhouse was demolished in 1895 to clear part of the site needed for the construction of the Nottingham Victoria railway station.

St Mary's pioneered Sunday School education for those children unable to attend a day school. Pupils were taught reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as religious knowledge. The first Sunday School was opened in 1751, 35 years before the generally acknowledged first Sunday School was founded in Gloucester by Robert Raikes.

In 1812 there was unrest in the town when the Luddites were active in the area. An attempted rescue of prisoners from the Shire Hall was expected, and a battalion of the West Middlesex Regiment attended service in St Mary's Church one Sunday morning under full arms and with fixed bayonets.

Throughout its life the church has undergone repairs and modifications and it was closed for five years from 1843 to 1848 to undertake major works including rebuilding four piers of the tower.
In 1888 Architect Thomas Chambers Hine FSA delivered a paper on St Mary's after further works had been completed. He told the assembly that St Mary's had "*ever been the pride and glory of Nottingham, not only as an ecclesiastical edifice but the finest architectural structure of which we are possessed*". He noted that in the past the church would have been glowing with colour and gold and with the brilliantly coloured windows. He imagined the utter delight to the people of spending "*a quiet hour over their devotions*" in such a building. He numbered twenty windows that now have coloured glass reinstated in them as the old stained glass windows had been destroyed.

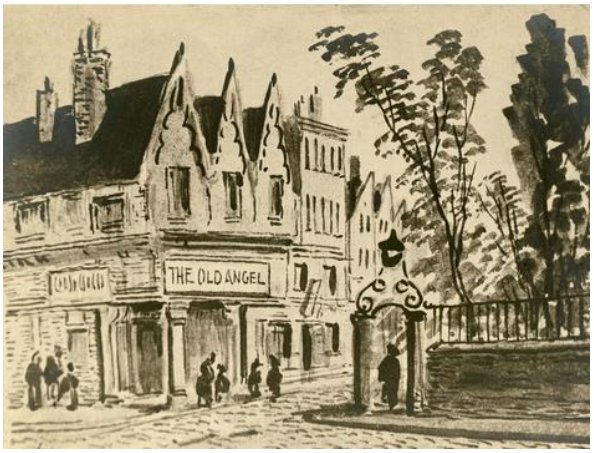

St Mary's church, c.1850.

More information about the church can be found at: https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/nottingham-st-mary/hhistory.php

7. Lace Market Hotel

The hotel occupies what were four original buildings - Numbers 25, 27, 29 & 31

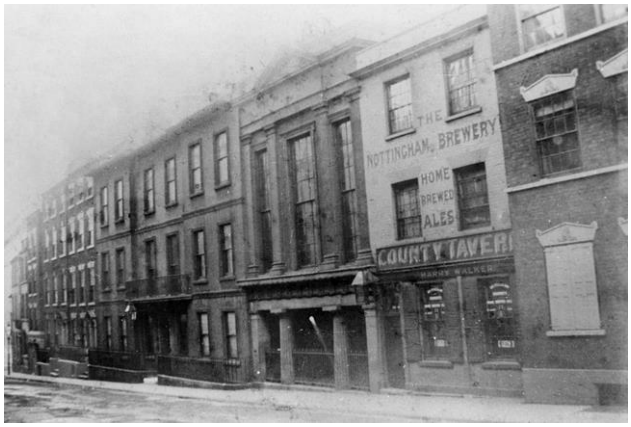
Number 31, nearest St Mary's Church, was a half-timbered house built in the 13th or 14th century for the Bugge family, named Bugge Hall, prominent Nottingham lace merchants. Ralph Bugge & his family lived here during the fourteenth century. They ended up moving to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds & changing their family name to Willoughby. Ralph then became the founder of the great Willoughby family which, in Queen Anne's reign, were ennobled & became the Lords Middleton of Wollaton Hall & elsewhere.



Bugge Hall was turned into The Old Angel Pub, which stood on this site until the late 1800s where it was knocked down and rebuilt, combining with number 29 to become a lace mill.

The old building was demolished in the early 1800s. All that is left to remind us of the presence of this Old Angel is the name of Angel Yard at No 27 High Pavement.

Number 25 & 27 had been the site of a public house for nearly 200 years. In 1832 Joseph Pearson opened the County Tavern. It was renamed the Cock & Hoop pub in around 2003 & the accommodation above the pub became hotel rooms & the buildings were internally joined.



With the decline of the lace industry after the First World War many of the warehouses were subdivided and let into small textile firms & offices. In 1929 the building was used as offices for the City Council Medical Officer, then as the City's Probation Office. However minimal rents of these buildings and lack of maintenance led to very run-down conditions by the 1960's.
The building was then left unused for a decade prior to being purchased in 1996 by a Nottingham family for redevelopment, creating the first Lace Market Hotel.

The Lace Market Hotel continued to thrive for many years & became the go to place for people to stay in Nottingham.

In 2014 it was purchased by a private investor, closing briefly whilst it was refurbished & then reopened in October 2015.
In 2022 more work was carried out to add 9 additional bedrooms & refurbish the Cock & Hoop.
https://www.lacemarkethotel.co.uk

8. National Justice Museum

The National Justice Museum is housed in a former Victorian courtroom, prison, and police station and is therefore a historic site where an individual could be arrested, tried, sentenced and executed. The earliest confirmed use of the site for official purposes was by the Normans, who appointed sheriffs to keep the peace and collect taxes; hence the site was sometimes referred to as the Sheriff's Hall, the County Hall or the King's Hall. The first written record of the site being used as a law court dates from 1375 and the first written reference to its use as a prison is in 1449.

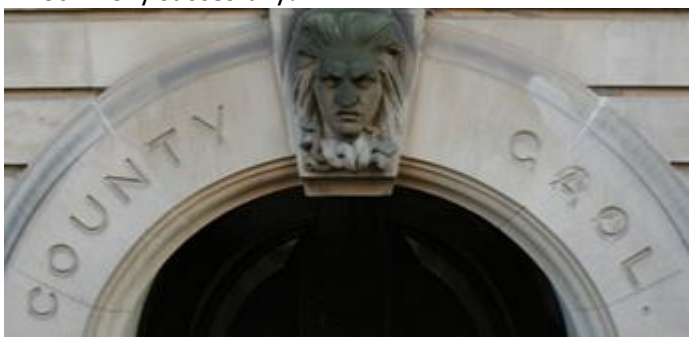
The hall was rebuilt between 1769 and 1772. The architect was James Gandon of London, the builder was Joseph Pickford of Derby. The design for the building involved an asymmetrical main frontage facing onto High Pavement: the right hand section of three bays featured a round headed doorway flanked by two round headed windows and full-height Ionic order columns; there was a rectangular blank panel above the doorway flanked by roundels.

Additional wings were added to the building between 1820 and 1840. Until 1832 most Nottingham hangings took place at Gallows Hill (on the hill near the top of Mansfield Road), but in 1832 they transferred to the Shire Hall. The last public execution was held in 1864, when Richard Thomas Parker was hanged. Executions were held on a scaffold erected over the stone steps in front of the central doorway. In 1876, major improvements were made and the front was redesigned in an Italianate style by William Bliss Sanders of Nottingham. Within a few weeks, a fire broke out and nearly destroyed all of the newly completed work. Following the fire, the courts were largely rebuilt by Thomas Chambers Hine between 1876 and 1879; but the gaol was closed in 1878.

A police station was built adjacent to the building in 1905. After the County Council moved to County Hall in West Bridgford in 1954, the Shire Hall continued in use as the home of Nottingham's civil and criminal courts until 1991, when Nottingham Crown Court was opened on Canal Street.

The Galleries of Justice Museum opened in the building in 1995. It was refurbished and rebranded as the National Justice Museum in 2017. The building is a Grade II* listed building and the museum is a registered charity.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Justice_Museum

Above the doorway is carved ‘County Gaol’ but, as seen in this photo, it is evident that the stonemason accidentally inscribed ‘Goal’ and had to remedy his error – not wholly succesfully!



Also on the front of the building is a plaque erected in 2019 in honour of Eric Irons, Britains first black magistrate – see https://city-arts.org.uk/who-was-eric-irons-obe/

9. Unitarian Chapel

The current building is the former High Pavement Chapel, built 1874-6 by Stuart Colman of Bristol, on the top of the cliff up to the Lace Market. The church had its roots in the congregations established during the Civil War and Commonwealth. In the C18 it became a Unitarian chapel and was rebuilt in 1806, and then again in 1874-6 after a prestigious competition, financed by the wealthy congregation. www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/col...

The chapel closed in 1982 when the congregation moved elsewhere. From 1987-9 the building was briefly the Lace Museum, before being converted in 1998 by London's Design Solutions to a bar/restaurant, Pitcher & Piano

The Nottinghamshire History website gives an interesting history of the chapel:
J. Holland Walker, An itinerary of Nottingham: High Pavement, Transactions of the Thoroton Society, 32 (1928)
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1928/itinerary1928p11.htm

“*High Pavement Chapel….was built in 1876, but its history as a place of worship goes back several hundred years, and behind the present building are some interesting remains of an old building. In 1651 the Rev. John Whitlock occupied the office of Vicar of St. Mary's. Of course, this office was not quite the same as it is nowadays, for in those days, during the ascendency of the Puritan Party in England, another form of worship than that of the Established Church obtained. But at any rate Mr. Whitlock was the chief minister of the church, and appears to have been an exceedingly holy and acceptable minister. He was assisted in his work by Mr. William Reynolds, his bosom friend, who acted as lecturer, and they carried on very fine work in the church until after the Restoration. In 1662, for political reasons, an Act of Parliament was introduced called the Act of Uniformity, which provided that all clergy should accept a declaration of certain forms of church government and of theology so that the whole religion of the land should be of a uniform character. In common with many other able and devout clergymen Mr. Whitlock and Mr. Reynolds found that they could not conscientiously conform to this Act, and so they became nonconformists and consequently were not allowed to continue their ministry in St. Mary's Church. The Rev. John Barratt, who was minister of St. Peter's Church, found himself in a similar plight, and as they were all three destitute of means of subsistence they were hospitably entertained by Sir John Musters at Colwick Hall. Their troubles were not at an end, for in 1666 a further Act of Parliament made it a penal offence for a minister to reside within five miles of the church at which he had officiated, so these three divines removed to Shirebrook and afterwards to Mansfield. But so true were they to their congregation that arrangements were made for them to visit Nottingham by stealth, and I think that probably the authorities winked at these visits. They had various places of meeting, but the most important were in the huge rock cellars underneath Vault Hall, the house which stood at the corner of Drury Hill and Low Pavement. Part of James II.'s policy by which he hoped to re-introduce Roman Catholicism was to tolerate all forms of religion, and so in 1687 these three worthy clergymen were enabled to return to Nottingham, and in 1687 a congregation assembled under their guidance in a house in St. Mary's Gate, whose site, I believe, is now lost. This congregation was of such importance that in 1690 a chapel was built in High Pavement, more or less on the site of the present building, which*

was supported by nearly all the great families of Nottingham from the Earls of Clare downwards. It is very pleasing to know that after Mr. Reynolds's death, by an act of large-heartedness his body was buried in St. Mary's Church, and the blue tombstone which covers his remains acts partially as a foundation for the pulpit which is occupied week by week by the Vicar of St. Mary's Church. The place of worship thus established, flourished exceedingly; it was nick-named "Little St. Mary's," and it was attended by many of the great families. Byron, the poet, was regularly brought here as a boy, and it is interesting to remember that the greatest of Nottingham artists, Richard Parkes Bonnington, was baptised within its walls. In 1815 great alterations and improvements were made to the fabric, and the foundation was laid of a very valuable library in connection with the church. In 1815 an organ was placed within its walls, but finally, as we have said, in 1876 the present building took the place of the older edifice. It is well worth entering, for apart from its strange and beautiful memories the south window is enriched with magnificent modern stained glass, designed by Burne-Jones and executed by Holiday, and its extraordinary pulpit is also worth consideration."

10. High Pavement

Again this information, and that for Commerce Square below, is from The Nottinghamshire History website: J. Holland Walker, An itinerary of Nottingham: High Pavement and Commerce Square, Transactions of the Thoroton Society, 32 (1928) http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1928/itinerary1928p1.htm

"*HIGH Pavement has one of the most dignified histories of any street in Nottingham, for it was here during the XVII* ***and XVIII centuries that some of the great Nottingham families had their residences. Its name is of interest and the word*** *"Pavement" contains a pretty strong criticism of the condition of the roadways in ancient Nottingham. Weekday Cross was the old Market Place and as it would have to bear a tremendous amount of traffic in ancient days it is quite possible that it was paved with stones. …Gradually the stone pavement would be extended from Weekday Cross along the lines of High Pavement and of Middle Pavement and Low Pavement and so the name of High Pavement would arise.*

… about the year 1799, an attempt was made to alter the name of the street and a portion between Short Hill and St. Mary's Gate was called " St. Mary's Church Side." This was not a very successful venture and it seems to have been abandoned about 1815.

It is a narrow thoroughfare even nowadays, particularly the portion south of St. Mary's Church, and in ancient days it was very much narrower. There was a house at the south-east corner of St. Mary's Churchyard which belonged to the Duke of Kingston and which must have been terribly in the way of traffic coming up Hollowstone, at any rate he gave it to the town and it was pulled down in 1740. But it was not the only impediment to traffic, for about 1681 a row of houses was built along the south side of St. Mary's Churchyard which were not pulled down until 1792. These houses projected more than half-way across the modern roadway and the very narrow trackway which was left, albeit there were no footpaths, must have rendered the circulation of traffic extremely difficult, particularly when we remember that from the middle of the XVIII century onward this was the main coach route into Nottingham.

Very little is known about these vanished houses. They were pulled down and a small slice was taken off the churchyard and the whole was thrown into the roadway, thus widening it to its present dimensions. The churchyard was held up by the great riveting wall which we now see, but in cutting off the slice of the burial ground many interments were disturbed, and the old histories and accounts of Nottingham tell very ghoulish stories of what was seen and done during the operations.

On the south side of the road are a series of rather curious buildings…., they have been knocked about and altered in all sorts of ways, but they still retain in their staircases, their roofs and various other details, memories of their past, and are of considerable interest to the antiquary. In particular, the doorway of No. 34, with its rustication and its mask marking the keystone is particularly nice."

The keystone 'mask', is still there, above the doorway of No.34.

11. Commerce Square

"*Commerce Square, which leads off High Pavement… had its moment in 1149. It was during the terrible times of the reign of King Stephen, the country was in a turmoil, families were divided against themselves and the country full of rapine and bloodshed. Nottingham Castle was held by the younger Peveril on behalf of King Stephen and was attacked by the Earl of Gloucester in command of a rabble acting on behalf of the Empress Matilda. He could not capture the Castle, but he succeeded in overrunning the town, and he subjected it to looting of a terrible description. His followers captured townsfolk and subjected them to all manner of indignities and tortures to make them disclose where t*

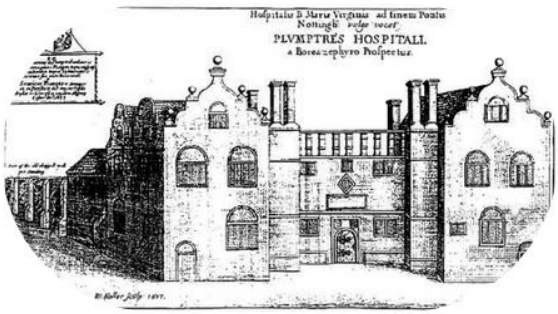
heir treasures were hidden. One such prisoner was Sweyn, who was by profession a moneyer [a person who mints money]*, for in those days Nottingham possessed a mint which worked under royal license. In order to save his life, and the lives of those near and dear to him, Sweyn promised to show his tormentors where his treasure was hidden and so he led them to his house which was situated somewhere at the top of Long Stairs just about where Commerce Square now stands. Leading them through the ground floor storey he took them into a rock-hewn basement underneath his house which was pitch dark, and in this basement he declared they would find his stock of money. Eagerly they began to search and poke about in the darkness and while they were so engaged Sweyn managed to elude their vigilance and escape from their clutches. He shut the door behind him and held his tormentors prisoners. In order to make assurance doubly sure, he set fire to his house and so consumed the robbers. But the remedy proved worse than the disease. The fire spread throughout the town of Nottingham, and so much damage was done…*"

The main building in Commerce Square is the grade II listed late C18 and early and mid C19 Kings Court. The building rises up from Cliff Road, backing onto the sandstone cliff containing caves. Once offices and warehouses it is now 35 luxury apartments and 6 mews houses and is apparently one of the most sought after developments to live in Nottingham City Centre.
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles

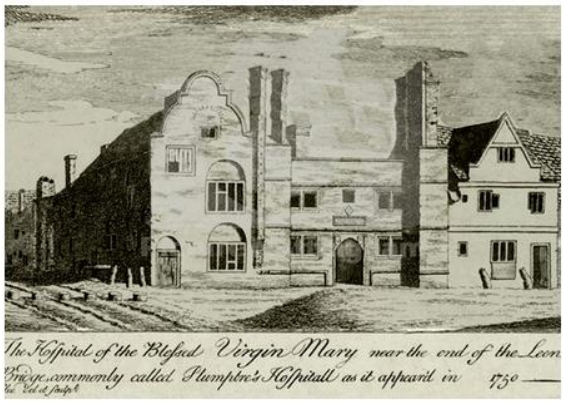
12. Plumptre Hospital

In 1392 John de Plumptre, a merchant of the staple of Calais who traded mainly in wool and four times mayor of Nottingham, was granted a licence by King Richard II to found and endow a hospital or house of God for two chaplains and thirteen poor widows 'bent by old age and depressed by poverty.'
The hospital was more of an alms-house than a hospital and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and was endowed with 13 properties around the town of Nottingham.

Plumptre hospital was one of the few charities to escape the dissolution by Edward VI in 1547 when the endowments of nearly all charitable institutions were swept away.



THE PLUMPTRE HOSPITAL after Huntingdon Plumptre's rebuilding of 1650, from Robert Thoroton's 'Antiquities of Nottingham.'



The hospital was almost in a state of ruin when it was renovated by Huntingdon Plumptre in 1650 (pictured above left). The good doctor raised the rents of the hospital's properties which enabled the charity to give the widows an allowance of five shillings per month, with an additional sixpence at New Year. In 1753 John Plumptre extended the

hospital (pictured above right) and the 13 widows' allowance was increased to £13 10s, a gown and a tonne of coal annually, with an additional sixpence at New Year.

The Plumptre family continued to maintain the charity after they moved to Kent and in August of 1823 a new hospital (the present building) was built on the site of the old one.
By 1991 the charity was unable to maintain the hospital building and the residents were moved to other alms-houses, 599 years after the founding of the charity, and the building remained empty until it was taken over by the Royal National Institute for the Blind in 2001.

https://www.nonington.org.uk/the-fredville-estate/the-plumptre-hospital-in-plumptre-square-nottingham/

13.The Island Quarter

Industry began in this area in the 1800s when Nottingham's early entrepreneurs set up in business. As shown on this 1885 map, there used to be a branch of the canal which was built in 1835 and named the Poplar Arm; it served warehouses and works in area between Island Street and Poplar Street (top of map). This 'arm' was further extended by Earl Manvers, Sneinton's chief landowner at the time. The Earl Manvers Canal, as it was named, ran further east to Hermit Street and Sneinton Hermitage, where there was a wharf for the handling of coal and other cargoes. The the area swiftly became home to lace-makers, cotton traders and drug companies. It was in the 1890s when the Boots Drug Co moved in, eventually occupying the whole site.
The construction of this canal arm meant the area became almost surrounded by water and was renamed 'The Island' – hence the use of this name for the new 'Island Quarter' developments today.

After the Second World War, all the canal arms were abandoned and their traces gradually obliterated. The last vestige of the Poplar Arm was closed in 1982. http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm90_12-27.htm

In 1993 Boots sold the site to Nottingham City Council and the former Boots warehousing was removed to make way for new buildings for the BBC, Premier Inn, Apex Court and the NHS Walk-in Centre, but The Island Quarter has been largely derelict since then.

The only remaining buildings from the Boots era are the derelict James Alexander Warehouses, built in 1905, and beyond it the grade II listed Great Northern Warehouse, built in 1857 by Thomas Chambers Hine.

In 2016 the remaining area was bought by property developer Conygar Investment Company, which has undertaken extensive engagement with the City Council, relevant stakeholders and local people, and now international architecture firm Leonard Design Architects and placemaking specialists Studio Egret West have reimagined these 36-acres once again.

The most recent development has been the opening of Binks Yard. Further developments over the next few years will include hotels, residential, offices, bars & restaurants, warehousing, student accommodation (under construction) and further expansion of the bioscience industry. For more detail go to: https://www.theislandquarter.com/masterplan

14. Sneinton Dragon

At 7 ft. high and with a 15 ft. wingspan, the Sneinton Dragon is an impressive stainless steel sculpture by Nottingham-born artist Robert Stubley. But why a dragon?

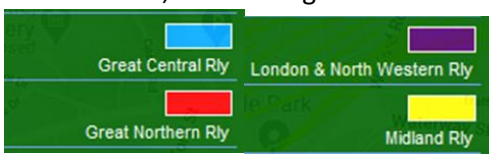
During the industrial boom of C19th, the small village of Sneinton rapidly expanded to a population of more than 20,000 people. By the early C20th, this overcrowding had caused the area to become a poor and unhealthy district. In his 'Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now', 1914, Robert Mellors attributed the population's high infant mortality and disease rates to the predatory activity of a metaphorical monster:

"*For more than half a century there has existed in certain parts of Nottingham a monster who has devoured in the first year of their lives a large number of infants, and, what is worse, probably an equal number who have survived have dragged out a pitiable existence in weakness, small in stature, deformed, or anaemic, with diseases, lack of energy, unable to maintain themselves, and therefore dependent on others or the public charge; ……*
Many men and women, under the influence of the monster's pestilential breath….
…. sink into helplessness and hopelessness, and twenty to forty per thousand die where ten per thousand ought to have sufficed, for fevers, tuberculosis, and other diseases find them ready for grim death to feed upon….
….some houses become infected with living, biting, creeping, smelling filth, and wall paper, painting, floors, windows, pipes, taps, shelves, fireplaces, and other parts have been damaged or destroyed, and all this has been the Dragon's work.
Who is this monster, and what is his name? His name is SLUM."

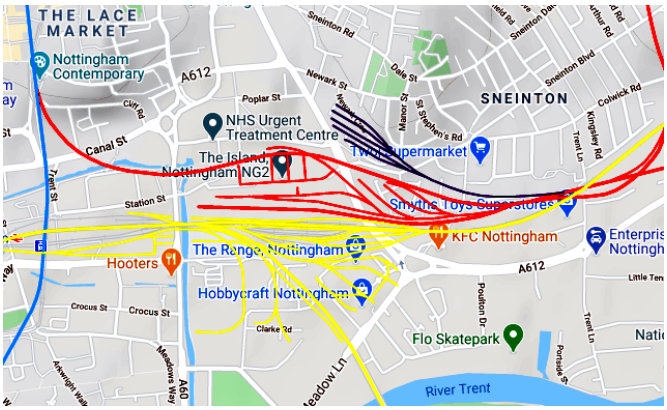
Fortunately, things have changed since Mellors' time.
In 2006, the city council proposed a piece of street art to represent this now vibrant multicultural community and a survey of local residents resulted in the suggestion for a big scary dragon….perhaps to symbolize the hardships of the past and represent the monster, 'Slum'.
https://meanderingthroughtime.weebly.com/history-blog/category/slums

15. Old Railways

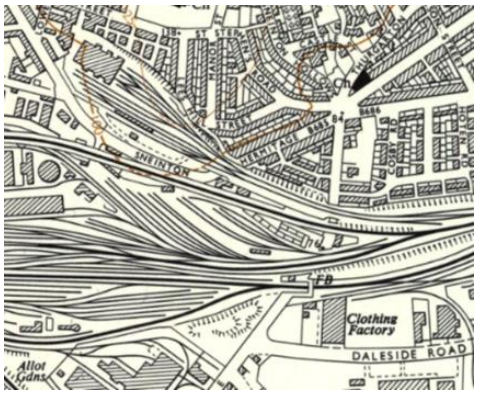
During much of the C20th, the area to the south of Nottingham city centre was dominated by railways. As illustrated on this map, from Rail Map Online www.railmaponline.com, three railway companies had sidings serving the cattle market and industrial premises throughout a large area between London Road, Meadow Lane and Sneinton, with through lines in all directions.



The LNWR had running powers into the London Road station on the joint line (red) with GNR but also maintained its own goods station at Sneinton (purple lines).



This map, surveyed in the early 1950s, shows the large number of tracks and a major railway engineering site (bottom left of the map), with the main road layout substantially different from today – most significantly, there being no link between Daleside Road and Manvers Street (link constructed early 1990s).



16. Sneinton Hermitage

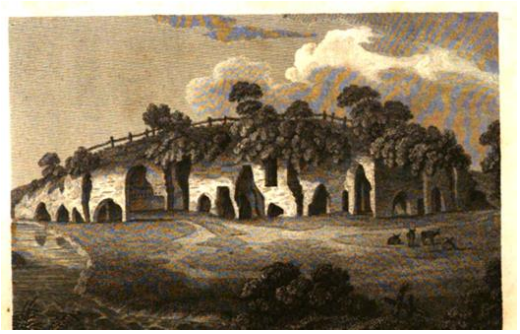
'*The Beauties of England and Wales*' (1801–1815) is a series describing the topography and local history of England and Wales. The work appeared in 18 multi-part volumes arranged by county and written by many different authors. Nottinghamshire is covered in an 1812 volume by Francis Charles Laird. It includes a section on what was then the village of Sneinton:

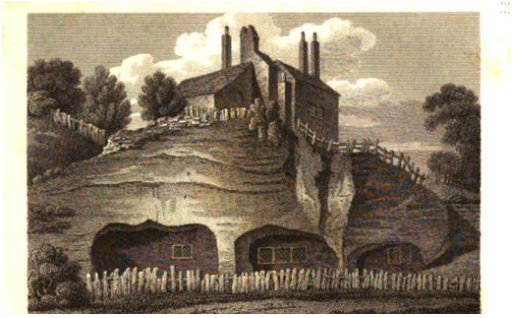
> '*The village itself is rural, at present in some measure romantic; has a number of pleasant villas and cottages, and has long been famous for a race of dairy people, who make a very pleasant kind of soft summer cheese*.'

Laird goes on to describe the cave dwellings at Sneinton Hermitage:

> '*Great part of the village, indeed, consists of the habitations within the rock, many of which have staircases that lead up to gardens on the top, and some of them hanging on shelves on its sides. To a stranger it is extremely curious to see the perpendicular face of the rock with doors and windows in tiers, and the inhabitants peeping out from their dens, like the inmates of another world; in fact, if it was not at home, and therefore of no value, it would, without doubt, have been novelised and melodramatized, until all the fashionable world had been mad for getting underground. The coffeehouse, and ale houses, cut out of rock, are the common resort of the holiday folks; indeed the coffeehouse is not only extremely pleasant from its garden plants, and arbours in front, but also extremely curious from its great extent into the body of the rock, where visitors almost may choose their degree of temperature on the hottest day in summer*.'

The book includes two illustrations of the caves or, as they are labelled, ‘Excavations’. Note the windows in the cave openings in the second illustration





Today there are only a few small caves remaining. At one time many people lived in houses with brick built fronts that were built into the rock, incorporating the caves into the living space. During railway and road development in the late C19th many of the caves were destroyed.

Once again I look to Robert Mellors, ‘*Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now*’, 1914, to get more detail:

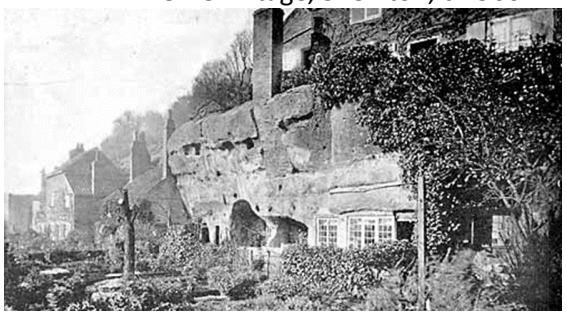
It is possible that once upon a time the Hermitage was a cell of some recluse, or religious order, similar to the caves in Nottingham Park, which were at one time connected with Lenton Priory, but more probably it was the secluded dwelling in the rock of someone who loved to be alone. In the Pierrepont [The Pierrepont/Earl Manvers family, of Thoresby and Holme Pierrepont, owned much of Sneinton until the C19th; much of the rest was owned by the Musters family] *rental of 1544 is an entry, "There is a hous under the grounde in a rocke of stone that sometyme was called thermitage''; and again in 1501, "The Ermytage in Sneynton, being a howse cutte out of rocke and paieth yearly ijs. (2s.) It is very improbable that we are here to be carried back to the time of the British inhabitants, before the Saxons dislodged them, when Nottingham was called Tigguocobauc, "the dwelling of caves."*

When the road was made from Southwell Road, by the Hermitage, until it joined the road to Colwick at Old Sneinton, two public houses, the "White Swan'' and the "Earl Manvers' Arms," with other adjoining houses were built, having brick fronts, the caves forming the back premises, and on the rock above the Nottingham Catchfly* grew plentifully. In 1829 a lofty rock overhanging fell and crushed two houses, and destroyed "the noble dancing room cut in the rock." The North Western Railway Company having established their goods station on the top of the rock… in 1897, for their high level line pushed the road sixty feet or so further north, the road was widened, and most of the houses and caves to the west were removed. In 1904 the houses and caves east of the railway bridge were blasted, or pulled down, one cave being 36 feet by 86 feet by 18 feet high.

http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/sneinton2.htm

* Nottingham Catchfly is a pinkish-white wildflower with hairy leaves that fills the evening air with a heavy scent in order to attract night-flying insects and moths. It is so-named because it was first found on the walls of Nottingham Castle although it no longer grows there, having been destroyed during work done in the C19.

The Hermitage, Sneinton, c.1900.



Very little is left of the Hermitage caves today

17.The Manor

Most houses in this part of Sneinton date from the 1890s/early 1900s but, as this map surveyed in 1880/81 shows, this area, above Sneinton Hermitage with its ‘Rock Houses’, was undeveloped – with allotments and land belonging to the Manor House.

The architecture suggests this to be a late 1600's-early 1700's. The fine brick building of three stories with its attractive gables was once surrounded by a large courtyard. It stood in a large park well stocked with deer and from its commanding position on the rock overhanging the Sneinton hermitage it must have been a very desirable residence before modern industrialism blotted out its view.

The Manor House, 1890, by Thomas William Hammond

The Manor House building was demolished by 1894 but before that it had been home for generations of the Morley family. Their history is told in two articles on the Nottinghamshire History website: http://www.nottshistory.org.uk

Stephen Best, 'Sneinton's hosiery dynasty: The Morleys of I & R Morley : Part 1: The workmen's friends', Sneinton Magazine, no 76, Autumn 2000
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm76_11-22.htm
Stephen Best, 'Sneinton's hosiery dynasty: The Morleys of I & R Morley : Part 2: Commemorating a philanthropist', Sneinton Magazine, no 77, Winter 2000/2001
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm77_11-21.htm

I have included some of that history as the family were a significant part of Nottingham's past.

In the 1760s Samuel Morley was a yeoman farmer, cultivating land around the Manor House, while at the same time interested in the growing trade of hosiery manufacture. His two sons were brought up to follow their father in a combination of activities but they realised that agriculture was not going to be their principal activity, and towards the end of the century formally established a hosiery firm, I. & R. Morley.
With good local contacts in the banking and spinning trades, the firm quickly became successful with a warehouse and offices in London as well as Nottingham premises taking up almost the whole of the east side of Fletcher Gate on the edge of the Lace Market.

The early years of I. & R. Morley coincided with the Napoleonic Wars, which brought an economic downturn which caused grave difficulties for the hosiery trade. Further problems followed with violent Luddite protests against the replacement of hand-worked stocking frames by mechanical ones. The Morley's sympathized with the fears of his out-workers, retaining the old frames after many other employers had scrapped theirs. From the start Morley's insisted that they would produce hosiery of only the finest quality, and demanded high standards from their out-workers. The Morley family were, by the criteria of the time, remarkably enlightened employers. They paid the best wages by the miserable standards of the time, did their best to ensure regular employment for their people, and waived rents when knitting frames stood idle. Their activity in the community included Richard Morley being elected the Nottingham Corporation mayor in 1836 and 1841 and he was an alderman and magistrate.

The sons of the two Morley brothers worked for the firm and took over when their fathers died, including involvement in the city community. However, by 1860 one of the sons, Samuel Morley, became lone managing partner of the entire Morley empire. Possessing prodigious energy, he not only presided over a growing and massively profitable company, but continued his intense involvement in public life.

The Manvers St factory in 1899 and today, the Liberty Gym

However, factories were to assume a greater importance. In 1856 Morley's had employed 2,700 out-workers in and around Nottingham, but Samuel steadily moved the company in the direction of factory manufacture on powered machines, now capable of producing work of a quality to rival the hand-frame. In 1866 Cropper's Factory in Manvers Street, at the corner of Newark Street, was purchased.
During the last fourteen years of Samuel's life, five more factories were opened in the Midlands and London.
Morley's factories were considered the best in the North Midlands. They were clean, airy, and light, and relations between management and workers were excellent, based on mutual respect. Pay was higher than average and Morley's were also pioneers in providing pensions for many of long-serving knitters.

So, Samuel Morley was a political radical, a Liberal MP for Bristol from 1868 to 1885, an abolitionist, and a campaigner for worker's rights. He introduced pensions and allowances for his workforce, and donated money to Nottingham Castle, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and Morley College in London. He even refused a peerage from the Queen as he did not want to be 'seen as above the people.' However, whilst Samuel Morley has become publicly renowned for his philanthropy and also for his support for the abolition of slavery, the inhumane origins of his and the firm's slave-based material and financial wealth should not be forgotten.

The Morley's business purchased cotton thread from the Strutt cotton spinning company. Jedediah Strutt was born of farming stock in South Normanton in 1726. He married Elizabeth Woollat whose family had a hosiery business in Derby. Jedediah's early prosperity was based on his invention in 1759 of an attachment which made it possible to do ribbed knitting on an ordinary hand-operated knitting frame. This became famous as the "Derby Rib" and gave a great boost to the whole East Midlands hosiery industry.

Some ten years later Jedediah was wealthy enough to risk giving financial backing to Richard Arkwright, the ex-barber, who had come to Nottingham to promote the commercial development of his cotton-spinning machine, the "Water Frame". Their first factory, the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill, was set up at Cromford in 1771 and a second mill was built in Belper in 1776. https://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk/history/history-of-the-strutts/

Archival records show that a significant proportion of the Strutts' cotton was sourced from plantations across the Americas, where it was cultivated, harvested and cleaned by enslaved Africans. Thus, one of the key elements of the Morley family's fortune was profits from the cotton grown by enslaved Africans which the Morleys processed into fashionable garments.

Towards the end of his life Morley made a significant gesture that enriched, not only Nottingham, but, indirectly, communities all over the country. In June 1881 the new buildings in Shakespeare Street and Sherwood Street, housing the University College, Central Library, and Natural History Museum, were opened.
Morley noted that the library was only open for children of 15 or over and he '*should like to reach children who are far younger than that, and who have begun to take - as many do - an interest in books and reading….. I gladly offer £500 as a commencement of a library for children, say from the age of seven or eight to fifteen*'.
Nottingham Corporation quickly accepted Morley's offer, and in 1883 a separate library for children was opened in Shakespeare Street, just about a hundred yards along the road from the main library.

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY in Shakespeare Street, opened in 1883 with a donation from Samuel Morley.

In 1886 Samuel Morley died of pneumonia and appreciations came from all parts of the country. Samuel Morley's burial took place at London's most important 19th century Nonconformist cemetery, Abney Park in Stoke Newington. (Over twenty years later Morley would be joined there by another great man with Sneinton associations: William Booth – see **20** below).

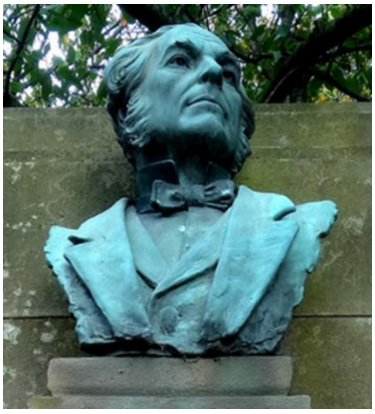
In Nottingham it was decided that there should be a statue as a memorial to Morley. This was produced by James Harvard Thomas and placed outside the Theatre Royal. When the statue was new, Theatre Square was undoubtedly a fine site for it. Even in the 1880s, though, this was a busy spot with many horse-drawn carts and cabs swirling around it. The twentieth century added the electric tram and the motor vehicle to the streets, and by the 1920s Samuel constituted an undeniable encumbrance to traffic. The City Council decided that the statue should be moved to the Arboretum.

Just before Christmas 1926 the work of removing the statue took place. Insured against accidental damage, it was wrapped in sacking, and lifted on to a specially constructed trailer and taken to the Castle Boulevard yard of the stonemasons Pask and Thorpe, for a clean-up and safe keeping until the plinth and pedestal were ready to receive it in the Arboretum.

On the morning of 12 January 1927 all was ready. With the aid of a crane, the Morley statue was loaded, standing upright, on to a five-ton lorry at Castle Boulevard, for transport to its new home. At Lister Gate the one and a half tons statue was observed to be wobbling and then it snapped off just above the ankles and 'came clean over with a crash'. The statue struck the carriageway head-first, leaving a considerable amount of powdered stone scattered alongside the tramlines. Police and tramway officials kept the crowds back and organized a single-line tram service past the stricken philanthropist, while men with pulleys laboured to lift the 'maimed statue.' They carted it back to Pask and Thorpe's where it was quickly found that the statue was beyond repair.

An Evening Post picture of the wrecked statue lying in Lister Gate, January 1927.

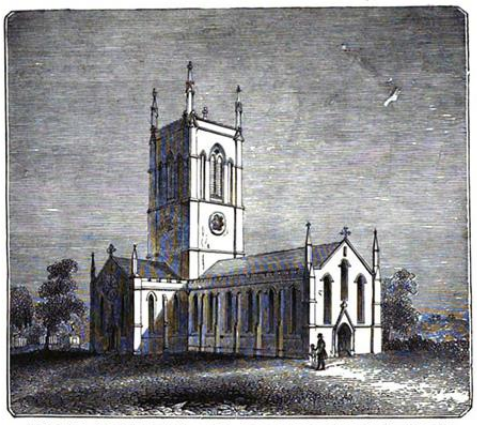
It was decided instead to replace the statue with a bronze bust. This was accordingly executed by the accomplished Joseph Else, principal of Nottingham College of Art, and a native of the town. Else provided Nottingham with some of its most notable public art. He made an enormous contribution to the Council House, being responsible for one of the groups of statuary around the dome, and for the figures in the pediment representing aspects of the arts and public endeavour. Else also created the frieze behind the portico, depicting old industries of Nottingham, and those celebrated symbols of lovers' meetings, the lions.



Else worked from photographs and engravings of Morley, and it was widely agreed that his bronze bust bore a closer resemblance to the great man's features than the afflicted statue it replaced. The new bust, set in place on 12 December 1928, is located close to the lower gates of the Arboretum.

18. St Stephen's Church

The fourth church to stand on this site going back to medieval times, the tower and clock from the 1838 replacement were retained in the early 20th century rebuilding. Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was served from Lenton Priory, then by clergy from St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, until it became a parish is its own right in 1866.
It is Grade II listed.



NORTH WEST VIEW OF SNENTON NEW CHURCH,

'Sneinton New Church' from The History and Antiquities of Nottingham by James Orange, 1840

In the 1840s considerable alterations were being carried out in St. Mary's Church and, to make way for new pews, the ancient seats were ejected from the chancel, where they had been since the fourteenth or fifteenth century. It is said that the organist at St Stephen's, Mr Wilcockson, purchased them for 10 shillings. These are now the choir stalls in St. Stephen's. They contain fine medieval misericords – small wooden shelves underneath the chair of a choir which were established to provide some comfort for a person who would be standing for long periods of prayer. As this would often help the infirm, the term misericord deriving from 'act of mercy'. The misericord became a subject of highly carved images which had an inner symbolism.

A description of the Misericords of St Stephen's Church, with photos, by R B Parish is at
http://www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk

He describes this one as: '*A fox riding a hound and blowing a hunting horn, in some accounts said to be a rat. This may relate to the deceitful nature of the fox which would mean he would be a symbol of the Devil, the image of him riding a dog in a hunt emphasised the carnal nature of hunting perhaps in a satirical fashion*'.

The parents of D.H. Lawrence married in the church on 27 December 1875, his mother's family living nearby.

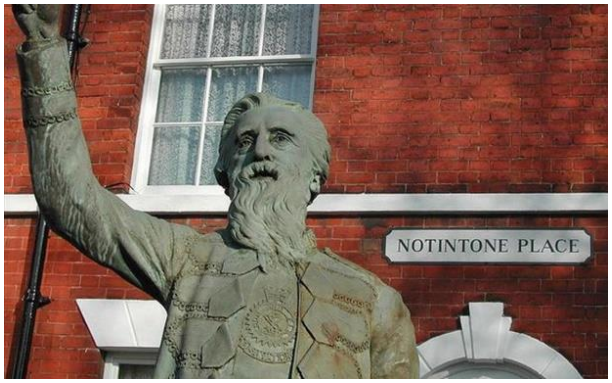
19. Notintone

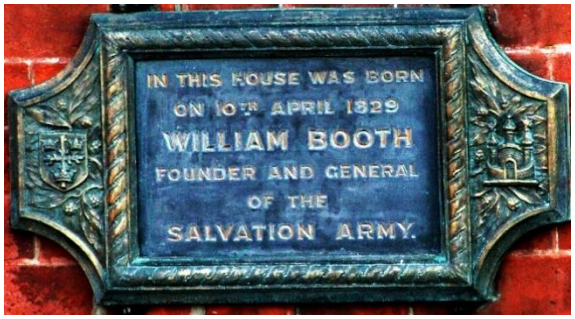
The origins of the name 'Sneinton' is linked with, but has differences from, the origins of 'Nottingham'. Nottingham was settled by the Anglo-Saxon chieftain "Snot" and he named the settlement 'Snottingaham' (later, just 'Snottingham') – the homestead of Snot's people, where 'inga' = 'the people of'; 'ham' = 'homestead'. The area on the hill to the east of the settlement was probably inhabited by their bondfolk and was of less importance. This was called 'Snottingaton' (the suffix 'ton' = 'farmstead settlement').

At the time of the Norman Conquest the 'S' of Snottingham was dropped. According to '*A Contribution to the Study of Anglo-Norman Influence on English Place Names*', by R. E. Zachrisson, '*S before l, m, n had already been dropped* [by the Normans]*, or changed into another sound ….consequently the combinations Sl, Sm, Sn in English place names were unknown to the Normans*' – apparently the Normans had difficulty pronouncing such words. The settlement of Snottingaton is named as 'Notintone' in the Domesday Book, but, not being of much importance, it did not attract much notice from the Normans, and so their pronunciation of 'Notintone' did not stick; the 'S' remained and over time 'Snottingaton' became 'Sneinton'.
However, 'Notintone' is used today in Notintone Street and Notintone Place.

20. William Booth

William Booth, Nottingham's most famous preacher, social reformer and founder of the Salvation Army, was born in 1829 in Notintone Place. He was the son of a builder and, on leaving school, worked at a pawnbrokers. He became involved with the Wesleyan Methodists and during the 1840's preached in the slums of Nottingham, building up a band of followers.
In 1849 he moved to London and then travelled around the country on behalf of the Methodist church whose ministry he eventually left. In 1865 he returned to London with his wife and family and founded the East London Christian Mission which was to become the Salvation Army.
William Booth received the Freedom of the City of Nottingham in 1905. He died in 1912.
For more information visit the William Booth Birthplace Museum website
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/about-us/international-heritage-centre/william-booth-birthplace-museum





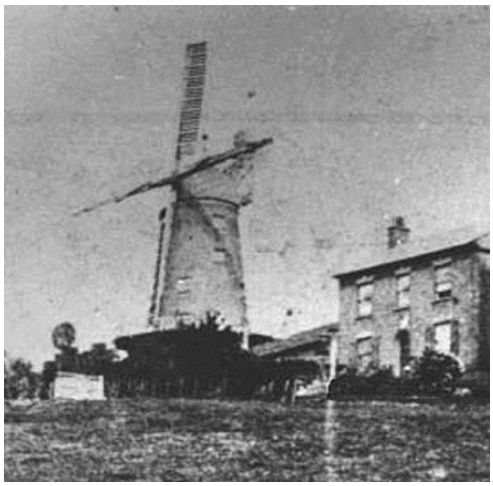
21.St Stephens Vicarage

This very large, 7 bedroom property, is Grade II listed and apparently has been used regularly as a film location including the award winning drama "Oranges & Sunshine" starring Emily Watson & Hugo Weaving and most recently on the new BBC One comedy series "Truckers".

22. Green's Windmill

In the 1800s England suffered from poor corn harvesting and had difficulties with importing grain due to the Napoleonic Wars. The price of grain increased resulting in the people of Nottingham not being able to afford bread and there were riots – breaking into bakeries and granaries at the canal wharves and the theft of corn.
Mr Green, who had a bakery near the Market Square and also had grain stored beside the Nottingham Canal, had his bakery attacked and he sought assistance from the Mayor.

In 1807 Mr Green bought a plot of land in the village of Sneinton on which he built his windmill; the most powerful and up-to-date of the twenty or so windmills in and around Nottingham.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Poor_Laws

In 1828 a visitor to the mill describes the mill at work:

"*I ascertained some facts relative to the economy of a wind-mill. His sails have a radius of twelve yards, and they revolve twenty-five times a minute, or more than a mile at the extremities. This great velocity carries round the stones, which are sixteen feet in circumference, 162 times in a minute, and they grind a load of ten sacks of wheat in two or three hours. The sails are placed at an angle in the shaft, and then in union are placed exactly in the wind's point, but the quantity of cloth is varied inversely as the force of the wind. I went through this fine mill and felt terrified at the centrifugal force of such heavy masses as the stones, the peripheries of which were carried around with a determined velocity of forty miles an hour. Of course, none but particular kinds of stone will bear such a momentum, and the smallest fracture or inequality occasions them to separate with destructive consequences.*"

In 1829 old Mr Green died, leaving the mill and other property to his son George. Two years later, during the Reform Bill riots, an angry mob attacked the mill. George defended his property by firing his musket from the mill whilst his eldest daughter Jane passed the ammunition.

In 1833 George Green let out his mill and became a student at Caius College, Cambridge. He went on to become one of the greatest scientists of his time; a mathematician whose work, including scientific papers on such subjects as wave motion, the behaviour of light, crystal structure and the elasticity of materials, is known and used around the world. He died in 1841 and is buried in the churchyard of St Stephen's.

In 1844 flour from the mill was advertised in the Nottingham Mercury; it was then run by a Mr Fletcher. It continued working into the 1860s, with a William Oakland as miller, but had become uneconomic due to competition from the new steam-powered roller mills. It was abandoned and the sails removed. In 1919 the mill was bought by Oliver Hind. Over the next few years he had repairs done, including having the cap covered in copper. The mill machinery and stones were still in the mill but not used.

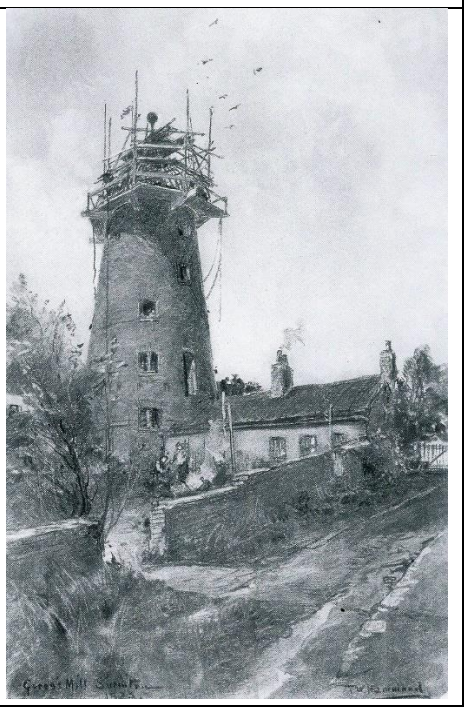
Later the mill was let to H Gell and Co who used the ground floor and first floor to manufacture furniture polish and boot polish. On the 10th July 1947, the building caught fire and, with the lower floors full of wax and polish and the mill tower acting like a chimney, the blaze rapidly took hold and only the brick tower survived. The mill was abandoned once again.

In 1974 staff at the University of Nottingham started a fund to preserve the tower as a monument to George Green whose reputation as a mathematical genius had been growing. Five years later the Fund bought the mill and presented it to the City of Nottingham and restoration started.

Thomas William Hammond drew pictures of Green's Mill on at least two occasions:

1921

1923



In 1981, with new floors, doors and windows in place, a new cap was hoisted onto the top of the tower by a crane and restoration continued to bring the mill into working order. A science centre was built around the mill yard to tell the story of George Green and his mill. It opened to the public in 1985 but it was not until June 1986 that the mill sails were finally hoisted into place and not until 2nd December that the sails turned and flour was produced in Green's Mill for the first time since the 1860s.

At the time of writing, and after almost 40 years of successful milling since its early 1980s restoration, the windmill is in need of significant maintenance work requiring the temporary removal of its sails. Green's Windmill Trust and Nottingham City Council are working in partnership to apply for funding and grants to ensure the repairs can take place. The required work has an estimated cost of around £400,000. In the meantime visitors can continue to enjoy the mill and discover how grain is turned into flour through information panels and videos.

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/greenswindmill
https://www.greensmill.org.uk/about/

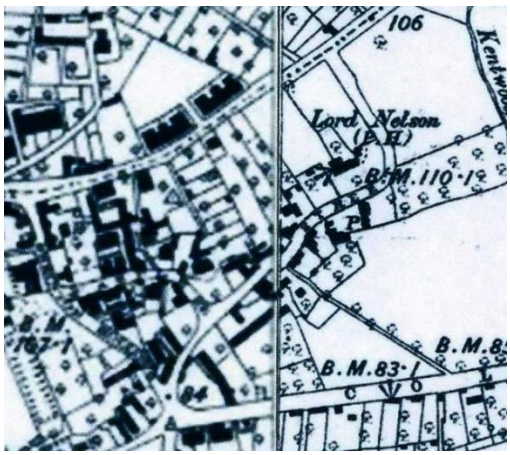
The area around the mill is now very different from what it was when the Green family lived and worked here. What is now Green's Windmill Park was created during renovation of the mill in the 1980s, with various further changes

later. Before that there were allotments here that had existed since before the mill was built. The children's play area was the site of C19th terraced housing. From the early C19th there were significant areas of house building to accommodate people employed in the factories and workshops that were springing up in the area.

23. Hornbuckle Villas

I assume that 'Hornbuckle Villas' on Sneinton Hollows are named after Mr Isaac Hornbuckle (d. 1853). I cannot be certain but I it is possible that this Hornbuckle was a relative of the 'victualler' of the Lord Nelson pub which was known for a time as 'Hornbuckle's' – in 1889 it was kept by Mrs Emmeline Hornbuckle, of yet another long-established local family possessing gravestones in Sneinton churchyard.
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm32_8-19.htm

The Lord Nelson pub is a Grade II listed former coaching inn constructed from two C17th cottages.
When searching on line for information about the pub I noticed that, confusingly, on some sites the address is given as 'Lord Nelson Street' but on others it is 'Thurgarton Street'. It is actually near the junction but the entrance is certainly a few yards up Lord Nelson Street (it is the building to the right of 'LORD' on the 1919 map below left). However, In Hornbuckle's time The Lord Nelson **was** on Thurgarton Street because Lord Nelson Street did not exist (as shown on the 1880s map below centre – only 'STREET' is shown for Thurgarton Street).

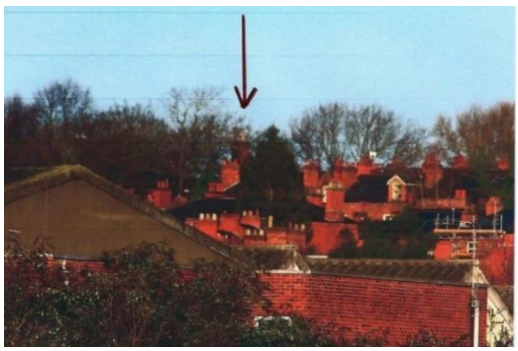


The Lord Nelson c1890s

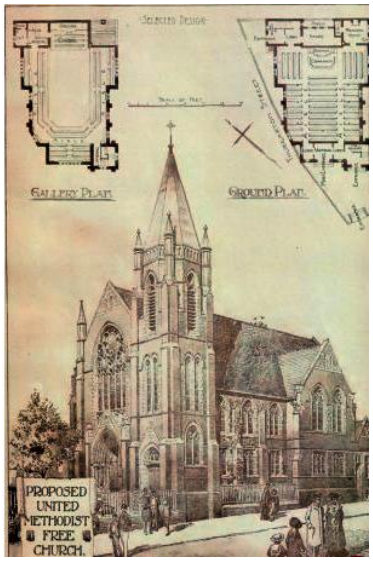
24.The Towers

The story that the owner of 'The Towers' on Castle Street used the tower to watch and check up on the movement of his barges on the River Trent may be true but it is difficult to determine that today. The tower does reach up higher than other buildings around it. So, with a good telescope and an unobstructed view……?

Today there are obstructing trees in Sneinton and many buildings alongside the River Trent which makes this unlikely. However, looking from one point on the southern bank of the river opposite Trent Basin, it is just possible to make out the Tower on the horizon!



25. Sneinton Methodist Church



Sneinton United Methodist Free Church was built in the early 1900s. According to the Building News in 1903, the original design for this building was selected in a competion won by the Nottingham architect W.H. Higginbottom (1868-1929).
He designed a number churches for both the UMFC and the Wesleyans in the Nottingham area. However, I have not been able to determine if the tower in this design was ever built. https://www.myunitedmethodists.org.uk

The church has been closed for many years with the building being used as a Community Centre. This has now closed (it will reopen in the old library building on Sneinton Boulevard) and the building has planning permission for conversion into an assisted living facility.

26. The Bendigo pub

When the 'Wrestlers Inn' (at the junction of Sneinton Hollows and Castle St) closed in 1957 its licence was transferred to a new pub at the bottom of Sneinton Hollows. This was named 'The Bendigo' in commemoration of Nottingham's famous bare-knuckle fighter.

An article at www.picturenottingham.co.uk explains that:

> *Bare-knuckle fighting was ever popular during the free-wheeling days of the late 18th to mid 19th centuries and the only rules that governed these prize-fights had been drawn up in 1743 by a Thames waterman called Jack Broughton. These remained the only written rules for over a century. They stated that a round lasted for no set length of time, but ended when a fighter was knocked down or thrown to the ground by wrestling. (Hence the name of the pub in the foreground). Once floored, the fallen fighter had thirty seconds to come up to the 'scratch,' a marker set in the centre of the ring. During the bout, no fighter was allowed to take a respite, and would be instantly disqualified if he 'fell without taking a blow.' These contests became a war of attrition, often developing into a form of grappling match as the combatants became bruised and tired.*

The BBC website has an article about Bendigo: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-35251237

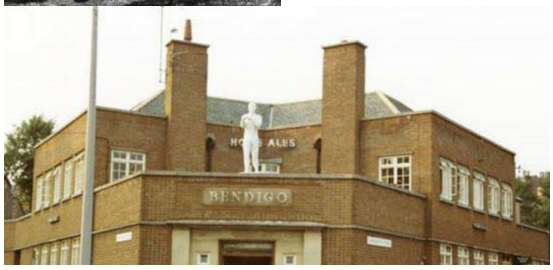
> *William Abednego Thompson was born in the Trinity slums of Nottingham in 1811, one of triplets and the last of 21 children. At 15, his father died and he was sent to the workhouse in Sneinton.*
> *After various jobs, including oyster selling and iron turning, he took up bare-knuckle boxing and by 21 had defeated a number of local men.*
> *"Bendy Abednego" became known as Bendigo, beating challengers all over the country in front of crowds of thousands and in bouts that would last dozens of rounds. His strength was unrivalled - he once reportedly threw a brick from one side of the River Trent to the other.*
> *He earned the nickname "The Nottingham Jester" for taunting his opponents by making faces or reciting insulting rhymes - much to spectators' glee.*
> *In 1839 he defeated James "Deaf'un" Burke for the All England title and a prize purse of £220*
> *He even attracted the admiration of Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote a verse titled "Bendigo's Sermon".*
> *In later life he became a preacher, adopting a boxer's stance in the pulpit and addressing his congregation: "See them belts, see them cups, I used to fight for those. But now I fight for Christ."*
> *His later years were plagued by alcohol abuse and he died aged 60 in Beeston after falling down the stairs of his home in Beeston.*

Arthur Conan Doyle's poem is too long (over 70 lines) to include in full but a few lines give an idea:

You didn't know of Bendigo! Well, that knocks me out!
Who's your board school teacher? What's he been about?
Chock-a-block with fairy-tales full of useless cram,
And never heard o' Bendigo, the pride of Nottingham!
Bendy's short for Bendigo. You should see him peel!
Half of him was whalebone, half of him was steel,

…… [Many verses describing his fights and sermons]…….

But to think of all your schooling clean wasted, thrown away,
Darned if I can make out what you're learnin' all the day,
Grubbin' up old fairy-tales, fillin' up with cram,
And didn't know of Bendigo, the pride of Nottingham.



The Bendigo in the 1980s

27. St Christopher's Church

The site was donated by the Earl Manvers in 1901 and originally housed two steel framed buildings clad with corrugated iron sheeting; one was used as the church the other served as the parish rooms and school.
The new church was built in the early Decorated Gothic style with two side aisles and north and south transepts. It was dedicated on 1 December 1910 by the Bishop of Southwell; from foundation stone to completion the construction had taken only six months.
The church was badly damaged in the air raid on Nottingham on 8 and 9 May 1941. Only the walls were left standing until restoration work was completed in 1952.
https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/sneinton-st-christopher/hhistory.php

28. Gentlemens Hairdressing Saloon

A sign hanging from the wall of the first floor announces that this is a 'Gentlemens Hairdressing Saloon' and above the front window it says this was established in 1908, giving Hair Cuts for Gents and Boys by Brian W. Bush.
I have not found any more information except this photo of Brian Bush taken by the Nottingham Evening Post in 2000.

29. Sneinton Street Names

Extract from Nottinghamshire History website article by Stephen Best: 'Imperial Echoes', Sneinton Magazine, no. 2, 1981, 6-7 http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm02_6-7.htm

Street names in Sneinton, as in most places, reflect the local and national preoccupations and personalities of the times, as well as the whimsy of the private builder. In this issue we look at some turn-of-the-century streets which recall the high noon of Empire.

First come the three streets commemorating sieges: KIMBERLEY STREET, LADYSMITH STREET and MAFEKING STREET. An important town in Cape Province, Kimberley was a centre of the diamond mining industry. From October 1899 until February 15th, 1900, its defenders held out against near starvation and Boer shelling until relieved by forces led by Sir John French. Two weeks later the siege of Ladysmith in Natal was over. The occupants of Ladysmith fared the worst of all those in the South African sieges: 22,000 people, desperately short of food, fighting off the Boers until, at last gasp, they were relieved by Sir Redvers Buller's troops. Mafeking in Cape Province became the most celebrated of the siege towns. From October 12th, 1899 to May 17th, 1900, it was held by Col. Robert Baden-Powell until a flying column relieved it. The scenes of rejoicing in the streets of London which greeted the news of the Relief of Mafeking beggared description, and brought a new word to the English language. The crowd behaviour was called 'mafficking', and from that day 'to maffick' has meant to celebrate with hysterical boisterousness. The defender of Mafeking's memorial in Sneinton is of course BADEN-POWELL ROAD. After the siege he was promoted and organised the South Africa constabulary before founding the Boy Scout movement in 1908. Despite his popularity with the public, Baden-Powell did not escape rumours which suggested that he had not done all he might to shorten the siege. He retired from the Army at 53, and when he offered his services in the Great War, was given only a very humdrum job.

Another personality of 1900 is remembered by KINGSLEY ROAD. Born in 1862, Mary Kingsley was an English traveller and author who studied native religion and law in Africa, exploring much unknown country in the Congo. Her great concern was for the future of the African, and she hoped for an administration of the British possessions there which left the native 'a free unsmashed man, not a whitewashed slave or an enemy.' While preparing for a third journey to West Africa she heard of the outbreak of the Boer War, and went instead to South Africa to tend fever cases. She died of enteric fever [typhoid] on June 3rd, 1900 while nursing Boer prisoners.

Nearby, PORT ARTHUR ROAD recalls a place which, almost forgotten today, held the world's attention in 1904. Never an outpost of the British Empire, it was nonetheless named by a British admiral in 1860. Port Arthur (or Ryojun) was a town of great strategic importance in Manchuria, in the north east of China. It was the chief Chinese naval arsenal until 1894 but after the Chino-Japanese War it was taken by Japan, which was forced to retrocede it to China. In 1897, Russia, needing an ice-free port for her Pacific Fleet, occupied Port Arthur, and in 1898 secured a 25 year lease on the peninsula on which it stood. Port Arthur became a fortress, and as Russia's main strength in the east, saw some terrible fighting during the Russo-Japanese War. The port was besieged from July 1904 to January 1905, and the Japanese took it at a cost of 40,000 dead. Port Arthur was transferred to Japan in 1905, but is now part of the People's Republic of China.

The Boer War and the Russo-Japanese War passed into history, but builders ensured that the people and the sieges were remembered in Sneinton and a hundred places like it. The first residents moved into ….. Kingsley Road in 1903. The following year, 1904, saw Ladysmith Street and Baden-Powell Road appear as local addresses, to be joined in 1906 by Mafeking Street. The last two of these commemorative streets, Port Arthur Road and Kimberley Street, were first lived in during 1907.

The 1937 Coronation decorations in Mafeking Street, Sneinton. (Image: ©picturenottingham.co.uk)

30. Colwick Woods

Dating back to at least the 11th Century where it is recorded in the Domesday Book, much of the wood originally formed part of the estate of Colwick Hall where the ownership of the hall had passed through a number of families including the Byrons and Musters.

Nottingham-born poet Edward Hind (1817-72) wrote fondly about the woods:

Old Colwick Wood
Come away to Colwick wildwood-
Come away to Colwick Lane:
As we wandered there in childhood,
Let us wander there again.

Colwick Woods was designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1995 and listed as a Local Nature Reserve in 2004. The SSSI specifically refers to the Colwick Cutting cliff face alongside the southern edge of the eastern part of the woods (alongside Daleside Road, beyond the route of the walk) which is made of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone rocks formed in the incredibly hot and dry environment of the Triassic age (200-250 million years ago).

The Visit Nottinghamshire website describes Colwick Woods as "*a beautiful urban green space much valued by the local community, but its seeming peacefulness masks an ever changing ecology as well as a fascinating and often turbulent past. Variously a murder site, scene of public protest, army encampment, home to a race course and recently saved by the local community from the threat of development, it is clear that just as the city has grown and changed, so too have the woods*".

The mention of "**a murder site**" is in reference to an awful incident that occurred in a spinney at the western end of the woods in 1844. A detailed account of the multiple murder and its tragic aftermath can be found at the Nottingham Hidden History site: https://nottinghamhiddenhistoryteam.wordpress.com/2014/03/13/william-saville-murder-in-a-colwick-spinney/

In summary, the murderer was a Nottingham man, William Saville, who was born in 1815 into a life of abject poverty. His mother died in 1817 and William and his siblings were left in the care their father who was a drunken bully and frequently left his children to fend for themselves in unsanitary living conditions. William became ill and was sent to Basford Workhouse where his health improved but his behaviour was recorded as unacceptable with bouts of extreme violence. He later became a 'stocking weaver' and in 1835 he married and had 3 children, two boys and a girl. The marriage was not a happy one, with William becoming a violent drunkard who beat his wife, spent time in prison for theft and spent time as a vagrant. In 1844 he persuaded his wife that she and the children would be better in a workhouse. This done, he courted a work colleague, Elizabeth Tate, under the pretext that he was single. With the threat that he would be exposed as a married man he arranged an outing for his wife and children in Colwick Woods on 21st May 1844. Saville arrived with a 'cut-throat razor' in his pocket and 'viciously cut the throats of all four members of his family' – the children were aged seven, five and four.

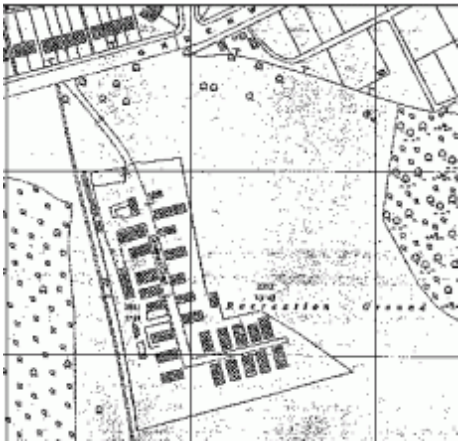
Saville quickly left the scene, not knowing that the awful event had been witnessed by an unnamed local schoolboy playing truant and was 'bird nesting' high in the tree under which the murder took place. Not wishing to be discovered he had remained silent when Saville, his wife and the children arrived. The boy reported the crime and William was quickly apprehended.

With William Saville in custody at the Shire Hall (now the Galleries of Justice Museum) news of the murder reached the public and the case reached celebrity status and 'literally thousands of people descended on the scene of the murder, collecting souvenirs of grass, brushwood and bark from the tree' The site became known as 'Saville's Spinney'.

Saville was found guilty at his trial and sentenced to death by hanging. As was common at the time, the hanging was to be a public event on 7th (some accounts say 8th) August at gallows on the steps of the Shire Hall (on High Pavement). A huge crowd attended and following the hanging 'the many thousands of men, women and children began to move away' with many being swept off their feet by the crush. 'Disaster overtook the crowd as the bodies of men women and children tumbled down the stone steps' of Garner's Hill' (the steep steps from High Pavement down past Nottingham Contemporary).

The awful result was that 'Twelve human beings were killed, and more than an hundred received serious injuries; and of the latter, the deaths of five, after lingering illnesses, were clearly traceable to the same most lamentable catastrophe'.

The Visit Nottingham website reference to an "**army encampment**" in an area to the east of the walk, as shown in this 1954 map, and is thought to have been an army barracks, housing personnel who manned anti-aircraft emplacements that were to protect the ordinance depot in the Meadows area.
Later in the war it was used as a Prisoner of War Camp
In 1950 the camp was used as an emergency site for 24 families in urgent need of accommodation. Today there are no visible signs of exactly where the camp was situated.



Also in Colwick Woods, and again beyond the walk route, are the remains of an **Ice House** from when the woods were part of the Colwick Hall Estate – see: https://www.friendsofcolwickwoods.co.uk/

31. East View

The panorama of views from this site include the city centre …

… Nottingham Castle, St Mary's Church in the Lace Market and Green's Windmill in Sneinton.

These views today have transformed dramatically compared with a panoramic depiction of the city painted in c.1695 by Jan Siberechts from, it is believed, this same spot in Colwick Woods:

View of Nottingham from the East by Jan Siberechts, painted c.1695, displayed at Nottingham Castle.

Siberechts (1627-1703) was a Flemish landscape painter. He came to England in 1673 and travelled the country painting views of the great estates, including Chatsworth and Wollaton Hall.

This panoramic view of the city of Nottingham and surrounding countryside as seen from Colwick Woods, was painted around 1695. The then village of Sneinton, almost hidden by trees, is in the middle foreground. St Mary's Church on High Pavement is the striking white building that can be seen rising from the centre of the town, with the Lace Market area as it was when occupied by large manor houses, and behind it to the left is the church of St Nicholas. London Road is to the left, carried over the watery meadows of Broad Marsh on a bridge. On the large outcrop of rock, 39m (130ft) above the River Leen, now the line of Castle Boulevard is Nottingham Castle. Wollaton Hall can be seen 3.7km (2.3miles) away on the right.

To the left is the River Trent crossed by the old Trent Bridge with many arches, beside which the London Road toll house and town wharf can be seen. The river is shown much closer to Nottingham than it actually is and the artist has exaggerated the height of the surrounding hills. The church seen in the middle distance, across the meadows on the left, is the gothic stone-built church of Wilford. On the bank of the river opposite the church is a small building that has been identified as the place where the Wilford ferry operated. The hill rising behind and to the left is Clifton Hill.

32. Crossing House Cottage

This Grade II listed building (dated c1846) was probably by TC Hine in Tudor Revival style. It was built for Midland Railway presumably to house the level crossing keeper for the Nottingham-Lincoln line which opened in 1846.

33. Nottingham Racecourse

Nottingham Racecourse dates back to the 19th century but the history of horse racing in Nottingham goes much further back. An earlier racecourse was sited at the Forest Recreation Ground (Gregory Boulevard). 'The Forest' area was once part of a royal hunting ground that stretched from Nottingham Castle north to the Dukeries (Clumber and Thoresby, south of Worksop), west beyond Sutton-in Ashfield, east beyond Lowdham, but in the 1600s its importance for hunting waned as the demand for housing increased. A racetrack was laid out around The Forest in 1689 and horse racing became very popular, with a large grandstand being built sometime in the 1790s – the original course was eight miles round and went through what is now Hyson Green and Radford.
In 1891 the Nottingham and Colwick Park Racecourse and Sports Company was floated on the stock market and a new course was laid out at Colwick Park, formerly part of the Colwick Hall Estate, in 1892. The facility continued growing in fame and popularity to become one of the top ranking racing facilities in the UK. It was served by its own station up until the late 1960s, when the line was shut down. There are still remnants of the station wall on what is now Colwick loop road.
In 1965 the future of the Racecourse was secured when it was bought by Nottingham City Council and an ongoing lease agreed with Racecourse Holdings Trust (the predecessors of Jockey Club Racecourses). It staged both forms of racing until February 1996, after which it abandoned National Hunt racing to become a flat-only course.
http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm46_13-26.htm
https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/headline-grabbing-colwick-racecourses-proud-1982010

34. Sneinton Greenway

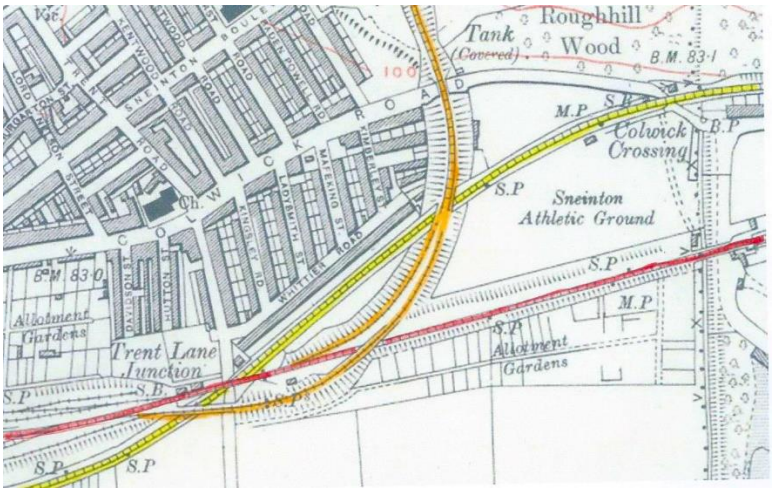
As shown in the 1938 map below, Sneinton Greenway was formally railway lines and the linear woodland has been known in the past as Sneinton Railway Lands. One railway remains – the Midland Railway Nottingham-Newark-Lincoln line which was built by the Midland Railway and engineered by Robert Stephenson. Robert Stephenson (1803 – 1859) was an English civil engineer and designer of locomotives; the only son of George Stephenson, the "Father of Railways", he built on the achievements of his father and has been called the greatest engineer of the 19th century. The line was opened on 4 August 1846 and is still in use today, running at ground level and the Greenway crosses it at Trent Lane.

From 1857 trains from the Great Northern Railway's London Road station (and, from 1900, Nottingham Victoria) to Grantham via the Back Line through Gedling and Basford, and Northampton via the GN&LNW line through Melton Mowbray passed above Trent Lane level crossing on a plate girder bridge.
The last addition, in 1889, was the Nottingham Suburban Railway, which left the GNR at Trent Lane Junction. Southbound Suburban Railway trains from Daybrook crossed the Lincoln and Grantham lines on girder bridges east of Trent Lane before dropping down to cross it on an arched blue-brick bridge, the most substantial surviving relic of the NSR, which lost its passenger service in 1916. The NSR then re-crossed the Lincoln line on a truss girder bridge before continuing to London Road. The NSR continued to serve brickworks at Mapperley and Thorneywood until 1951; those trains used the northern junction at Daybrook as this southern section had been abandoned after being damaged by bombing in 1941.
Since Nottingham Victoria closed in the 1960s Grantham trains have used the Midland route as far as Netherfield. In Sneinton little remains of the Great Northern apart from London Road Station (now a health club) and the derelict goods warehouses near it, the remains of the bridges at Meadow Lane and the bridge and abutments here.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_Suburban_Railway
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham%E2%80%93Lincoln_line
https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2363017

The footpath follows the route of the Great Northern Railway (red). In the vicinity of Trent Lane there are remains of bridges which carried the Nottingham Suburban Railway (orange) to St Ann's, Sherwood and Daybrook and closed in 1916.

The remaining operating railway– the Midland Railway (yellow) – which the Greenway crosses over a pedestrian bridge at Trent Lane.



The disused railway land was derelict for years, described as an eyesore by many. It was Sneinton Environmental Society who first suggested that the railway should be transformed into a Greenspace; they wanted there to be a connection between the city, London Road and Colwick Park for walkers and cyclists to enjoy. They pressed the City Council for some time until 1987, when the redevelopment was publicly proposed. Negotiations began the following year for the city to purchase the land from British Rail, and a deal was signed in 1990.
Sneinton Greenway is now an essential wildlife corridor in a highly developed part of the city, and designated as a local wildlife site.
https://www.nottinghamgreenguardians.co.uk/sneinton-restoration-will-you-put-your-stamp-on-it/

35. Meadow Lane level crossing

As shown in the photos below (www.nottinghampost.com), there was a level crossing on Meadow Lane which allowed cars to continue into Sneinton (going under a bridge for the GNR line).

1972


1984

36. Nottingham London Road railway station

The station was opened in 1857 by the Great Northern Railway (GNR) at the terminus of its line from Grantham. The station was designed by the local architect Thomas Chambers Hine.

The last passenger service to this station ran on 22 May 1944. The station remained open as a mail depot for troops during the Second World War before becoming a parcels depot until the 1970s.

Although severely damaged by fire in 1996, the station building has been restored and was converted to a Holmes Place health and fitness club. It is now used as a Virgin Active Health Club.

http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm05_13-19.htm