

At our last indoor meeting until the autumn Judith Mills explained how the Arboretum and Nottingham's other Green Spaces were created.



An Act of Parliament passed in the mid nineteenth century met with local approval as it helped to improve the unhealthy urban life of thousands of Nottingham's citizens living in cramped unsanitary conditions.

Resulting from the Act, 130 acres of land were set aside to create linked public walks, recreation grounds, rest gardens and improved cemeteries. From near St.Mary's Rest Garden in St. Ann's, Robin Hood Chase led to Corporation Oaks and Elm Avenue. Across Mansfield Rd. is the tunnel into the Arboretum, the main subject of Judith Mills's talk.

The Arboretum, opened with much ceremony in 1852, was the centrepiece of the whole scheme. Its aim was to be not only a pleasure garden but a place for "improvement", a place to display civic pride with a bust of local MP, philanthropist and hosiery manufacturer Samuel Morley and more controversially Feargus O'Connor, the only Chartist Member of Parliament. No inscription was allowed but it was considered a Work of Art. National Pride was

symbolised by the Chinese Bell Tower with its Crimean War Cannon commemorating the Anglo-Chinese Opium Wars and the Siege of Sebastapol.

But the highlight of the Arboretum was, and still is the trees and shrubs, both native and foreign species, all labelled, some of notable rarity.

The Arboretum is included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens and contains nine Grade 2 listed buildings and structures including the Aviary, the home of the renowned but now departed 114 , reputedly, year old "Cocky", the Bandstand and the two Lodges.

Much appreciation was shown to our expert speaker and we now look forward to our visit in early June.