

# The Arboretum

The 17-acre Arboretum, Nottingham's first public park, was opened by the Lord Mayor on May 11, 1852. Designed by Samuel Curtis (1779-1860) the Arboretum was laid out in a naturalist style of winding paths and sweeping lawns, more than 1010 specimen trees and shrubs were planted.



Samuel Curtis

From the original trees many were lost early due to the air pollution at that time. Some original plantings that can still be seen include the large London Plane on the Curtis Lawn, the Italian Alder at Waverley Street entrance, and the Cut-Leaved Alder by the lakeside.

Most native trees can be found among the 830 plus present at the Arboretum (representing some 220 species and varieties), with others from temperate regions across the northern hemisphere. The prospect of global warming has seen more trees from the southern hemisphere introduced.

The Arboretum is included on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens and contains nine grade II listed buildings and structures.

The park and surrounding area of mid-Victorian residential and civic development was designated The Arboretum Conservation Area in 1983, which recognises the park's specific historic and architectural importance.



For further information regarding the Nottingham Arboretum or the Friends of Nottingham Arboretum please contact the Parks and Open Spaces Team on 0115 915 2733 or e-mail [parksandopenspaces@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:parksandopenspaces@nottinghamcity.gov.uk).

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Photos courtesy of Edwin Gordon, M G Payne, L Cripwell, Reg Baker, Nottingham City Council and [www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk)

The Arboretum Tree Trail providing details of all the specimens on the tree trail may be downloaded via [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk).

## *The* Nottingham Arboretum

## *Heritage Trail*



# History

The Arboretum was laid out by Nottingham Town Council on land set aside by the Inclosure Act 1845. Lord Mayor William Felkin, who officially opened the park, attached great importance to Nottingham joining the list of towns and cities with public parks.

The Arboretum Trail highlights the beauty of the park and its Victorian grandeur.

**The Western Gates and Waverley Lodge (1)**, are both listed (as they are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest). The Lodge, designed in a Tudor Gothic style, was once home to the Lodge Keeper and Head of Grounds and the tablet in the centre states the park to be 'a place of education and recreation for the benefit of Nottingham inhabitants.'



**The bronze bust (2)** of local MP, philanthropist and hosiery manufacturer Samuel Morley (1809-1886), was designed by Joseph Else (1920), Principal of Nottingham School of Art, who also designed the two lions at the entrance to the Council House in Old Market Square. Morley founded Nottingham's first children's library in Shakespeare Street, devised old age pensions for his workers and supported universal suffrage.



The grade II listed cast and wrought iron **Circular Aviary (3)** built in 1892, is the oldest and only remaining of the original Victorian aviaries. The aviaries were home to a Cockatoo named Cocky, reputed to have lived for 114 years. Additional aviaries were built in 1955.

The brick lined bottomed **Ornamental Lake (4)** was created as part of the original design for the Arboretum with water supplied from a reservoir on St Ann's Hill.

The **Victorian Flower Garden (5)** dates back to 1900s and is laid out in a symmetrical pattern typical of that period.



The former Tudor-style **Arboretum Tea Rooms (6)** which included a separate Ladies Room, was built in 1853-54 by James Ebrank Hall, once stood on this site. Designed by Henry Moses Wood it was a meeting point for promenading Victorians, catering for 1,500 people. It was converted into a public house in the 1930s and demolished in 2006 following fire damage.



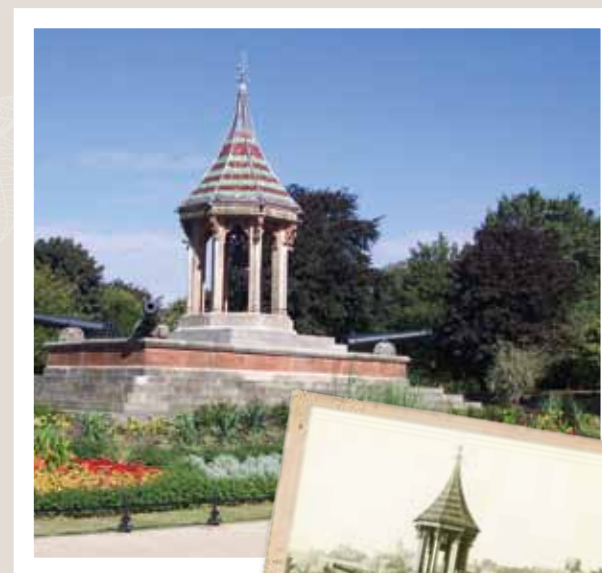
**The Bandstand**

**The Bandstand (7)** originally located in Castle Gardens, was moved to the Arboretum in 1881. This octagonal wooden structure is grade II listed.

**The Dahlia Border (8)**, reputed to be one of the longest in Europe, was constructed in 1939.

The Pedestrian Subway under Addison Street, designed by Henry Moses Wood leads to **East Lodge (9)**. The Lodge, gates and subway are listed structures.

The Chartists were the first working class political reform movement seeking better working conditions and the statue of **Feargus O'Connor (10)**, the only Chartist Member of Parliament and MP for Nottingham from 1847 to 1852, was allowed on condition that it contained no controversial inscriptions and was regarded as a work of art. As it is the only statue dedicated to a Chartist leader in the UK, it is unique to the Arboretum.



Built in 1862, the octagonal cupola of the **Chinese Bell Tower (11)** is an important feature of the park. It stands on a rectangular platform of pink sandstone, with a Crimean war cannon at each corner (2 of which are copies made at Britannia Foundry in Nottingham to give balance to the monument). It is a monument commemorating two military campaigns: the siege of Sebastopol (1859) in the Crimean War, where two cannons were captured, and the Anglo-Chinese 'Opium' Wars (1857-1861), when a bell was looted from the temple in Canton. The original bell once hung in the bell tower, but was moved to the museum of the Regiment in Preston in 1956. Today, a replica bell hangs from the tower.

**The Old Rose Garden (12)** was designed in 1972 on the site of old greenhouses to commemorate the many rose shows held in the Arboretum. One of the first recorded was the Nottingham and Midland Counties rose show in July 1875.



8 The Dahlia Border



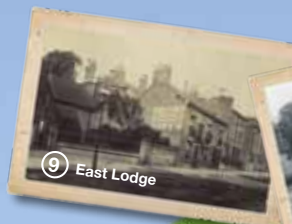
6 Arboretum Tea Rooms



7 The Bandstand



5 Flower Garden



9 East Lodge



View of Central Avenue



Subway



View from Waverley Street



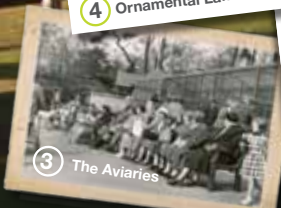
4 Ornamental Lake



1 Waverley Lodge



2 Samuel Morley Bust



3 The Aviaries



3 The Aviaries



12 The Old Rose Garden



11 The Chinese Bell Tower



10 Feargus O'Connor