

NOTTINGHAM POST

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Rhiannon shedding light on street riots

THE riots that swept through Nottingham last summer were less serious than disturbances in other cities but were shocking nonetheless.

Elsewhere there has been much debate about what the motivations were of those involved. But in Nottingham there has been less discussion.

At the time Nottingham City Council was keen to play down what had happened, which may have subdued debate. Even the word riot was objected to in any discourse on the subject.

However, more than a year on an artist has set out to understand what happened here and learn lessons.

From the cases that came to court we know that some of those involved in the worst incidents were lawless individuals out to target the police; some saw an opportunity to steal; and some were rather stupid, sending messages inviting others to riot.

But beyond those incidents there were disturbances which, while they did not ignite into mass disorder, suggest tensions beneath the surface.

This is what Rhiannon Slade has tried to investigate. She has found frustration among young people and revealed some of their hopes for the future. This is a worthwhile piece of work that creates a possibility of something positive emerging from the troubles. Her findings deserve further discussion and consideration and show the value of uninhibited debate.

Hats off to...

Opinion & your pictures

Bread and dripping was evening meal for Mum

I ENJOYED reading Richard Baker's "Good Old Days?" (Nottingham Post, September 17).

I have just bagged some things up ready to take to the Salvation Army. My Mum and Dad always put them first, although we all give to charities.

Mum used to say that in their hour of need people relied on the soup kitchens and the parties they put on for children.

When my Mum started work, she walked from Dakyne Street, near Carlton Road, to Sherwood depot, then back after work.

At one point when she got home a slice of bread and dripping was the evening meal.

We really don't know we are born.

I remember over 50 years ago, my sister said she was hungry. Mum said: "Don't ever say that, you don't know what being hungry is! Just say you'd like something to eat."

We were not allowed to take food into the street and we didn't eat between meals.

That's why I and a few more people carry extra weight.

Yes, Richard is right, we're all well fed.

PS: Harvest-time is not far away.

There are quite a few words which come from that. We won't "starve" if we "share," so have a "heart".

JEAN TAYLOR
Barlock Road

