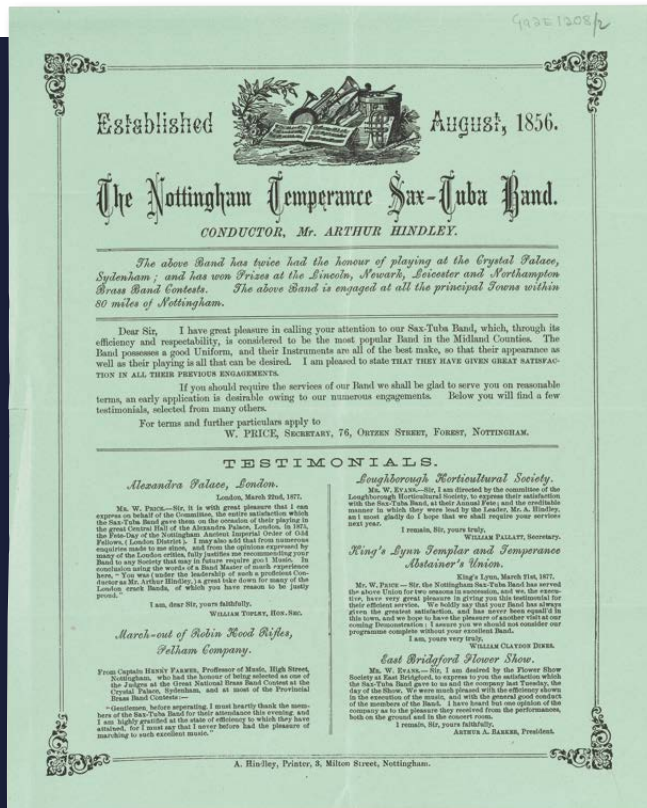


The rise of temperance

The 19th century witnessed the emergence of the temperance movement – a collection of groups campaigning against alcohol from a range of moral, religious, and political perspectives.



← Leaflet about the Nottingham Temperance Sax-Tuba Band, 1878. Papers of the Monckton-Arundell Family, Viscounts Galway, Ga 2 E 1208/2

↓ Programme for 'A Grand Patriotic Concert' including a sketch of children "On Active Service", Castle Gate Congregational Church Band of Hope, October 1914. Records of Castle Gate Congregational Church, CU/Su 3/3/11



← Band of Hope Review, No 1, January 1851. Image courtesy of University of Central Lancashire Livesey Collection, www.uclan.ac.uk/about-us/special-collections/livesey-collection

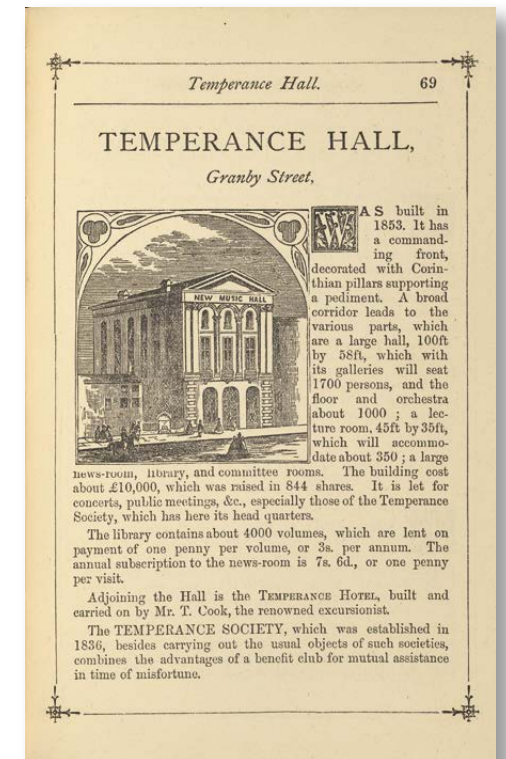


Earlier concerns about the excesses of alcohol often targeted so-called hard liquors. In the 1830s a new total abstinence - or teetotal - movement committed to forego all alcohol. At a time of urban and industrial expansion, when questions were being asked about the lack of political representation for working people, abstinence was presented as a path to economic and social uplift.

Members were bound together by a symbolic pledge: a public commitment to avoid intoxicating liquor. Reading rooms, temperance taverns, and new kinds of recreation like excursions and tea parties, promoted self-improvement and recreation. Temperance hotels enabled people to travel the country and conduct their business without the temptations of drink.

Networks of churches and Sunday schools joined together under the umbrella of the Band of Hope Union to offer to children valuable education about drink and other social and moral questions. It would number its members in the millions, with local meetings providing lantern slide shows and lectures as well as theatrical and musical entertainments, recitations, and writing competitions.

With a focus on children, cast as the future of the nation, temperance teaching often reflected Victorian ideals of feminine domestic duty. That very focus, however, meant that temperance provided rare opportunities for women in the movement to campaign in more public and political arenas.



↑ The Temperance Hall, Granby Street, Leicester. This page also indicates the temperance-based origins of Thomas Cook's travel business. From *Spencer's New Guide to Leicester* (1878). East Midlands Special Collection, Lei 3.D28 SPE