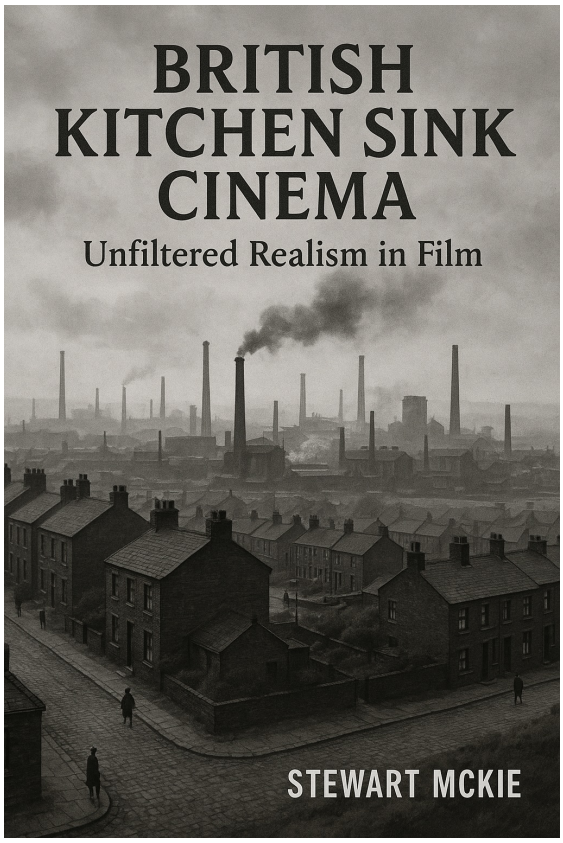
A JACKDAW-STYLE DOSSIER



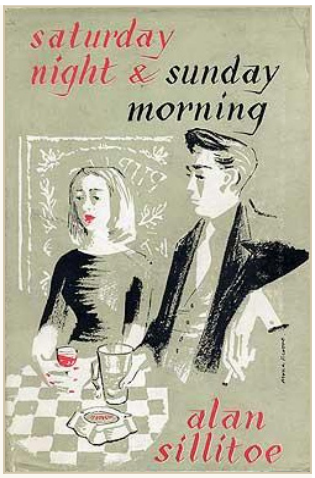
Saturday Night and Sunday Morning

1960

THE WORLD OF THIS FILM **Nottingham, 1960**

Arthur Seaton at the Raleigh bicycle works — Sillitoe's own factory.

The world of Nottingham, 1960



WHAT PEOPLE EARNED

Average manual wage, Britain 1960 UNVERIFIED

The average weekly wage for a male manual worker in Britain in 1960 was approximately £11 to £12. A skilled machine operator at a Nottingham bicycle or hosiery factory could take home around £13–14 a week with overtime. This compares with a weekly rent of roughly £1 10s for a council house, leaving reasonable disposable income for beer and the pictures.

AI-sourced — verify against ONS/Hansard/period sources before publishing.

WHAT THINGS COST

Beer and pub prices, Britain 1960 UNVERIFIED

A pint of bitter in a Nottingham pub in 1960 cost around 1s 2d (about 6p in decimal money). Bottled pale ale or a Shipstone's — brewed locally at the Star Brewery on New Basford — was slightly dearer at 1s 4d. The average working man might spend 10–15 shillings a week on drink, a meaningful but manageable slice of a £12 wage.

AI-sourced — verify against ONS/Hansard/period sources before publishing.

ON THE RADIO

It's Now or Never (song)



"It's Now or Never" is a song recorded by Elvis Presley and released as a single in 1960. The song is Presley's biggest hit, with 20 million copies sold worldwide, it is one of the best-selling singles of all time. It was recorded by Bill Porter at RCA Studio B in Nashville. It is written in E major and has a tempo of 80 BPM.

Elvis Presley's 'It's Now or Never' entered the UK singles chart in late 1960 and reached number one, staying there for eight weeks — one of the best-selling singles of the year in Britain. The jukeboxes in Nottingham pubs and milk bars would have been playing it alongside Cliff Richard and Anthony Newley. It sold over a million copies in the UK alone, a remarkable figure for the era.

Wikipedia ↗

ON THE TELLY

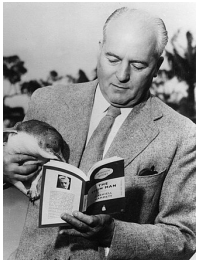
Coronation Street



Coronation Street is a British television soap opera created by Granada Television and shown on ITV since 9 December 1960. The programme centres on a cobbled, terraced street in the fictional town of Weatherfield in Greater Manchester. The location was itself based on Salford, the hometown of the show's first screenwriter and creator, Tony Warren.

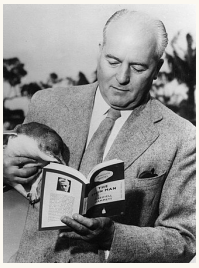
Coronation Street made its first broadcast on ITV on 9 December 1960, produced by Granada Television. Nottingham received ITV via the Midlands franchise (ATV), and the serial's portrait of terraced working-class life in the North resonated immediately with similar communities across the East Midlands. By early 1961 it had become essential viewing and a direct televisual companion to films like Saturday Night and Sunday Morning.

Wikipedia ↗



IN THE NEWS

R v Penguin Books Ltd



R v Penguin Books Ltd was the public prosecution in the United Kingdom of Penguin Books under the Obscene Publications Act 1959 for the publication of D. H. Lawrence's 1928 novel Lady Chatterley's Lover. The trial took place over six days, in No 1 court of the Old Bailey, between 20 October and 2 November 1960, with Mervyn Griffith-Jones prosecuting, Gerald Gardiner counsel for the defence and Laurence Byrne presiding. The trial was a test case of the defence of public good provision under section 4 of the Act which was defined as a work "in the interests of science, literature, art or learning, or of other objects of general concern".

In October–November 1960 Penguin Books was prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act 1959 for publishing D. H. Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover — a novel set partly in Nottinghamshire, Lawrence's home county. The jury returned a not-guilty verdict on 2 November 1960, and within days all 200,000 copies of the 3s 6d paperback had sold out. The trial dominated conversation across Britain and had particular resonance in Nottingham, where Lawrence was claimed as a local literary hero.

Wikipedia ↗

STREETS AND HOUSING

Clifton, Nottingham



Clifton is a village and historic manor in the Nottingham district, in the ceremonial county of Nottinghamshire, England. As of the 2021 census, it had a population of 22,936.

By 1960 Nottingham Corporation had been demolishing Victorian back-to-back terraces in areas such as the Meadows and St Ann's for over a decade, rehousing families on peripheral estates including Clifton, built in the early 1950s as one of the largest council estates in Europe with some 5,500 homes. Many older residents resisted the move, valuing the street community of the inner city. The slum-clearance programme accelerated under the Housing Act 1957.

Wikipedia ↗

WORK

Raleigh Bicycle Company

The Raleigh Bicycle Company is a British bicycle brand based in Nottingham, England, and founded by Woodhead and Angois in 1885. Using Raleigh as their brand name, it is one of the oldest bicycle companies in the world. After being acquired by Frank Bowden in December 1888, it became The Raleigh Cycle Company, which was registered as a limited liability company in January 1889. By 1913, it was the largest bicycle manufacturing company in the world. From 1921 to 1935, Raleigh also produced motorcycles and three-wheel cars, leading to the formation of Reliant Motors. Raleigh bicycle is now a brand owned by the Dutch bicycle group Accell which it uses in Europe and licences out in other territories including to Canadian Tire in Canada and Suncross in India. Design and manufacturing no longer take place in the UK.

Raleigh, headquartered on Triumph Road in Lenton, Nottingham, was by 1960 the largest bicycle manufacturer in the world, employing around 7,000 workers. The factory ran on piecework, meaning a fast worker like the fictional Arthur Seaton could significantly boost his basic rate. Raleigh produced roughly a million bicycles a year at its peak in this period.

Wikipedia ↗

EATING AND DRINKING

British restaurant and café food, 1960 UNVERIFIED

A Nottingham factory worker's weekday dinner (midday meal) in 1960 typically cost 2s 6d in a works canteen: meat pie or sausages, mashed potato, boiled cabbage, and a mug of tea. Fish and chips from a Nottingham chip shop cost around 1s for a standard portion wrapped in newspaper. Convenience foods were entering the home — Birds Eye frozen peas launched in 1952 and were by 1960 a standard accompaniment to the Sunday joint.

AI-sourced — verify against ONS/Hansard/period sources before publishing.

WHAT PEOPLE WORE

Teddy Boys



The Teddy Boys or Teds were a mainly British youth subculture originating in the early 1950s to mid-1960s and then revived in the 1970s who were interested in rock and roll and R&B music, wearing clothes partly inspired by the styles worn by dandies in the Edwardian period, which Savile Row tailors had attempted to reintroduce in Britain after the Second World War.

The Teddy boy style, which had emerged in the early 1950s, was still visible on Nottingham's streets in 1960, particularly among older teenagers: drape jackets, drainpipe trousers, and crepe-soled 'brothel creeper' shoes. Younger men were shifting toward the sharper Italian-influenced look — slim-cut suits, narrow lapels, and winkle-picker shoes sold in shops along Nottingham's Lister Gate and Bridlesmith Gate. This generational split in male dress is visible in Saturday Night and Sunday Morning itself.

Wikipedia ↗

TIME OFF

Nottingham Goose Fair



The Nottingham Goose Fair is an annual travelling funfair held at the Forest Recreation Ground in Nottingham, England, during the first week of October. Largely provided by travelling showmen, it is one of four established fairs in the United Kingdom to carry the name, the others being the smaller Goosey Fair in Tavistock, Devon, the Michaelmas Goose Fayre in Colyford, East Devon, and the Ovingham Goose Fair. In recent years, there have been more than 400,000 visitors to Nottingham's fair annually.

The Nottingham Goose Fair, held annually on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of October on the Forest Recreation Ground, drew hundreds of thousands of visitors in 1960. Dating back over 700 years, by 1960 it was one of the largest travelling fairs in Europe, filling 30 acres with rides, stalls and shows. Entry to the fairground was free; individual rides cost 6d to 1s.

Wikipedia ↗

From the page

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning

novel, 1958 — by Alan Sillitoe

The people

DIRECTOR

Karel Reisz

WRITER

Alan Sillitoe

In 1960: Alan Sillitoe is a Nottingham-born working-class novelist who left school at fourteen and worked in various factories before serving in the RAF. His debut novel Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (1958) brought him immediate literary acclaim as a voice of the British working class. He adapts his own novel for this film, marking his first screenplay.

ACTOR

Albert Finney as Arthur Seaton

In 1960: Albert Finney trained at RADA and joined the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, quickly gaining a reputation as one of the most talented young stage actors in Britain. He made his film debut in The Entertainer (1960) in a small role alongside Laurence Olivier. Saturday Night and Sunday Morning is his first starring film role and marks a major breakthrough for him.

ACTOR

Shirley Anne Field as Doreen

In 1960: Shirley Anne Field is a British actress who began her career in the mid-1950s appearing in small television and film roles. She gained wider attention with parts in films such as Horrors of the Black Museum (1959) and Beat Girl (1960). Her role as Doreen in Saturday Night and Sunday Morning represents one of her most prominent film appearances to date.

ACTOR

Rachel Roberts as Brenda

In 1960: Rachel Roberts is a Welsh actress trained at RADA who established herself on the British stage and in television during the 1950s. She appeared in films including The Weak and the Wicked (1954) and Our Man in Havana (1959). Her performance as Brenda in Saturday Night and Sunday Morning is widely regarded as a major step in her film career.

ACTOR

Hylda Baker as Aunt Ada

In 1960: Hylda Baker is a Northern English comedian and actress who spent decades performing in music hall and variety theatre before becoming a familiar face on British television in the late 1950s. She is best known for her comic stage persona and her television work. Saturday Night and Sunday Morning represents one of her early significant dramatic film appearances.

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Freddie Francis

In 1960: Freddie Francis is a highly regarded British cinematographer who worked his way up through the industry from clapper boy to camera operator before becoming a director of photography. He shot Sons and Lovers (1960) for which he won the Academy Award for Best Cinematography. His work on Saturday Night and Sunday Morning continues his association with prominent British productions of the era.

PRODUCER

Tony Richardson

In 1960: Tony Richardson is a British theatre and film director who co-founded the English Stage Company at the Royal Court Theatre with George Devine, becoming a central figure of the British New Wave. He directed the film Look Back in Anger (1959) and co-founded Woodfall Film Productions with John Osborne. As producer of Saturday Night and Sunday Morning he continues to champion working-class British cinema through Woodfall.

What it dramatises

Work — the factory floor, the pit, the mill, the office

Housing — slums, clearance, prefabs, new estates, the high-rise promise

Women, marriage, abortion and unwanted pregnancy

Men and anger — the angry young man

Money and the affluent society

Unions and industrial relations

Leisure — pub, club, cinema, dance hall, seaside, telly

Crime - policing, borstal, petty thieving

Fashion - female and male clothing and shoes

Sex - infidelity, before marriage, dating

About the film

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning is the first novel by British author Alan Sillitoe and won the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award.

Wikipedia ↗

Items marked with a source link are verified against that source; items marked UNVERIFIED are AI-drafted period colour awaiting a primary source. Dossier assembled from the Kitchen Sink atlas.