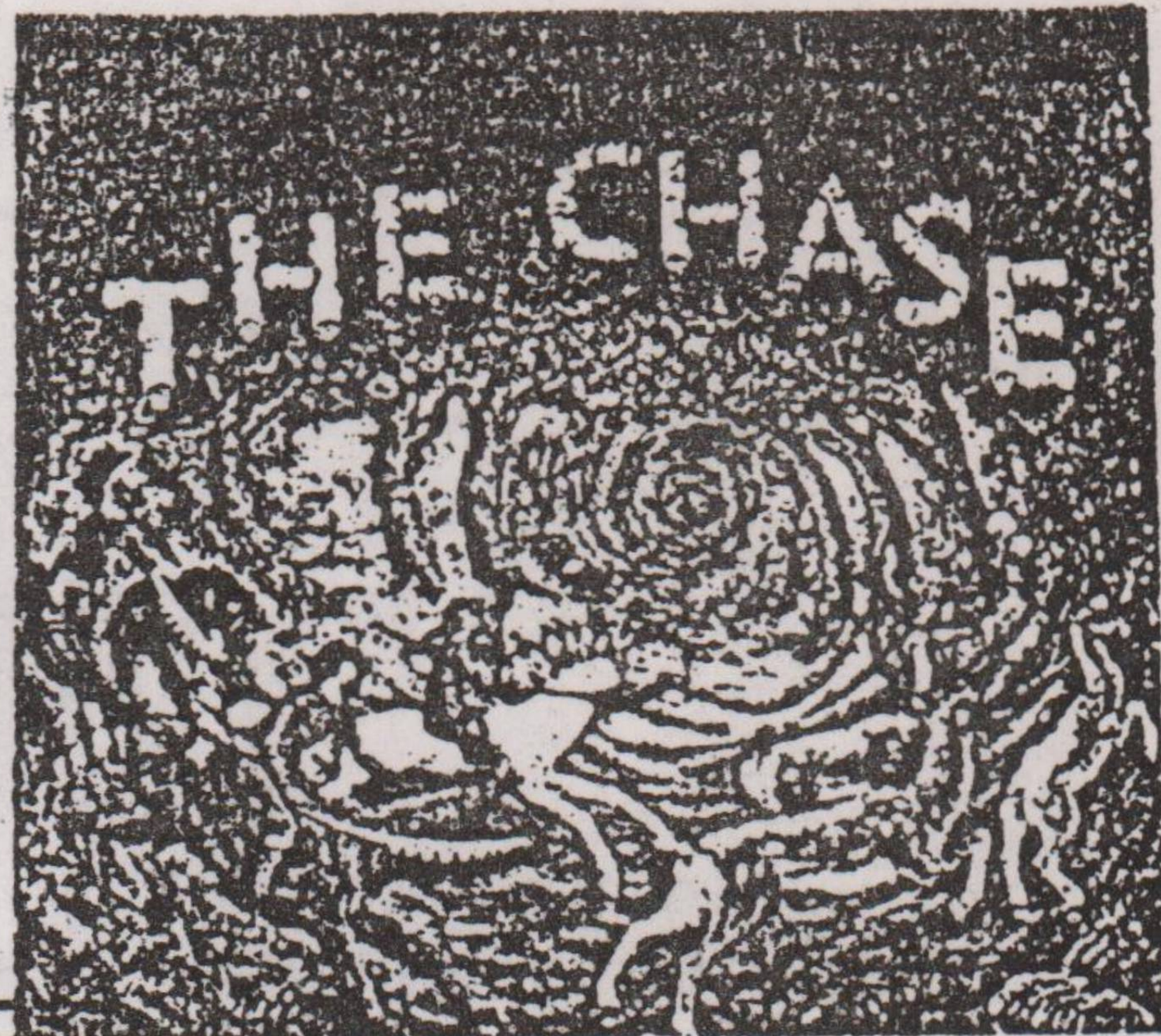


ST ANNS NEWS

ISSUE 6



COBBLESTONES by John Aghoghogbe



Cobblestones was a local childrens home, at the back of Marple Square shopping precinct, off Woodborough Road, which gave a home to kids between the ages of eleven to sixteen who had been put into care. It has recently closed, and now is to be seen with broken down fences surrounding it, windows boarded up and graffiti and posters adorning the walls and doors. The closure of Cobblestones Residential Home hit the regional headlines and many journalists have made attempts to sensationalise the event. We believe that St Anns people should have the chance to make up their own minds as to what happened and why it happened. We have tried to give all groups concerned a chance to voice their opinions, unfortunately none of the staff felt they could make any comment in the difficult circumstances and naturally we could not talk to the children. However the following is what social services, local residents, and local youths from the area have told our reporters.

Continued on page 3

* INSIDE ** INSIDE ** INSIDE ** INSIDE ** INSIDE *

ROBIN HOOD ON WELLS ROAD
by Paul Nix

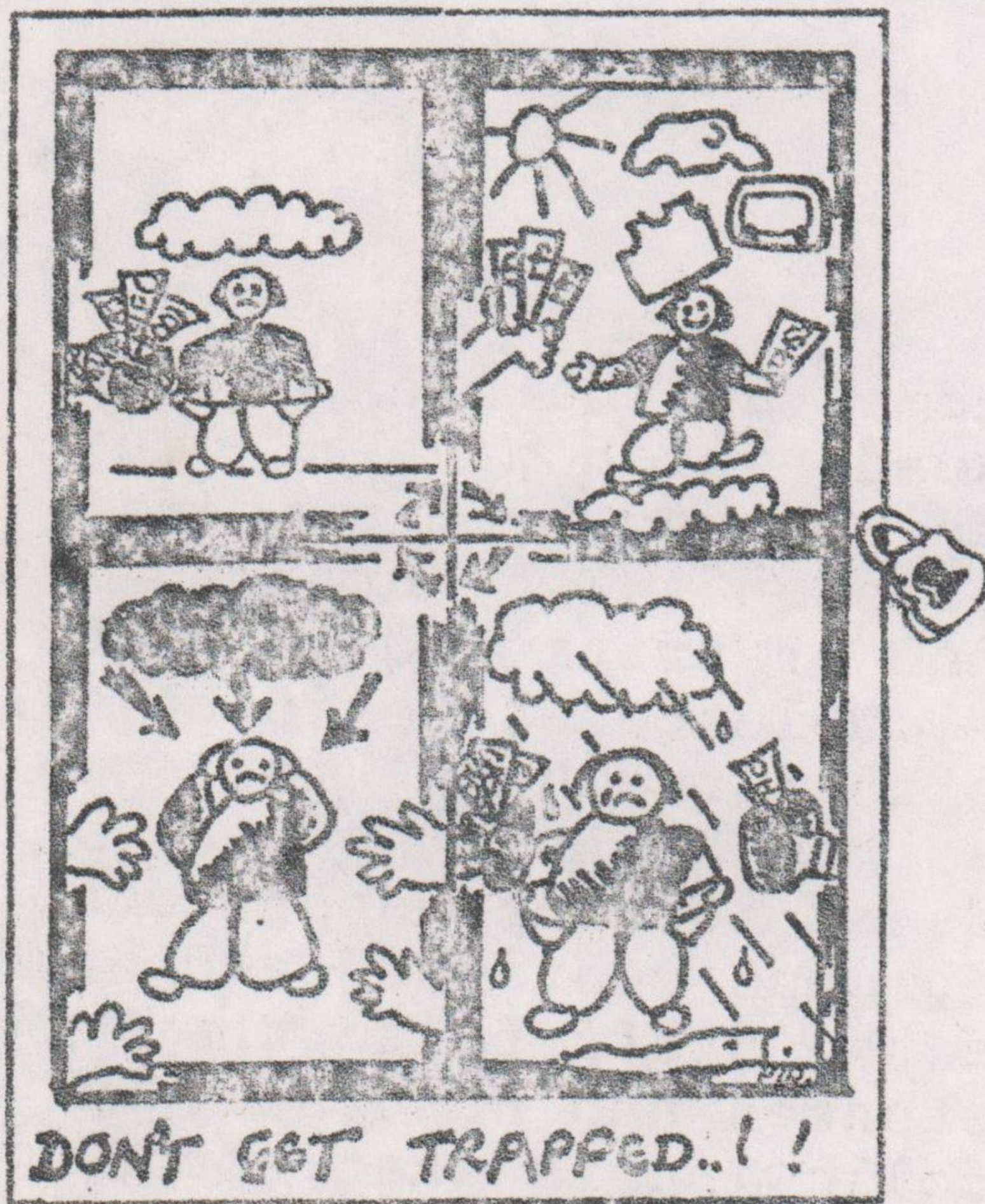
TRAPPED IN DEBT
by Jan Davidson

LOCKED INTO DEBT

By Jan Davidson

Here in St. Anns there is a growing problem with loan sharks. Their prey - those dependant on benefits. Single parents, young couples with families dependant on unemployment and child benefits and many others whose only source of income is state benefits.

Inevitably, there comes a time when they cannot afford to pay their bills, or it's Christmas and they want to give their children some presents. Where do they turn? Often there is no alternative for them but to turn to these loan sharks. Money lenders who see no risk in giving loans to the unemployed because they have their own 'foolproof' method of ensuring repayment of the money they lend.



The methods of repayment adopted by the loan sharks are unscrupulous and ILLEGAL. It works like this:-

The lender agrees to give a loan to the borrower to be repaid over a set number of weeks. To guarantee repayment of this loan they take as security, supplementary benefit, child benefit or other order books.

They then retain the order book for the agreed number of weeks and cash it themselves. Alternatively, they may agree to meet the payee at the Post Office each week, return the order book for it to be cashed by the payee, who then hands it back to the lender with the money.

For the lender this is a guaranteed method of repayment, but for the borrower it can lead to more financial hardship. A few weeks without an order book can cause a lot of problems, which could induce further borrowing, which in turn leads to a longer period of 'no order book'.

And so it goes on.....

Those who do manage to 'survive' without the need for further borrowing are still encouraged to take out more loans. As one loan is almost paid off, another loan is offered and high powered sales talk can be very tempting. All too soon you fall into a trap that is so easy to get into but a lot more difficult to get out of and what appears to be short-term help can soon turn into a long-term problem.

For your own sakes, BEWARE of these money lenders, they won't be doing you any favours.

Some points to note on this are:-

1. An order book cannot be used as security for any purpose.
2. Any person who withholds an order book from the payee is committing a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution.

Anyone needing help or advice on this matter can contact St. Anns Advice Centre, 2a Robin Hood Chase (Tel. 506867), or the Trading Standards Department.

COBBLESTONES

by John Aghoghogbe

Mr Denis Watkins, assistant director of child care division, has blamed attacks by local youths on Cobblestones Childrens Home, for increased tension in both staff and children to a point where the childrens welfare was at risk, he asserted that efforts had been made to contain and resolve the problem including several meetings held with the youths to work out possible solutions. Local residents have rejected this, as too one sided and asserted that the children in the home were as much to blame as the local youths.

The police strategy of building up a relationship with the youths failed, despite talks and a football match. Other avenues were pursued by the police in combating the problem. The police found their manpower stretched to the limits, so a securicor guard had to be deployed in the home as a deterrent. This failed. Social services had exhausted their ideas and it became apparent that closure was the only solution, and the children were moved to other homes.

Mr Watkins said that 'throughout the problem, we have kept a watchful eye on the children and now the children have expressed how much happier and relaxed they are now, away from the stress.' Mr Watkins added, 'The staff members have written to us, expressing how much easier now it is for them to perform their duties.'

Local residents however produced a different picture. Mr Seggar angrily said, 'the kids inside Cobblestones were as bad as the local youths. We're

pleased to see the back of them. There was always trouble of some kind, glue sniffing, alarms set off, the fire engine called out, and my window still hasn't been repaired since kids from the home broke it'.

Local youths, among them Steven Smith, chairperson of Horizon Youth Project agreed that the children in Cobblestones and local youth were responsible for the trouble, but they stressed how hard they had worked to set up a community centre, which would give the local youth somewhere to go, something to do, which they believed would relieve the boredom and frustration of nothing to do and nowhere to go. They believed this was the key to reducing the vandalism in the area. They hoped that through their efforts and the continuing support of Mr Watkins, the Horizon Youth Project would get a centre on local council owned property.

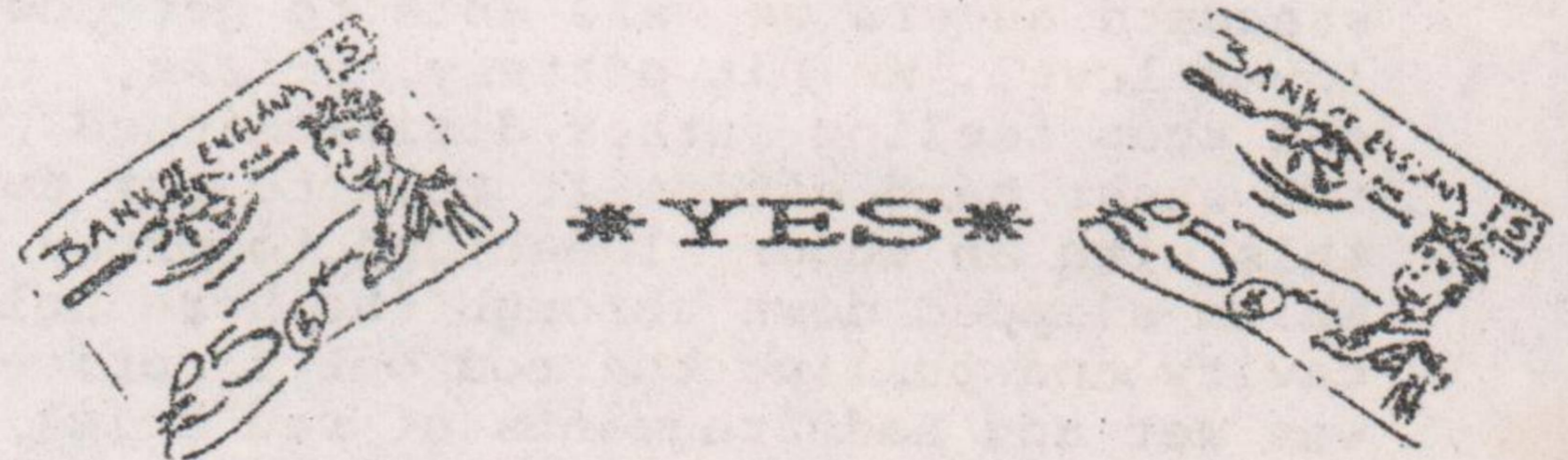
No one who has teenage children would fail to appreciate the difficulty and stress associated with looking after them, and we must all sympathise with the staff and social services in that task. It comes as a shock that the Police cannot protect a childrens' home and the area around, from vandalism. Does this mean that from now on, St Anns is to be without a community home? It is hoped that all concerned will do their utmost to ensure that the youth of the area have something better to do in future. Above all we sympathise with the parents and children of Cobblestones who have had to endure its breakup.

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ROBIN HOOD ON WELLS ROAD

by PAUL NIX

The following is an interview between our reporter, Paul Nix and David Greenwood, who is excavating the old St Anns Well behind the Gardeners Public House on the Wells Road.

Reporter: When did you first become interested in this site?

David Greenwood: Well I've always been interested in the well site through family associations. My parents came from this area, my father came from a very large family, and they all had tales to tell about the well itself and the Robin Hood legend, etc. and I was fascinated by this. As a boy I came on my bicycle down the Wells Rd and I noticed water running across the road. This registered something in my mind and later on reading the Guardian Journal I saw an article on the well and about the legend of Robin Hood. I came back to the site which of course was now a railway viaduct, and thought to myself one day I'll dig down there and find that well. Many years later here I am.

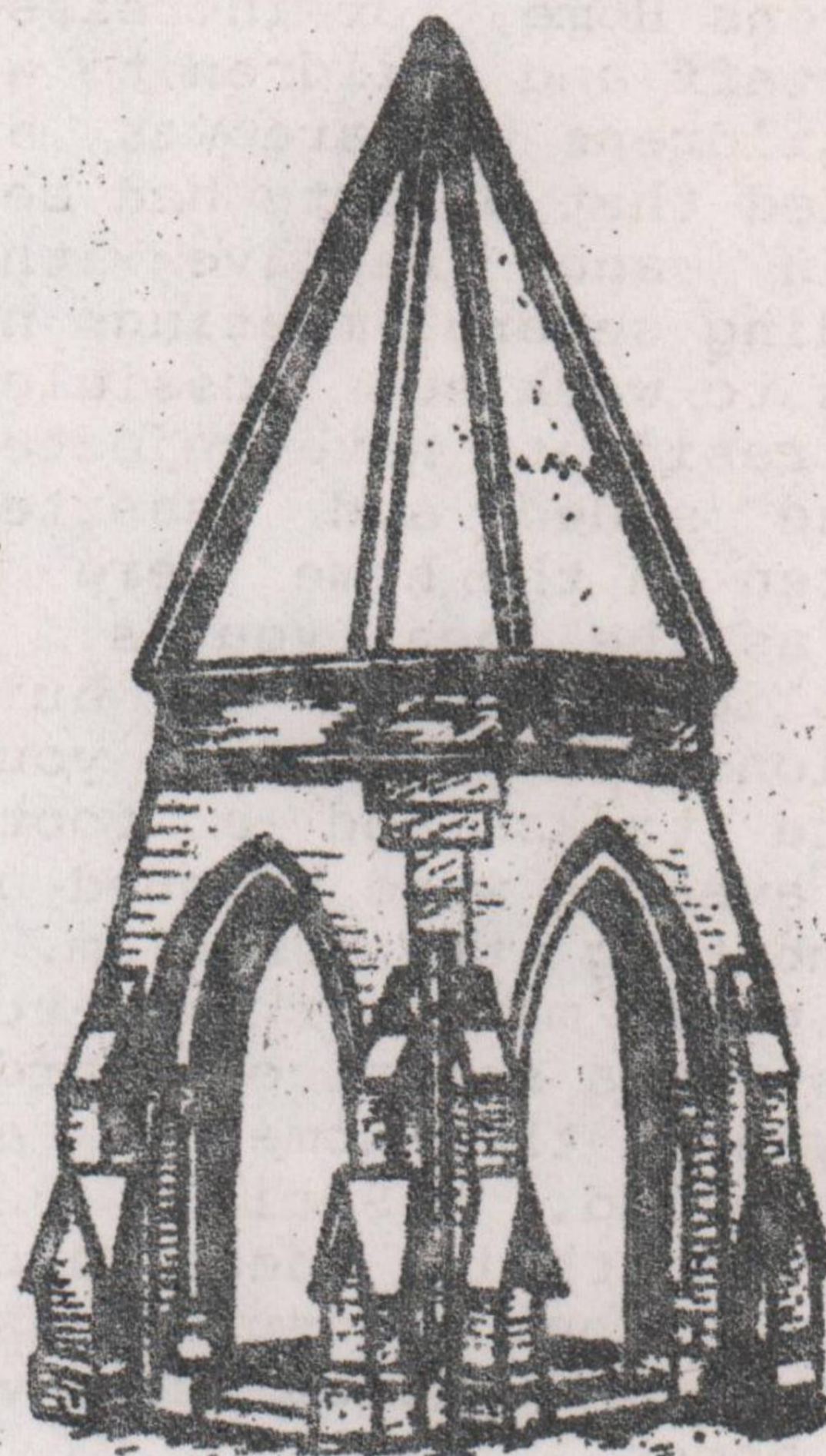
Reporter: How did you go about achieving your aims?

David Greenwood: Well it was a question of making sure of my facts, doing a lot of research, discussing the matter with people, asking questions, getting various opinions, and then at the end of the day it was a gamble because no one was quite sure where the actual well was.

I then negotiated with the owners (Whitbread Sherwood Inns of Sheffield) of the site by calling their development manager to a meeting, he was very surprised to know and learn that the public house was built on an historic site, but also the earliest reference to Robin Hood in Nottingham happens to be this spot and, a field to the west of this spot and to know that Robin Hood of Sherwood was Robin Hood of Wells Road.

The excavations commenced in the middle of April 1987 and within a few days, after much hard work, we had discovered the 1887 level successfully shored the excavation, and were able to see exactly where we were. A series of bores and probes were made over a period of a week and the information analysed. We discovered to the north there was some very black wet sticky soil so we decided to enlarge the excavation to the north, which took about two weeks. We decided to do a slot through the excavation to take us down below the 1886 level. The disturbed topsoil contained much brick rubble and pottery, and many fragments of clay pipes which appeared to have been disturbed by excavations either at the construction or destruction of the Victorian Monument. It was decided that it was essential to go down as deep as possible. We had fears that we may have to go down very deep because there was no evidence of a well structure. So we had to assume that the well structure had been removed and we had to find the water level because the water level was level with the top of the steps and the actual apron of a drawing. By manipulating standard augers we were able to get down to a much lower level. We hit pottery, bricks, random fill and then feeling rather disillusioned because of the sheer hard effort it took to get down through this with an auger. I decided to probe with a rod which slipped down through the bore hole into a cavity and pulling the rod out I noticed that it was wet and had fragments of red brick on it. I was quite elated by this find. We bored down into the lower depths and broke through a brick structure into a cavity which contained water. We enlarged the hole and inserted a grab to pull out samples of material which was compatible with a 17th century level. We extended the bore holes to the south and to the west. The bore hole to the south hit upon a further piece of brick structure and we realized that we had found and were in fact on the edge of a water retaining structure. The bore holes to the west revealed a much harder

The Well In Victorian Times



rocky structure at a higher level and we couldn't penetrate it with the augers any further so it was necessary to determine what this structure holding the water might be. After about 3 days clearing the hole. We discovered that it appeared to be steps down into a water retaining structure. We pulled out samples of water and found out that when settled, it was crystal clear, very clean and quite sweet. It was natural to deduce that this must be spring water. It was decided that the key to the situation would be to try and fill this structure up with water so we connected the hose pipes and pumped more than 50 or 60 gallons of water until we got it right to the top of the bore hole. We sat anxiously waiting watching the water level, no sign of air, absolutely still and we began to think that we had dropped into a cavity that was totally closed and was just merely a pocket of water and air. A couple of minutes, a couple of air bubbles came to the surface and with a roaring sound quite like a thousand bath plugs all working together the water disappeared in the blinking of an eye that water had gone. We were absolutely fascinated by the way it had gone and the sound it had made. We realized that this connects either into a drain or a larger cavity. Subsequently the water level came back again at twenty feet two inches below the patio level, and over a period of two weeks has remained static. This natural water level is also the level of the brick structure so we feel very strongly that is the edge of the the 17th century well.

Reporter: What is still to be done?

David Greenwood: At the moment we are negotiating with the council for support, financially and materially, because it now becomes a major piece of work. The excavation will have to stay open while it is converted into a heritage centre. It is important that people of Wells Rd and Nottingham understand that this is their heritage and it will be the only evidence for the historical Robin Hood that we have. The people of Wells Rd should be very proud that the opportunity exists to bring back our own heritage and have our own cultural identity in this most important historical spot.

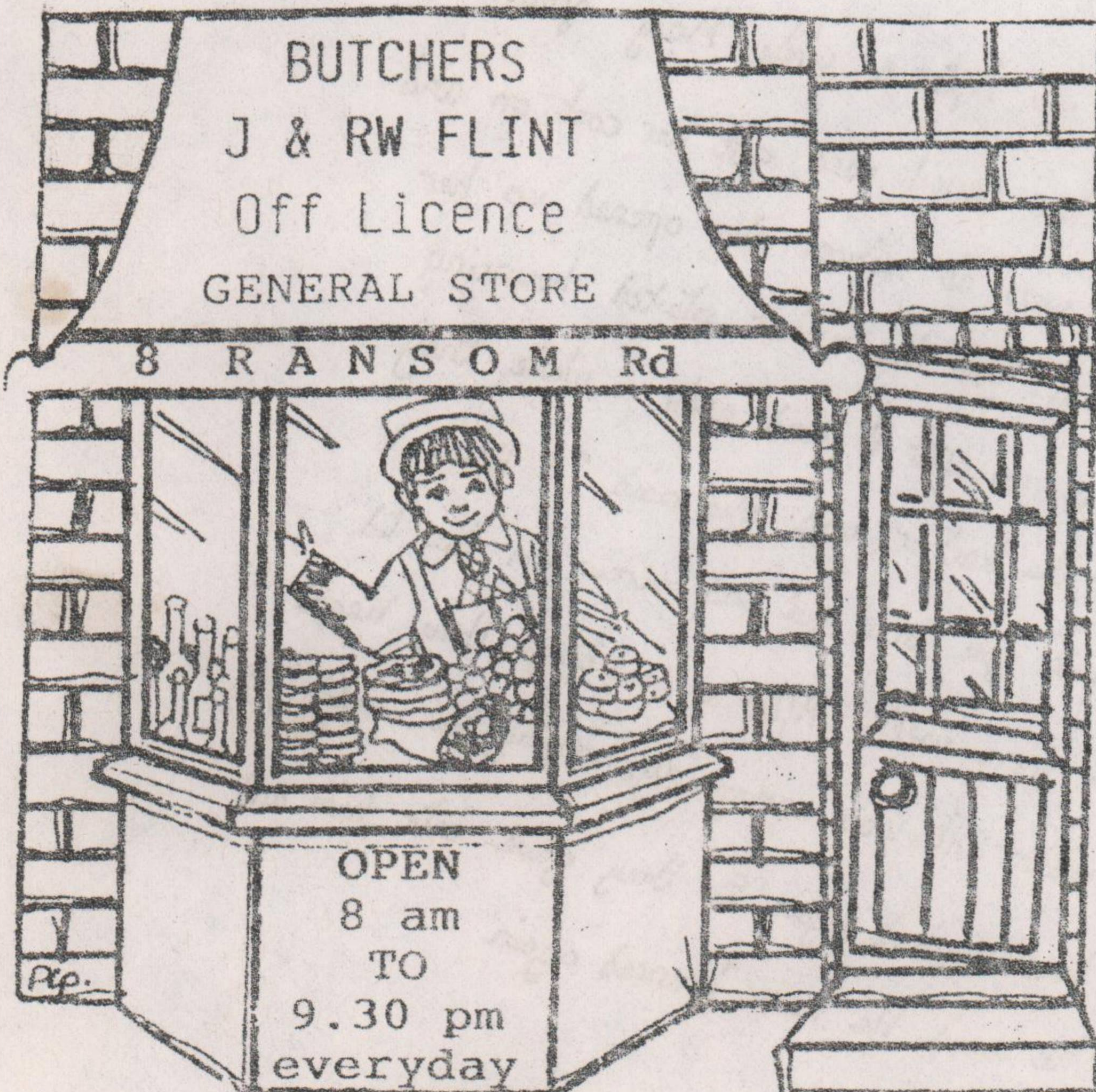
WOMENS CENTRE

The new Women's Centre is a bright, spacious building on Chaucer Street. Several groups are based there, including Women's Aid Advice Group, Pregnancy Testing, Nottingham Open Door (a housing association for women), Black Women's Group, Women for Peace and Roshni.

The 'Gossip' Cafe has recently opened and serves good, cheap snacks and meals during the day. All women are welcome.

Workers will soon be appointed to work in a creche, which will be open on a regular basis to look after pre-school children of women coming to the centre. Various rooms are available for booking. There is a ramp giving access to disabled women on two floors and a lift may be installed in the future.

We hope many women will visit the centres Open Day (27th June) for the exhibitions, workshops and a social in the evening. The Women's Centre is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.



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Sycamore Women's Health Group

By Tania Roberts
on behalf of the Group

Firstly, it is a health group, then a mother and toddler group. There are some women who come to the group even though their children go to school and some even go to work. There is no age barrier - we welcome everybody.

We meet every Tuesday at the Health Centre, The Chase, St. Anns between 10.30.am. and 11.45am. We pay 10p for drink. We have talks on any subject you fancy: Social Security, the Pill, child safety, children going into hospital, fleas, back ache, etc. Videos are sometimes shown. We have had a tour around Boots, a bakery and we are planning some trips in the summer. Everybody helps us in the Group.

If you think you are interested, come along on Tuesday next!

KIDS CORNER

taken over by

Stella Forbes

The Bouncing Rubber.

It was the first day back at school and Mary was going to be late she gathered up her things that she needed for school. Like her games kit and her pencil case. But nothing was in her pencil case.

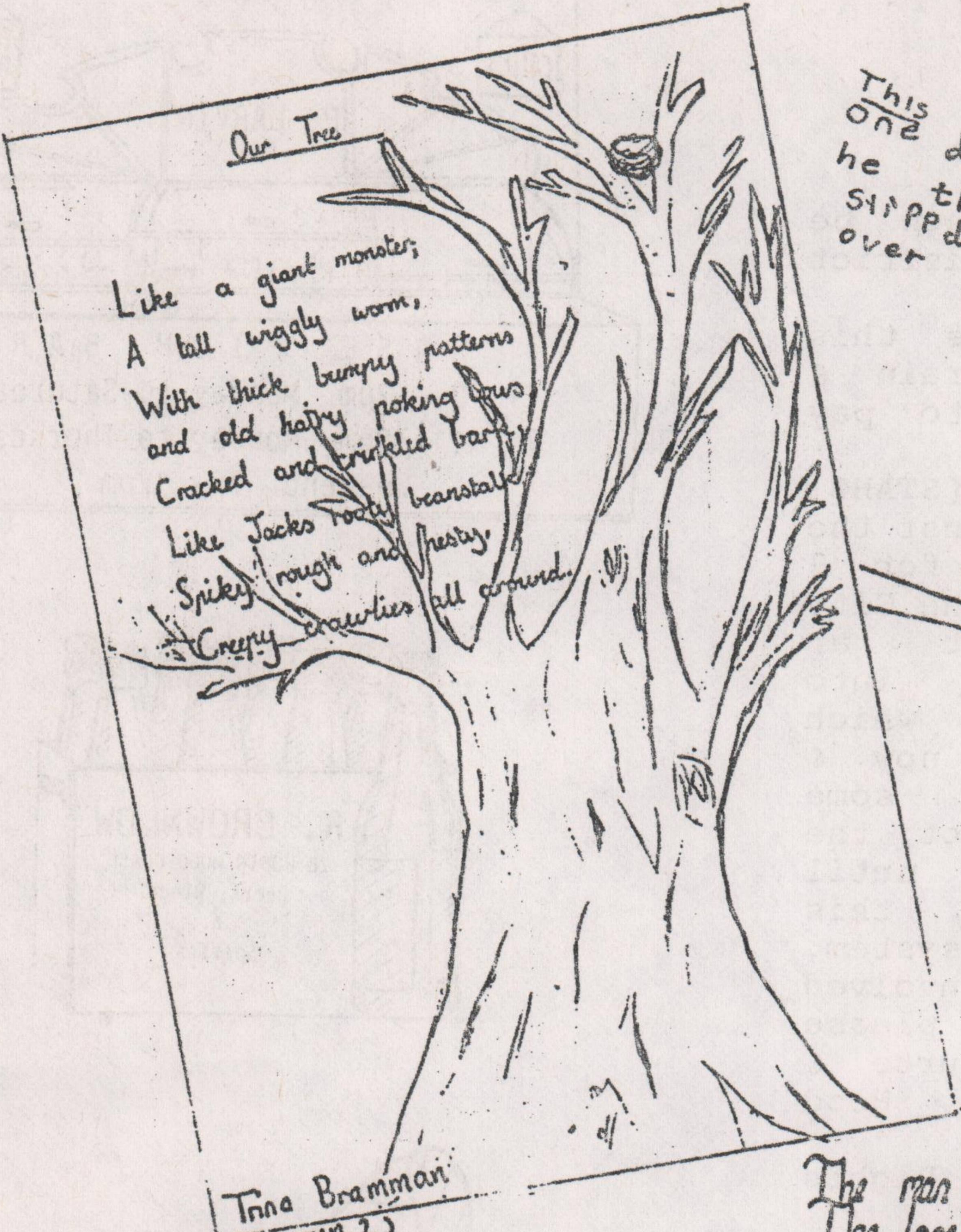
She remembered she had took them out to play with them and she had forgot to put them back. She collected all the things and put them in her pencil case. Her pen, pencil, ruler, felt tips, pencil sharpener, crayons and last but not least was her rubber.

So she reached out to pick it up when something strange happened which made her more late. The rubber started bouncing up and down on her carpet. She screamed "Mum!" but her mum never came. It was as if her mum was not in the house, but she was.

All of a sudden the bedroom door opened mysteriously and Mary got worried. Then the rubber ran out of the door and into the front room and bounced at the television to switch it on then it went back to the chair and sat down. Straight away Mary opened the door and saw the rubber she was astonished. She said "Get in my pencil case" But the rubber called her a pig faced

Mary while sticking his tongue out. After a while Mary grabbed the rubber and stuffed it in her pencil case got her coat on and went off to school. When she was at school she opened up her pencil case and what happened? Yes the rubber started bouncing around the classroom. Everyone ran after it and after a while they caught it. They gave it to the teacher and she said "I know what to do with you I'll put you in a pot and screw on the lid, and you can stay there for a week." After a few days they heard a noise it was the rubber it was apologising, saying he would be good and never bounce about again. So they gave into him and he did exactly what he said. He never bounced again.

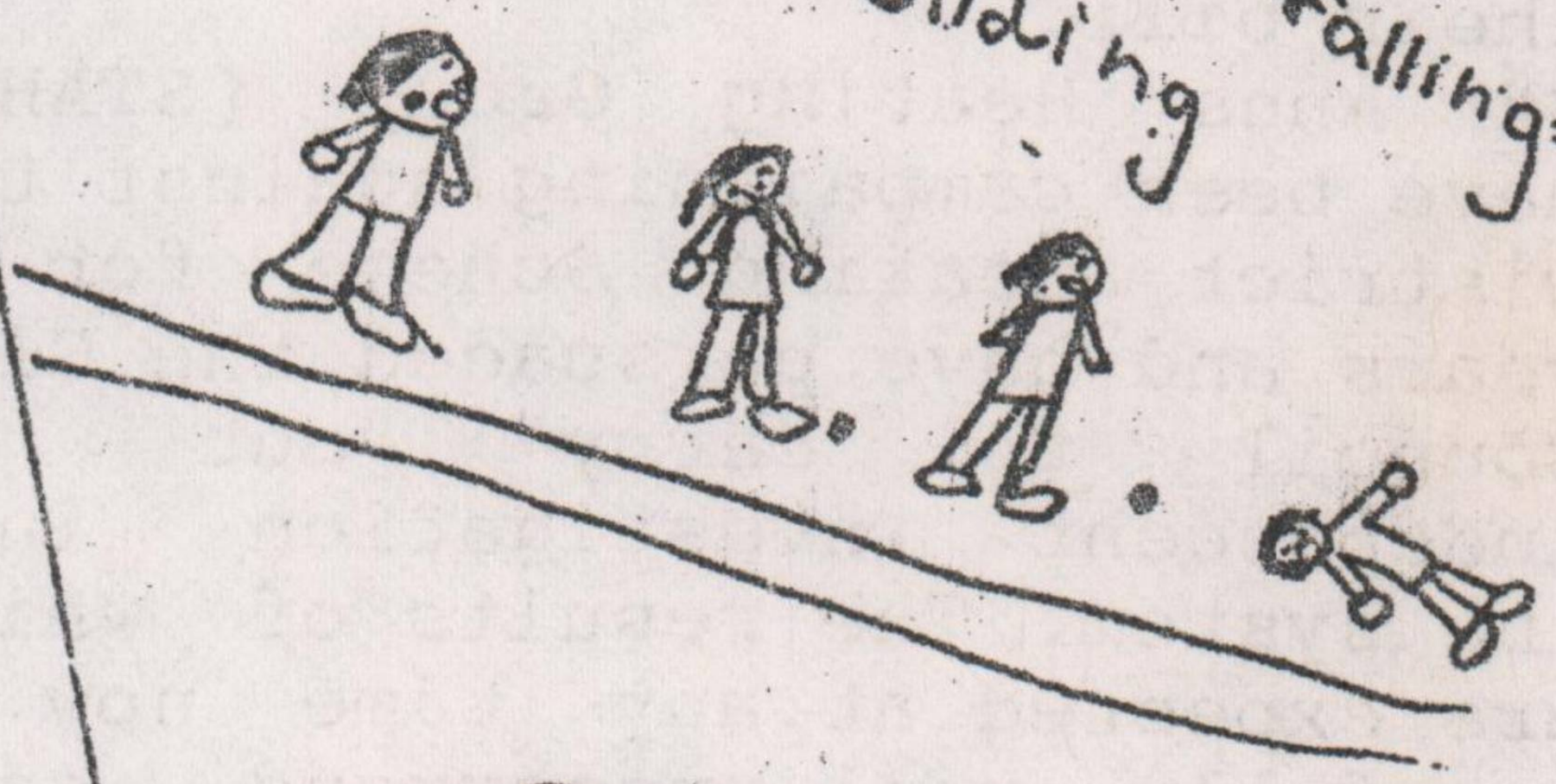
BLUE HILL BELL SCHOOL



Our Tree
 Like a giant monster;
 A tall wiggly worm,
 With thick bumpy patterns
 and old hairy poking ears
 Cracked and wrinkled bark
 Like Jacks roots beanstalks
 Spiky rough and fleshy
 Creepy crawlies all around.

Tina Bramman
 (Group 2)

This poem is about a boy who went to play out one day he tripped and he fell over slipping and sliding and falling.

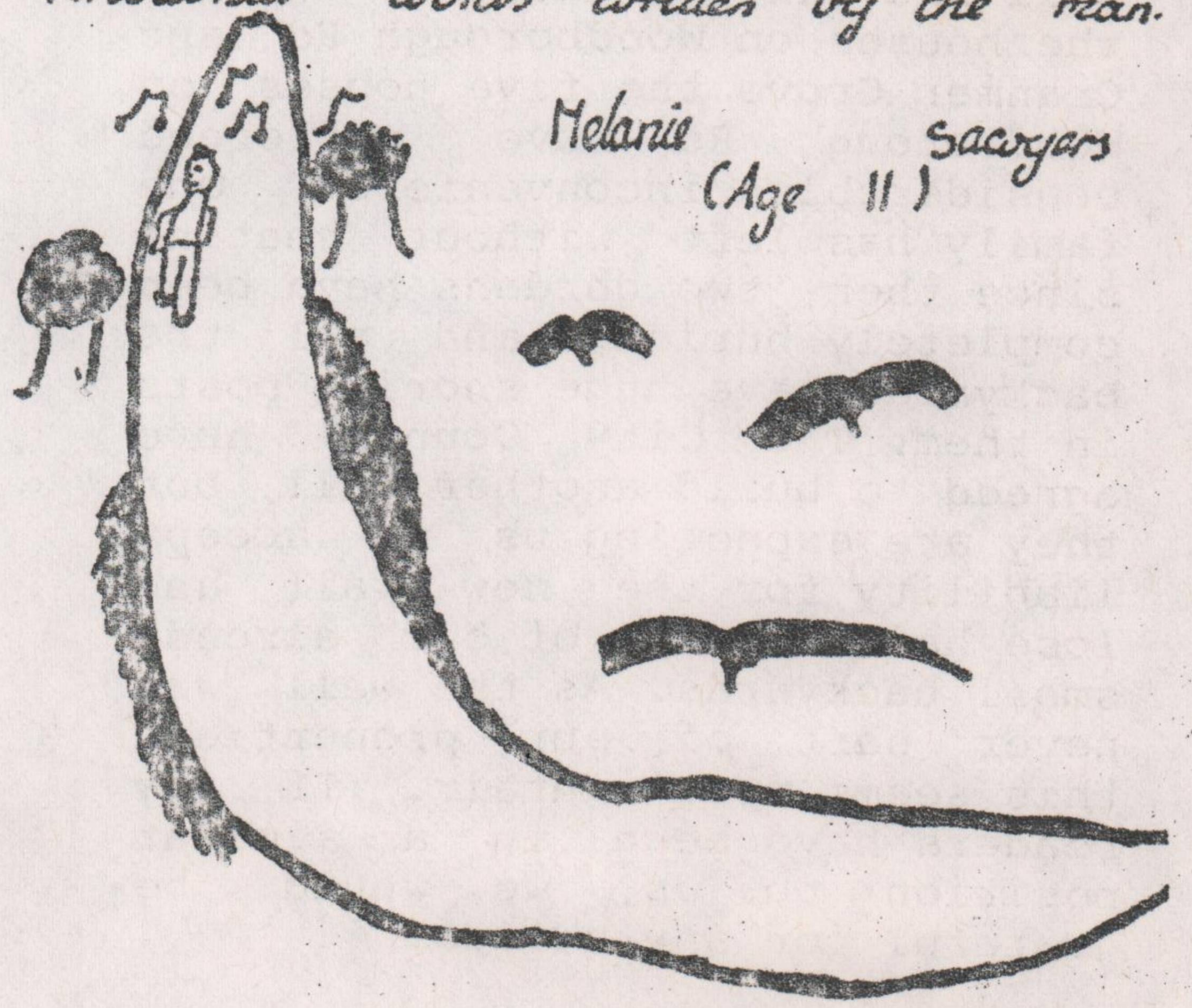


DAVIDA

Chain Poem

The man walked slowly down the lane
 The lane was so peaceful
 So peaceful the man started to sing
 a song
 A song filled with emotional words
 Emotional words written by the man.

Melanie
 (Age 11) Sacyars



The Hobbit

by Daniel Aron

He's Bilbo

The hobbit
 Fast as can be.
 He's scared of Dwarves too
 Because he's small.
 And so weak
 The hobbit
 Man



LETTERS

Dear Sir,
People in St Anns will now be receiving their annual District Heating bills.

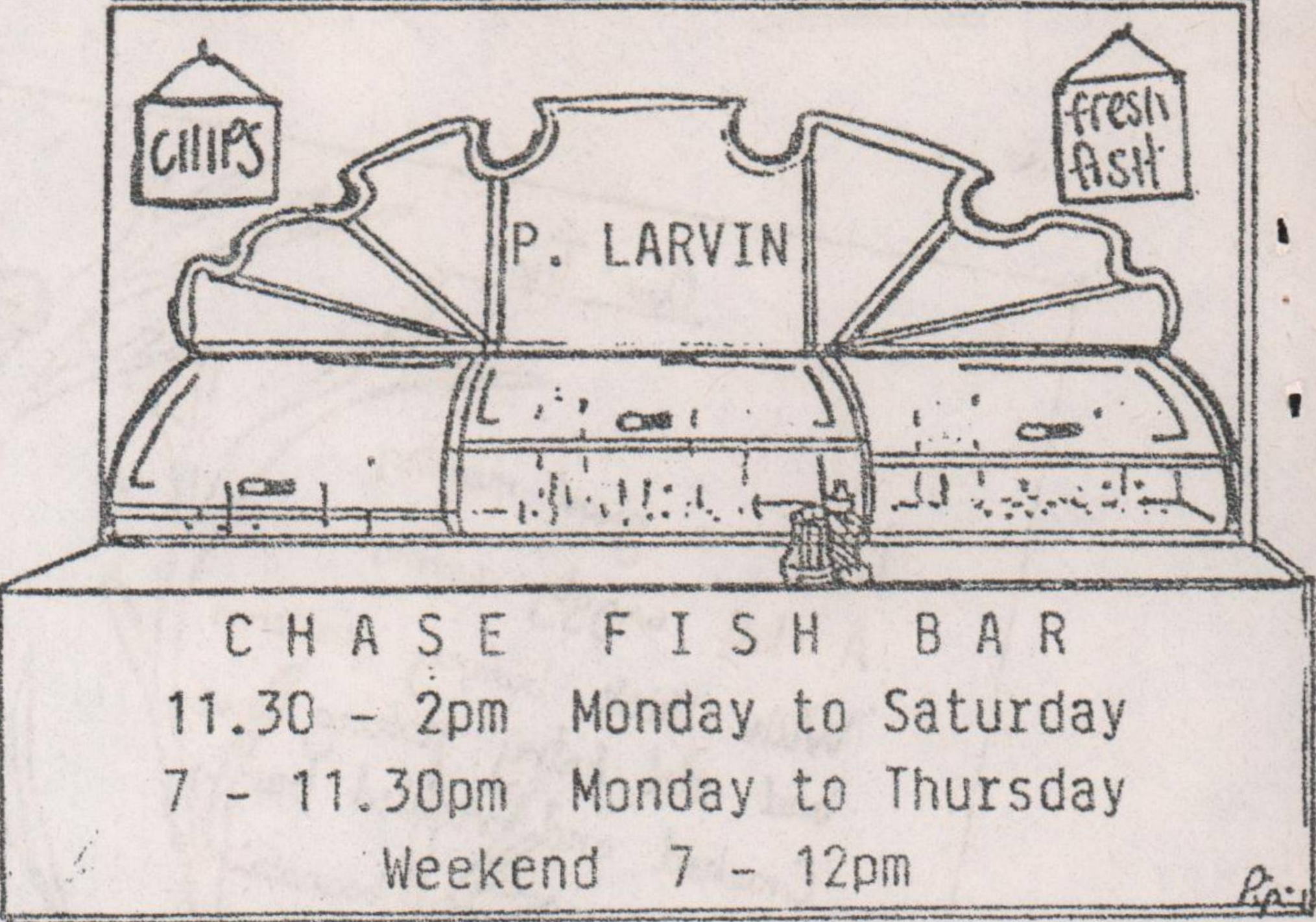
For those with surcharges this will be a time of great strain & worry as they struggle to pay their bill.

St Anns Heating Group (STAHG) have been campaigning against the District Heating Scheme for 3 years and have persuaded the City Council to carry out an independent investigation into the system. The results of which are expected at any time now & hopefully will recommend some radical improvements. If not, the campaign will go on until something is done about this expensive & inefficient system. If you would like to get involved in STAHG's campaign please contact me at St Anns Resource & Advice Centre, 2a Robin Hood Chase.

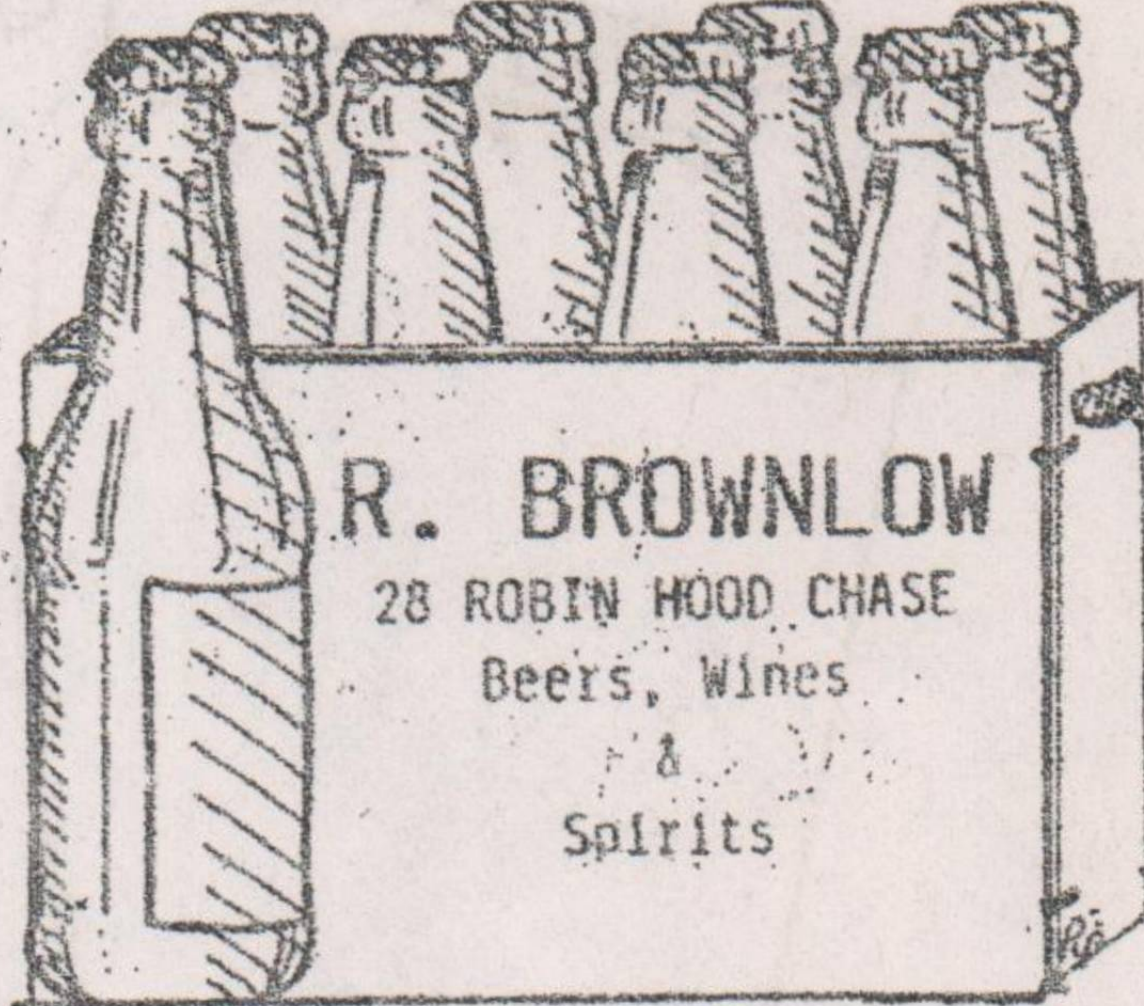
Ron Bell (St Anns Welfare Rights Advice Group)

Dear Editor,
Since 1st January when a 25ft wall and land collapsed between the houses on Woodborough Rd and Cranmer Grove the five houses on Woodborough Rd have suffered considerable inconvenience. One family has left without heating since then; two gardens have been completely buried, and all the backyards have huge shoring posts in them. The City Council have agreed to build another wall, but they are expecting us to accept liability for the new wall and lose half a metre of our already small backyards. As the wall was never part of our properties, this seems most unfair. If any readers have been in a similar position to us, we would be grateful for any advice.

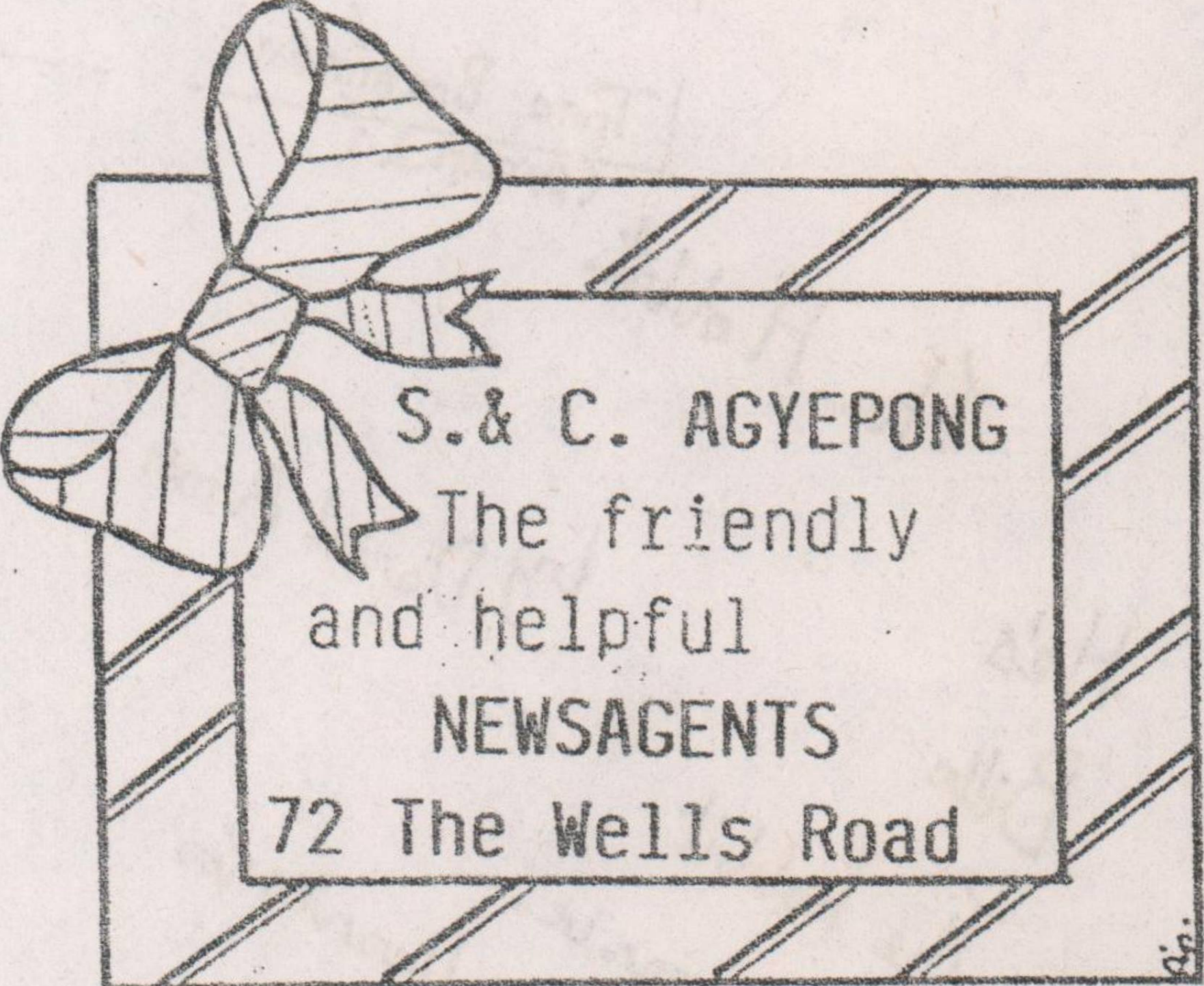
F. Robertson



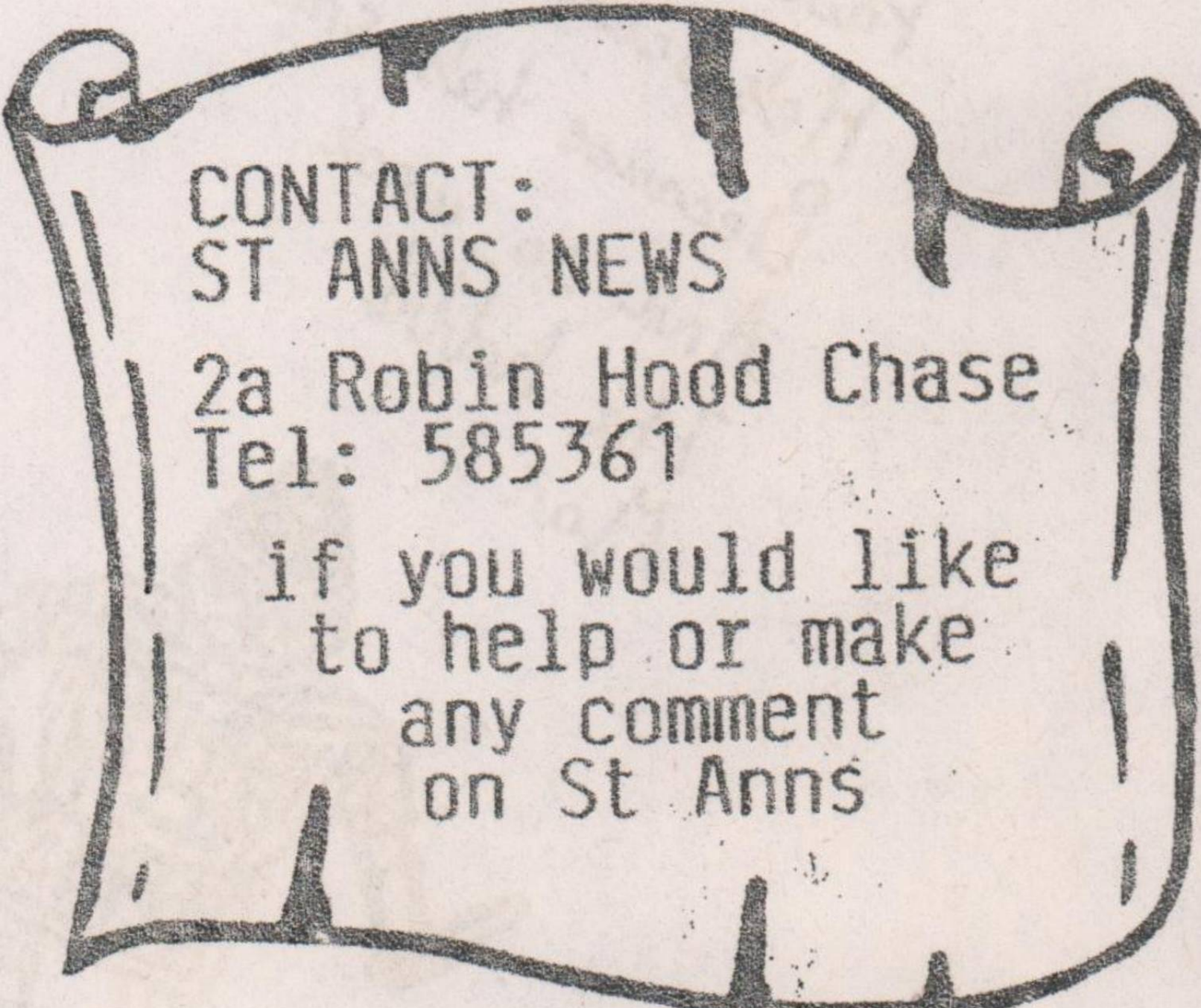
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CAN YOU HELP?

ST ANNS NEWS

ISSUE FIVE

POST HASTE
at Elm Avenue.

With the introduction of road works at the Darlington Street entrance to Elm Avenue, the disabled and young cars with passengers have been unable to walk along the natural beauty spot.

The local residents Mrs Nurine Allen of Cromer Street explained: "Elm Avenue is an ideal area: due to the Victoria Centre and Sheffield Road, and I liked to take my young son with me. These three points were put on which have a very narrow gap between them, and I was unable to get through. Now we are having to put our cars at the Cromer Street entrance. I understand that the Council are trying to keep cars out, but what about people such as me? I now have to walk the long way round into the City center."

A spokesman at the Technical Services Dept of Nottingham City Council said: "I understand concrete posts were used on the site to prevent cars from entering, and that work is now in progress replacing the posts."

Nottingham City Council are now widening the gap between the posts. The ST ANNS NEWS team would like to thank the staff of the Technical Services for their help in this matter.

POLICE WARN ON ROLLER REPAIRING CARS

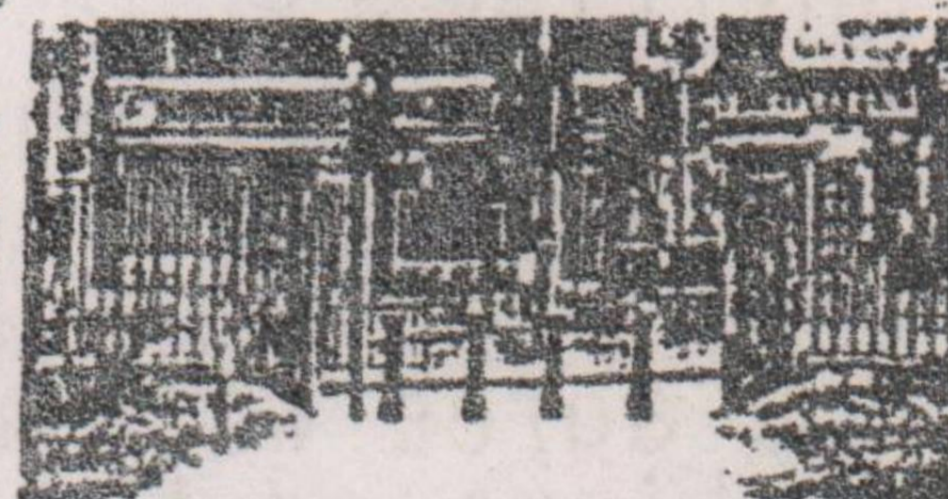
SOME SCHOOL CHILDREN are playing a dangerous game on the city's roads, which could result in serious injury, or even death, warned City police.

In copying the roller repairing gangs to the all time "BACK TO THE FUTURE" children are being seen hanging onto the back of moving CITY TRANSPORT BUSES in St Ann's Hill Road, and in many other districts.

One of the ST ANNS NEWS team stated that he witnessed these children - aged between eight to thirteen - hanging onto the rear of the chip-van on Permian Drive recently.

A City police spokesman confirmed that they were called to an incident in St Ann's he added that the roller mixers are a danger to themselves and to other road users.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.



INSIDER
Sminton's very own window.
Doctor's Charges?
Stanger's Park (St Ann's)
Schools' War's No Solution.
Nottingham Women's Festival.
LOOK IN: KID'S CORNER.
Pige Crossword.
THE FIVE STAR CLUB.

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Tell us of any event you know of in St Anns Don't keep it to yourself Come to the weekly meeting every Tuesday at 12.45pm at 2a Robin Hood Chase or ring us on 585361

ALL ROADS LEAD TO DANGER!

by
W. Kirkwood

It does not take a lot of intelligence to realise that the four way junction, Ransom Rd/St Bartholemews Rd/Wells Rd/St Anns Well Rd needs to be brought into the 20th century. Hardly a week goes by without some accident, children being hit by cars, cars crashing, etc. It is a very dangerous place to cross which is made more hazardous if you are carrying shopping or have a child with you.

As for the motorist, at peak periods you can sit for up to 10 minutes trying to get out, which obviously leads to drivers taking chances.

There is a lollipop lady positioned at this junction at peak periods to help the children cross this busy road on their way to and from school but she does not, and nor should she have the responsibility to act as a traffic duty officer.

I am sure that if local authorities and the Nottinghamshire police force got their heads together, a solution to this problem could be found.

If you agree with us or have any suggestions on this matter write or visit us at 2a Robin Hood Chase, St Anns.

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PUBLIC MEETING

St Anns News have heard that a PUBLIC MEETING is to be held for TENANTS on the Kildare Rd Estate. The meeting has been organised by community workers from The Community Support Team. It will give tenants on this estate the opportunity of discussing amongst themselves what problems, if any there are on the estate. Who knows, they may decide to set up their own Tenants Association to sort things out.

The MEETING will take place at THE WELLS COMMUNITY CENTRE on the Wells Road on WEDNESDAY 1st JULY at 7.30pm.

LOOK INN

Westminster Pub

The beer in this pub was not too good, and the lager tasted a bit flat. The atmosphere did not make up for this, it was also dull. However, prices were reasonable and the seating was orderly. A typical modern Shipstones pub. One good point: there are seats outside for people who like to go out with their kids, or who think that we may get a bit of sun this year. Verdict: a pretty boring pub, not the best place to spend a night out!