

Nottingham Voice

DIVIDE AND RULE IN THE PITS

A MINER WRITES

MINERS on development workings at Gedling and Pye Hill Collieries are getting up to £60 a week less than men doing the same job elsewhere in the Nottinghamshire coalfield.

And many faceworkers struggling in low seams under bad roofs are picking up a considerably slimmer wage packet than men in other pits working in conditions that are both safer and more comfortable.

These are amongst the anomalies that have appeared as a direct result of the new, locally agreed, incentive bonus scheme - a scheme partly designed and largely championed by Notts Area NUM President Len Clarke.

EXPLAIN

Clarke now has some explaining to do. He has to tell Newstead facemen, for instance, why it is that they receive half the £45 bonus of the prestigious Hucknall mine which is hardly subject to the same hazardous roof-drop.

He's yet to explain to men in underground headings at Gedling and Pye Hill No. 1 why they are on a quarter of the £79 bonus paid to men doing comparable work in Annesley's Low Main Drift.

They'd really like to know - as no doubt would the Moor-green colliers who are said to be getting about £10 out of his "the-sky's-the-limit" deal.

Even the NCB would like to know why the first week of

bonus payments should see three disputes: at Calverton and Hucknall over manning, and amongst NCB drivers who have received nothing from the scheme.

DIVISIONS

Miners are already telling of the divisions that the return to piece-work has created amongst the workforce, with some faceworkers seeing other men, not directly employed on coal-getting, as baggage benefitting from their productivity.

Other reports point out that the quickest and easiest way of winning coal is not always the safest and that overtired men are taking dangerous shortcuts to achieve production norms.

This is being done, frequently in the blind gaze of the managers' deputies, by not isolating machinery, leaving ventilation ducts unextended and by using the bare minimum of supports.

But perhaps the saddest effect of the new scheme is the sense of comradeship it can shatter; setting bonus-conscious men (anxious to make good four years wage restraint) against workmates who believe that there's only one safe working speed - your own.

Tory butchers slash services

THE TORIES IN CITY AND COUNTY HAVE HAD A GOOD YEAR SO FAR.

ON PAGES 10 AND 11 WE LOOK AT SOME OF WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING:

- ALL THE CONSUMER ADVICE CENTRES TO BE CLOSED DOWN - but ratepayers will have to pay more to be without them.
- 740 TEACHING JOBS TO GO - in spite of 1 in 6 primary classes being already badly overcrowded.
- ADULT LITERACY - will they save it?
- COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL TO BE KICKED OUT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE - why?

ALSO THREATENED IS THE CLOSURE OF BILBOROUGH BUS DEPOT - along with cuts in public transport all round.

Also inside:

- p2 - Baby deaths that can be prevented.
- p3 - Tories make life hard for the homeless.
- p6 - "Neighbourhood News"
- p8 - What are community workers up to?
- p12 - George Green, Sneinton genius.
- p13 - A look at Beeston.
- p14 - Books, theatre, exhibitions.

Baby deaths preventable

ONE IN EVERY TWENTY babies born in some inner city areas of Nottingham die before they reach one year old. That is ten times worse than in some of the more affluent areas, and three times worse than the national average. Most of the deaths are "preventable".

These figures come from a Health Authority report which looked at baby deaths in Nottingham in 1974-76. They show that the deaths are concentrated in the areas of worst housing like in Radford and Hyson Green.

That is why the local Housing Action Group has recently demanded action from the Government and the City Council.

It was this Group's inquiries which sparked off a (very good) feature article by David Lowe in the Post. Although the Health Authority report came out early last year the facts were never published until the Housing Action Group got hold of it.

Of course, various medical people say that it was never their intention to say anything about housing conditions. They just wanted to find where babies were at risk so they could monitor them more carefully. This they are now doing - using more health visitors.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

But, like David Lowe said in his article, "health visitors cannot improve housing conditions".

And it is not just old houses that are a problem. Balloon Wood is one area where baby deaths are very high. That is a block of flats only ten years old. But

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Please contact us with any information you would like to see in the next issue. This will be out around the 10th of next month.

DEADLINE for the next issue is the last day of this month.

Voice editors are to be found in the lounge bar of the Peacock Hotel, Mansfield Road on Wednesdays from 1pm to 2pm. Readers are invited to join us.

because of poor insulation and all electric heating it costs over £10 a week in winter to keep a flat there warm.

South Nottingham District Community Physician, Dr Perry, agreed with the Housing Action Group that bad housing and low income could be factors in causing baby deaths. And he agreed that damp and lack of heat could be reasons why there are twice as many deaths in the winter months.

INQUIRY

The Housing Action Group is raising the matter very widely. They want an inquiry by the Department of Health and Social Security. And they want it discussed by the city Policy and Resources Committee.

Charles Borrett, Housing chairperson, summed up the attitude of the Tories in an interview with John Derby on Radio Trent: "I think we have done all we possibly can to improve housing in the city centre and I'm sorry to hear that unfortunately the infant mortality is rather low . . . rather high, I'm sorry, rather high, but it's nothing to do with us . . ."

"I think basically the responsibility for infant mortality rests with the parents.

". . . in a large number of these cases it's nothing to do with damp housing because these children have been put in cots and they've got pillows behind them and they turn over and they can't . . . they suffocate. Nothing to do with us at all. It's not our problem.

". . . Nottingham I think is one of the most enlightened areas in the country, doing a great deal to help these people."

Thank you, councillor Borrett.

ACTIONS

Nottingham Voice would like to see the following actions taken as a minimum:

- The Health Authorities should improve their services in bad housing areas - extra health visitors are a start.
- The City Council should

get people out of bad housing as fast as possible. That means stopping the sale of council houses - 2,000 fewer allocations for rent have been made since April as a result of offering houses for sale. Most of these could have gone to rehouse people from the worst housing in clearance areas.

● The District Community Physicians should encourage doctors and health visitors to report all expectant mothers and babies at risk in bad housing. The Housing Department should rehouse all such cases immediately (most deaths occur in the early months).

● The Environmental Health Department should make sure that landlords keep houses free of damp and draughts with proper facilities for heating - especially in clearance areas where housing is worst.

● The Department of Health and Social Security should make large additions to benefits for heating where there are new born children.

● The Department of the Environment should subsidise the cost of heating in Balloon Wood since they encouraged this sort of building. Failing this the City Council should increase the contribution it makes to heating at Balloon Wood. Failing this DHSS should make large additions for heating for people in Balloon Wood receiving benefits.

● The Housing Department should not allow expectant mothers or young babies into Balloon Wood or damp

houses. All such people should be transferred out immediately.

RESPONSIBILITY

Certain powerful people must bear individual responsibility for increasing the number of unnecessary baby deaths in Nottingham this winter. Those who could do most damage by failing to act are:

Jack Green, city Tory leader, by pursuing his house sales policy and depriving hundreds of families the chance to move out of unhealthy houses.

Sidney Hill, Chief Environmental Health Officer, by failing to see that his staff uphold minimum standards in clearance areas - standards which the Meadows people had to fight for in the High Court because Hill's Department refused to uphold the Public Health Acts.

Dr Perry, South Nottingham Community Health Physician, by failing to see that all babies and expectant mothers at risk from bad housing are rehoused immediately by the Housing Department.

Bevan Hughes, Manager of Shakespeare Street Social Security Office, by failing to see that his staff pay out extra for the very exceptional heating needs of people on benefit at Balloon Wood. (One woman with a young child at Balloon Wood was paid only £4.50 a week after deductions for rent and electricity - and the People's Centre could only persuade Hughes' office to raise this to £6.50. There are many similar cases.)

NO TIMETABLES

AS MANY angry bus-users know, the timetables on Nottingham bus stops have mysteriously disappeared.

So the Voice rang the City Transport Department to find out what had happened to them. "It's a stupid situation", they told us, "we're not sure whose responsibility it is. Try the Publicity Department".

We did, and they admitted they were responsible. There are two reasons why they're gone, they said. The first is cash, caused by the withdrawal of bus subsidies by the County Council. This has meant that next year's rationalisation has been brought forward - so we've actually had two 'rationalisations' this year.

The other reason is the number of revisions the Tory Council has made to timetables. On many services alterations have been made every fortnight or even every week, so that before new timetables can be put up they're already out of date!

Well, when can we expect to see timetables again, we

asked. "Spring". Wasn't that a long time away? Yes, the Publicity Officer said, "we do apologise to the travelling public for any inconvenience caused".

The Voice prefers to apologise to the travelling public for the stupidity of the Tories. Most of them have cars, so they don't give a fig for people who actually use buses.

Perhaps, in view of the recent weather conditions, the least the Council can do is to provide blankets, stoves etc at bus stops for those people unfortunate enough to get caught waiting for another 'rationalised' service.

MILITARY

SOCIAL SERVICES management recently met with the military to discuss "emergencies" in war and peace.

Rumours that clients now have to salute their social workers have not yet been confirmed.

ISN'T POLITICS wonderful? At least one husband and wife has been brought closer together as a result of the new Homeless Persons Act. Mind you, Councillor Mrs Borrett (Social Services) and Councillor Mr Borrett (Housing) did have to go to County Hall for a reconciliation.

And all they could agree was that neither had done anything illegal!

This followed a report on Radio Nottingham that the Housing Department had evicted a pregnant woman, Angela Chaplin, and her two young children out of their homeless hostel in Peel Street. And Social Services refused to help. Details of the case had been passed to Radio Nottingham by the Voice a few days earlier. After this publicity the family was taken back into the hostel.

Some social workers claimed the eviction was illegal.

WORRIED

It was certainly against the spirit of the Homeless Persons Act which came into force in December. Stephen Ross - the Liberal MP who sponsored the Act - told a House of Commons Committee on 11th January: "I am very worried about the way my

Act is being interpreted in Nottingham".

This followed a letter from the Voice to Mr Ross giving details of Mrs Chaplin's eviction. Ross told us that he "discussed the actions of the Nottingham Council with the Minister of State and with the local MP Michael English". But apart from that he said all he could do was appeal to commonsense.

The Voice had written earlier to the Environment Secretary Peter Shore "expressing concern" at the City Council's interpretation of the Act. We still haven't received a reply.

EVICTION CASES

This was sent after our report in the last Voice that

MP FOLLOWS UP VOICE INFORMATION

PREGNANT WOMAN THROWN ONTO STREETS BY CITY COUNCIL



CHARLES BORRETT

73 out of 74 possible eviction cases had been labelled "intentionally homeless" by a City Housing Sub-committee - before they had been evicted.

This showed a major loophole in the Act - anybody "intentionally homeless" only has to be given temporary accommodation for a "reasonable period". Then they can be thrown onto the streets.

A Government "Code of Guidance" does say that children should not be left without shelter. But it doesn't say shall not. And, when you've got ignorant Tories like Charles Borrett in charge, "should not" means nothing at all - boot them out and hope the press doesn't hear about it.

DECISION

To be fair to Charles Borrett he did tell us that it wasn't his decision to evict the Chaplin family. And he didn't know whose decision it was. (He is only chairperson of Housing - he can't know everything.)

Homeless Families Officer Geoff Chapman - who gave the order to throw the family out - said it wasn't his decision - he was just following orders from Assistant Director of Housing Malcolm Magee.

Magee claimed that the Housing Committee had decided that "intentionally homeless" people should be evicted after six weeks. It hadn't. A report to the November Housing Committee suggested a time of six weeks - but this was never adopted.

So Magee was the one who decided to commit Mrs Chaplin to the tender care of the streets. He has caused his

political masters a lot of embarrassment. Perhaps they will promote him.

ARGUMENT

Meanwhile, the argument between Housing and Social Services goes on. Mr and Mrs Borrett can't come to an agreement over who should do what for "intentionally homeless" families after six weeks.

Charles Borrett lost out in the first round - he took the Chaplins back and backed down on another eviction threatened for 18th January. But for how long?

The Associations of District Councils and County Councils have been asked to thrash out an answer. Until then homeless families don't know what is going to happen to them.

FUTURE EVENTS - Nottingham Voice will give details of all events of which we vaguely approve. Deadline for March issue: 28th Feb.

* Rock Against Racism Disco, Friday 10th Feb, 9.30, International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road. Late bar. 55p.

* Socialist Discussion evenings: Tues 14th Feb "The Multinationals" - George Johnson; Tues 28th Feb "Alexandra Kollontai" (the only woman member of the Bolshevik Central Committee) - Beverley Jackson. 8pm, Roebuck, Mansfield Road.
* Anti-nuclear rally in London organised by Friends of the Earth, March 19th. Details: Environmental Fact-shop, 15 Goosegate (51405).

Leyland bribes censorship

SOCIALIST Challenge, a national weekly socialist paper, has been stopped from printing evidence of bribes paid by British Leyland management. No national newspapers have reported this censorship.

The ban came just before their 19th January edition went to press and they had to print two blank pages. Scotland Yard threatened to prosecute if they published. This is because of a court

case going on involving Leyland bribes.

Tom Litterick MP was not allowed to raise the matter in the House of Commons. The Birmingham Post said he was demanding the opening of Leyland's books.

Socialist Challenge has been discussing the matter with Leyland shop stewards and with another national socialist paper, Socialist Weekly.

NEW HANDPUMPS

HANDPUMPS have been put into the Newmarket on Parliament Street. The only other pub in the city with handpumps, we believe, is the Trip to Jerusalem.

Many regulars at the Newmarket have persuaded landlord Tony Green not to advertise the fact - the pub is already too overcrowded. But, at risk of offending one of our most regular advertisers, the Voice thought our readers have the right to know.

Tony claims that the reason for the handpumps is based on sound commercial judgement - it will mean service as normal during power cuts. It will also save on electricity

needed for the normal pumps. But will the bar staff put in for an increase to cover the extra effort needed on their part?

The pub is the Nottingham headquarters of the Campaign for Real Ale. Not without reason - they can now enjoy the world's only handpumped Home Ales.

Priority

LODGERS in council houses now get first choice of buying the house if the tenants leave.

But, of course, they don't get any priority for renting the house. If they can't afford to buy they get booted out.

Radio Trent on the carpet?

RADIO TRENT could be in for a hard time on 1st March. That is when the Independent Broadcasting Authority is coming to Nottingham to find out what a magnificent service it is giving the Nottingham listener. It is the IBA which is responsible for allowing Trent to broadcast.

Everyone is invited to say why they listen to Trent - or why they don't listen.

One thing that can't fail to impress the IBA is the flexibility Trent has shown in throwing out all the promises it made. None of those boring in-depth investigations and meet-the-community rubbish it had to promise to get the franchise two and a half years ago.

Still, the only opposition was from the Evening Post

which was backing the rival Radio Robin Hood company. One look at the Post would have persuaded anyone to go for something different.

NAUGHTY

But now Trent has been very naughty. Not only has it not made a profit, but it has made a bigger loss than any other commercial radio station. And Big Daddy IBA is coming to find out why.

It's not hard to see why. The news service is the only valuable thing they do (and how much of their midday bulletin comes from listening to Radio Nottingham's Morning Report only they can say). But Trent screwed down the journalists' pay so much that they all joined the union and

went on strike.

Then there was Graham Knight's phone-in. But that was carefully placed in the early evening when everyone is watching the telly. Obviously they thought they couldn't compete with Radio Nottingham's phone-in which goes out at peak listening time in the morning.

Instead they decided to compete with records on Radio One. They haven't competed very well. Not only does Radio Nottingham have more listeners than Trent, so do the national BBC stations.

So could it be good-bye to Trent? Very unlikely - they have started to make a profit.

But it is worth going along to have a try - Wed 1st March, 7.30, YMCA, Shakespeare Street.

Social workers to strike?

THE COLLAPSE of the emergency service operated by social workers remains a distinct possibility, even though their threat to withdraw from stand-by duty completely from February 6th has now been suspended.

Just before Christmas, after much indulgent and self-righteous navel gazing (their contracts require them to do emergency duty) city social workers and some of their county colleagues announced their refusal to do emergency work for a week in mid-January.

They also threatened to withdraw completely unless either special staff were appointed to cover all emergency work in the city and county or realistic rates of pay were offered to volunteers.

Voice readers may recall that last August, faced by the withdrawal of city social workers from weekend duty (for which the pay was 15p an hour after stoppages), a stand-by duty team to cover weekend emergencies in the city was hastily approved.

In the meantime, volunteers were paid realistic rates. But this still left city social workers covering Monday to Thursday at the old rates of pay, while county colleagues got no relief at all.

WHIFF OF GUNSHOT

The renewed militancy of social workers forced a panic stricken management, who have been striving courageously to sit on the problem for years, to rush their proposals for a full team to the Social Services Committee on January 11th. Despite the whiff of gunshot unleashed by the firemen's strike among many Tory councillors, the scheme was passed.

Gratified for the moment, but doubtful about its viability, social workers suspended their action pending the fate of the scheme at the hands of the Manpower and Policy Committees in February.

The present cost of providing emergency cover is nearly £60,000 while the total cost of the new scheme would be just over £71,000.

The problems of providing cover for the more remote parts of the county are immense. So far £2,500 has been included in the budget for a radio telephone system.

Surely they could have provided sirens and flashing lights too? Move over, there's an emergency social worker behind you.

Labour racists

RACIALISM is alive and well in Manvers ward Labour party (covering the area around Carlton Road in the city).

At their AGM a motion was put calling for the dismissal of Judge Neil McKinnon, the judge who wished racist Kingsley Read well. The motion was first of all amended so that they weren't calling for his dismissal. All it said was that they deplore McKinnon's comments.

Even this weak motion was lost by fourteen votes to two. Amongst those voting against it were councillor Jenny Williamson, and George Edwards who could be standing for the city council next time.

If these are the sort of people that the Labour party chooses to represent it, what chance do race relations in the city have?

COST OF SALES

NO RENT increases for city tenants this year, claim the Tories.

Is it a coincidence that next year is election year?

They say it is because of all the extra money coming in from the sale of council houses.

Is this true? The question is complex because of all the debt charges the council has to pay and the way of working

out the government subsidy. The local Housing Action Group is looking into the question.

But it is true that the sale of council houses brings in more money at first - because mortgage repayments are higher than the rent which would have been paid.

But at what cost? The most obvious problem caused by selling houses is that all the houses sold or waiting to be sold cannot be offered to people in clearance areas or on the waiting lists.

And in the long term there are two problems. First, mortgage repayments stay the same whereas rents would have gone up to take account of inflation. That means that after five years or so there will be less money coming in - so - far from keeping rents down for the council houses left, rents will have to rise very rapidly to compensate. Second, as more houses are sold there are fewer houses available from the council for renting - mainly the worst houses that people don't want to buy. This means that the waiting lists will get longer. The immediate effect on the waiting lists can be calculated quite accurately. Not counting sales to sitting tenants, around 1,100 sales had been completed by December. Applications had been received for nearly 700 more. In addition there were probably around 400 more on offer waiting for applications.

This adds up to over 2,000 houses which could have been offered for rent. This means 2,000 extra families are having to suffer in clearance areas or in other unsuitable housing.

Colwick vandals

IT APPEARS there has been an outbreak of upper class vandals at Colwick Park.

Tory leader Jack Green admitted at the January City Council that horse riders have been breaking down fences and breaking locks on gates.

We trust that the police have been informed.

JUMBLE WANTED

Clothes, toys, bric a brac, etc., needed by independent organisation to raise funds. Guaranteed not supported by governments, monopoly capitalism, Gulbenkian, etc.

PEOPLE'S CENTRE SHOP

33 Mansfield Road

Excuse of the year

EXCUSE of the Year must go to the Evening Post.

The best it could manage to explain its recent 33% price increase from 6p to 8p was: "we have spent a small fortune to keep costs down".

This small fortune was spent on a marvellous new computer. So brilliant is this

Mugging - the facts

"MUGGING - The Facts" is a new pamphlet from the Socialist Worker Party. It shows that muggings (street robbery) went down in 1973 - but so did youth unemployment. Both have risen sharply since. A coincidence?

Many muggers in London are indeed black, it says, but unemployment among black youths is at least double that for whites.

Muggings in Glasgow, where there are few blacks, is much higher than in London. But youth unemployment is higher there as well. Another coincidence?

* Mugging - The Facts, 5p plus 7p postage from: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

computer that on one occasion last year it managed to print the same story twice on the front page. (If you print every story twice you only have to pay half as many journalists.)

It came as no surprise to find that the new high-price Post was launched with a series of sex, violence and drugs.

But they even took extensive ads in their own paper to announce the "Barmaid of the Year competition . . . Find the Ball . . . Bingo . . . free to enter competitions . . . Secretary of the Year . . . Cook of the Year . . . Jog with the Post . . . Open darts championships . . . golf competitions . . . golfing holidays . . . You get all this, and more - and that's before you get to the news! Breathing-taking isn't it?"

It's nice to know that they actually found space to mention the news. It is widely expected that the Post will be elected Nottingham's "Evening Newspaper of the Year".

* Competition: cross out two words in the following advert for the Evening Post to make a correct sentence: "The Post is a paper you can't afford to miss".

OUT ON HIS ARSE?

RAY O'BRIEN, Chief Executive of the County Council, has finally left. He said goodbye to the January meeting of the full council.

Councillor Anne Yates said the first time she met him he had a black eye. She asked him if he played rugger.

Fred Rudder, chairperson of the County Council confirmed that O'Brien does play rugby. "He sticks his head down and goes forward", claimed Rudder.

Answering, O'Brien admitted this but said it meant "leaving my bottom sticking up in the air". He had often had his bottom kicked, he claimed.

In his speech O'Brien had the nerve to complain that councillors had "failed to set the standard which would have made the authority worthy of the county's respect".

And, far from admitting that he had not set the standards required in the way he leant on the Council for Voluntary Service - reported in the last Voice - he said that getting his picture on the front page of the Voice improved the tone of the paper!

Good riddance, O'Brien.

Evictions

VERY DISTURBING reports about council eviction policy are reaching the Voice.

In some cases where a local Social Security office has agreed to guarantee rent payments for people in arrears this has been turned down by the city Treasury.

In another case a man who couldn't read or write was told he had three months to find a job and then he would have to pay £5 a week off the arrears. He couldn't do this. He and his wife should have been evicted on February 1st.

They were only saved because their case was taken up by the Basford Tenants Action Group.

The Group's chairperson, Dave Phillips, told us that when he went to the city Treasury he was told that there were large numbers of evictions every day. One council official complained of being heavily overworked, saying it needed at least two people to do his job these days.

Every month nearly a hundred extra evictions are authorised by a special Housing Sub-Committee. This meets in secret with no right for people to put their case.

Recently a solicitor was refused the right to present his client's case to the Sub-committee.

EMPTY SITES

WHAT IS happening about "housing partnership" schemes in the city? These are schemes where private builders build houses for sale on City Council land. The land is eventually sold by the council to whoever buys the house.

John Carroll, Labour leader, tried to tell the public something about what was going on at the January council meeting. But the Tories shut him up because these schemes do not have to be discussed by the council. They are decided by a small sub-committee in secret.

The builders have to pay a fee to the council for the right to build houses on the land. And it seems that some of them are getting land at knock-down prices. Carroll claimed there are many sites the council can't get rid of.

And this must mean that the Tories will have to start panicking. They have to go to the polls in May next year. And if no houses have been built by then they are going to look a bit silly.

Even where things have gone smoothly building has been delayed. For example Costain have an agreement to build 82 houses on North Sherwood Street. But no work has started. Planning permission was originally given for 116 council dwellings in 1976 and building would have started by the middle of last year. But the Tories decided to bring in their friends in private business and axed the council scheme.

They will be lucky to see any completed houses on this site before they go to the polls.

The decisions about these schemes are highly undemocratic. Which builders are chosen and how much they pay are decided behind closed doors. Only a small bunch of councillors are allowed in. The Tories seem to think that because Labour councillors are allowed in it must be democratic. The public will not agree.

Still, it is more democratic than when Carroll was in power. He would never have let Tories in on such decisions.

Clough leaflet against NF

THE NATIONAL FRONT had not reared its racist head in Nottingham's schools by the first week in February.

But the local Anti-Fascist Committee was preparing to distribute leaflets against the Front at most city secondary schools. The leaflets, "Don't be conned by NF lies", come from the Anti-Nazi League, the national organisation backed by Forest manager

Brian Clough.

Clough is quoted on the leaflet. He says, "Nazism is just as much a disease as cholera, leprosy or smallpox and it must be treated to stop it spreading."

"I believe the Front must be removed from the life of this country and I will play my part in whatever way I can".

Come on you reds!

NOTTINGHAM AREA COMMUNIST PARTY

Public Meeting

BERT RAMELSON

(Former CP. National Industrial Organiser)

Unemployment and the Left Alternative

7.30pm. March 9th (Thursday)
International Community Centre
Mansfield Road.

Admission: 15p Unemployed and OAP - Free.

Flooding

TOP VALLEY can expect to be flooded nearly once a year on average.

But you have to read between the lines of a City Technical Services report to work this out.

The report followed flooding in Top Valley last September. When the development at Top Valley is finished there will be nearly twice as much surface area "contributing rain water to the drainage system", it says.

When the development is finished the report says "during a 1 in 1 year storm, the system will be fully utilised". What that means is that once a year on average the sewers will only just be able to cope.

The flooding in September was caused by a "storm intensity greater than a 1 in 1 year storm". It is quite clear that the sewers have not been designed to take storms that happen less frequently than once a year.

What the report doesn't say is that flooding will occur in future - a bit less often than once a year. This is because the planners have decided that this is acceptable for the tenants of Top Valley.

Meanwhile, John Peck, prospective Communist candidate for North Nottingham, has taken up the case for compensating people in Bakewell Drive who were flooded.

He claims the drains were not properly cleaned because of economy measures.

The City Council is trying to wriggle out of paying compensation by claiming it wasn't their fault.

Councillors have decided not to make any decisions until a computer has looked at the problem.

Flats

A HIGH RISE FLATS sub-committee is being set up by the local Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.

The idea is to get representatives from all the flats together to discuss their common problems. This has been done before with a link-up between four flats complexes - Balloon Wood, Basford, Hyson Green and Kildare Road. But that arrangement collapsed, partly because of lack of organisation. This time the Federation Secretary, Howard Wits, will co-ordinate the group.

Rats

RADFORD EAST is having serious problems with rats. The main problem is that when people are moved out of houses in the clearance area the council is not sealing off the toilets. The lead piping is quickly stolen and the toilets dry up, leaving the way free for hundreds of rats to get out of the sewers and into the houses.

But what will happen when the houses are knocked down? asks George Daley, chairman of the local tenants association. His prediction is a plague of rats rapidly spreading out from Radford across the whole city.

Problems

PEOPLE moving into the new-est houses in St Ann's - Phase 10 have got problems.

The whole area has been badly designed and built. In some areas there were no drains included on the plans and flooding has been caused. Lack of retaining walls has meant soil slippage. Builders have left rubble in the completed areas. The only play area is very close to houses.

These are just some of the problems. Now many of the new houses are being left empty while offered for sale. Their windows have to be boarded up to prevent them being broken. Some have been kept empty for nearly a year.

It is hardly surprising that there has been vandalism. More worrying is that some children have been terrorising old people.

A public meeting was organised recently by Labour councillor Peter Burgess. This was because both the Housing Department and the tenants association, SATRA, had been dragging their feet.

It remains to be seen whether the contractors will be forced to clean up and finish the site. And whether suitable play areas will be provided for children.

But the biggest fight will be to get the empty houses released so they can be occupied. Tory councillor Ron Griffiths told the public meeting that there could be no exceptions to their sales policy. Residents will be taking it up with Tory leader Jack Green.

Worried

RESIDENTS in Lamcote Street Housing Action Area in the Meadows have formed a new tenants association.

Over 50 people from the 70 houses affected attended a meeting about the lack of communication from the council. People are worried that they don't know what is going to happen to the area.

They want to know what pressure the council is going to put on to bad landlords to force them to do improvements.

Speakers included Alan Simpson from the Cromwell Street Housing Action Area, George Daley from Radford East where another Housing Action Area will be declared in June, and Howard Wits from the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations. The meeting was chaired by Dave Phillips from Basford Tenants Action Group.

* Housing Action Areas are declared in areas of very bad houses which can be improved. The council has five years to see that all houses are brought up to standard. Problems may arise because no extra staff are to be taken on by the Housing Department for this extra work. So existing staff will have to be spread more thinly around existing action areas. This is in spite of a report of the City Chief Executive at the January Housing Committee which said: "Experience . . . has confirmed a direct relationship between time spent in the area by officers and the rate of improvement activity". In other words, improvements in other parts of the city will be reduced as officers are moved to the new action areas.

Speaking

A PUBLIC speaking course has been organised for community groups. It is being run by the Workers Educational Association in co-operation with Centre 118, Nottingham's centre for neighbourhood groups.

It will cover how to prepare and present speeches and interviews, how to deal with the media, and how to collect evidence and present a case.

The course lasts six evenings starting February 8th. If it is a success other courses may be organised.

Plans

CITY PLANNERS seem to have taken some notice of what the Sneinton Environmental Society want to see happen to Sneinton.

The Society came out with their ideas last August. And draft proposals from the planners have taken up many of their points.

But the residents will probably have to do battle over proposals to build houses on some odd sites which have been cleared.

These are the sites which, as we reported in the last Voice, were offered by the Tories to private builders.

This was done without any consultation with the residents. But complaints from the Sneinton Environmental Society have won a reprieve.

It is now likely that the sites will not be offered to builders until after the people have been "consulted".

People in Sneinton don't want any more houses to be built. They say the existing houses are tightly packed. It is one of the worst areas in the city for public open space. Few houses have any gardens.

The need in Sneinton is for extra open space, not more houses.

But there isn't any profit in open spaces. Sneinton people could have a hard battle on their hands.

Money

TOP VALLEY Community Association still hasn't got all its money back from the City Leisure Services Department.

As reported in the last Voice, around £1,000 was given to Leisure Services by the Treasurer Dave Buckley who was voted out at the Community Association's AGM in November. He didn't trust the people who had been voted in - they were "too militant and unreasonable to be of any real benefit to the area," he said - mainly because a couple of them had been involved with the new tenants association.

Most of the money came from Social Services in grants for groups which have had great difficulty continuing their work. Nearly half of the money has been squeezed back from Leisure Services.

But the rest is still being held. It appears there may have been some irregularities in the accounts before November.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING PRETTY SIMILAR.



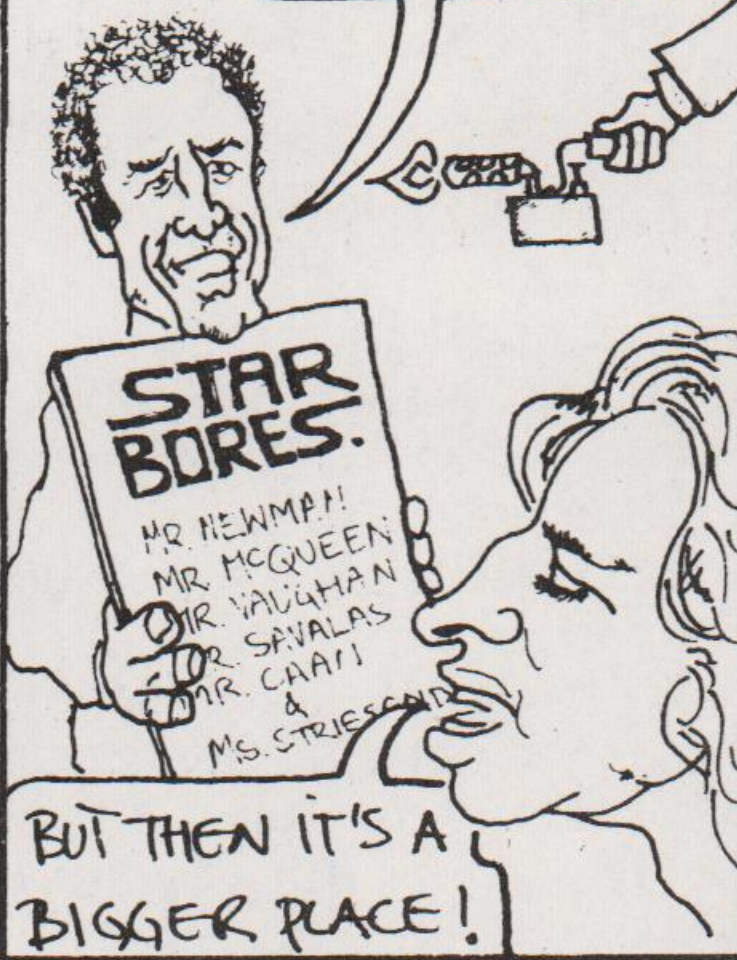
NEW YORK... WHERE THE DODGERS AREN'T TOP OF THE LEAGUE, WHERE KOJAK ISN'T LIKELY TO RESIGN AND WHERE THE CITY'S HOUSING CONDITIONS ARE PRETTY DIRE.



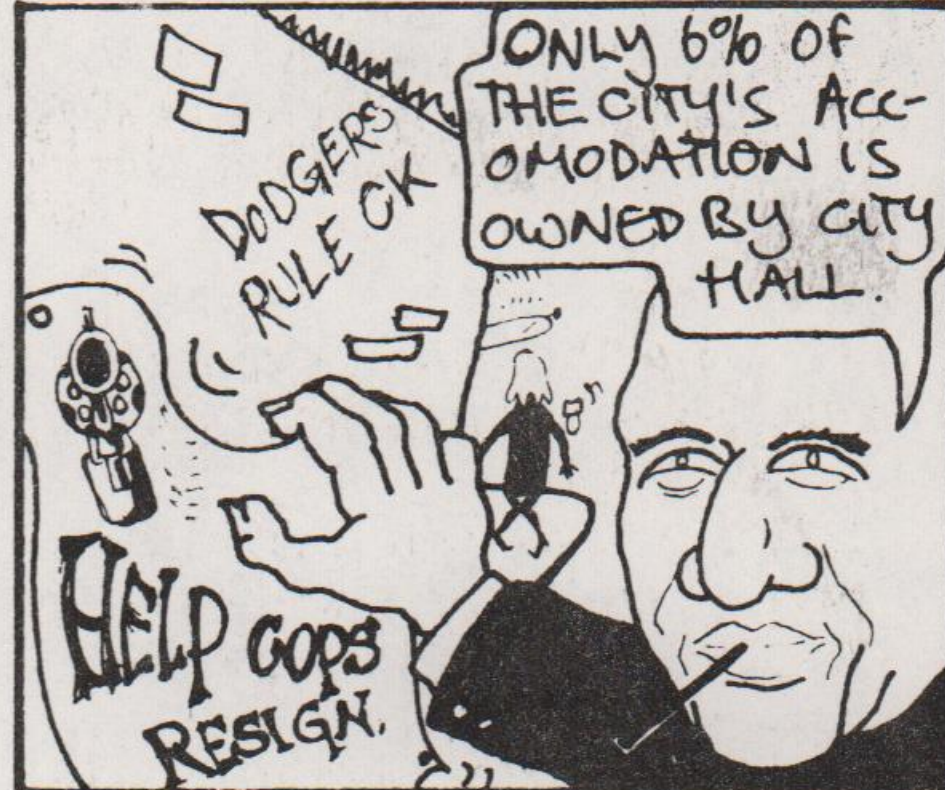
YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD ABOUT ALL THOSE IRRESPONSIBLE NEW YORKERS WHO SET FIRE TO THEIR OWN HOMES.....



IN FACT IN 1977 THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK DESTROYED MORE HOUSES AND TENEMENTS THAN ALL OF BALLOON WOODS, BASFORD FLATS AND CLIFTON ESTATE PUT TOGETHER.



AND YOU PROBABLY REALISED THEY DID IT 'COS THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS WERE ATROCIOUS.....



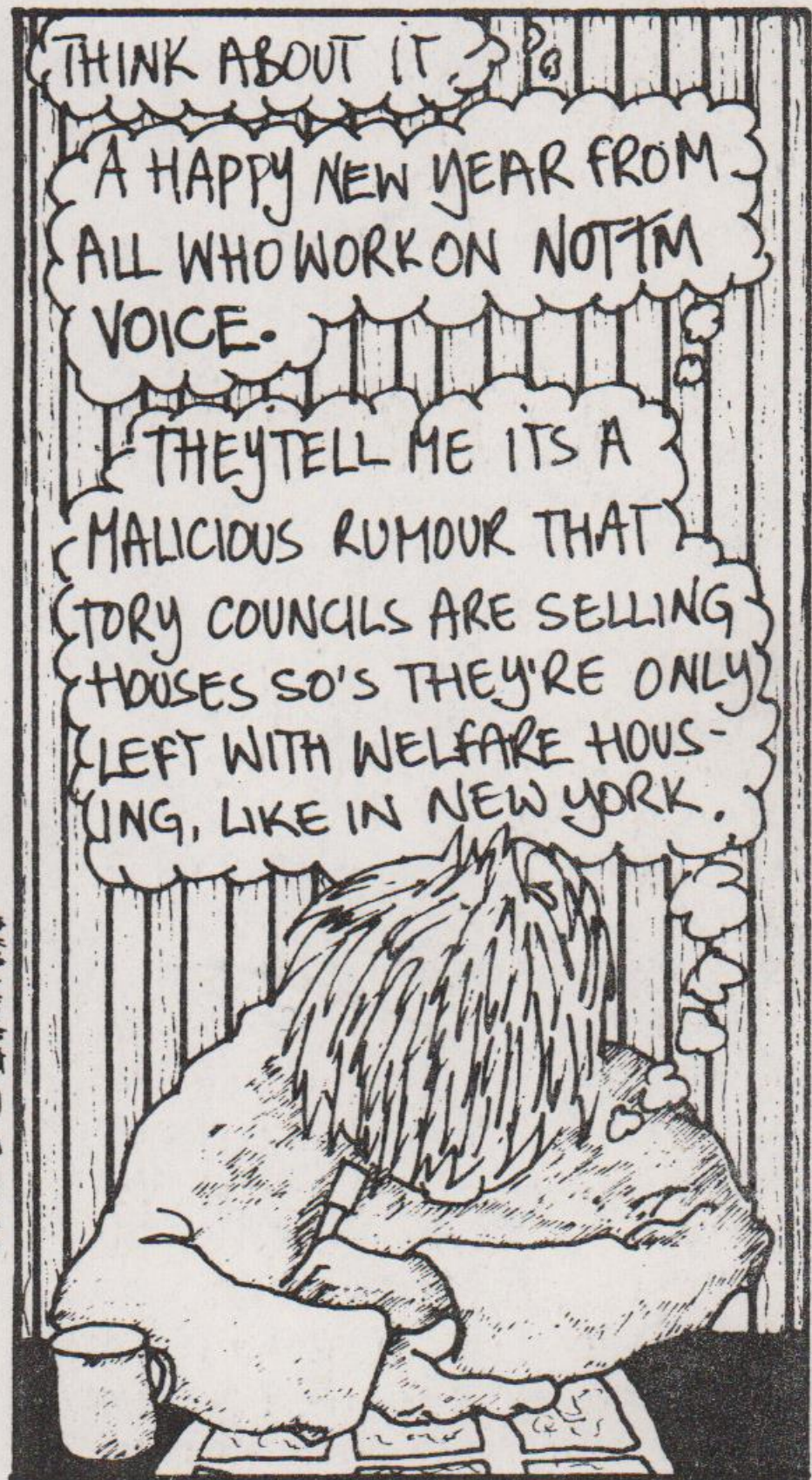
AND ITS FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT THE CITY DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER TO DO REPAIRS OR TO REHOUSE THEM.



SO WHO CAN BLAME THEM. ITS HEALTHIER CAMPING.



BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT IF NEW YORKERS VOLUNTARILY LEAVE THEIR HOMES, CITY HALL IS LEGALLY BOUND TO FIND THEM ANOTHER. OF COURSE IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT IS NOT THE CASE. YOU WILL HAVE BECOME VOLUNTARILY HOMELESS WITH ABOUT AS MUCH LEGAL RIGHT TO A HOME AS A CAMEL.



NAWIE BRICK

What are community workers up to?

MOST COMMUNITY WORKERS are well-educated, vaguely lefty and middle class. They are sent into "deprived" areas to stir people into community activities - helping them to drag themselves up by their bootstraps.

But, of course, they can't do anything about the serious problems that are weighing them down - unemployment, low incomes, bad housing. All they can hope to do is get people together to hassle for the odd concessions - like adventure playgrounds and community centres.

The real value of community workers is that they do bring local people together to discuss what they can do to improve life in their area. And that can help to break down the belief most people have that they have to accept things as they are.

It means that groups are less likely to take things lying down. They are more prepared to put pressure on the council and other bodies to alter the plans that are made for their area. They are encouraged to write their own reports about things that affect them. They may get their community worker or various experts to help with research and writing, but at the end of the day what goes into their report is decided by the local group.

It is this sort of thing which can increase the power and influence and self-respect of local people - people who are more often used to failure. Of course, they can only win what the authorities let them win - and that is only a few crumbs: nothing like the whole cake which they need.

£2M EXTRA

Even so, important concessions have been won. The most striking are in the Raleigh Street area where three major victories mean over £2M extra in government money coming into an area of less than 2,000 people - once said to be the most "deprived" area in the city:-

1) Residents in Cromwell Street fought to have their houses taken out of the clearance area - and won. Then they fought for it to be declared a "Housing Action Area" - and won. This means around £½M extra for improvements.

2) Residents in a small area of houses on All Saints Street fought to get their landlords - the Church - to do improvements. The Church "couldn't

afford it" so residents forced them to sell to a local Housing Association who will spend around £½M on them. The tenants will be able to manage the houses as a co-operative if they wish.

3) Recently the city Tories arranged for another Housing Association to build 120 dwellings - mainly one- or two-bed - on the cleared land around Raleigh Street. Residents didn't like the plans. They got a team of planning students from the University to prepare plans the residents wanted. The Housing Association has agreed the main points - they will now build 180 dwellings with many more family units including some four- and five-bed houses. Extra cost - £1M. An added bonus is that because there are more family units this will prevent the closure of the local junior school.

ACCUSED

It is almost certain that without the use of a full-time worker residents would not have won any of these battles.

Community worker Alan Simpson said he may be accused of helping to make Conservative policies work. But the most realistic accusation, he said, would be "making whoever's policies work for Raleigh Street".

He sees his job as helping to establish and maintain links between people. He "helps push boats out on ideas", working with projects for a while to help set them up before moving on to other things.

Jane Gavin, ex-chairperson of the local tenants association, told us that problems had arisen with Alan because of the rate at which he thought up new ideas - they got so stretched they couldn't cope.

MORE CONTROL

It meant they had to take more control over Alan's activities. Now they make sure they are involved right at the beginning of projects so they can decide whether to pursue them or not - before Alan has spent time on preliminary work. They also control which project he is working on at any time so people know

where to find him. But they are concerned not to tie him down too much.

This move towards local control is one of the aims of NAP (Nottingham Areas Project - an independent project which started in 1974, initially sponsored by the Probation Department) which employs Alan. A year ago it changed its management to make this possible. Before that its five area workers were really their own boss. Most of the NAP workers are now controlled by monthly meetings of their local groups.

ADVENTURE PLAY

All five NAP areas have won adventure playgrounds, most of them with paid play-leaders, and all of them managed by local groups. (The only other adventure playground in the city is in St Ann's.) This is not

WHY ARE community workers all so paranoid? Almost everyone we approached said they would speak to us - but we had to agree not to print most of what they had to say.

The main fear seemed to be that if the Tories knew what they were doing they would withdraw support. But we have searched in vain for any

surprising since one of the aims of NAP is to tackle the causes of "delinquency" by community involvement.

Apart from this, NAP workers have been involved in the same sort of "community development" work that other community workers spend their time on. This means helping to establish and maintain a variety of local groups and working on the issues that concern them, mainly housing conditions and community facilities. And it means encouraging local people to manage things themselves - like adventure playgrounds and community centres.

THE MOST "typical" example of a Social Services community worker is Chris Collinge - "Caudell's blue-eyed boy" as some have called him (Norman Caudell is the city boss of Social Services). Chris operates in a bigger area than the NAP workers - covering the whole of Sneinton and St Ann's.

He worked with the Kings-thorpe and Kendale tenants association for a couple of years - mainly concerned with the state of the flats.

More recently he has been working with the Sneinton Environmental Society which he helped to start. They have been mainly involved in trying to influence the council's

plans for Sneinton.

Chris is given a fairly free hand by Social Services. He says he is mainly directed by the groups he works with though he has a certain amount of influence over what they do.

Dave Ablitt, chairperson of the Sneinton Environmental Society said Chris had done a lot of the donkey work. And he had found many useful contacts for them. But he hadn't dominated the group.

Chris said the groups do all the real fighting though he might go along with them to meet councillors and council officers. "Never take the initiative away from the group", he said.

THE ONLY community worker in the city who is fully controlled by a local group is Julie Hilling, the St Ann's worker. She has just started recently though the tenants association SATRA has had a worker since 1968.

Julie has a big responsibility towards the elderly and spends some time doing "personal social work". And at the moment she is heavily involved in getting community activities off the ground in the new SATRA club/community centre.

She spends some time doing donkey work - delivering leaflets and so on. But she is also involved in campaigns like in the newest houses in "Phase 10" where there have been a lot of problems.

Ray Gosling, chairperson of SATRA, described the worker's job: "She has to do

what she is told on the one hand; on the other hand she is free to do whatever she wants to do". There is a permanent conflict in the job, he said. Some people think she should spend all her time visiting the old and the sick, he explained, and think of things like the adventure playground and urban farm as "fringe activities".

But they wouldn't have got the community part of the club if it wasn't for the worker, he said, and they probably wouldn't have got the adventure playground.

He said the worker had been "absolutely invaluable". But he didn't think they should pay Julie any more - she receives less than £30 a week. The money comes from various bodies like the British Council of Churches.

evidence that any community worker in the city is doing anything that the Tories could complain about.

Is that the problem? - all these self confessed lefties and not a single revolutionary action to show for it? Could it be that they are afraid not of the wrath of the Tories but of the humiliation of being shown to be part of the system?

WITHOUT A DOUBT, Social Services community workers have much less to show than the NAP areas and St Ann's.

This could be why Social Services launched a new project a year ago in the Hyson Green flats. But this is a move in the opposite direction to local control that NAP is attempting.

Hyson Green's two workers are controlled by a high-powered management group which includes city Social Services boss Norman Caudell, and Malcolm Magee who is second-in-charge of city housing.

The aim is to get tenants involved with housing officers and councillors so they can put over their case to the people who make decisions. The main problem is that all the decisions are made by city Tory leader Jack Green - and he has more sense than to venture anywhere near Hyson Green flats.

HELPED

The workers have helped to get a tenants association off the ground and have introduced them to a stream of councillors and housing officers. It is too early yet to tell how much they will become dominated by all these high-powered people.

A number of projects have been suggested. An "Urban Aid" application has been put in for a local advice centre (costing five times as much as the People's Centre which provides advice for the whole city). Another application for converting the garages under the flats into a community centre was turned down by the City Council. (At the moment the garages are mainly used as somewhere for prostitutes in the area to take their clients.)

Another interesting idea probably inspired by the Hyson Green project was put forward by the Housing Department. This suggested putting housing officers in four different flats complexes including Hyson Green (to get repairs done? - or to keep the natives quiet?). Jack Green wouldn't even let the Housing Committee discuss it.

Ah well, perhaps Hyson Green will get somewhere when their friendly Labour councillor Ben Allsop gets to be Housing chairperson - in about ten years time.

PROBABLY the most valuable development in community work in the city has been the opening of "Centre 118" a year ago. This is an extension to Nottingham Areas Project. But it is open to all tenants associations and other community groups in the city. There are already over sixty user groups. And around seven community newspapers are produced there.

It provides printing, silk-screening and dark-room facilities as well as a meeting place and an information system relevant to community groups. The idea is that groups come in and do their own work using the resources there. Things are not done for them, but courses are run to teach skills such as printing and photography. And there have been occasional workshops, for example on housing and community newspapers.

The Centre 118 worker, Roger Critchley, says that there are two sides to his job. He has to run the Centre. But he also works together with groups linking issues so that experience gained in one

area is shared and passed on.

SUCCESS

Some success has been obtained in bringing groups together to fight on common issues. Early last year an "Urban Aid Fightback Group" was formed by groups who had applications for government urban aid grants turned down.

In April a "Housing Action Group" was formed following a housing workshop sponsored by the local Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations. This group has produced several reports on city housing policy and distributes a free bi-monthly paper to 10,000 council tenants.

Later in the year another group helped to launch "Nottingham Workshop" - an information unit for trade unionists and community groups - now based at Centre 118.

It is likely that none of these groups would have been formed if Centre 118 had not given people the opportunity to get together and discuss common issues.

Community workers in the city at present:

NOTTINGHAM AREAS

PROJECT (NAP) - an "Urban Aid" project funded 75% by the government and 25% by Social Services.

Jim Battle - Broxtowe

John Bishop - Balloon Wood

Barry Englefield - Edwards Lane

Alan Simpson - Raleigh Street Area

Roger Critchley - Centre 118 (118 Mansfield Road)

Pete Bullock - Top Valley (just appointed to replace Mel Russell who worked at Clifton)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Chris Collinge - St Ann's/Sneinton

Travers Merrill - Basford flats

Roger Smith - Hyson Green flats (another worker is being appointed to replace Pete Lyndon who was working with Roger)

(There are two other workers who have been away for over a year due to illness)

ST ANN'S TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Julie Hilling - St Ann's

STUDENT TRAINING UNIT

Students are placed for short periods with community groups by Kevin Gill at the Council for Voluntary Service. At the moment students are working in Radford East, Bulwell, Sneinton, Hyson Green flats and Basford flats.



THE LATEST development concerning community work in the city is a joint study by Social Services and a government funded body called Community Projects Foundation (CPF). The Student Training Unit at the Council for Voluntary Service is also involved.

The idea is that CPF may be persuaded to put extra workers into the city. A small research group is looking at what the extra workers could do. The only local community worker originally on the group was Roger Smith from the Hyson Green Project. His wife, Shiela Pavely, was appointed research worker for three months.

The group has faced criticisms for two main reasons. Firstly, no representatives of tenants associations or

community groups have been invited on to the group. And secondly, it decided, before doing any research, to aim for projects similar to the one in Hyson Green and not like Nottingham Areas Project.

OBJECTIVE

This can be seen from the way the group stated the objective of community work: "involvement of people with the structures of government and resource allocation". It rejected "neighbourhood autonomy and self-sufficiency" and "working outside the existing system of government".

In other words the aim is for people to work with the authorities, not to move towards managing things themselves. So the emphasis of the research group will be

on finding ways to get the authorities to put more resources into deprived areas without worrying about who controls those resources once they are there.

But, not to be outdone by the "Hyson Green lobby", our intrepid heroes in Nottingham Areas Project have swung in to action with their own research worker - John Bishop - helped by the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations and the Adventure Playgrounds Association.

This can't do NAP any harm. They have never really got together to work out what they are doing and why. Considering they have had five workers for 3½ years they have very little to show in terms of saying what is wrong with the way the city is run.

Tories "allowing the shady trader to get away with murder"

COUNTY RATEPAYERS will have to pay over £50,000 extra next year for the privilege of not having any consumer advice centres!

At the moment there are four centres in the county and a mobile centre. The largest is in Nottingham's Market Square. The Government pays the whole cost of these centres - £125,000 this year - but they are run by the County Council.

Around £86,000 compensation was won for people by the county's centres in the year to last April. The total amount saved for people is likely to be much more as a result of advice and information given out.

In other words the taxpayer has got a very good deal out of these centres.

Too good for the liking of the Tories' friends in the retail trade. So the Tories decided to close them down.

They say it is to save taxpayers' money. But what will happen to the 14 staff? (There should be 18 but four have already left.)

The answer is that they

will all be paid by the rate-payers instead of the taxpayers! Nine will be moved to other jobs. And five will be kept doing consumer work.

£50,000 BILL

But because there won't be any advice centres the Government won't be paying any money at all - even for the five doing consumer work. The County will be paying all the consumer advice workers instead - over £50,000 a year just for wages. But most of them will be paid not to give consumer advice!

What an ignorant load of butchers these Tories are.

And just how pleased is the Government at all the money being saved? Consumer Protection Minister John Fraser said last year that closing advice centres would be "a destructive act, a blow at the vulnerable consumer

KOUNCIL KUTS

which in other contexts we would call vandalism".

The proposal to close the centres was passed by the Tories at the January Public Protection Committee. (Perhaps they should rename it the Business Protection Committee.) It was strongly opposed by Labour and Liberal.

Both George Dobson (Labour) and David Chambers (Liberal) said they didn't have any confidence in Tory chairperson Ron Stanley.

One accusation was that Stanley's wife works for a Citizens Advice Bureau and the Tories were saying that consumer staff should be seconded to help CAB volunteers.

This is the wrong way round, said Chambers. If volunteers are used they should be absorbed into what we've already got, he said.

He called Stanley a "hatchet man" protecting the "dodgy dealer and trickery trader".

"LITTLE DEMI-GOD"

Dobson said Stanley was setting himself up as a "little demi-god hell bent on destroying one of the best services set up in the county".

Labour councillor Frank Haynes said the centre in Mansfield had been a "marvellous success". "It hurts because it's been a success", he said, and accused the Tories of "allowing the shady trader to get away with murder".

Chambers asked Chief Consumer Protection Officer George Hannibal whether all the cases still needing legal action by the County would be known if there weren't any centres for people to go to. Stanley refused to allow Hannibal to answer.

The proposal to close the centres was put by Tory Adrian Berkeley. He described them as an "expensive luxury" saying that each

inquiry worked out at £3.60.

Some inquiries were only about things costing 90p, he said (he didn't say that much less time is spent on these items).

At the other end, he said, if someone had spent £2,000 on a car it should be worth half an hour of a solicitor's time (he didn't say which solicitors would get people's money back for only £3.60).

Berkeley seemed very concerned about those counties which don't have centres. "We ought to close our Consumer Advice Centres to be fair to those without", he said.

At the full County Council meeting a few days later Labour leader Michael Gallagher said the Tories had "embarked on the greatest con job in local government" - "desperately attempting to show that they were saving money".

Sadistic Tories again

ANOTHER nasty bit of Tory sadism broke out at the January County Council meeting.

This followed an attack by Labour councillor Stella Smedley on the Tories' policy of beating children in homes.

She said that "beating children up" was "totally uncivilised" - "the sort of thing the Tory party comes up with when they are lacking initiative". "If Charles Dickens were alive ...", she went on to mounting jeers from Tory backwoodspeople.

Well fed Tory Howard Noble staggered to his feet. "Little evil beggars", he said to a round of Tory laughter, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is not a bad philosophy".

He went on to say Labour policy had "led to old ladies being mugged".

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TORIES TO AXE 740 TEACHING JOBS

LET'S GET RID of "ignorant, idle teachers", said County Tory leader Peter Wright to the January County Council meeting.

The Tories threw out a Labour suggestion for smaller classes. Instead they are going to axe 740 teaching jobs over the next four years, 679 of them in primary schools. This is in spite of the fact that there are 500 primary classes in the county with over 35 children (one in every six classes).

That is bound to get worse. What the Tories are going to do is keep the overall pupil teacher ratio the same. Because of the falling birth rate a few years ago there will be less children in primary schools. But what the Tories have ignored is that the reduction will not be even. Some small schools will not be able to cut any teachers. That means that the larger schools will have to bear most of the cuts. And that will mean many more large classes.

As Director of Education James Stone put it to the Education Committee: "There must be some doubt whether a uniform overall pupil-teacher ratio can be maintained over the years and, if so, at what educational cost".

In other words standards are going to go down.

Already many Heads are being forced to have very large classes. Education chairperson Caroline Minkley put it differently. "There are hardly any classes of 40 and over", she said, "except by deliberate decision of a Head in the organisation of his school".

Tories to axe literacy scheme?

AS WE GO to press, the future of the Adult Literacy Scheme hangs in the balance.

Money to organise the scheme has come from the Government - about £16,000 a year. But most of the work has been done by voluntary tutors - over 800 of them.

Now the Government has said it will stop paying from April. That means that unless the County Council agrees to find the money the whole scheme will fold and the organisers will be thrown out of a job.

A statement should have been made on February 2nd. But obviously attempts have been made by some Tories behind the scenes to axe the scheme.

A statement should now be made on February 16th. It could go either way.

Tories attack Community Relations Council

DIVIDE AND RULE has always been the way with Tories. So it comes as no surprise that they have decided to remove the Community Relations Council from the International Community Centre.

What was a surprise was the claim from Tory councillor Philip Owen that the Community Relations Council was divisive. In what way we wonder. No-one seems able to say.

"I'm as baffled as everyone else", Senior Community Relations Officer Dave Purdey told us.

The only criticism that the Voice has ever heard of the Community Relations Council

is that it is not militant enough in pressing the needs of minorities. It has always seemed too ready to compromise and keep things quiet.

REVEALED

Margaret Crowe spoke to the Voice. She is chairperson of the Leisure Services Committee which took the decision to end the Community Relations Council's lease. And she revealed the real reason why the Tories want it out.

She said they wanted the International Community Centre to develop as a city centre community centre. It

is well placed, she said, for the new development on nearby Sherwood Street.

That is one of the Tories' partnership schemes with private companies building houses for sale.

So Crowe has let it out of the bag. The Tories don't like all these black people using their nice community centre. They want to reserve it for smart owner occupiers.

Getting rid of the Community Relations Council is just the first step.

The Tories have also refused to provide any help with running costs for the Indian and Afro-Caribbean Centres. Maggie Thatcher must be proud of them.

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George Green: Man of genius

GEORGE GREEN was born the son of a baker (later miller) in Nottingham in the summer of 1793. He was a shy retiring figure whose first work on the Theories of Electricity and Magnetism has since been described as "the beginning of modern mathematical physics in England".

However, few people know much of his private life and his work was only fully appreciated after his death. 1846 was to see the eminent Lord Kelvin republish Green's work to much interest and acclaim. But, he had died unappreciated and something of an unknown prophet in his own time.

Locally Green was to remain an enigma and a terse obituary in the Nottingham Review of 1841 noted "... he was the son of a miller, residing near to Nottingham but having a taste for study, he applied his gifted mind to the science of mathematics". The very complexity of his mathematical gifts were to confound and confuse many and it was not until the development of advanced theoretical physics that much of his work was fully vindicated.

INCREDIBLE

Born into a moderately wealthy family he was to have little formal education after the age of eight - making his advances the more incredible. He did not have formal connections with the established academic world until he was forty. He did however play a leading role in the local Nottingham intellectual circles.

The Nottingham of Green's youth was in a state of immense flux both physically and socially. The city had grown swiftly. The increasing population had few basic amenities, and much of the beauty of inner Nottingham was to be destroyed as housing and factories invaded the city for the growth of the knitting industry.

1800 saw a vast increase in bread prices. Green's father was threatened and pleaded with the Mayor to help control the rioters. The bakers were saved by the millers producing flour quickly from stocks that Green and others had stockpiled hoping to make enormous profits.

Even as a monied family the sanitary facilities were extremely basic and as soon as they could the Greens left Nottingham for the village life of Sneinton to the east of the city though at that time the parish church of St.

Stephen was only a half a mile from Nottingham's most ancient church of St. Mary's.

In this turmoil and social deprivation Green brought his mind to bear on the abstract theories of mathematical physics. Some of his early thoughts dwelt on the reflection and refraction of sound waves in solids and the theories of elasticity.

The Edinburgh mathematician Colin Maclaurin claimed that Green developed most of his ideas in the development of windmills - more particularly the desire to increase production through advances in the design of their sails. However it is clear that his first and only schoolteacher, Robert Goodacre, was the major influence in his scientific leanings.

Goodacre, an ex-tailor, built his school up to be the finest in Nottingham. Here Green would have had the opportunity to study mathematics and astronomy as well as the more traditional classics.

The whole of Green's intellectual growth is viewed by social historians as something of a mystery. After all he was to only have fifteen months of substantive schooling until he left for Cambridge University at the age of forty with much of his great work behind him.

So where did the miller's son from Nottingham exchange ideas? It is known that the intellectual life of Nottingham was limited but what did exist was patronised by Green who seems to have had an insatiable desire to expand his mind.

In 1823 Green joined the Nottingham Subscription Library, more commonly known as the Bromley House Library, on Angel Row. Here he would have met men of letters as well as the sciences as the past presidents included many eminent scientists and doctors.

IRKSOME

It is clear from his brother-in-law's book about him that he did not enjoy the life of a miller. Tomlin said "... (living) with his parents to their termination of their lives and duly rendered assistance to his father in the prosecution of his business ... But these assistances were irksome to the son".

The relationship between father and son is not clear. However, when Green senior apprenticed two boys to his bakery his own son was not apprenticed. Nobody is sure

why. It has been suggested that Green saw no good reason for apprenticing him as his son would become a freeman or burgess through birth. What does emerge is that Green resented not having the time or the encouragement to study.

Even in his social life there is an element of the bizarre.

For several years he had an affair with a local girl called Jane Smith, by whom he had seven bastard children. Nobody knows why he never married her and it is the more obscure because though his father may have objected to the marriage he died twelve years before Green did. Freda Wilkins-Jones in a biography published locally claims that one of the reasons he never married was his desire to become a university don.

By 1829 both his parents had died. He was now a man of some property and he resolved to go to Cambridge. He therefore sought the help of a friend and supporter Sir Edward Ffrench-Bromhead. He advised on going to his old college Gonville and Caius and made necessary introductions for Green to

the Cambridge Analytical Society. Here he was to find the long sought intellectualism he had desired and his letters to friends in this period suggest he was most happy.

George Green died 31st May 1841 aged 47. He had hoped for more recognition in his life but he was to die unknown in national scientific circles also leaving many people in Nottingham with a hazy picture as to who or what he was. He was a gentleman, a miller, a Tory, a mathematical genius and a bachelor who had seven children. Yet because all his personal papers were destroyed after he died we know little of his private life.

All that remains of his family and his life is his written essays and the stone built five storey windmill his father built in 1807. This still stands in Sneinton overlooking what was once one of the most beautiful valleys in Nottingham. It remains a better monument than any that a local corporation could erect. It symbolises the sort of man George Green was: straightforward, conservative but with ideas that have lasted the test of time and advances in mathematical physics.

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BEESTON: A VIEW

BEESTON CIVILISATION is a hardy growth, nourished by industrial grime and smoke and bounded by busy roads and the oily waters of the Trent. Only at its edges do the golf course, the detached mansions and the groves of University academia betray a middle class refinement.

Then there is the infill: the small council estates, many of them well designed evidence for an unfashionable case - that the standards of building and design of public housing is often far higher than private developments.

Further proof is provided by a short walk to the new private estate by the Trent. "God knows how they got permission to build it", exclaimed a builder friend, "ten years ago they would never let anyone build there in case the river burst its banks". He's right too. This last happened in 1947 when most of the Rylands was inundated.

These are 20th century developments, vast wastes which flank the core of Beeston: the corridor of old, largely terraced housing which stretches from the town centre to the factories of Beeston Rylands. Much of it is already designated as Improvement Area, the rest should be soon: not that it will make much difference, judging by the snail-like progress of Broxtowe Council to date.

In olden times all this was meadows and fields, the inhabitants preferring to live well away from the dangers of the flood plain in the small hamlet which is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Nestling at the foot of the low sandstone hills which stretch from Nottingham Castle to Beeston Fields, this hamlet had changed by the 16th century into a small village, consisting entirely of freeholders - a rare state of affairs in a time when most villages had their 'lord of the manor' to contend with.

But if the 'Squire' was absent, the other means of social control in Old England was always present.

This function of the 'Church' was always obvious to many at the time, if subsequently ignored by the parish church students who intently catalogue the 13th century font, 15th century chancel and 19th century rebuilding (to designs by Sir Gilbert Scott) of the St. John the Baptist Anglican church. As late as 1782 Mary Reed had to do open

penance, bare footed and wrapped in a blanket, in this church - one of the last such public acts to be recorded.

No doubt the Beeston of this time would have its share of the malnutrition, poverty and brutality which was the reverse side of pre-industrial 'Merrie England'.

Certainly the Trent Navigation Company took no chances when they built Beeston Lock at the end of the 18th century, for they issued the lock-keeper with a blunderbuss to protect his takings.

The building of the canal fostered the expansion of Beeston: small hosiery and lace mills sprang up and Nottingham businessmen began to build themselves country residences.

The coming of the railway in the 1840's confirmed the status of the town as an industrial and residential satellite of the big city three miles down the tracks.

The small factories of Victorian Beeston turned out a variety of products - hosiery, lace and other textiles; surgical appliances; engineering products etc. Even now Humber Road marks the place where the Humber Company first built their penny- and twopenny-farthing cycles before moving out of the area to build cars.

SMOKE

In the same way that Humber has been swallowed into the amorphous Chrysler empire, the modern industry of Beeston is characterised by extreme concentration: the factories of Boots, Plessey and (to a lesser extent) the Beeston Boiler Company have replaced the diversity of the 19th century.

Between them the three factories employ about 14,000 workers, a figure obvious enough when many of them emerge simultaneously at the end of a day shift. Middle aged men sprint like Olympic athletes to get their cars onto the only two roads which exit from the Rylands before the jams build up.

In Beeston jobs mean: smoke. Home-grown smoke

from Boots; from Beeston Boilers; from Shipstone's maltings. Imported smoke from the power station at Ratcliffe or, worst of all when the wind blows in the wrong direction, the fumes from British Celanese at Spondon.

Smoke which is often acrid and nauseating: some residents claim to recognise any process at any factory, merely through their noses. Even the clouds themselves seem sometimes to pump out from the brutal towers of Ratcliffe power station. Caught by sunrise or sunset, they seem a terrible, burning carpet spreading across the sky.

In the middle of all this is the residential area of the Rylands. Hemmed in on three sides by factories and the Trent, access is limited to two bridges over the Derby-Nottingham railway. Before these were built there were two level crossings: if trains crossed the whole community could be cut off for minutes at a time.

Being the "wrong side of the tracks" helps to give the Rylands a real sense of community. It helps too that many of the people who live there are within strolling distance of their work.

But there is, as always, another side of the coin. There is the pollution. There are the convoys of juggernauts making their way to the factories. And there are the everpresent parking restrictions, which mean that residents and their visitors are sometimes unable to leave cars - one miner went to gaol rather than pay a £6 fine for parking outside his door.

LOVELY

Yet, despite these environmental disadvantages, the Rylands has one good thing going for it: the lovely Attenborough Nature Reserve. These flooded remains of old gravel workings must be one of the most pleasant bits of land in any urban area. Certainly the visitors enjoy it, with fishing expeditions coming from as far away as Birmingham and Sheffield.

And, when the attractions of the Reserve fade, much summer refreshment is taken in the delightful beer garden of the nearby Boat and Horses. Locals still remember the riverside dances of an ex-landlord, Frederick Reewill, renowned for fishing people out of the canal, feeling that his "dispensation of ale there charged him with a certain amount of responsibility to these unfortunate people".

But modern barbarism threatens even here. Plans still exist to drive a dual carriageway from Clifton

Bridge to the M1, ie straight through the Reserve. The cuts make this unlikely in the near future: of more immediate concern is the proposal by Erewash District Council to turn part of it in into a Water Sports Centre.

It is a far cry from this "urban village" to the third element in Beeston life - the shady groves of University academia which lie on the eastern fringe. Here is a cerebral suburb of halls and flats, set in the wide open spaces donated by Jesse Boot and still retaining a strong 'Boots connection'. This, no doubt, helps to account for a marked conservatism, the air of a finishing school for those who couldn't or wouldn't go to Oxbridge.

COLONY

The students carry its influence into the town. So do the young lecturers - until the promotional conveyor belt effortlessly whisks them to Bramcote and Chilwell salary levels, or ever onward to the Professorial elegance of Wollaton or the Park.

But this colonisation has at least made the town cosmopolitan. The Greyhound Inn, pub of the young, the smart, the students stands next to what could almost be its mirror image, the Durham Ox, with a posh room for the couples and basic but much-loved public for the men.

In the shops too there is the same contrast. Beeston housewives pick out their usual fruit and vegetables while, beside them, the foreign students and the University ladies measure the mangoes, the persimmons and the paw-paws. "I can buy 20 of these at home for the price of one here", an avocado-brandishing Mexican told me in Safeways. "What's that, love", a puzzled cashier asked at the check-out.

And yet, for all this diversity Beeston does have a cohesion, a sense of community. Perhaps it is most apparent in the cosy Square and High Street, in the liveliness of the weekend market, the friendliness of the local library or the self-importance of the Town Hall.

It's a subtle union, an easy to miss transition between a raw inner city and the elegant gin-and-jaguar belt. But it's there, somewhere between the roads and the railway, the canal and the factories.

And despite the ravages of all these it has survived, recognisably, through the years. And perhaps, in every real community, that is the only possible achievement.

Reviews

Signed reviews or articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

Study of the Dole

The Conscript Army, Frank Field (Ed)
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £3.50

THIS IS, without doubt, one of the most important books to be published in recent years. The "Conscript Army" is the 1.5 million unemployed, nearly all of them unwilling recruits. This book is a detailed study of them, and properly nails the various myths about this subject which have had currency in recent years:

1. that the unemployed are workshy, scroungers, etc. As a chapter on the unemployed in Liverpool says: "The monotony and hopelessness of their situation and the lack of an adequate amount of money to live on would, we believe, have been exchanged for a job with a reasonable wage at any time by all of them."

2. that the unemployment

figures are inflated by including students, the voluntary unemployed, etc. - a line of reasoning much favoured by Keith Joseph and his cohorts. This study concludes that "the monthly returns from the Department of Employment, far from overestimating, actually underestimate significantly the number of persons actively seeking work."

3. that welfare benefits mean that unemployment is no longer a scourge. This book says: "During 1977 unemployment had once again become the single most important reason why families were pushed into poverty."

4. that unemployment is necessary to combat inflation. Field says: "there is no evidence that increasing the numbers of unemployed decreases the inflationary pressures in the British economy".

Most damaging of all, the authors estimate what high unemployment has cost the nation. They add together the amount paid out in benefits to the wealth (tax, profits, etc.) lost through enforced idleness and come up with the devastating figure of £20,000 millions - or £13,000 per unemployed worker.

An excellent book. Highly recommended.

pete james

Who runs the Press?

Politics of the Media
John Whale
Fontana, £1.00

JOHN WHALE is one of the better journalists on the Sunday Times. His book provides a concise description of post-1945 developments in the media. As a convenient narrative it may be accepted with caution.

When he turns to analysis and prescription his establishment limitations become clear. Issues are ignored, and complacent conclusions reached - sometimes in contradiction to the facts he presents.

He believes the consumer is king in determining the fate of the press, yet he records the death of the Herald and the Star, both killed in spite of selling large quantities (over a million for the Herald). The reason: their readers were not of the type or number that advertisers require.

He manages to discuss the issue of 'editorial freedom' from union control, without more than gently chiding Victor Matthews, new owner of the Express, for his

declaration that his editors had complete freedom as long as they agreed with the policy he laid down - "Believe in Britain and look for the good things". Nor does he mention the recent success of the Financial Times in silencing a long-established Columnist's freedom of expression.

Whale opposes the proposals of the Social Democratic left for State measures to support the press because it will lead to excessive influence. Here, many on the left will agree with him. Better a small socialist press dependent on the finance and dedication of the rank and file, than a soporific state subsidised organ of the TUC.

Whale believes "most people's minds are lazy, capricious, short of abstract ideas, mildly prurient and soon bored. Journalists know that perfectly well from their own. It remains a principal reason why their work is no better than it is".

This theory of original sin leaves little room for explanations in terms of political censorship. As for instance when the manager of a Nottingham radio station banned an interview with a local opponent of British policy in Ireland in spite of the news editor having declared it was a newsworthy story.

george christopher

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Socialists' Songbook

The Big Red Songbook
Compiled by Mal Collins,
Dave Harker & Geoff White
Pluto Press, £1.00

PETER HAIN isn't the only one who doesn't know the words to the Red Flag. In fact how many watching him squirm uneasily on the Tribune platform at last year's Labour Party conference knew any but the first verse and chorus.

The Big Red Songbook fills a need for all socialists who feel, when their bellies are full of beer, that a song must be sung. This book, small enough to fit snugly in one's pocket, is a definite must.

Where else would you find the fact that the Red Flag was written by Jim Connel in 1889 and inspired by a dock strike. The book is full of useful information and small sketches on each of the writers and the events that inspired these excellent songs.

Some of the songs stand out, particularly Alex Glasgow's "The Socialist ABC", Ewan MacColl's "Go down you murderers" (on the execution of Timothy Evans) and Leon Rosselson's "Battle Hymn of the new Socialist Party" (a superb send-up of the revered Red Flag - with a lovely picture of the Labour traitors singing on the platform of the Party conference).

Not only does this book give all the words and music to over 40 socialist songs but it tells what ones have been recorded and where they are available.

A superb book - buy a copy so that come next year's Labour Party conference you will be able to smugly sing:

The people's flag is deepest red,
It oft shrouded our martyred dead.
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold,
Their hearts' blood dyed to every fold.

Chorus:

Then raise the scarlet standard high,
Beneath its folds we'll live

and die.
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

steve humphries

Tipped for the Top

WE REPORTED a couple of months ago the Beeston punk invasion. Now a second beach-head has been established nearer the heart of the city at the Sandpiper in the Lace Market.

A whole spittoon full of bands have appeared or will be appearing there, including the "Suburban Studs", perhaps worth taking in for their title alone.

But the band the Voice decided to check out was "Magazine". It's a band built around Howard Devoto who has spawned a heavy media file since surfacing from Manchester recently. He split from the "Buzzcocks" just as they were about to break, making pleas about not limiting options.

No sooner were Magazine formed than they got a Virgin contract, a first single "Shot by Both Sides" tipped for the 30, and an accolade from John Peel as the band to watch in '78.

Top this off with a feature interview in Melody Maker in which both interviewer and Devoto tossed backwards and forwards the accusation "intellectual" (both ended up pretty shot down) and maybe you'd better see the band this time round, for next time could be the Crystal Palace - or a reading at the British Museum.

Seemingly taking advantage of aroused anticipation, they started late and performed with a speed that suggested they were already anxious to be on their way to the palace.

But whether Magazine was best suited for a specialist or mass circulation market was not much clearer at the conclusion. But the androgynous Devoto - with the appearance of a pint-size punk-style Brian Eno and a voice with touches of Ferry - clearly has a lot going for him.

The band provides a high energy heavy metal backing a

la Blue Oyster Cult.

Devoto's compositions (or composition? for at first hearing there were marked similarities) melodically hint at the paranoia of "Pavlov's Dog". Regretfully, all lyrics were incomprehensible from a vantage point of about six inches from the stage. So MM's thinker tag remains problematic. A pity - for I had hoped to discover "Shot by Both Sides" was a stinging indictment of political centrism.

Will these "cultists" win devotees sufficient to recompense Virgin for the splintering Sex Pistols? On this showing, to quote the title of one of the numbers Devoto was good enough to identify, it's "Touch and Go".

george christopher

Jonson's Alchemist

BEN JONSON was a very amusing dramatist, as Richard Eyre's brisk run through of 'The Alchemist' shows. It is also a tale of human frailty, of greed and lust and all the other sins there are. This too is fully developed by Eyre, especially in the entertaining first act (the second drags a bit).

The Playhouse is fortunate in having two actors ideally suited to the knockabout atmosphere. The first is the evergreen Ken Campbell, here playing the fraudulent alchemist, Subtle. The second is the amazing Arthur Kohn as the obscene and rapacious Sir Epicure Mammon - it's worth going just to see this one performance.

Yet, in some ways, the very success of the humour obscures the meaning of the play. For the truth is that this story of a charlatan who claims magical powers and fools the gullible is very biased propaganda. In fact alchemy, with its related ideas, was a very sophisticated theory as many people are now beginning to realise. Its concern with both matter and spirit seems less laughable when you consider the soullessness of modern science, with its military research contracts, cruelty to animals etc.

That's why many of the leading figures of Jonson's era (including Newton and Shakespeare) were very interested in it. In fact, the

man usually supposed to be the model for the fraudulent Subtle - John Dee - was the owner of the largest library in England.

Go and enjoy a competent performance. But remember, it was (and still is) just as much a 'committed' play as anything written by trendy playwrights today.

The Alchemist by Ben Jonson
The Nottingham Playhouse.
25th Jan to 18th Feb.
Directed by Richard Eyre.

New Offerings

ALL CREDIT to Nottingham Film Theatre for continuing their "Challenge to Imperialism" series on Friday nights.

This really is a case of everyone getting some benefit: the Theatre's normal films are still shown on Saturdays and Sundays. What's especially good is that these films, despite their 'political' label, attract good audiences. Even so the Film Theatre is still in financial difficulties - it deserves supporting.

Godard certainly gets an airing: no less than four of his films in the next few weeks. Godard is a film maker you have to treat on his own terms. And therefore one who it's worth reading something about. His desire to break out of the confines of 'normal' film making sometimes becomes boring, but is as often exciting and interesting. "Two or Three Things I Know About Her" (Feb 10th), the Her is Paris, is a bit of both.

"Pierrot le Fou" (Mar 4th and 5th) is probably the more accessible for non-Godard freaks.

Another scoop is "In the Name of the Father" (Feb 18th and 19th), Bellocchio's scathing portrayal of a Jesuit College in Italy. It's theme of a student uprising often draws comparisons with "If".

Finally catch Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" before it leaves Nottingham. This bittersweet story is his best movie to date. And it is given extra interest by the fact that Annie Hall, Allen's girlfriend in the film is played by Diane Keaton, his ex-wife in real life.

Highly recommended. See it before the 'Annie Hall' look becomes too fashionable.

pete james

Witty, Curious, Surreal

THE FIRST THING you notice about Percy Peacock's ceramics (Midland Group Gallery) is that most of them are lying on the floor. The second is that the Drawings, Objects and Artifacts (exhibitor's billing) are mostly huge. And have a strangulated air about them.

They snake about the floor, daring you to step on them, and demanding instant attention and assessment. They want you to hate them and I am sure they sometimes succeed. However, you should (1) pay an exorbitant 50pence for a copy of the pamphlet published in conjunction with the exhibition, or even better, read the display copy, and (2) read immediately Jeannie Lowe's subtle, clever and above all informative article on Peacock.

Armed with this information, the "floor pieces" and "artifacts" take on a new perspective. Here is no craft show full of exquisitely pretty pots, no cutesy silver handbeaten jewellery or imitation South American leather goods.

Here is boldness and strength. As Lowe says "...Percy seems to be building up his own personal science, culture and language. Yet this is not done in a pompous or didactic way, but with mischief and humour proper to a game or riddle".

Can a ceramicist produce sculpture? Despite an initial shock, Peacock succeeds for me. He makes the observer of his work not merely a spectator but a participator. It is a little frightening when the everyday objects and materials which represent the "real" world are employed in a surreal fashion.

However, the unreal qualities, only exist in our conscious desire to conform to what is seemingly proper. Peacock uses many ordinary materials and moulds them to his own fashion in witty, curious and understanding way.

Also on display are some fine line drawings and collages. They should convince even the most cynical viewer that this artist chooses a style with deliberation and desire rather than arrives at work through an innate lack of talent.

PHOTOGRAPHY has always been the poor relation of the visual arts. It is therefore good news that August Sander's Menschen des 20. Jahrhunderts (people of the 20th Century) has come to

Nottingham.

Sander's project was an attempt to capture in portraits an overall image of German society. Started in the early thirties, it was never finished, but remains a monument to his commitment.

His main concern was to portray as many differing types of people as possible. The social mask which we all wear intrigued him. The individuals need to "play a role", and our need as a society to see people in terms of their roles.

Every type of person is represented. The family figures, all upright and proper, with their children dressed as little images of themselves. The workers wielding heavy tools. The Bourgeoisie in their elaborate clothes and stylised faces. The Scout Leader, in his Nazi-looking uniform and the disfigured, the maimed and the social misfits. All these people make the collection very bitter sweet.

We are able to indulge ourselves in misconceptions and in bigotry. The image we see is the mask that Sander sees, but unlike seaside snaps the bathos, the humility, the arrogance, and the individualism shines through. His lens captures not only their outward appearance but their hopes and fears. As a social document it is poignant and sensitively executed though maybe not as objective as one would like. However it is of great value as a personal history of Germany at that time.

Today it is fashionable to allow the personal evocation of an era to be recorded. But we should remember that as a communist in Nazi Germany Sander did not refrain, even when pressurised, from showing the bad as well as the good.

His photographs record images faithfully and with skill, but they also allow the soul of the people to come to the surface, making his vision the more apparent for its conscious desire to reveal truth.

TOURING the East Midlands at the moment is an interesting exhibition called Gardens of Delight. It comprises of 356 photographs of different gardens by eight photographers.

Gardening, gardens, sculpture in gardens, people in gardens (mostly sunbathing or looking dozy) and every type of person, thing or object that exists in a garden has been captured. Some of



'Blind Children' from an exhibition "People of the 20th Century" - photographs by August Sander.

it sensitively but most in a crass and ham-fisted way.

However some of the work is exceptional. Most of these are in black and white, and have been shot by professional artists - painters and sculptors - whose use the camera as a tool, rather than an excuse to try new techniques (most of which don't come off). Infact much of the colour photography was badly printed and the colours bounced out at you like a Boots holiday snap.

Some of the photographers' work was good - Paul Archer's stood out. Much of the exhibition is familiar, in approach if not content, though there are still the traditional views of Chatsworth House, Castle Howard and Newstead Abbey to cope with.

But there are some fine scenes of Nottingham and worth a visit just to see them. What could have been an excellent show turned out to be badly constructed with no cohesive design behind it.

The organiser said he had not given any specific instructions to the photographers. He got exactly that. No overall sense of

direction was apparent.

The catalogue is the most unwieldy I have seen, though it is beautifully layed out with appropriate comments from Cobbett to Laurie Lee.

The actual set the photographs are on is also looking a bit tacky - and the lighting is terrible. Maybe the catalogue designer should give the set designer a few hints?

steve humphries

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Gardens of Delight"
Nottingham Castle Museum
2nd Feb to 28th Feb.
1000hrs to 1645hrs Daily

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"People of the 20th Century"
Photographs by August Sander
Midland Group Gallery.
1030hrs to 1700hrs, Mon to Sat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Drawings and Artifacts"
Work by ceramicist Percy
Peacock - Midland Group
Gallery. 14th Jan to
11th Feb. Times above

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