

# Nottingham Voice

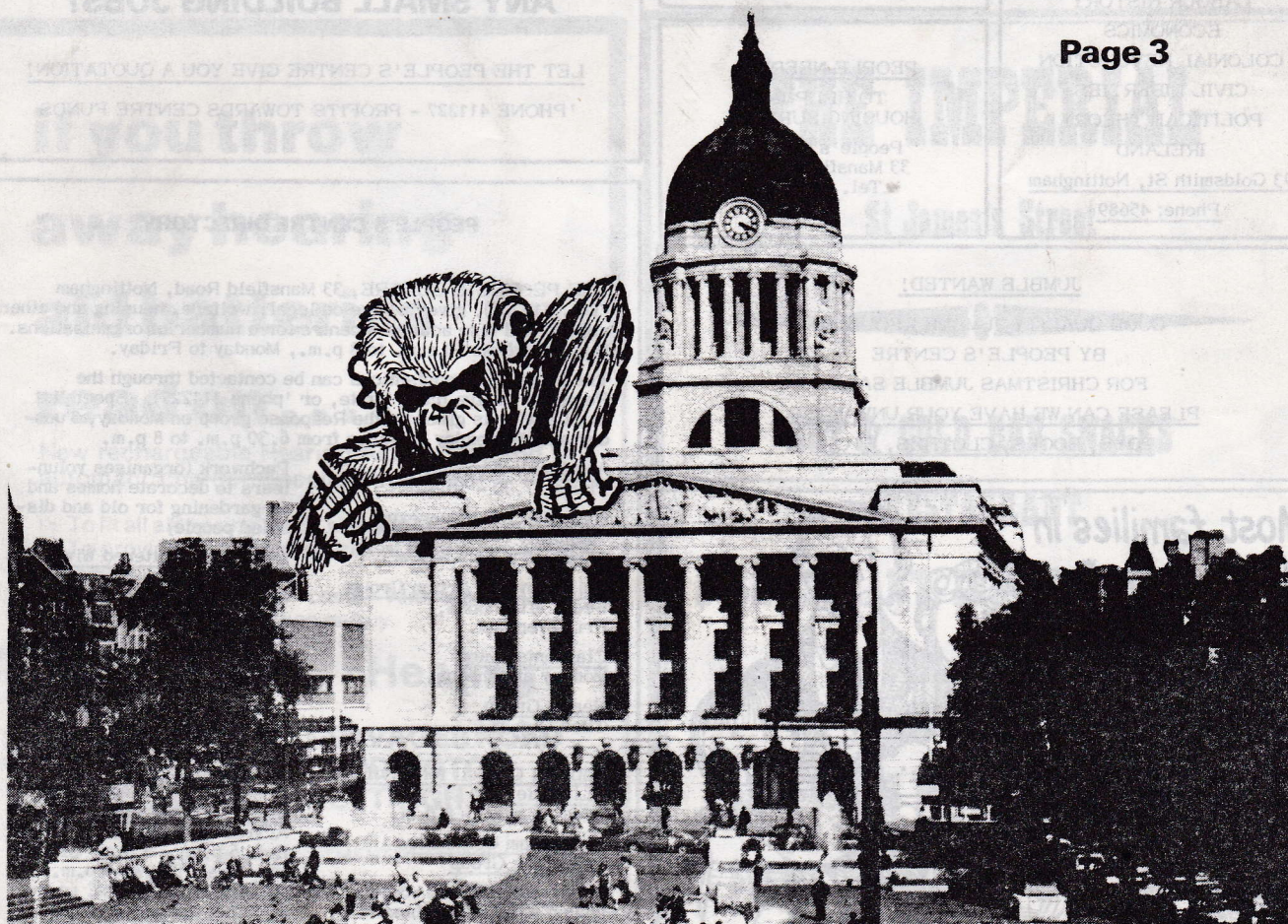
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## THREAT TO HISTORIC BUILDING!

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# Nottingham Voice

PEOPLE'S CENTRE, 33 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM.  
TEL. NOTTM 411676.

NOTTINGHAM VOICE is published on the first Saturday of each month by the Nottingham Voice Committee. Information, contributions, criticisms, letters, etc. received at the above address or telephone number by Fred Broad and John Sheffield. Committee members will be available for discussion in the Peacock, Mansfield Road at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 4th November and 11th November, and on Tuesday, 9th December.

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NOTE: Nottingham Voice is affiliated to the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, but should not be taken as representing the opinion of the Centre, or other affiliated organisations, or of any other organisation.

Outside eight pages printed by THE CHESS PLAYER LTD, Nottingham. Other pages by the Floorboard Press.

Photos: Nottingham Castle by Fred Broad; Jazz by Nigel Pert.

APOLOGY! Publication of this month's Voice has been delayed slightly by a technical hitch - i.e. our Hermes Electric Varia typewriter broke down. Apologies to all our readers.

## SMALL ADS

Rates: 2p per word. Box numbers 10p. Other rates available on request, for column inches or sections of a page. Bargains struck with impecunious good causes. Tel. Nottm 411676.

### PATHFINDER BOOK CENTRE!

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### nigel pert

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Nottingham Voice

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### PEOPLE NEEDED!

TO HELP IN  
HOUSING SURVEY

People's Centre  
33 Mansfield Road  
Tel. 411227

### JUMBLE WANTED!

GOOD QUALITY JUMBLE REQUIRED

BY PEOPLE'S CENTRE

FOR CHRISTMAS JUMBLE SALE

PLEASE CAN WE HAVE YOUR UNWANTED

TOYS, BOOKS, CLOTHES, ETC.

## FOR HELP WITH READING CONTACT



## WANTED... People who care

WE CAN PUT YOU  
IN TOUCH  
WITH GROUPS WHO NEED  
VOLUNTARY HELP

The Voluntary Work Agency,  
Nottm Council for Voluntary  
Service,  
31A Mansfield Road,  
Nottingham.  
Tel. 46714.

## ANY SMALL BUILDING JOBS?

LET THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE GIVE YOU A QUOTATION!

'PHONE 411227 - PROFITS TOWARDS CENTRE FUNDS

## PEOPLE'S CENTRE DIRECTORY

THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel. 411227), gives advice on legal, welfare, housing and other rights, and also acts as a centre for a number of organisations. It is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The following organisations can be contacted through the People's Centre (call, write, or 'phone 411227). Specialist legal advice is given by the Response group on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Thurs. 7.30 - 10 p.m.

Campaign for Homosexual Equality  
Thurs. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Child Poverty Action Group  
Weds. afternoons,  
Fri. evenings.

Claimants Union  
Monday afternoons.

Health Group  
Tues. 6 p.m.

National Council for Civil Liberties  
Tues. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Nottingham Community Planning Group

Off the Record  
(young people's problems)  
Weds. & Fri. 7 - 9.30 p.m.

Pachwork (organises volunteers to decorate homes and do gardening for old and disabled people)

Refuge for Battered Wives Campaign  
Most Mondays at 8 p.m.

Response  
(qualified legal advice)  
Mon., Tues., Weds.  
6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shelter  
Weds. afternoons,  
Fri. evenings.

Student Community Action

Women's Liberation Group  
Advice on women's rights:  
Fri. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Group  
meetings: Thurs. 8 p.m.  
Newcastle Chambers, near  
Bell Inn, Market Square.

Most families in  
Nottingham\*  
find CO-OP  
membership  
pays!

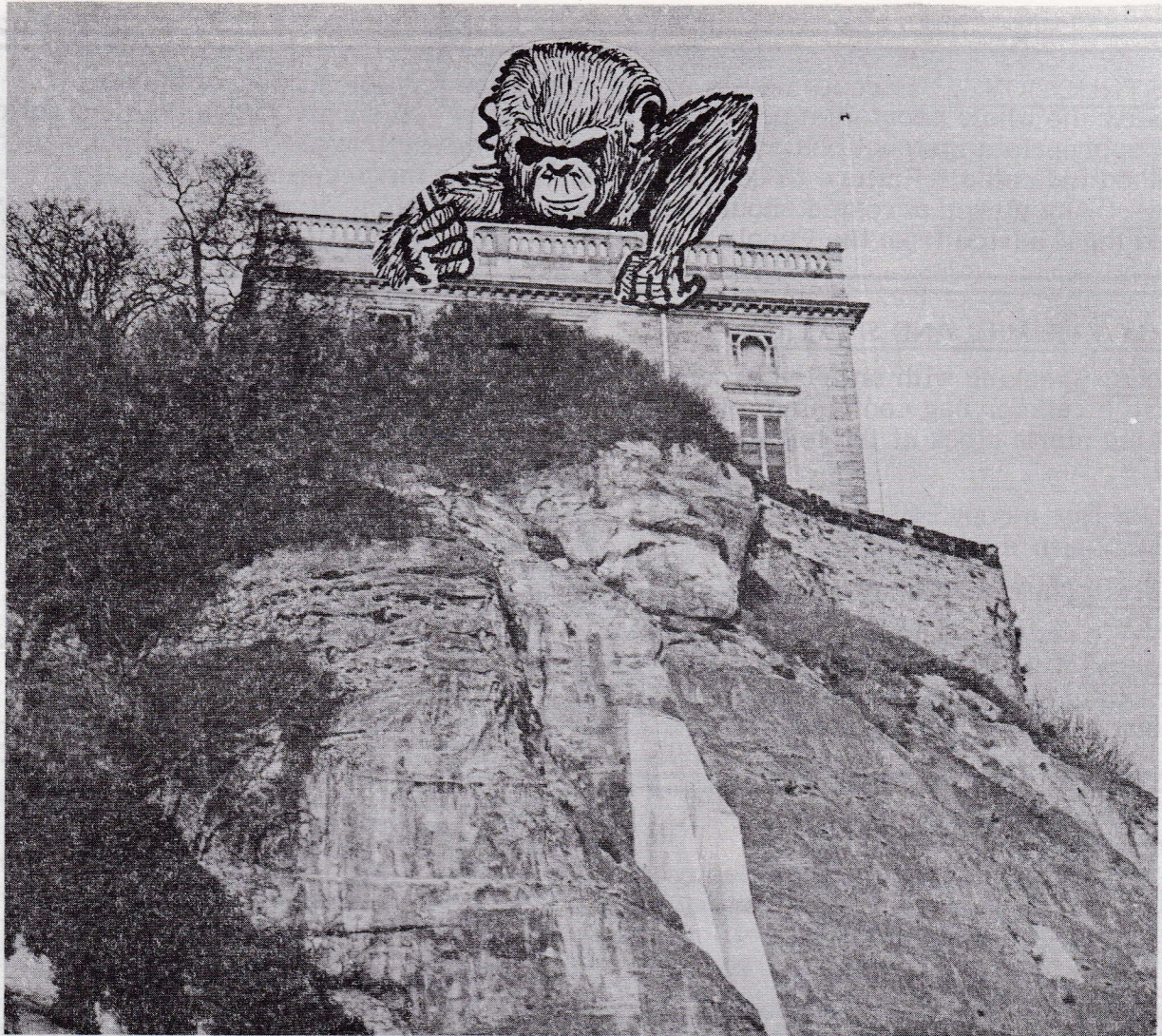
\* And in Long Eaton,  
Draytham, Niddall, Anston,  
Ratford, Stapleford,  
Sandiacre, Beeston & Skegness.

Application forms in all shops,  
or from Greater Nottingham  
Co-operative Society,  
Public Relations Department,  
243 Derby Road, Lenton,  
Nottingham. Telephone 44021.





# TERROR STRIKES CITY!



SHOPPERS IN NOTTINGHAM TODAY were terrified by a series of vicious attacks on city buildings by Leonard, a 100-foot high chimpanzee. Following his escape from Sherwood Zoo last Wednesday, Leonard is believed to have swelled to his present size after entering the Council House and eating the food laid out for a civic reception. Then, inflamed by drink from the Council House bar, the 100-foot monster set out on a savage trail of destruction.

Police and council officials watched helplessly as the Council House was reduced to ruins. Then, striding up Friar Lane, Leonard turned his attention to Nottingham's historic Castle. Pausing only to chew the heads of three curators, Leonard pulverised the famous building into rubble in less than five minutes. He was last seen heading in the direction of Wollaton Hall.

Commented Council leader John Carroll: "It's a great tragedy. I personally have always been in favour of preserving the Council House, and in fact I did ask Leonard if the facade could possibly be retained. I suppose now we have no alternative but to build either an office block or a concert hall on the site."

The Department of the Environment have refused to intervene. A spokesman said that since the chimpanzee was local-born action by the Department would be inappropriate.



# STREETWALK

**INSTRUCTIONS:** "Streetwalk" is a practical game for any number of players - ideally the whole population of Nottingham. To play you simply toss a coin and follow the appropriate instructions. On completion of a move, travel to the next point by the method indicated. Failure to complete a move incurs the accompanying penalty.

**Note:** Any player arrested should be declared the outright winner and qualifies for free legal advice from the People's Centre.

## 1. START: MIDLAND STATION

**Heads:** Speaking with an Irish accent, leave a carrier bag containing a loudly ticking alarm clock at the left luggage office.

**Tails:** Buy a copy of Private Eye at W.H. Smith's bookstall.

**Travel:** Thumb a lift to Broad Marsh Centre.

**Penalty:** Take a cheap day return to see Notts County Reserves play Scunthorpe Reserves away.

## 2. BROAD MARSH CENTRE

**Heads:** Walk a dog through the Centre. If it fouls the floor, miss the next move and proceed straight to Theatre Square.

**Tails:** Stationing yourself next to the fountain in Lister Gate Square, sell cut-price apples from a barrow.

**Travel:** Catch 88 bus to Market Square.

**Penalty:** Catch 88 and insist on paying.

## 3. MARKET SQUARE

**Heads:** Obtain from City Planning Committee outline planning permission to knock down Council House.

**Tails:** Dress up as an OAP and get knocked down by civic dignitary.

**Travel:** Take civic Rolls to Theatre Square.

**Penalty:** Attend entire meeting of Housing Committee and meet chairman Bert Littlewood.

## 4. THEATRE SQUARE

**Heads:** Book a Christmas dinner at the County Hotel for delegates to a conference on conservation in Nottingham.

**Tails:** Place advertisement in Evening Post for meeting of Gay Lib., Black Power, Trade Union solidarity group to be addressed by Arthur Scargill on "Why Britain needs more strikes".

**Travel:** Take civic Rolls and leave it at Trinity Square Multi-Storey Car Park.

**Penalty:** Buy a copy of the Evening Post.

## 5. TRINITY SQUARE

**Heads:** Enter Collar Control Room under Trinity Square Car Park during morning rush hour. Change all incoming lights to green and all outgoing lights to red.

**Tails:** Wearing red and white scarf and size 12 bover boots, spray "Trent End Rules O.K." in six-foot high letters across front of Guildhall.

**Travel:** Walk to Vic. Centre - it's not far.

**Penalty:** Give yourself up at Nottingham Central Police Station, saying, "I have seen the error of my ways after reading the Chief Constable's Annual Report."

## 6. FINISH: VICTORIA CENTRE

**Heads:** Sell copy of Red Weekly to Centre Manager Clive Kaye while standing by Water Clock.

**Tails:** Broadcast call of alsatian on heat over Vic. Centre loudspeaker system.

**Penalty:** Recite the whole of Paradise Lost in the Milton Room of the Milton's Head.



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# ***Social Insecurity***

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THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE HAS RECENTLY uncovered serious abuses by the Department of Health and Social Security of the rules governing supplementary benefit payments. Supplementary benefit is paid to people who have no other source of income or if their income falls below the minimum levels laid down by the government. So, for example, unemployed people who do not qualify for unemployment benefit (because they haven't enough paid-up stamps) are entitled to claim supplementary benefit from the DHSS.

In the past, people have found that their last pay packet has been counted by the DHSS as their income over the next week or month (depending on whether they are weekly or monthly paid), and so the DHSS has not been paying supplementary benefit to people for at least a week or a month after they have become unemployed. This practice is a breach of DHSS regulations, and the People's Centre has written to Barbara Castle asking her to point this out to her local DHSS officers. In the meantime, people refused benefit because they have wages in hand can appeal against this refusal to the appeals Tribunal.

A High Court case in May of this year (*R. v. West London Supplementary Benefits Tribunal, ex parte Taylor*) ruled that a person's income can only be counted by the DHSS for the period in which it is earned. So any period of unemployment can be paid by the DHSS, whether or not there are wages in hand. In the case of a monthly-paid person leaving a job at the end of November, and being paid at the end of November, the DHSS should pay benefit throughout December regardless of any income received at the end of November.

## **Maladministration**

The People's Centre has been collecting cases of maladministration by local DHSS officers and now has two hundred collected over eighteen months. As a result, the Centre has written to Michael Meacher at the Department of Health and Social Security in London. The letter is printed below, slightly edited with the names of individuals changed. We will be printing the replies to these two letters when we receive them.

Dear Sir,

Following your public statement that you deplored any maladministration by your Department and would personally investigate any instances brought to your notice, I would take the opportunity to acquaint you with the following facts regarding your DHSS officials at the ILOs (Integrated Local Offices) and Regional Office at Nottingham.

We represent Mrs Smith, who on the 19.9.75 had her supplementary allowance withdrawn without notice because of alleged cohabitation. She immediately appealed to the local Tribunal. However, on the 2.10.75 she was informed that her appeal had not been processed as they had decided to pay supplementary allowance for her four children for four weeks. A further letter of appeal was forwarded on the 13.10.75. She still has not received notice of the hearing and the local office refuse to discuss the matter. We have phoned the Regional Office today and they confirm that the appeal has not been processed but will not give a reason why, saying they cannot interfere with the local offices.

It is now five weeks since Mrs Smith's benefit was withdrawn so there is no need for us to emphasise the hardship the actions of your officers are causing her.

We represent Mr Jones, who appealed to the local Tribunal against the Insurance Officer's decision that he is disqualified from receiving Invalidity Benefit from the



19.9.75 to the 30.10.75. The local office are refusing to forward this appeal also despite the hardship to Mr Jones and they have given the ludicrous explanation that they require Mr Jones to submit to a further medical examination before they process the appeal, although a further medical examination would have no bearing whatsoever on the decision appealed against as you yourself will see from perusal of the copy of the appeal.

We represented Mr Hunter, who after waiting six weeks for his appeal to be heard was successful on the 7.10.75 but is still waiting for David Lane ILO to implement the Tribunal's decision.

We represent Mrs Page, a single householder with a small baby who applied to Shakespeare Street ILO for help with an outstanding gas bill and requested that a weekly saving be made out of her benefit to meet these bills. This help was refused despite the gas being cut off over a week ago leaving her with no cooking facilities for her child.

These cases are the rule not the exception and we have a full dossier of like cases over the last two years to prove this.

We include a cutting from the Nottingham Evening Post dated 1.10.75 which gives a report of the inquest on Mr Abson. As he had to give up his job to look after his invalid wife he was not able to sign the unemployment register and qualify for unemployment benefit, and as he was not registered with the employment exchange or sick himself he was refused supplementary benefit as he was under pensionable age. This typifies the attitude and actions of your local officers and if this is done with the blessing of the Ministers and the Government we would suggest that it be made public knowledge that euthanasia is practised in this country but is spelled DHSS.

Yours faithfully,

Jack Yates,

People's Centre

## Losing claims

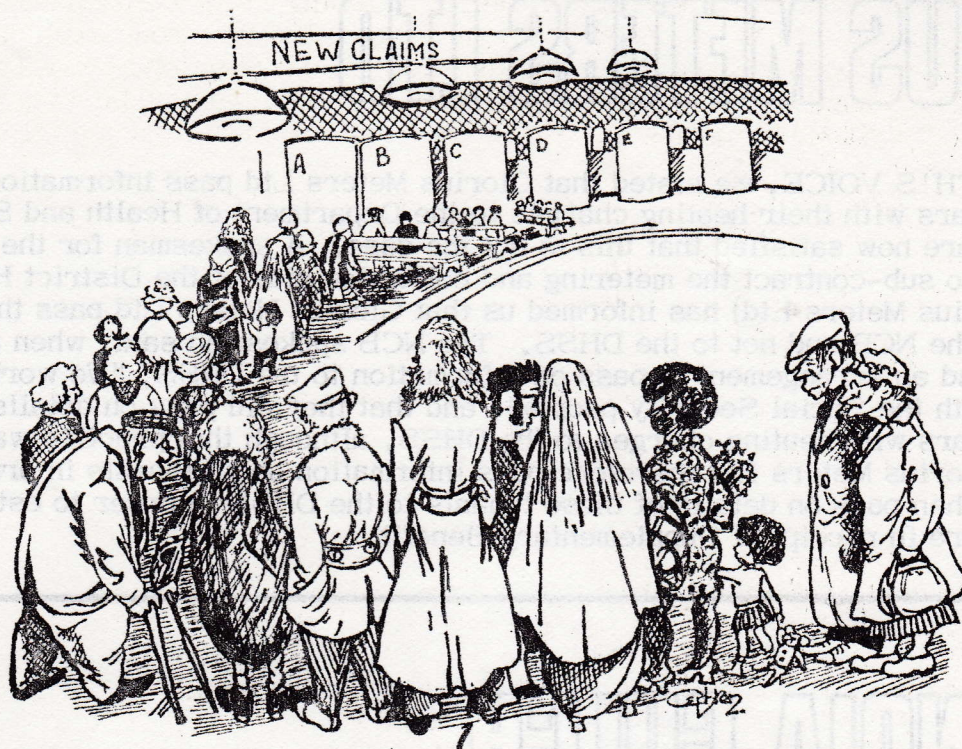
Many of the cases at the People's Centre are concerned with DHSS offices failing to process appeals, or indeed losing them entirely, or with their failure to implement decisions or their delay in implementing decisions reached by an Appeals Tribunal. Every claimant to supplementary benefit or allowance is entitled to lodge an appeal if he or she thinks that the DHSS have reached a wrong decision. This is a total right of every claimant. The appeal is sent to the local office of the DHSS. They arrange for the Tribunal to hear the case. The Tribunal is made up of two people picked by the Lord Chancellor from a list prepared by the DHSS and one person nominated by the Trades Council. This "independent" Tribunal hears all appeals against DHSS decisions. In no case is it the right of the DHSS to stop or delay appeals put in by claimants to the Tribunal. Yet this is what they are doing.

As long ago as 1598 the State took a hand in keeping a check on the poor and unemployed with an Act for the Relief of the Poor which was passed to prevent beggary and theft. Since then the amount of state influence has increased enormously so that after the Second World War a huge "Welfare" system was set up to iron out crises like that of the thirties depression. Churchill explained it: "There is no better investment than pumping milk into new-born babies."

These cases simply highlight some of the abuses of the social security system. But it is the nature of the system to throw up these cases. The whole framework within which the Department of Health and Social Security operates encourages practices such as these. Supplementary benefit is the ultimate safety net in the welfare state.

Now that the whole economic system is in crisis, it can only be solved at the expense of the workers and unemployed - or at the expense of the system. The current strategy is to cut back on the living standards of the poor. The supplementary benefit rates are due to go up on the 17th November, but even these "increases" in no way compensate for inflation. The increase for a single person will be 13%. The Claimants Union News-





letter claims that these new increases in fact represent a severe cut - a 20% cut in living standards compared to the 1974 rates. This is not just because of the general level of inflation but also because the steepest increases have been in those commodities which the poor cannot economise on - food and heating in particular.

Another immediate problem in Nottingham is the habit that the DHSS have acquired of making exceptional needs payments as "loans" rather than outright payments. An exceptional needs payment is a lump sum payment to cover the cost of some exceptional need: it might, for example, cover items of clothing or bedding, or the payment of a gas or electricity bill which cannot otherwise be paid. However, the DHSS often convert these needs payments into loans and then deduct the amount paid from future weekly payments. The whole point of an exceptional needs payment is, of course, that it cannot be found from the weekly payments.

FRED BROAD

### Contacts

Claimants Union: People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

National Federation of Claimants Unions: 19 Carlyle Road, Birmingham B16 9BH.

Claimants Newspaper, Women and Social Security, Pensioners' Struggle, Strikers'

Handbook: from Pathfinder Books, Goldsmith Street, or Mushroom, Heathcote Street.

## NOTICES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION has written asking us to publicise some of the grants which were made last year. A total of about £2,000 was given out towards playgroups, adventure playgrounds and other projects. Most of the grants were between £20 and £60, but £1,050 was given towards the St Ann's adventure playground.

The Association will also give help and advice to groups, sports clubs, parish councils, etc. on all sorts of projects. Write to Nottinghamshire Playing Fields Association, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham.

THE EAST MIDLANDS ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY GROUP has a couple of resource lists available giving names of people with various skills and tools, and suggestions for materials to use. They want to compile a list of junkyards, etc. which may be useful. Write with info. or for further details to: Jan Bang, Grange Farm Cottage, Oxtun, Notts.



# CLORIUS METERS LTD

IN LAST MONTH'S VOICE, we stated that Clorius Meters Ltd pass information about tenants in arrears with their heating charges to the Department of Health and Social Security. We are now satisfied that this is not the case. A spokesman for the National Coal Board (who sub-contract the metering and collection side of the District Heating Scheme to Clorius Meters Ltd) has informed us that Clorius Meters Ltd pass this information to the NCB and not to the DHSS. The NCB spokesman said, when asked whether they had an arrangement to pass on information to the DHSS, "We work very, very closely with the Social Security people", and that they did pass on details of tenants in arrears with heating charges to the DHSS, although this practice was "not automatic". Clorius Meters Ltd therefore pass information about tenants in arrears to the NCB, who then pass on details of these tenants to the DHSS in order to establish which tenants are in receipt of Supplementary Benefit.

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## PARANOIA GULCH

ONE QUESTION FROM STEPHEN EVANS about the People's Centre this week brought a new attack of paranoia to people's hero, John Carroll. Big JC retaliated immediately by announcing an investigation into the financial links between the People's Centre and their landlord, the Council for Voluntary Service. "CHARITY CENTRE PROBE", said the Post.

Evidently the People's Centre gets rate relief like the CVS and any other charity. This is what is being probed. JC also claimed that because CVS get £17,000 in local authority grants, the People's Centre are sharing this (they actually get £100 per year from a CVS fund for developing community work). "You can't give money to organisations without knowing who's getting the benefit", he said. Can the CVS survive this new revelation that they live next door to the People's Centre? We ask: What is the real relationship between Stephen Evans and John Carroll?

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## PHOENIX '75

They're pulling down the houses in the  
Meadows:

The shops, the pubs, the back-yards,  
have all gone.

Where once children roamed the street,  
With torn behind and mucky feet,  
The demolition squads go lumbering on.

St Saviour's church stands lonely on its  
island,

In a sea of devastation, dirt and bricks.  
From the buses, as they pass,

People gaze at what was grass,  
And recall old war-time newsreels at the  
flicks.

Bonfires smoulder now amidst what was  
the Meadows.

A taste of smoke hangs acrid in the air.  
But from out the smoke and ash  
Rise new houses, bold and brash -  
A Phoenix much too frequent to be rare.

MARLENE JACKSON



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# Voice Review

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## DON'T SHOOT THE SHERIFF!

HISTORIC ARCH-VILLAIN THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM made international headlines when present title-holder, ex-miner and ex-paratrooper Gerry Elliott, was found guilty of assaulting a 70-year-old man and his 72-year-old wife.

Less attention has been paid to his political future as a conscientious and approachable ward councillor with, for a Tory, a fairly enlightened approach to tackling the city's still-massive housing problems.

Coun. Elliott, against whom a third assault charge was dismissed, has said he will appeal against the convictions, for which he was fined £20 in total and ordered to pay £128 expenses and costs.

Understandably, he could not resign before the magistrate's two-day hearing. It would have appeared too much like an admission of guilt. And so long as he and his wife can stand up to the pressure of awaiting the appeal, he may get through his term of civic office before the appeal procedure is complete.

The majority Labour group, who took the unusual step of nominating a political rival for the office, have so far apparently stood by him - they have shown no public embarrassment over the case and there has been no threat or decree made by fellow councillors against him. Many are all too aware of the mindless "living off the rates" taunts which follow civic dignitaries on their travels.

However, there are rumblings in the wind that his own Conservative ward party, Mapperley, may not nominate him for next year's municipal elections ... a brotherly stab in the back if ever there was one, if the rumours prove right.

Perhaps he should consider a free transfer to the Labour party - local politicians have crossed the floor with success before now. And it would seem the majority group are more kindly disposed to him at the present time. He has shown more imagination than many of his colleagues over the years, and has proved an ardent supporter of tenants' association campaigns. He deserves another chance.

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## CANBERRA CONT.

AS PREDICTED ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS in this Old Moore's Almanac, they're at it again over Canberra Developments' Top Valley housing contract.

With scarcely a blush between them the city Land Committee has approved a move which gives Canberra £61,970 two months ahead of their contract schedule. It is only the latest chapter in a complex saga of financial machinations over Canberra's construction of 319 houses for the council for £3m.

They are getting the cash as the profit on the city selling the second part of the land



involved to Canberra and the company flogging it back immediately.

This was part of the deal which caused so much hullabaloo earlier this year. A similar transaction with the first part of the land in February netted Canberra a more-than-welcome £146,452.

Canberra, followers will recall, operates from scruffy-fronted offices in a run-down area of Small Heath, Birmingham. And since they are working on a fixed-price contract "giving the city a good deal", they are obviously more than anxious to forge ahead with the work.

This was the reason given by director of Technical Services Mr John Haslam for the contract speed-up.

In his Land Committee report he said the company had made representations that owing to good weather and careful planning "excellent" progress had been made on the first part of the land. Thirty-seven homes had been handed over, while the brickwork was complete on another 128.

So bricklaying gangs would have to be laid off shortly, interrupting the continuity of building.

This raises the spectre, which haunts independent socialist councillor Stephen Evans, of lump labour being used on this contract.

In his pariah role, Coun. Evans obviously has no voice on a committee as important as Land. But Tory councillor Fred Woodward, still whistling in the dark for the group leadership, at least had the "nerve" to allege the company's "excellent progress" could be due to use of lump labour - naturally this was strenuously denied by John Carroll and Land chairman Peter Burgess.

Watch this space as the excitement unfolds.

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## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

BIRD WATCHERS WILL BE MORE than a little bemused by the "peace-in-our-time" pact signed recently by apparent arch-rivals Herbert Bird, reactionary leader of Gedling Borough Council, and John Carroll, people's hero leader of the City Council.

Six months of secret talking produced an agreement whereby Nottingham will be able to build 2,000 overspill homes on Herbert Bird's sacred lands.

Gedling is getting in return the right to decide where city council houses are built, thus preserving its own middle-class enclaves - particularly valuable at a time when Nottingham owns more development land than the tight-fisted Borough Council itself.

Gedling will also get twenty-two acres of farmland at Burton Road from the city and the chance to expand Mapperley golf course to eighteen holes, although the city will retain ownership.

Mysterious enough, given the two councils' age-old rivalry. Even more so when you hear the pie-in-the-sky comments from the two leaders on signing-up day. Herbert Bird: "Gedling cannot live in isolation from the city's housing problems. We realised we had to do something with the overspill housing need. Relations between the two authorities are now better than they have been for twenty-five years."

And from an even smugger John Carroll: "We are not trying to be big brother to the surrounding districts. This agreement will save us time and money because we won't have to fight for planning permission."

"We succeeded in Gedling because we both speak the same language and have common sense. There is trust between us now" - presumably the trust shown by two scorpions in a bottle. True they speak the same gruff language of the rabble-rousers, and they are hard-headed enough for observers to know there must be more to all this goodwill than meets the eye.

Certainly it will give John Carroll and Housing sidekick Bert Littlewood a foot in the door for similar agreements with those other Tory bastions Rushcliffe and Broxtowe.

Perhaps it will also mean a reprieve for Gedling bus travellers from the enormous, punitive City Transport fare rises transport chairman Colin Worthington has been



peddling.

Could the rapprochement mean better co-operation over leisure facilities? Or, more ominously, will it give Big Herbert a free pass to City Council shindigs or even the chance to return to the city civic circles he left under a cloud some years ago after he had assaulted Alderman Chris Coffey at the July 1968 council meeting?

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# HM GOVT RULES OK!

THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT was rushed through the House of Commons with obscene haste while the horror of the Birmingham pub bombings was still fresh in the minds of MPs. Obviously the Government can't tolerate the blowing up of innocent citizens, but have they done the right thing to prevent it? A number of organisations, including the National Council for Civil Liberties and the Connolly Association, say no.

Many innocent people have been arrested since the Act was passed. By August 7th, 766 people had been arrested, but only thirty-two have been charged, and there has been only one conviction for an offence under the Act. Sixty-six people have been issued with exclusion orders, and in some cases the family breadwinner has been deported with grave consequent hardship for the family. Police are fingerprinting every person held, and also photographing the majority of them, nor are they adhering to "Judges' Rules" designed to protect an arrested person. People are being held incommunicado without access to their families or solicitors for up to seven days. In several cases, trade unions have successfully acted to protect shop stewards against deportation after exclusion orders had been issued, suggesting that in other cases unnecessary suffering is being inflicted on innocent persons.

Part 1 of the Act is supposedly directed against violent terrorism, but is so loosely worded that it could be used against other types of political protest and could be directed against any and every section of the British labour movement. A person subject to an exclusion order has no right to know the evidence on which the exclusion order was made, or have a public appeal against the order, or know why the appeal was unsuccessful. Only under Part 1 of the Act must the suspect be charged and the charge proved in open court.

There is a danger that, by giving police and the Home Secretary powers which cannot be challenged in the courts, the Act could cause the safeguards designed to protect suspects and avoid wrongful arrests to be abandoned. It could lead to the erosion of established safeguards and so increase the danger that innocent people will be deprived of liberty on evidence which would not stand examination in an open court of law. The danger of abolishing traditional safeguards in an emergency is that, finally, the new practices will become the norm for criminal procedure. Campaigns to abolish the right to silence or reduce the right to jury trial in ordinary criminal cases will be strengthened.

Experience of emergency powers in Northern Ireland shows that massive searches and arrests for interrogation have been counter-productive in fighting violence. The spate of bombings in Britain since the Act became law reinforces the view that the continuation of the Act will only exacerbate the situation, and that constructive political solutions, including a Bill of Rights and social and economic reforms, are necessary.

The NCCL and the Connolly Association jointly called a lobby of Parliament on November 4th urging MPs to vote against the renewal of any of the provisions of this Act in any form when it comes up for review later in the month. A deputation of Nottingham citizens attended this lobby and put these views to the local MPs.

## What you can do

1. Write to your MP before the end of November asking him to vote against the continuation of the Act.
2. Ask your friends and workmates to support a deputation to your MP when he is in



Nottingham.

3. Buy a copy of the NCCL report on the Act.

4. Pass a resolution through your Trade Union or other organisation and ask that a speaker be invited to explain the Act and its implications.

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## TWO MORE YEARS?

IT IS NOW NEARLY TWO YEARS since MATAR, the Meadows Tenants Association, informed councillors that the British Rail Offices on Queen's Drive existed and should be turned into a community centre. Although people are already moving into the new Meadows, there was originally no provision for a Community Centre until 1979.

It took over a year before Leisure Services got a meeting of interested groups together in April. And they have only just got the fire officer and safety officer to make their reports. It is now certain that it will cost much more than has been budgeted just to make the building safe. Only £10,000 has been allowed for this year. This was supposed to cover a steward, cleaning staff, rates, heating and maintenance, as well as bringing the building up to safety standards.

Leisure Services advertised in July for a steward. They haven't even acknowledged all the applications, and have now decided that the steward cannot be appointed until the building has been made safe. There are still no plans to begin work.

It is very unlikely that extra finance will be available. There may be a meeting of councillors and officials sometime in December to discuss this. The delay at the moment is with Technical Services, who are working out the cost. Already, several of the interested groups are losing their premises because of demolition, including a youth club, a playgroup, and the Salvation Army, so they need the building to be opened immediately. In September, they finally got fed up with the delays and wrote to Leisure Services demanding to know when they could move in. They have not yet had an answer. There may be a compromise with the ground floor being made available "immediately".

It is now twenty months since MATAR presented a completely viable plan for the building. A brewery wanted to lend money to open the building with part of it used as a social club. The profits from the club would be used to repay the loan, to gradually improve the building, and to pay a lease from the Corporation. MATAR offered to do this on their own or with other groups including the Council. The scheme would have cost the Council NOTHING. In fact they would have gained from the lease.

But apparently they could not accept anything so simple. They eventually presented their own proposal for improving the building costing £104,000, which was reduced to £80,000. They actually budgeted for £20,000 for this financial year, and applied for the rest from central government through Urban Aid. When this was turned down, they reduced their own budget to £10,000, a ridiculously inadequate figure.

For next year, the Management Committee has applied for £2,250 from Urban Aid for a canteen. Can they look forward to having an excellent canteen but not being allowed into the building to use it?

Meanwhile, on the edge of the Meadows, a new Day Care Centre for the Elderly has been completed at a cost of £250,000. So well was it designed that there were originally no toilet facilities for handicapped people (alterations have been made). The centre will take up to 120 people a day from a wide area in south Nottingham. It should have been open in August.

While people in the Meadows want a social club and community centre, many old people would have preferred to share a community centre with the rest of the community instead of having a separate day centre. Instead, a few hundred elderly people (referred by Welfare Officers from all over south Nottingham) have got a nice new building, and the Meadows people can't get into 11,000 square feet of space in a massive, solid building. A small area on the ground floor has got dry rot. Dry rot spreads rapidly. It has been waiting a long time for someone to stop it.

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# LETTERS

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## ABORTION

Dear Nottingham Voice,

How typical it was of the Press and Television to give wide coverage and publicity to the demonstration and rally of the Anti-Abortionists in London on Sunday, 19th October. As one who marched with the Pro-Abortionists in protest against the James White Abortion Amendment Bill on Saturday, 21st June in London, I was horrified though not really surprised to witness and experience such blatant bias in reports towards this apparently 50,000-strong demo of predominantly older people whom surely this issue does not directly concern anyway (many not being of child-bearing age, etc.). Our own demonstration was roughly 30,000-strong, received little coverage which distorted the figures to somewhere ranging from 10,000 to 15,000, and distorted the facts by reporting in one case that the demo comprised all women(!). The second demonstration on Sunday brought accounts which were relatively detailed and prominently placed before, during and after it took place in a shabby attempt to manipulate people's sympathies. The Evening Post proudly displayed the 160-strong Nottingham contingent plus large photo, whereas the Nottingham Pro-Abortionists attracted no publicity from this area. Whether you take this as a letter supporting the cause for a relaxation in the Abortion laws in order to secure everyone's right to control their own lives, bodies and what they produce, and in order to prevent abuse, or as one which decries the disgusting bias of some of our channels of communication and the sham of their so-called objectivity, or whether you take it as both, it is one which expresses bitter and ever-increasing frustration on both counts.

Janet Wassall,  
Nottingham.

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## CLAIMANTS 1

Dear Nottingham Voice,

There does indeed seem to be some dispute whether a Claimants Union actually exists in Nottingham at the moment, and as a claimant who was active from the inception of the CU some four years ago, perhaps I can help clear up some basic points that even now some people still seem unclear on.

CUs took a positive step towards organising unemployed workers. Organised and run by the unemployed workers themselves, the CU took up the fight at the most basic level. By providing representation for claimants, by making claimants aware of their rights and by conducting a struggle against many injustices, they filled an essential role.

This "unionisation" of the unemployed is an important factor in combatting demoralisation and it helps to instil a sense of unity and organisation within the ranks of the unemployed. However, a CU must not restrict its activities to fighting the cases of individual claimants, important as that may be. Unemployment cannot be defeated without political action and that means that the CU must explain not only the causes of unemployment to its members but actively involve them in all the political and industrial struggles against all unemployment policies. This clearly highlights the need for united action with the employed. But to talk of unity of the employed and unemployed is meaningless unless there is an actual organisation of the unemployed that the organised labour movement can unite with. And this is precisely the role filled by the CU in Nottingham in



the early 70s. The 1972 miners' strike is perhaps the best example of this: for the duration of the strike meetings were 60-70 strong, with mass claims being organised jointly by the CU and the strikers. So successful was this action that not only did the CU receive large donations from the miners, but when the next miners' strike occurred the miners were not slow in contacting the CU.

Besides being actively involved in other industrial disputes, the CU was invited to form a contingent on the local Trades Council demonstrations against Tory policies of the day (Phase II, etc.) and often provided speakers for similar events on the Square and at local trade union branches.

If any meaningful CU is to exist today, then this sort of action must be an essential part of its life. And as the working class engages itself in the current struggles this type of organisation could play an important role. At the moment, the CU locally quite clearly is not equipped for such a fight.

Ike Ginn.

49 Constance Street, New Basford, Nottingham.

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## CLAIMANTS 2

Dear Nottingham Voice,

The article on Unemployment, Social Security and Claimants Unions in a recent Voice sparked off a lot of controversy. As a consequence the promised second article is not to be published. Unfortunately, much of the comment has been asking if there is still a "proper" CU in Nottingham, rather than looking at the problems facing claimants, housewives and workers and putting forward suggestions for action. The Voice's introduction helped set the debate at this level.

At present, the DHSS regularly insists that grants (which the claimant ought to keep) must be repaid, as if they were loans. This is one of the many problems which collective action at the offices and support in people's homes might be able to deal with. At the same time, joint action between claimants and workers could help the fight against the effects of redundancies. More of this (including the article the Voice hasn't published) in a pamphlet, "If you don't hit it, it won't fall", free from the People's Centre and bookshops.

NL

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## CLAIMANTS 3

Dear Nottingham Voice,

I leave it to others to reveal "the true story" behind the Claimants Union in Nottingham. Maybe we can learn something from it. Since my only involvement with the Nottingham CU was a brief period in 1971, I will not comment on the past.

But what of the present? What support can claimants get now? The best support is from the "Claimants Union" and the People's Centre. On the spot telephoning sometimes gets immediate results. People without any money do not have to wait until the next "weekly meeting of claimants" to get their claim discussed. Where necessary claims are pressed from day to day and experienced help is available for Appeal Tribunals.

So claimants get an informed back-up service available all the time the DHSS is open and often get fast results - very important to many claimants who have no resources at all.

But what claimants don't get is first hand experience of fighting claims. And there is no group organised to provide extra force where necessary, occupying DHSS offices, etc.

One of the important aims of a Claimants Union is to involve as many claimants as



possible in fighting claims, to spread expertise in dealing with the DHSS throughout the community so people need to rely less on "experts" in the People's Centre and elsewhere. And another important aim is to unite claimants to discuss and fight for their rights together.

The individualised approach at the People's Centre does not help either of these aims. But we cannot criticise Jack Yates and others in the People's Centre CU because they are providing a valuable service which claimants could not get elsewhere. And we can criticise your anonymous correspondent NL because s/he is not apparently doing anything to help claimants (apart from writing articles in the Voice).

Nigel Lee.

People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

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## HEAVY LETTER

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment on your two articles referring to the proposed community centre at Denton Green, Broxtowe Estate.

This project was originally the subject of an urban aid application which was sent forward by the former City Social Services Department but was not approved. The choice of site was that of the City Social Services Department.

The project was then included by the former City Social Services Committee in the draft Capital Programme for 1974/75 and this decision was endorsed by the Shadow Social Services Committee of the new Authority in the autumn of 1973. The project was approved in principle by the Department of Health and Social Security in April 1974 but it was not included by them in the Capital Programme for that year.

It was re-submitted by the new County Council in its Capital Programme for 1975/76. It was approved by the Department of Health and Social Security, but when the capital programme was cut in the summer of this year, it was removed from the programme: by the Department of Health and Social Security, not by the County Council. Had this not been the case, tenders for the work could have been sought this summer.

As soon as approval can be obtained for this project, it will be continued, and the architects' work that has been done so far will be put to use.

The community worker in the area was informed of the situation (which in any case was set out in a public report to the Social Services Committee which is readily available), and so too were local councillors.

The statements in your article: that the Social Services Committee were responsible for cancelling the project, that the architects' fees on the project would be wasted, and that the community worker who works with the local association was not informed, are all false. A telephone call to the Social Services Department or to one of the councillors concerned could have made this clear instantly.

You insist so strongly in your columns on the responsibility and accountability of public authorities that I hardly need to emphasise to you the responsibility of any organ of the press to make sure that its statements are true.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Wilson,

Leader of the County Council

A.J. Burton,

Chairman of the Social Services Committee

### HEAVY REPLY: from the Broxtowe Community Facilities Association.

It appears from the content of the above letter that there is very little in the way of valuable criticism. We think that the authors are referring to an article entitled "Muddled Priorities" published in the August issue, although both Dick Wilson and A.J. Burton claim to have read TWO articles on the topic of Denton Green. Might it be that they both received copies of "Nottingham Voice"? Even so they did not read the article carefully.

The article in question was written by the Broxtowe Community Facilities Association



(BCFA) asking a number of questions after they had heard that the Denton Green Community Centre had been axed. Since the article was published a number of answers have been forthcoming, although there are still areas of uncertainty and questioning of the County Council's policies in times of economic cutback.

To clarify for the purposes of Dick Wilson and A.J. Burton, we will break the points down into simple, easy-to-read statements.

1. First of all, the BCFA only makes statements when they are facts. Over the issue of Denton Green there were very few facts supplied immediately after the cancellation by the DHSS. We would like to thank you for supplying additional information even though it took you two months.

2. You refer to "informing the community worker and the County Councillors", but the Association was not informed either that a decision to cancel was pending or that the scheme had been cancelled. It is felt that the members failed to recognise the BCFA as the group with which they had negotiated. We are sure that, as the leader of the Council, the decisions made over economic cutbacks were not relayed to Dick Wilson by the National Press but by some form of circular. We feel that the BCFA deserved some form of notification.

3. It was only after the article appeared that replies came. This was at least three weeks after the Social Services Committee had been informed. In the letter from Mr Caudell he said, "I was not anxious to tell you this immediately." Is this not an illustration, along with your speedy reply, of the failure of the County Council to keep local neighbourhood groups informed?

4. Much has been said about the architects' fee owing to cancellation/"postponement". The BCFA were supplied in February with information from the North-west area officer claiming that any delay in the building of the Community Centre would most certainly result in the payment of the architects' fee to the tune of £14,000. We are pleased to hear that this has not been the case, but point out again that the BCFA had been misled.

5. We feel that we "hardly need to emphasise to you the responsibility" of members and officers to supply correct and up-to-date information to local groups with which it has held dialogues. In February the project at Denton Green was on; in March both members and officials of the County Council attended a meeting and reinforced this. The building was to start in June. By July 24th the project had been turned down by the DHSS. The BCFA were never informed that there was a possibility of cancellation and went ahead planning for local management and completion, only to find that they had to all intents and purposes been taken for a ride.

6. One of the points made in "Muddled Priorities" is the question of what has happened to the County Council's own policy on deprived areas. This has been avoided in the reply, but we feel we must ask it once again. Is the County Council strong enough to insist that its own policies are to be implemented or is it becoming the agent of central government?

## SNAYL

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## Interesting item

READERS may remember that in our September 1974 issue we published an apology for an error we made in an item about the distribution of the Nottingham Arrow. While we were clearly in error on that occasion, it is interesting to see that the Arrow has continued to face problems with its distribution.

## ARROWS ASTRAY

EVERY effort is made to see that the ARROW is delivered to each household in the City.

Complaints are sometimes received, however, that copies are not always delivered.

One of the reasons was highlighted recently in the Magistrates Court, when one of the foot distributors was fined for stealing 1,250 copies and dumping them instead of delivering them.



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# Pubs

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LAST MONTH I WAS COMPLAINING at the way decisions were made about the provision of pubs on new estates. There are, however, other parts of this city where the provision of pubs is hardly ideal. Having recently moved to West Bridgford, I certainly would not recommend a pub crawl there - and not only because the pubs are so far apart that you would need a car to do it! If you did decide to visit the pubs of West Bridgford in one evening, then the session would go as follows.

Go over Trent Bridge from the city, and the first establishment you meet is the Outlaws Bar. Of course, the Outlaws is not really a pub at all. It is built into the Bridgford Hotel complex and is a one-roomed set-up that presumably aims at the teenage market (juke-box, pool table, etc.). The bitter that I was served was fizzy Mansfield Bitter at 24p a pint. One point in the Outlaws' favour was that it was clean and the service friendly and courteous.

The next pub on the tour is the Trent Bridge Inn, or TBI. This is probably one of the best-known pubs in Nottingham because of its cricketing connections. It is a shame that the TBI does not deserve reknown for its ale. The TBI is an Ansells pub and in that company's tradition it serves filtered, pressurised products of no great distinction. I tried the bitter at 24p a pint and thought it not quite as bad as some of the Ansells I have drunk in town. (Incidentally, Ansells is the beer sold by the Chairman of the local Licensed Victuallers Association, George Gent. His reason for it being more expensive than local brews is that it is better beer! What a joke.)

## Massive boozer

Carry on up Loughborough Road past Asda and you come to the Wolds, a massive Shippo's boozer that has public, saloon, lounge and cocktail bar. The bitter in the saloon is 20p a pint and good. The Wolds is a fine example of the "barn-boozer" if you are a connoisseur of such establishments.

About three-quarters of a mile further up Loughborough Road is the South Notts Hussar, another Shippo's pub. It is a newish estate-type pub with lounge and public bar. They have not overdone the "Hussar" theme and it is comfortable and inexpensive - the bitter is 20p a pint in the lounge (no I am not a "lounge-fly", it's just that it's fairer to compare lounge prices since some pubs do not have public bars).

The next Bridgford pub is the Test Match, near the town centre. This pub is ridiculous! Built about the same time as the Wolds, it is very big and grand. It's rather like going to the pictures - a great high ceiling and wide staircase ascending to another lounge. At 18p a pint for bitter in the lounge it is certainly inexpensive. I think the Hardy and Hanson beer at the Test Match is either tank or pressure, but it is certainly better than the Ansells at the TBI or the Mansfield at the Outlaws Bar - and it is 25% cheaper. Hardy and Hanson must be congratulated on their very competitive prices.

Up to last week the final pub in West Bridgford would have been the Lady Bay on Trent Boulevard. A converted mansion (at least it looks like one), it is also a Hardy Hanson pub with beer at the same prices as the Test Match. It is an ordinary pub with lounge and public bar that is well-used.

As I said, the Lady Bay would have been the last pub in West Bridgford, but a new pub has just been opened at the end of Stamford Road. (I don't count the Musters Hotel - it's an entertainment centre!) The new pub is called the Willow Tree and is a Bass-Worthington house. The adverts in the Post announced it as having public bar with darts and Draught Bass. This seemed incredible to me and so I went down on the opening



night to investigate. It's true. The opening night was like going to Asda on a Saturday morning, and since I don't like drinking in football crowd conditions I went back a few days later. It is a very acceptable pub. There is a lounge bar and smaller public bar with darts, dominoes and cards provided. Darts and football teams are being started by the landlord Gary Palmer, who is Australian - let's hope he does not get any ideas about forcing tubes of Fosters onto the unsuspecting natives of West Bridgford.

The Draught Bass is real ale but all the other "draught" products are keg - E, Mild, Worthington Bitter, lager, and shortly to be on sale, Guinness. If you want real ale, ask for "Bass" not "bitter" or you are liable to get the Worthington Bitter. The Draught Bass is 24p a pint (21p in the public) - not bad prices but well above Hardy and Hanson and Shippo's. On balance, I think we should congratulate Bass-Worthington on building a two-room pub with plenty of facilities, and not a one-room extravaganza.

I think it highly unlikely that any of the pubs in West Bridgford will win the Evening Post's Pub of the Year competition, the result of which we await with bated breath.

As the Post explains, the top thirty-six pubs will be visited by a panel of judges - including a member of the public! What a fantastic gesture - the public is actually being allowed in on the act. Presumably the other members of the panel are experts who judge pubs on some professional criteria. We should be told who is on this panel. There should not be anyone from the Forman Hardy family (who own the Evening Post), since they also have a large interest in Hardy and Hanson Ltd. And I hope that Chris Arnot is on the panel. He is the pub columnist for the Evening Post and although I think he is not critical enough (especially with regard to ale) his heart's in the right place.

The local chairman of CAMRA has not been invited to the panel of judges, so I assume that the local Licensed Victuallers are not to be represented either. It would be very unfair for "the Trade" to be represented when the consumer is not, and CAMRA is the only organisation representing the consumer in pubs.

These other members of the panel really fascinate me, especially since they are in that highly alienated state of not being members of the public. Perhaps a pub architect is amongst them. I hope not, considering some of the monstrosities they have designed. Perhaps an expert on plastic horse-brasses has been found? or fitted carpets? or sawdust? The mind boggles. In fact, I'm more interested in the panel of judges than the outcome itself - secretly hoping, of course, that my own favourite wins!

CHRIS HOLMES

## IF YOU DON'T ...

A NEW "NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION SHEET" has recently hit the streets in Nottingham - as advertised in our Letters page (we would have given it a plug anyway, NL, if you'd asked - no need to pretend it was a pamphlet: but where's the "article the Voice hasn't published"?). The first edition of "If you don't hit it ... it won't fall" - and how's that for a title! - is a free two-page broadsheet containing a variety of information on local groups, such as women's groups, gay groups, etc., and a news summary which is basically a guide to selected stories found in the Evening Post. The broadsheet states that it is an "experimental issue" and wants people who are interested to come along to the next meeting to be held at 41 Cope Street, Nottingham on Saturday 15th November at 11.00 (a.m., we assume) to discuss the next issue.

For all its drawbacks (described by John Sheffield as "even more boring than Nottingham Voice") the newsletter has a fine aim. And that is to act as an information sheet for local alternative activities, groups, campaigns, etc. and as a means of exchanging information. However, as the Voice has discovered, this is not as easy as it sounds. I hope that future issues show more imagination than the present one, but it is worth getting even if it only starts some thoughts about the lack of communication in the City. "If you don't ..." is available free from the People's Centre and some bookshops. Anyway, best of luck to the "If you don't ..." collective!

FRED BROAD



# NOW'S THE TIME



ONE OF THE LOCAL GROUPS PUTS THE NAME TO IT . . . . . the Good Time Jazz Band. So what happens when the good times become a part of a nostalgic past and the realities of the present take control?

It isn't only Nottingham that seems to be suffering from the backwash of an economic downturn, and the existing situation is only part of the reason for a jazz recession anyway. The facts are that jazz hit a peak during the sixties and has been on a slow decline ever since so far as audiences go.

An additional problem which makes an interpretation of the present situation even more difficult is that some groups have maintained a regular core of supporters in spite of the general decline, but the truth remains that where two hundred used to be the average attendance for a star jazz promotion, one half of that number is now considered to be a good crowd. If anything, it's the local semi-pro groups which have tended to retain a following rather than the big names on the British jazz scene.

If the younger generation of music-lovers have given their hearts to "progressive" music, one can't entirely blame them. And there's no doubt of the popularity of the top groups in this sphere with a young and discriminating audience - as witnessed by the "house full" notices at the University for the visit by rock-jazz outfit Soft Machine a few weeks ago. The truth is that the newer generation of musicians is much more adventurous



and forward-looking than their middle-aged contemporaries in the jazz world.

I was lucky enough to have been brought up on large measures of superb jazz of every shade of musical colour. I remember the New Orleans revival vividly, and was one of those who gave it its impetus. Armstrong, Ellington, Charlie Parker; all have at some time made a lasting impact on my musical tastes and I still turn to the genius of Jelly Roll Morton when I tire of the more advanced music I find myself listening to with increasing regularity these days. I regard the music of the past as a treasure house to be dipped into frequently and pleasurably, but turn towards the music of the present for the spontaneous shocks of surprise that used to come from discoveries in more conventional areas of jazz.

When it comes to the crunch I have to admit that even the most struggling, loud and over-ambitious rock group has most of the jazz groups on the local scene beaten out of sight for originality and dedication. The difference may lie in the degree of belief which the respective musicians have in the music they play. Rock musicians tend to have a firm conviction that what they are playing is the greatest, whereas jazz musicians probably prefer to muscle along on well-tried lines, repeating the same repertoire they rehearsed ten or fifteen years ago and trying nothing new if it means having to work at it to achieve polish, razor-sharp accuracy, and ventures into unfamiliar harmonic and rhythmic patterns.

Furthermore, there seems to be a general raising of the hands in horror when it comes to exploring the new possibilities opened up by developments in electronics. Duke Ellington and Count Basie weren't impressed, they argue, forgetting that Miles Davies and a whole host of younger jazzers were - as would some of the older ones have been had they been born thirty years later. But even the reluctance to accept innovations is only one of the roots of the malaise. In my view, there's a more significant explanation for the decline in local jazz support, and I would put it down to the old enemy - sheer casualness.

Jazz musicians seem to imagine that if they can play an instrument with some degree of credibility they are entitled to an audience. So the session usually becomes a "jam session", centred round a hard core of numbers churned out by almost every band within a radius of two hundred miles. Careless Love, Saints, St Louis Blues, Ain't Misbehavin', you'll hear them over and over again ad infinitum along with a couple of dozen other standards. Yet the jazz repertoire literally comprises thousands of excellent tunes, some of them never played except on an original recording of the twenties or thirties. Occasionally a band comes along that mixes the old standards with a few lesser-known numbers, usually well-rehearsed and played with a degree of conviction lacking on the more familiar material.

When this happens, the band quickly develops a reputation for excellence and pulls in the crowds. The Mardi Gras Society Band - now suffering a decline - and Jazz Spectrum in its Ralph Laing days are two cases in point. But most other bands fail to appreciate that they have a capability which they just don't achieve - and the reason for the failure rests upon one central and common factor - a lack of rehearsal.

When I refer to rehearsal, I don't mean an occasional get-together for a few beers and a joke or two, but a regular and intensive period of working through new material, polishing and improving carefully-chosen arrangements until the final result represents a standard of performance which could be construed as a satisfactory achievement for both individual musicians and for the group as a corporate whole. How many local bands rehearse even once a month, I wonder? My guess is that very few do, and the consequence is that jazz audiences are drifting away from sheer boredom. Speaking of audiences, I have found them to be much more discriminating than musicians sometimes give them credit for, and the biggest applause isn't always reserved for the raving finale on the old, familiar standard.

So the only way to combat a falling-off of interest in jazz, hastened on by an economic recession which keeps potential fans at home on the one night of the week when a band wants them to be providing the support, is to improve the product. That's been a common-sense factor in the world of commerce for a long time - even if the "improvement" is only a notional one in most cases. But you can't fool jazz audiences, they know when a band is trying and they'll usually give it a bit of encouragement. Nottingham has a large pool of jazz musicians and a potential audience of thousands, it's the musicians who determine whether or not the crowds come, and it's only by sheer hard graft that they can hope to regain the kind of support they have evidently taken so much for granted in the past.

LOUIS BOLDEN



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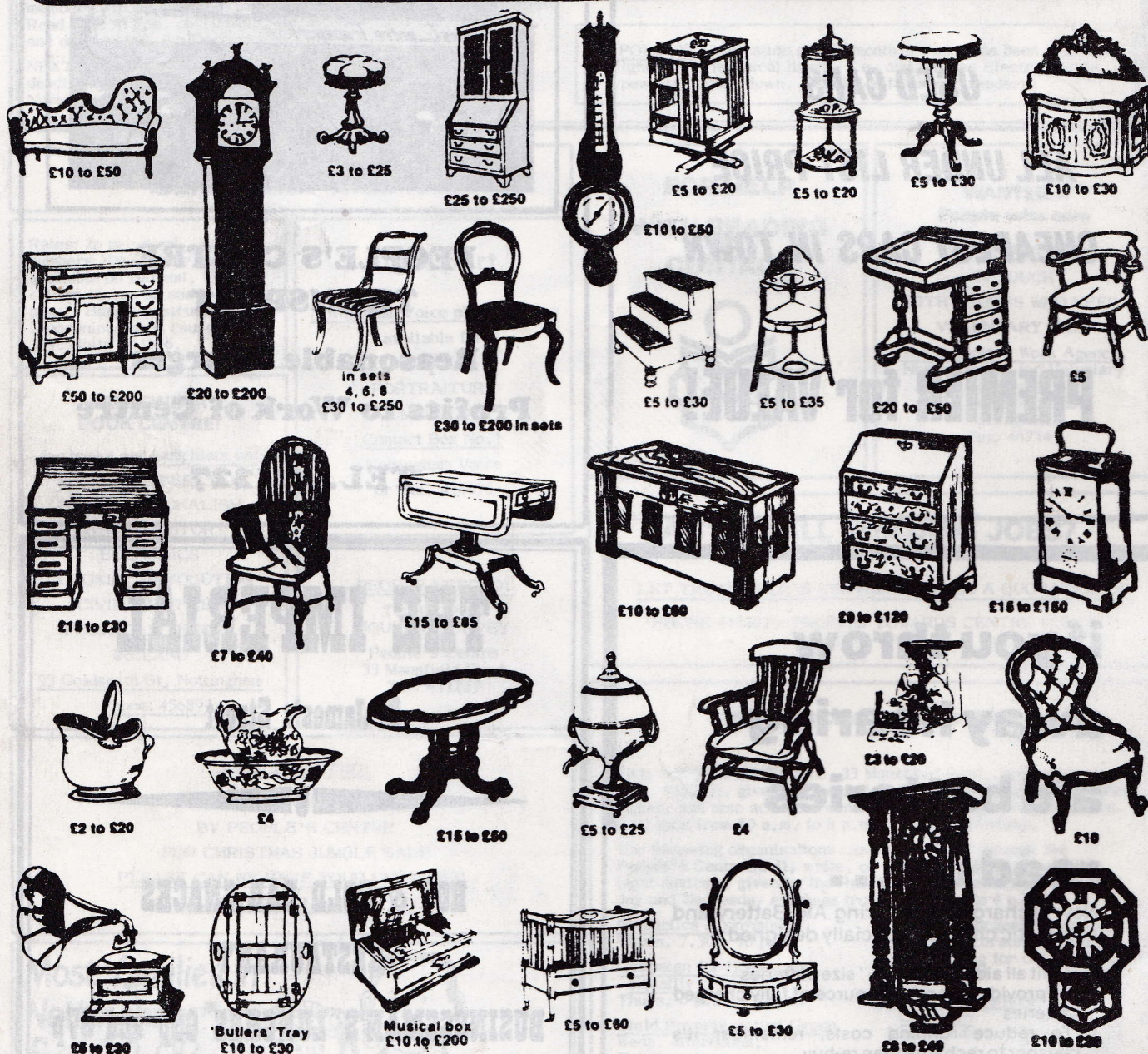
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