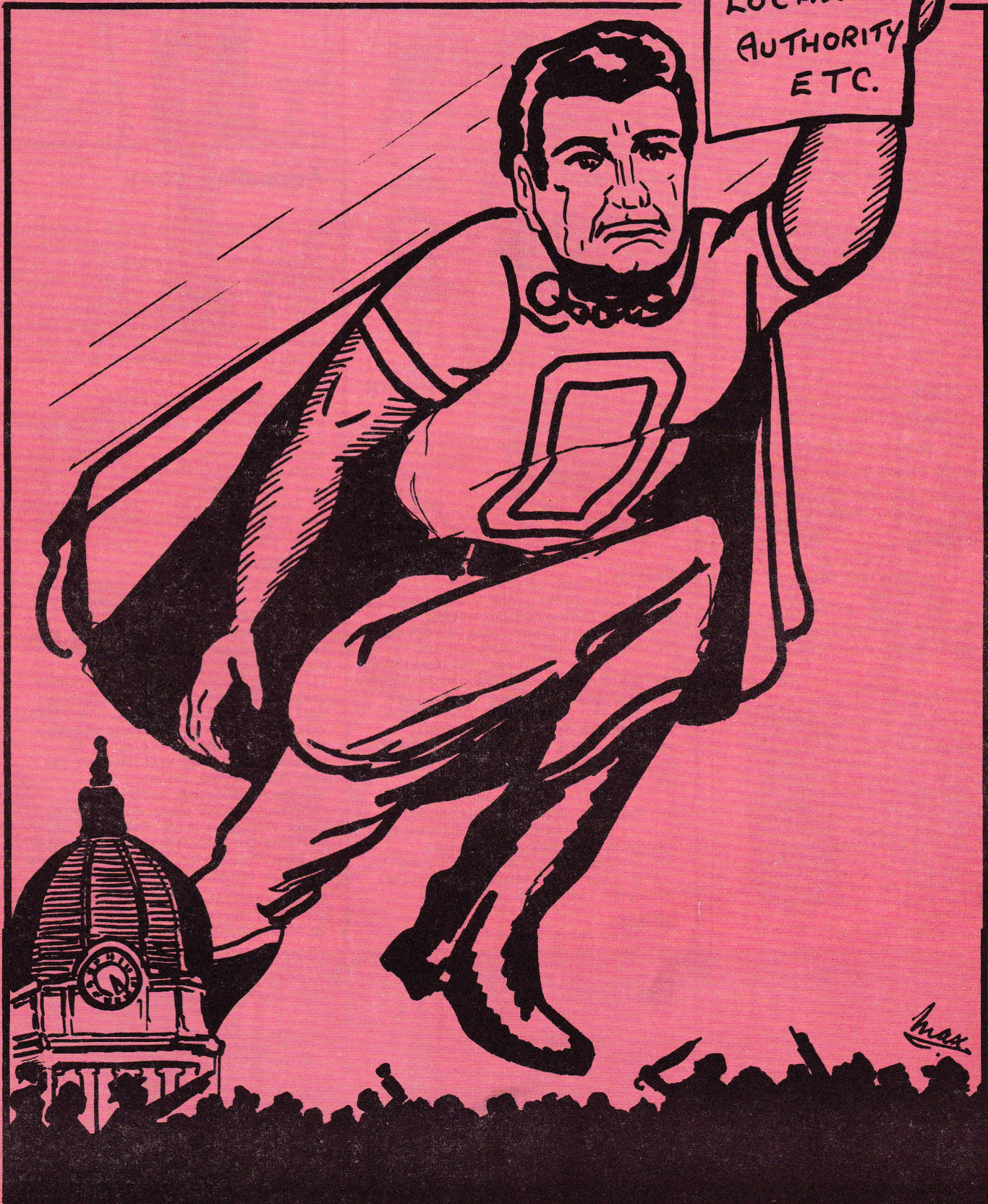
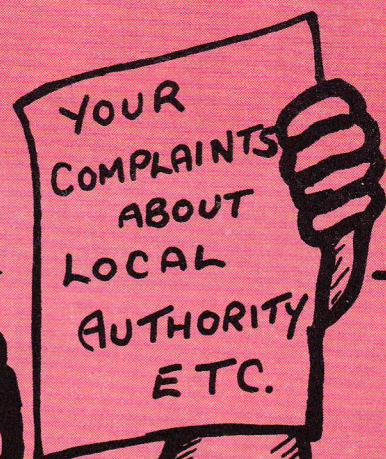


Grass Roots

Number 12

Nottingham, November, 1974

Price 6p



SMALL ADS

Rates: 2p per word. Box numbers 10p. Other rates available on request, for column inches or sections of a page. Tel. Nottingham 411227.

GROUP for homosexual men and women. Contact Nottingham and Derby: CHE, P.O. Box 87, Derby DE1 1EN.

NOTTINGHAM Community Relations Council Fair Housing Group is conducting a housing survey and housing rights campaign. We need volunteers. About 20-40 hours work in Nov/Dec in an inner city housing stress area. Interested? Contact Ian Cuthill on 49861 or 701822.

UP TO £25 for social or community education projects. If your project means someone will learn something you can apply for a grant to the Young Volunteers Special Projects Fund. Write to Fred Broad, 31A Mansfield Road, Nottm, or ring 46714.

FRIENDSHIP UNLIMITED

FRIENDSHIP UNLIMITED HAS MOVED

At a loose end?
Come to Friendship Unlimited
St Mary's Home, Raleigh Street
Thurs. & Sun., 7.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 a.m.

YOU CAN READ THIS

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CANNOT?
HE CAN BE HELPED TO READ AND WRITE.
LESSONS ARE FREE AND CAN BE ARRANGED
IN HIS OWN HOME.

DETAILS FROM:

M. D. KILPATRICK,
31a MANSFIELD ROAD,
NOTTINGHAM.
TEL. NOTTM. 46714.

WANTED...

People who care

Throughout Nottingham, voluntary groups have sprung up to meet a variety of different needs. The range of groups is vast. It includes helping at clubs for the elderly, playgroups, the physically and mentally handicapped, entertaining in hospitals, decorating, gardening, helping families, and befriending the housebound or lonely. Most of all, groups depend on the help of people like you. So if you've got some time to spare and you would like to help out in some way, then why don't you contact us and find out about the various opportunities that exist.

The Voluntary Work Agency,
Nottm. Council of Social Service,
31a Mansfield Road,
Nottingham.
Tel. 46714.

GRASS ROOTS is published by the Grass Roots Committee, People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Rd, Nottm. (Tel. 411227). Contributions, criticisms, letters to the Editor, etc. are welcome - send by post or call in at Mansfield Rd.



Cinema

Peachey Street Flick

Thursdays, 7.15. Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare Street.

Nov. 7: Madame du Barry (dir. Ernst Lubitsch).

Nov. 14: The Love Of Jeanne Ney (dir. G.W. Pabst).

Nov. 21: The Nibelung Saga, Part 2 (dir. Fritz Lang).

Nov. 28: Destiny (dir. Fritz Lang).

Nottingham Film Theatre

Fri. & Sun. 7.30 p.m., Sat. 5 & 8 p.m. unless otherwise stated. Co-op Arts Centre, Broad Street.

Nov. 8-10: Solaris (Sat. 4 & 7.30 p.m.)

Nov. 15-17: Themroc

Nov. 22-24: Theorem

Nov. 29-Dec. 1: Red Wedding

Dec. 6-8: Cries and Whispers

Dec. 13-15: O Lucky Man (Sat. 4 & 7.30)

Late Night Films at the NFT

All at 11 p.m.

Nov. 9: Winter Soldier

Nov. 16: Hands Over the City

Nov. 23: Castle Keep

Nov. 30: Punishment

Rock

November

8: 10cc (Trent Polytechnic)

8: Fruupp (Derby, King's Hall)

9: Queen (Leicester University)

9: Al Stewart (Nottingham University)

15: Principal Edwards & Vineyard (Trent Polytechnic)

16: Kevin Ayers & Friends (Nottm Uni.)

17: Andy Leggatt & Pete Finch (Trent Polytechnic)

17: Steeleye Span (Theatre Royal)

23: Babe Ruth & Mr Big (Nottm Univ.)

23: Ronnie Lane (Loughborough Univ.)

26: Golden Earring (Leicester, De Montfort Hall)

27: Fairport Convention with Sandy Denny (Nottingham University)

29: Osibisa (Trent Polytechnic)

30: Barclay James Harvest & Seventh Wave (Nottingham University)

30: Sweet (Leicester University)

December

6: Bebop Delux (Trent Polytechnic)

7: JSD Band (Nottingham University)

Folk

Tuesday: The Scheme: Fox Inn, Parliament St.

Thursday: The Forester: Foresters Inn, Huntingdon St. Carlton Folk Club, Windsor Castle, Carlton Hill (39/72 bus).

Friday: NTMC: News House, St James's St (off the Market Square)

Sunday: Co-op Folk Club, Crown Hotel, Ilkeston Rd (72/39 Wollaton term's).

On target



Appealing story

AT A TIME OF NATIONAL DOUBT, READERS will be gratified to learn that the British have not forgotten how to respond to a crisis. The following document was recently circulated to staff at a local comprehensive school. It is absolutely authentic (we stress this because readers may find it hard to believe). Only the names have been changed.

Extra-ordinary Toilet Patrol

The object is to catch the girls who are peeling (sic) the paint off the toilet walls and doors. We are almost certain who is responsible, but they will have to be caught in the act to be truly caught: if it is only suspicion they will wriggle out of responsibility.

Procedure

(a) Position yourself in Female Staff Toilet by a partly open window - but mainly hidden behind wall.

(b) Look down into Girls Toilet, and wait for signs of movement which are clearly not normal.

(c) It is almost certainly happening during class time, and the activity must take 10 or 15 minutes. The girls will be seen to be standing around the doors or panels - i.e. it is unlikely that they will be near the wash bowl or the toilet.

(d) When suspicious activity is detected, please stamp foot several times firmly on Staff Toilet Floor, and then further action will be taken by Miss Prodger or Miss Splansky from the room below.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE GIRLS ARE CAUGHT BY US, AND SUSPENDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thank you for your help.

Three's a crowd

FUTURE APPLICANTS FOR THE COUNCIL'S "luxury" flats in the Victoria Centre would be well advised to check that they do not fall foul of one of the Housing Department's more puritanical regulations - the "sexual overcrowding" rule.

This rule came to light over a recent application to rent a two bedroom, three person flat in the Centre.

The applicant wanted to share the flat with a friend and his girlfriend - three people for a three person flat. Fine you might think. No chance, was the stern reply from the Housing Department: this sharing arrangement would "create a state of overcrowding".

Detecting a hint of the new puritan morality sweeping through the King Street colossus, the applicant wrote back questioning this definition of overcrowding.

Under pressure, the Housing officials became more explicit: "Since the people with whom you wish to share are not related to you, they would in fact require a bedroom each, otherwise sexual overcrowding would occur." However, the letter was quick to reassure everyone that this reasoning was not based "on any moral grounds".

Future applicants beware: if you want a flat in the Victoria Centre, it pays to be discreet - at least with the Housing Department.

Getting the bird

(A late Election flash)

COUNCILLOR HERBERT BIRD, LEADER OF Gedling Borough Council, is a rough tough politician who gives his Labour opponents a pretty uncomfortable time. Surprising, therefore, were reports that when he was thinking of offering himself as Tory candidate at the last General Election, among his chief supporters were many of those same uncomfortable Labour councillors. So eager were they, in fact, that they even contemplated, if not exactly giving their services, at least not putting up too strong an opposition. Was this a noble gesture towards Ted Heath's Government of National Unity? Alas not. The crafty Socialists had worked out that, with the redoubtable Bird safely packed off to Westminster, his mediocre colleagues would make a pretty easy carve-up. Sadly, Councillor Bird didn't take the field after all, and the whole affair is but one of the fascinating might-have-beens of the last campaign.

THE VALUE FOR MONEY PAPER

THIS WAS THE HEADLINE WITH WHICH the Evening Post announced its price increase a few weeks ago, so we thought we could do worse than imitate the cheek of the true professional. Like the Post, we are increasing our price for quite proper reasons - we would go out of print if we didn't. We have increased the number of pages and extended our coverage, while the price has remained constant since issue 4, when we were only six pages long. At the same time, the price of paper and printing has increased even more rapidly than other prices. In fact, although we apologise for the increase, Grass Roots is really a bargain at 6p!

Interesting landlords (2)

NUMBER 60 WATERWAY ST, THE MEADOWS, has been in Corporation ownership since 1971. A large, four-bedroomed house in Phase 4 of the Meadows redevelopment programme, the house has now been empty for about 3½ years according to neighbours. Although not one of the best houses in Nottingham, it appears to be in reasonable condition and it is certainly no worse than many others in the same area.

Despite the tremendous pressure for larger houses from over-crowded families, the Housing Department does not appear to have made much effort to let it. Indeed, when enquiries were made about the property a couple of months ago, the Housing Department was not aware that it owned it. The house is, of course, still empty.

Houses like 60 Waterway St certainly do not help the Council's vehement opposition to the squatters' case. Indeed, Housing Committee Chairman Bert Littlewood wouldn't even go on the air with a squatter when approached by Radio Nottingham. The reason? The squatters use bad language.

The Magic Brick

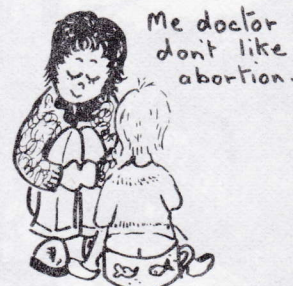
DESPITE THE SIEGE MENTALITY developing among the City's Housing Committee and Housing Department officials, the City Council felt that other District Councils in Nottinghamshire (new boys to the housing game) could benefit from their know-how.

A conference with the other District Councils was duly held on September 4th, where City Council leader John Carroll kicked off the proceedings by referring to the long history and wide experience of the City in dealing with housing problems.

Not many minutes passed before the first surprise of the day was unveiled - a prefabricated brick panel. To those in the audience lucky enough to be able to see it, this looked just like any other brick panel. However, sceptics were assured by Chairman of the Housing Committee Bert Littlewood and Director of Housing Malcolm Campbell Lee that this was the solution to everyone's housing problems.

There then followed a tour of City housing projects - the showhouse in Phase 4A of the Meadows redevelopment, the £20,000+ conversions of houses in Burns Street, and a selection of modernised council houses. Delegates returned to the buffet lunch and booze obviously impressed with the City Council's competence.

The real purpose of the meeting became apparent after lunch, however. References were made to the County Council's attempts to muscle in on prefabricated housing - County Architect Henry Swain had touted the idea around the District Councils a few weeks previously. The climax of the proceedings came when the City's Director of Technical Services, John Haslam, referred emotionally to the County Council taking away the District Council's "birthright" (sic) in housing. A new system based on the City's magic prefabricated brick panel was offered as the answer to every District Council's housing prayers.

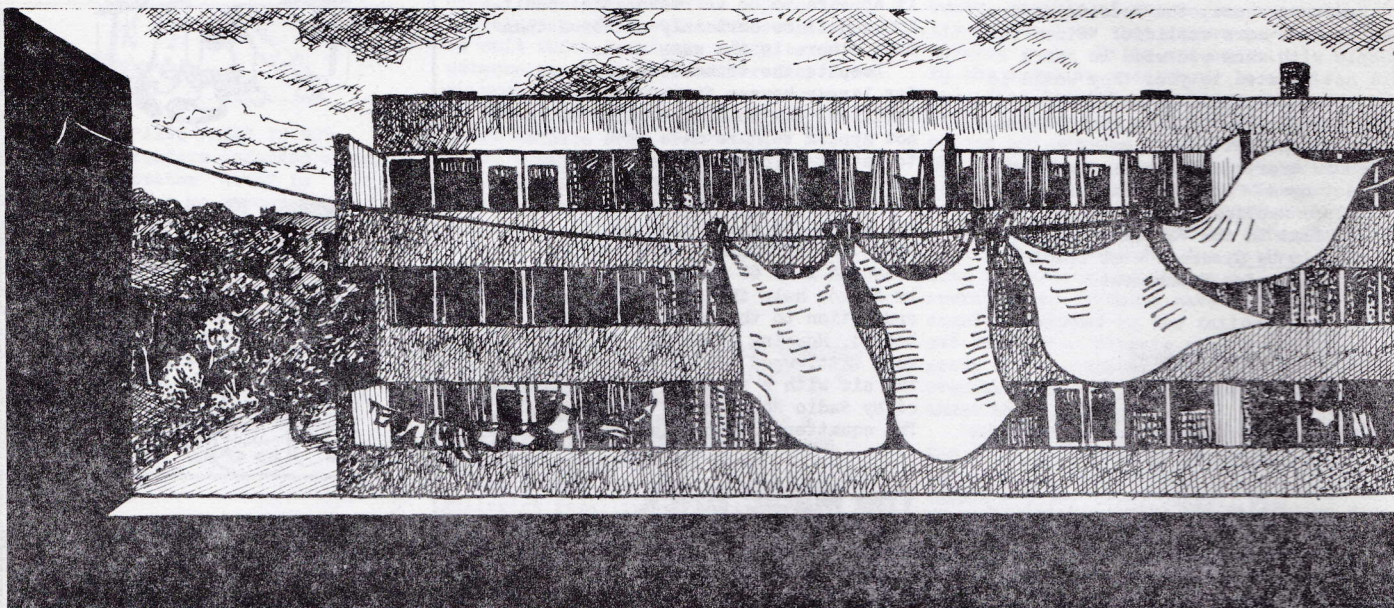


At this point the tranquillity of the meeting was interrupted by a stand-up row between John Carroll and Gedling Council leader Herbert Bird about the City Council buying houses in Gedling.

Perhaps the most dismaying thing about the whole day was the apparent blind faith in the newest plaything from the building industry - especially from Director of Housing Malcolm Lee. No doubt high rise, deck access (Hyson Green, etc.) and all the other architects' fantasies, got the same acclaim in their day. No doubt, as usual, the City Council's tenants will be left to pick up the pieces.

BALLOON GOING DOWN

Exiled tenants : an inside report



AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THE USUAL rounds of the Castle, the Trip to Jerusalem, the Major Oak and Wollaton Park, visit the latest attraction, Balloon Woods Flats.

Already the potential has been recognised by the Local Authority. Social Security Officers, social workers, Probation Officers and students on placement have discovered they can spend many happy hours wandering around, mixing with the residents and absorbing the atmosphere. All in the course of a day's work they flock to the site.

Luxury dwellings

A concrete maze of over 600 flats and maisonettes, looking uncomfortably like a prison - or a termite town, maybe - Balloon Woods has been fraught with snags from the start.

Building was begun in the 1960s by a private development company. An ambitious project, this was to be a complex of luxury dwellings to be let at high rental. Before completion the private company withdrew and the Corporation took over the building programme for council housing.

At last, carefully selected tenants were moved in to a completed block, proud and honoured to be chosen to live in luxury homes at council rents. Not long afterwards they had ~~been~~ temporarily to move out again ~~in~~

because of the Ronan Point disaster - the flats were built on the same principle. Adjustments had to be made, including removing the facility for gas as a safety measure.

This hurdle overcome, the flats were subsequently let indiscriminately to those on the waiting list because of the need for housing. Wollaton residents were not impressed by the hoi polloi in their midst. Someone had the bright idea at that time of circulating letters in Wollaton asking the residents to befriend tenants of the flats and to welcome them into their homes. The letters were resented. It was not a good beginning.

The bus from Nottingham takes you right into Balloon Woods. It leaves the city at half-hourly intervals - hourly on Sunday mornings - and Wollaton Park is on the way there. You could quite comfortably combine a visit to both on the same day. Look round the park museum, see the deer and perhaps have a round of golf, then hop on the bus again to Balloon Woods not far away. It depends whether you appreciate a quick transition from the sublime to the ridiculous.

The impact of the flats can be a tremendous shock. Some visitors are so appalled at the ugliness that they flee into the pub for a quick revive and wait there for the next bus out, wishing to see no more. It is good for business: the brewery thrives.

The less sensitive carry out their resolve to see the flats, and gaze in awe at the dreadful spectacle. Washing flaps in the breeze on the balconies, children lean at precarious angles over the walls on the high walks, and the doors of broken lifts gape open, forcing tenants to climb the concrete stairs to reach their homes.

Claustrophobia

The population appears to consist of the very old, the very young, and pregnant women - all bound for the local shop, which does a roaring trade. No mean emporium this, it is a converted caravan where almost anything can be bought. Goods in abundance jostle for space on the shelves and floor, customers elbow their way in and out, children crawl between legs to reach the sweets. The atmosphere is friendly. Always friends and neighbours can be found chatting about friends and neighbours, or reading the postcards from holidaying customers at the seaside. One can advertise anything here. Those suffering from claustrophobia are advised to keep away.

Near the shop is the bus stop for town where the sick, the lame and the injured queue to journey to the chemist's for medicines. Along with them go those in good health, anxious to get away from the damp isolation of their homes for a few hours.



Drawings: Rosemary Wells

Many flats have been vacant for months. You may pause to wonder whether Nottingham does indeed have a homelessness problem as you gaze at the empty dwellings.

You may spot the doctor's surgery. You are unlikely to spot the doctor - surgeries are only held four times a week.

Not to be missed is the Balloon Woods Centre, a community hall for all tenants. Entertainments are laid on here, such as Bingo, discos, morning coffee and other would-be popular events. Trouble is, tenants don't realize this amenity is for everyone - or don't care - and some won't go inside the Centre. As yet, there are no curtains and no armchairs, and the atmosphere is spartan - formica tables and plastic dining chairs comprise the furnishings to greet the tenants who do come.

You may be proudly shown the site of the proposed shopping centre - and the bridge at present being constructed, which will link Balloon Woods with Wollaton. It is blithely envisaged that when the road to Wollaton is open there will be no more division between "them" and "us" and tenants will become part of the Wollaton community.

Many of the homes are damp. Tenants are used to black fungus growing on the walls, peeling wallpaper, and rain penetrating the ceilings of the top flats. It is a way of life generally accepted with apathy.

What the hell - should be possible to move away to another area, with luck.

Electricity bills are enormous, up to and beyond £80 a quarter - in the summer - in some homes. There is little community spirit. The intake is the homeless, those from clearance areas, people just out from the services, one-parent families, and old and single people with nowhere else to live. Few request to live here, most try every trick in the book to move away - including increasing their families to the level of overcrowding. Hopefully to improve conditions, a community development worker has recently been appointed - to try and integrate the community?

Embarrassment

On the other side of the railway line, little more than a stone's throw away, is the original site of Balloon Woods South, once planned to be a second development similar to the flats. The Council realized the folly and embarrassment of the existing complex - and sold the land to private developers, now building more conventional brick-built homes to rent. Modern and close together!

A certain number of these desirable residences are to be let to carefully selected council tenants: the clamour is on to move across the tracks. Rents and rates will be nearly

double those in the flats, the view will be dominated by the concrete mass of Balloon Woods, nevertheless these homes are much sought-after by tenants of the flats.

Rumours

It is rumoured that there will be shops in the new development. It is to be hoped that the rumours are true, although the Planning Department seems unaware that there is provision for community facilities - their drawings show 314 dwellings and access roads, but no shops! As no-one seems to know when the site earmarked for shops at the flats will be developed, the prospect of another thousand or so people pushing their way into the caravan doesn't bear thinking about. The rumours of shops on the new development are substantiated by the workmen, who insist that foundations for them have been laid. We will not pause to speculate why the Planning Department does not appear to be aware of the fact.

One wonders to whom the tenants of the new private homes will owe their allegiance - Wollaton or Balloon Woods? Perhaps they will become a barrier between the two, accepted by neither, effectively squashing once and for all the bureaucratic dream of the Wollaton area becoming one united community. Who knows? Who really cares? Life goes on regardless.



Womanopoly

LOUGHBOROUGH WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUP have an exhibition at Loughborough Central Library from 11-16 November, identifying five areas from cradle to pension where women suffer restrictions compared with men. With the exhibition goes a witty board game entitled "Womanopoly", which we'd reproduce if we had room or could print in three colours. Samples of the discriminatory moves on each square:

MAN: You are very aggressive and competitive - seize an extra turn.
WOMAN: So are you. Take a sedative and stop being unfeminine. Lose a turn.

MAN: You have a very high IQ. Go forward two.
WOMAN: So have you. How embarrassing! Lose a turn for arguing.

The median wage for women is 40% less than the median wage for men doing the same work. Woman go back two.

According to a recent study many psychologists regard the healthy adult as having the characteristics of the healthy man. Women who fall short of this ideal miss a turn . . .

£500, please!

(Editor's note. After the local authority's recent stinginess, almost vindictiveness, against the People's Centre (vetoing an Urban Aid Grant is the latest example), we were pleased to receive the following unsolicited testimonial.)

A SHORT WHILE AGO I READ IN THE EVENING Post where the small sum of £500 had been refused for the furtherance of activities at the People's Centre,

33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, by the City Council.

At the time of reading this notice it meant nothing really to me nor would I imagine did it mean much to many of your readers, but this past week-end I had occasion to call upon them for help for a client. Immediately the telephone rang a polite voice enquired if they could help; the case was discussed between us and it was then promptly, expertly and efficiently dealt with that same evening.

No expense was incurred by either myself or the client. Who then footed the bill for the travelling and expenses in general incurred? Obviously the People's Centre.

This action made me realise that the £500 asked for should have been granted without question, if this is the kind of free, polite service the City can enjoy.

Make it a BUMPER CHRISTMAS FOR THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE. LET THEM FIND A CHEQUE FOR £500 on their doormat, because even you might need their help one day Mr Councillor.

B.T.

Slow service

(Editor's note. We are pleased to publish the following article as an example of how effective group action can be in communicating with an official agency which previously seemed almost totally unaware of the group's feelings and needs. We should point out, however, that the frustrations described in the article and overcome were only one part of the author, Cath Green's, experience of fostering. The giving - and receiving - of care and affection makes foster parents, in the words of one social worker, "the most important volunteers in the welfare society". In a future issue Cath Green will be writing about this more positive side of fostering.)

OUR PROBLEMS BEGAN IN JUNE, 1973, when we decided to foster a nine year old who had been in and out of care throughout his life. By June, 1974, we were convinced that the problems of coping with an extremely disturbed child were small compared with the problems of coping with the bureaucratic bungling of the Social Services Department.

For example, most of our letters to the Department were totally ignored, and it took nine months of constant pressure to obtain any medical history of the child. As for getting information about finances, this

appeared to be asking for the moon! Cheques arrived spasmodically for varying amounts without any explanation whatsoever.

On discussing our problems with other foster parents we found that, like us, most of them felt that they fostered children despite the Social Services Department rather than with their help and encouragement. It was then that we decided to form a local foster parent Action Group. The Social Services Department agreed to circulate to all foster parents our letter inviting them to an inaugural meeting. However, even this proved too difficult for them. Many letters were received only on the day of the meeting, many foster parents received no letter at all, while letters were received by people who retired from fostering nine years ago - and even a tyre company!

The inaugural meeting of the Nottingham & District Foster Parents Action Group was attended by over seventy people, most of whom expressed their concern and anger at the way in which they had been treated by the Social Services Department. It appeared that both supportive services and financial help varied considerably according to the quality of the individual social worker. In our area, before reorganisation, 85% of social workers were untrained.

By the end of the evening we had collected a sizable number of horror stories and went away from the meeting determined to get accurate written information on all aspects of fostering for all foster parents.

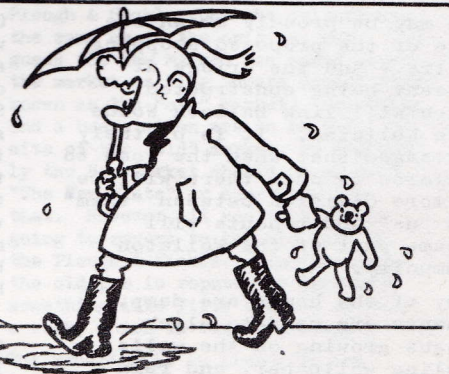
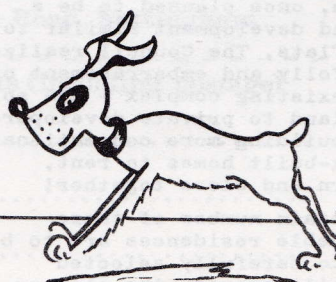
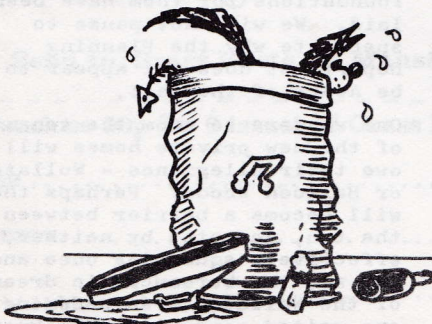
Since then a group of representatives of the association have had a series of lengthy meetings with Barny Newell, Deputy Director of Social Services, with the aim of producing a document giving comprehensive information on both legal and financial aspects of fostering. This document has now been produced and circulated to all foster parents and social workers in the county.

We have also discussed the need to improve the financial rates and have drafted a list of proposed new rates for discussion amongst foster parents and other interested bodies.

In the future we hope to create more opportunities for foster parents to meet each other, together with others actively concerned in the welfare of children in care, in order to discuss common interests and problems.

CATH GREEN

SHARON



DID YOU LEAVE THE BIN LID OFF? I GET BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING I DO!

max

Know your rights



1. Who is the local ombudsman?

Not many people know about the local ombudsman (not the Parliamentary Commissioner, who deals with more general complaints). His correct title is the Commissioner for Local Administration, and he deals with complaints about local government. He can be contacted at the following address:

Commission for Local Administration,
47 Parliament Street,
LONDON SW1.

Tel. 01-839 3193

(How local can you get?!)

Here is your Grass Roots Guide to making a complaint to the local ombudsman . . .



2. What can ombudsman do for you?

(1) He is concerned with local government. Any body which is run by a committee of a local authority (District or County) counts.

(2) He deals with faulty administration, not with basic local authority decisions.

e.g. You can't complain about them putting up the rates, but you can complain if you've been charged too much and it takes them three years to sort it out.

(3) Complaints can be about neglect, unfairness, incompetence, delays, bias, or the use of the wrong machinery for taking a decision.



3. What can't ombudsman do for you?

(1) He can't investigate any of the following:

matters subject to legal action; matters concerned with a criminal offence; personnel problems; pay and conditions of employment; certain educational matters; any matter where there is a right of appeal to a Tribunal or a Minister.

(2) He can't investigate anything that affects a whole lot of people (say a whole area, or Council house tenants in general). He can only investigate particular cases.

(3) He can't deal with events before 1st April, 1974.



4. How to complain to ombudsman

(1) Put the matter first to the local authority or a local councillor, and give them reasonable time to reply.

(2) But you must complain to the ombudsman within 12 months, unless there are special circumstances.

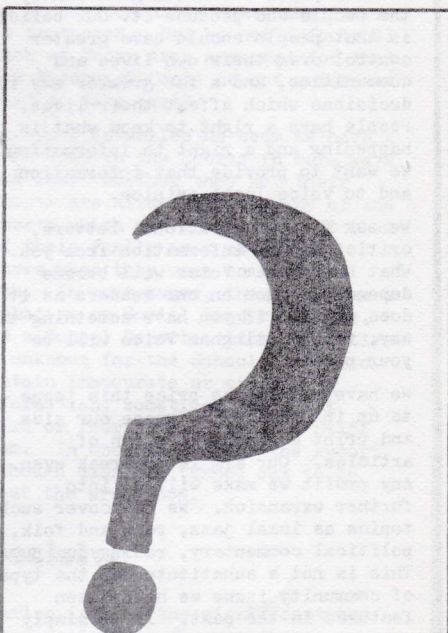
(3) The complaint must be made in writing by the individual or body concerned. In the case of individuals, they can only be represented by a third party if they are unable to act for themselves. Alternatively, a councillor may make a complaint on someone's behalf, but only if he has permission from the person concerned.

(4) Send your complaint to the address given above.



5. What happens next?

The Commissioner will investigate and prepare a report which the local authority must make available to the press and public. If he decides the local authority has been guilty of maladministration, then the local authority must tell the Commissioner what action it will take. All of the investigations must be made in private, and there are limits to the information the Commissioner can make public. He has the power to examine evidence held by the local authority. Expenses may be repaid and legal representation provided where necessary. Normally the investigation will be as informal as possible.



6. Is he effective?

Well, we just don't know, but we'd be interested to hear from anyone who tries making a complaint. Our guess is that it is probably something of a last resort. Further information, we are told, is available from the above address.

Grass Roots

NOTTINGHAM VOICE

A new voice

GRASS ROOTS IS CHANGING. We are changing our name in January to "Nottingham Voice". It is an unusual step for a paper to change its name, and we want to explain why.

Grass Roots began in the Council for Voluntary Service. The name given to it was meant to reflect the aim of the paper at that time. It was seen as a means of communication with and between the communities and groups in Nottingham "at the grass roots". Then as Grass Roots became increasingly independent we moved our address to the People's Centre.

Grass Roots is now an independent monthly paper for Nottingham run by the people who produce it. Our belief is that people should have greater control over their own lives and communities, and a far greater say in decisions which affect their lives. People have a right to know what is happening and a right to information. We want to provide that information and to voice local opinion.

We ask for contributions, letters, criticisms and information from you. What Nottingham Voice will become depends as much on our readers as it does on us. If you have something to say, then Nottingham Voice will be your paper.

We have raised the price this issue to 6p in order to increase our size and print a wider selection of articles. Our aim is to break even. Any profit we make will go into further expansion. We now cover such topics as local jazz, rock and folk, political commentary, racing and pubs. This is not a substitute for the type of community issue we have often featured in the past. It is simply recognising that a community newspaper should cover the wide range of issues and activities connected with people's lives.

We feel that our aim is not clear from the present title. It would be arrogant of us if we assumed we reflected "grass roots opinion" in Nottingham, but we hope to provide a paper which features as many of these local issues as possible, and perhaps we can help some people find out that they too have a voice in Nottingham affairs.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN given another push to check on areas that have conservation potential under the Town and Country Amenities Act, 1974. In Nottingham this will inevitably be a push towards inner city working class areas.

In Nottingham the evidence to date bears out the old story of conservation being seen as a purely physical concept. The most expedient way to achieve this end is taken at the expense of social consequences. In Waterloo Promenade this expressed itself in proposals to "do up" the houses, which would result in the dispersal of many of the low-income families and single working men.

In the Lace Market it shows up in the over-zealous enthusiasm to attract private investment from property developers who in their benevolence will agree to retain the external appearance of the buildings. Traditional textile firms are replaced by more unwanted (apart from capital assets value to the developer) office space.

Old village

If conservation comes to Sneinton, it will come to the Windmill area, which still has traces of the old village settlement. Sneinton village was separate from Nottingham until the 19th century enclosures gave the go-ahead for cheap terrace housing for the growing work-force in the city. In trying to solve the physical problems of the area social considerations may be neglected. It all depends on the sort of conservation policy . . .

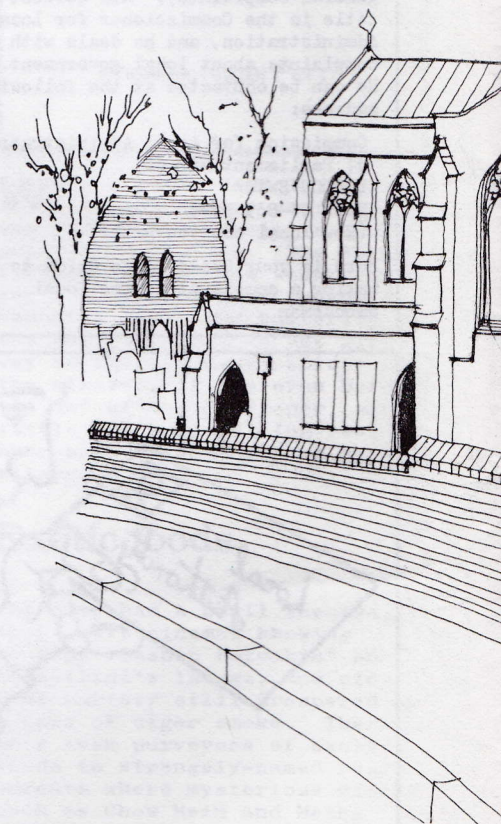
What, for instance, will become of the "local listed" council owned and tenanted three-storey terrace on Belvoir Hill? Classified as unfit by the Council in their 1971 city-wide housing condition survey, it has been suffering ever since from the threat of the bulldozer. The Council will find it difficult to convince the Secretary of State that they should be demolished, - and would presumably not wish for this approach, as the terrace's fine skyline is a central feature from near and far.

Reluctance

Physical improvement to conservation standards means high rents, but with a reluctance by the Corporation to fork out large rent rebates, what will become of the present tenants? Tenants in this kind of situation should force these issues well before the now obligatory public meeting is held in the area.

On the other hand, conservation could do a good turn in stopping the demolition of

Sneinton a test



property on Dale Street and Sneinton Hollows. The land is required to allow a section of road to be cut from Newark Street to Dale Street to speed car commuters to their suburban homes.

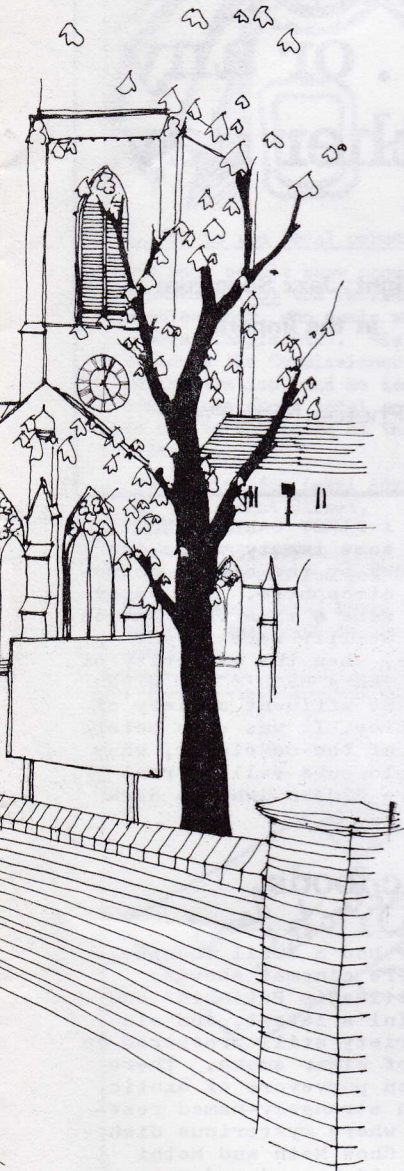
Then there is the problem of the derelict land in the neighbourhood. It may not be in the best interests of conservation to use it for community needs such as an adventure playground, but the kids in the area may see it differently!

It's been a long time since the Windmill on Belvoir Hill had any wind in its sails. However, there has been a lot of

hot air passing between the Corporation, the University and the trustees of the Windmill Trust concerning its future. Several variations on the theme of restoration of the museum have been suggested. This would mark its place with mathematician Green, who worked on the mill on the upper floor of his father's ground. But still the mill is derelict.

If conservation does not come to Sneinton, or anywhere else in the city, one of the things residents could do to put pressure on

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to carry out emergency repairs on buildings. But benefits to the working class will not come automatically from conservation, as the Council are likely to back down on the contentious or costly proposals. For example, watch out for the omission of the staggered terrace of Cromwell Street (programmed for clearance) in any conservation proposals around the Arboretum.

Not just bricks

In short - get the protection of the policy around you, and not just the bricks and mortar.

UP THE STEPS

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Police stop fa-

THE Evening Post is right to be concerned with the rise in juvenile crime in the city but I would take issue with the statement that "since

Comment

FOURTHREE ham Forest fal-
tioned by police
they travelled
from the gan
Bromwich.
The fans—all
were interviewed
after fireworks
had been hurled
on the A38 in Staf-

FOUR extra juvenile courts will sit at Nottingham Guildhall because of the mounting juvenile crime rate. Mr. Yandell reports that during 1973 and the first six months of this year there were juvenile cases at the top end of the criminal scale.

THE LIST

- These included:
- One of manslaughter.
 - 32 cases of arson, one involving £250,000 damage.
 - 32 cases of robbery.

OF the most serious aspects of the statistics for Nottinghamshire, entered in his annual report to the jury by their clerk, Mr. George Yandell, are juvenile offences and offen-

ing the cases brought before the city Court in 1973 and for the first six of 1974 were nine cases of blackmail, six of rape and six cases of assault on police (including one by a girl). There was one case of manslaughter and of arson and three juveniles were charged from driving under the "totting" charge of three offences within three

JUVENILE CRIME IS IN THE NEWS, BUT what happens to the kids when they come before the Courts doesn't make the news, and often can't because they are Juveniles. Let's start with when they are not allowed bail, and are remanded to await being dealt with.

The Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, makes it quite clear: they shall be remanded to the care of the Local Authority, which in Nottingham means going to a suitable Community Home, say Beechwood on Woodborough Road. Now this is very important, because it means that their parents can go and see them, and although away from home, they are in an institution remote from any suggestion of being a Prison.

Remand centres

There is one exception allowed by the Act: that is when the Court "certifies" that a young person is "of so unruly a character" that he cannot safely be committed to a Community Home. In those cases, he will be sent to a remand centre. There isn't a remand centre in Nottingham, and for those lads certified as unruly, their destination is the remote institution of Thorp Arch up near Wetherby in the Yorkshire Moors, far off course from Nottingham, and from their families, and generally spoken of as the "Juvenile Wing of Lincoln Prison".

What is of concern here is that the Courts are showing an increasing readiness to remand Juveniles to Thorp Arch on scanty evidence of unruliness.

Part of the mischief may be the lack of a "secure" Community Home in or near the City, so that the suggestion that the kid may "run away" may of itself be sufficient to secure a remand to Thorp Arch. Another part of the mischief may be the lack of places at those Community Homes which do exist in or near the City, and even perhaps the reluctance of the Social Services Department to accept Juveniles who may present problems if sent to one of the Community Homes.

It appears that in other areas the

Courts show a far greater reluctance to remand Juveniles to remand centres, and their reluctance seems more in keeping with the spirit of the 1969 Act. The situation in Nottingham seems to need long hard scrutiny.

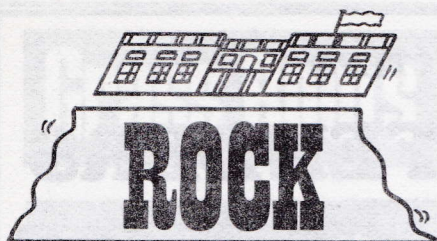
Having said this, one rueful Solicitor recalls using all his energies to persuade Juvenile Magistrates week after week to free his young Client from Thorp Arch, and to remand him to a Community Home while his case waited to be dealt with. When the occasion eventually came for the Magistrates to uphold his plea, and to announce their decision to remand him to the Community Home, the Juvenile protested. Had he not a football match at Thorp Arch arranged for that very Saturday? Could he not return at least to take part?

Mind you, Juveniles do seem to have a rough time in the Courts in more ways than one. Neither they nor their parents are allowed to see any of the reports which are prepared about them and their family as a matter of course when they come to be dealt with. In most cases, there will be a Probation or Social Enquiry Report, and a School Report. It's not entirely unknown for the School Report to contain inaccurate or misleading information, sometimes culled at third or fourth hand from the Staff Room. In one case, even, the Report, although damning, turned out to be about the wrong boy.

Decisive

Bearing in mind the significant and often decisive influence these reports have on the decision arrived at by the Magistrates, it seems wrong that neither the Juvenile nor his family should be able to read them. Indeed, it wasn't until recent times that their legal representative was allowed to see them. In the adult Court, of course, the Defendant is allowed to read the Social Enquiry Report, and to make any comment on the contents which he thinks fit.

There is a lot to be said for being over seventeen when it comes to appearing before the Courts.



AFTER THE PHENOMENAL RESPONSE TO LAST month's competition to win the Nottingham Castle Rock Album (and I feel bound to extend my thanks to all six of you), I am hoping that there will be even more entries this month to win the new Barclay James Harvest album or the Sparks album "Propaganda."

BJH are visiting the University at the end of the month, the third time they've visited the city in recent months. It's not long since the band left EMI's Harvest label (which was named after BJH) and joined Polydor, with whom they seem to be going from strength to strength. Their debut album on the new label, "Everyone is Everybody Else", is an admirable work considerably better than most of its predecessors. A couple of old tracks will remain classics for me: "Mocking Bird" and "Summer Soldier", both exceptional pieces.

Seventh Wave are supporting BJH at the University. Although not yet celebrities, if Seventh Wave produce any more albums similar to their first, "Things to Come", it shouldn't take them long. Written by Ken Elliott, "Things to Come" illustrates the versatility of synthesizers by combining them with old and exotic

WIN THE NEW BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST DOUBLE ALBUM!

instruments such as Finger Cymbals, Glockenspiel and Claves, making the album as easy to listen to as an orchestra, as spontaneous as jazz, without losing the original rock foundation.

The University has several good rock concerts this month, including one by Kevin Ayers, who is making a very forceful comeback into the music scene after an absence of several years. You'll possibly find Kevin behind the bar at the University, since he was recently voted "the most stylish vino tippler/potential arch-cirrhosis case in rock" by NME. Besides being an excellent guitarist, Kevin has superb vocal powers, something like a cross between Robert Wyatt and Bryan Ferry - it's one of those voices which you either love or hate.

Things aren't quiet at Trent Poly either, with 10cc appearing at the beginning of the month. 10cc's music can be described as a unique blend of "pop" and "rock" presented in a tricky professional way. A band well worth seeing live.

And now for the moment you've all been waiting for: Competition Time.

(Continued on page 13)



THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO, FOLK MUSIC in Nottingham was more or less synonymous with the Nottingham Traditional Music Club at the News House, St James's Street, and the Scheme Folk Club at the Bowling Green. The NTMC has the distinction of being the only club which has retained its original structure and enthusiasm since its formation, and if singalong traditional folk is your forte, this certainly is the place for you.

The Scheme Folk Club used to be the ideal venue for innovation. The resident group provided the largely traditional element, and the floor singers flocked there to present contemporary material to an avid, claustrophobic audience (any readers who were present on the night of the bomb scare will endorse the last adjective).

Since then there has been a rapid growth in the number of folk clubs (somebody once counted 23 clubs accessible by City Transport), and this naturally resulted in diminishing audiences, fewer floor singers and an in-

evitable loss of "atmosphere". The Scheme moved to the Fox Inn, leaving behind all but the familiar songs and faces, and the Yorker Folk Club emerged from Mansfield Road as its strongest rival.

Meanwhile, a number of smaller clubs were appearing with an unusually casual atmosphere (candles in bottles, cushions on the floors, and sometimes free admission) which were ideally suited to certain folk enthusiasts disheartened by the "Opportunity Knocks" format emerging in other clubs. But, unfortunately, the relaxed attitude which formed these clubs led to their downfall when their lack of organisation overtook their initial enthusiasm.

At the moment the folk situation in Nottingham is becoming more stable. The Yorker Folk Club has moved to the Foresters Inn, in a more intimate room than its long, high-ceilinged predecessor, and, except when the Carlton Folk Club is offering Martin Carthy, it is chosen as the regular Thursday night by many devotees.

The Scheme has survived its changes and appears to be recreating its individuality as a club. The Co-op Folk Club at the Crown Hotel has, I believe, the Sunday monopoly, and has become an established venue in spite of its distance from the city centre. And the NTMC has, as I mentioned earlier, weathered it all.

Apologies to clubs not mentioned.

MARTIN WRIGHT

JAZZ

on a summer's ... or any other day

Right: Jazz Spectrum
at the Imperial

Photos: Nigel Pert

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO NOTTINGHAM some twenty years ago I was struck by the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere. The early fifties were a time when rationing and utility were recent memories, when the austerity of the war years hadn't yet given way to the affluent society of the sixties. It was even before the day of the developer, when little old pubs selling real beer were hidden away up dark alleys.

Exotic foods

The city had a small theatre, there were cinemas showing "The Battleship Potemkin" and Rossellini's latest, and old-time variety still prospered in a haze of cigar smoke. There were even purveyors of exotic foods in strangely-named restaurants where mysterious dishes such as Chow Mein and Methi Gosht could be enjoyed in one of the few urban centres to offer such luxuries outside of Soho.

Nowadays such trappings of sophistication are old hat, and the Chinese take-out proliferates even in rural backwaters. But one aspect of Nottingham's life from twenty years ago still prospers, and if anything has gained ground in the intervening years: I refer to the city's jazz life.

It was as a musician of very limited talents, firmly committed to the New Orleans style of playing, that I arrived here and looked around for opportunities of joining in on the local scene. I found an active and divided jazz fraternity,



with half the local fans attending the Mick Gill Jazz Band's Thursday night sessions at the Test Match Hotel, and the other half equally firmly committed to the Rhythm Club's Mercia Jazz Band residency at the TBI on Fridays. Rarely did one see the same faces at both.

Operating in the outlying areas and making occasional forays into the city were such notables as Johnny Hobbs and Brian Woolley, and a whole new generation of young musicians were baying at the heels of the pioneers. Britain's best bands were regularly booked by both leading organizations and, in short, things were swinging.

Lenient County

But there was one fly in the ointment, and that was in the shape of a Chief Constable whose attitude to jazz - and several other things - would be described in modern sociological terms as authoritarian. He decreed that there would be no jazz heard within the city boundary, which is why both jazz clubs operated just over Trent Bridge within the jurisdiction of the rather more lenient County authority.

In rather the same spirit as that which informs guerrilla warfare, bands occasionally opened up at a pub or club within the forbidden boundary, only to find themselves closed at short notice - or, in the case of one group I played with briefly, with no notice at all. Jazz, said the Powers That Be, would not be heard in the city, and the uniformed representat-

ives of those Powers were on hand to ensure that it was not.

If a liberal attitude has become more evident in the city in the intervening years then it must be the changing attitude to jazz which reveals it most. The appearance of the Lord Mayor and Sheriff at several jazz events during the last Festival is indicative of Civic approval, and it is to be hoped that the new Entertainments chief, Joe Nuttridge, remembers this when he comes to book his programme of civic entertainments for the coming season.

Whilst I would be very cautious indeed about giving my approval to several aspects of the City's development during the past twenty years, I think that two aspects of the jazz activity are noteworthy.

The first is that so many of the musicians who were active on the local scene when I first came here are still blowing. I can well remember hearing such notables as trumpeter Eric White and tenor saxist John Marshall; Fred Pay was holding down the piano chair with the Mercia, as indeed he still is; Johnny Hobbs and Brian Woolley occasionally drifted into town for a blow - and still do. Ken Allsop and his unchanged Committee have had charge of the thirty-three-year-old Rhythm Club for most of its life span, though operations have switched to the home of the old enemy, the Test Match Hotel.

The second is the way the opening up of the city for jazz activity has seen the proliferation of new venues and the establishment of groups offering music in a wide variety of

styles. A younger generation of musicians has taken over the pioneering role of the veterans of the trad boom, and has explored new avenues of music, even venturing into rock idioms.

Jazz centres

Although there is a chronic shortage of suitable rooms in city pubs, several landlords have promoted jazz on a long-term basis, making regular jazz centres in most areas of the city - the Old General Hotel, the Tally Ho, the Imperial Hotel, the Bell Inn and the Earl of Chesterfield to name but a few.

But there are one or two blank spots in the overall picture. Perhaps the most notable of these is the apparent lack of support for "modern" jazz in the city, which results in a lack of opportunity for achieving artistic satisfaction for some of the most accomplished musicians living locally.

Another regret for me is the present dearth of Saturday night jazz. It may be something to do with the fact that I've had some of my most enjoyable times at Saturday jazz club sessions that I can't help thinking that the current famine on what I believe to be the best night of the week for entertainment-seekers leaves jazz fans out in the cold.

Perhaps the coming winter season will put that right, but then we come back to that shortage of the right kind of pub accommodation ...

CLIFF LEE

RACING RACING

WITH JUMPING TRACKS AT NOTTINGHAM, Southwell, Leicester and Doncaster, the winter racing enthusiast can keep himself fully occupied with a consistent if relatively unspectacular diet. Excluding Doncaster, the other local courses, in general, do not attract the chasing stars in great numbers.

Nevertheless, Nottingham in particular has worked hard over the past few years at finding race sponsors, and can now point to a programme with some undoubted highlights.

The first meeting of the season will feature the Merit Hurdle, a race which invariably brings together some of the best early season three-year-old hurdlers. Last year's winner, Traumatic, ran up a sequence of six wins culminating with his victory in Nottingham's £1,500 race.

The second December meeting provided one of the best seen at Nottingham last year and with the same races on the card should do so again. The John Player Hurdle, for four-year-old novices, and the Joe Coral Golden Hurdle, a long distance handicap, will again be qualifying races in a national series preliminary to the valuable finals run at Cheltenham and Chepstow later in the season.

The first three home in the juvenile event last year, Rosslare, Tom Morgan and Durham Town, all figured promin-

ently in the final. On the same programme the staging of the Ouzo Novices Chase and the Stan Mellor Cup, a three mile, four furlong handicap chase, won last year by Grand National candidate Straight Vulkan, pay tribute to Stan Mellor, who rode his 1,000th winner on Ouzo at Nottingham a few seasons ago. Stan, now well established in his new role of trainer, regularly sends runners to Nottingham and no doubt would dearly love to capture these commemorative races.

Highlights to look forward to in 1975 include well established races, in particular the City Trial Hurdle, and some new ones, most notable being the Berni Inns Novices Handicap Chase, which with £4,000 at stake will be the most valuable race at Nottingham all season.

The February meeting will feature the new race which replaces last year's Berni Inn Novices Chase won by Glandford Brig, a brilliant young chaser trained locally by Jack Hardy at Staunton. Readers may recall how close this horse came to winning at Cheltenham's jumping festival. On the same card will be the established Nottinghamshire Chase and the Joe Coral Handicap Hurdle.

As far as quality is concerned, the City Trial Hurdle in February invariably attracts one or two live Champion Hurdle candidates. In Comedy of Errors, last year's easy winner, we saw the hot favourite for the Cheltenham race.

All in all, then, an interesting season to look forward to.

Dates at Colwick Park (1974)

November 11, 12; December 9, 14.

ALAN FOUNTAIN



THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION over my statement last month about the serving of beer with the assistance of carbon dioxide. I did not say that Shippo's were the only local brewery not to serve pressurised beer - what I said was that they were the only local brewers NOT SERVING ANY DRAUGHT BEER that had been filtered or pasteurised and then served with pressure.

Traditional

The latest evidence that we have been able to gather indicates that of the local draught beers (i.e. not keg, which Shippo's also produce, like most breweries), Shippo's is 100% traditional (i.e. traditionally brewed and conditioned and served by gravity, hand-pump or electric pump). Home Ales are approximately 75% traditional and Hardy & Hanson's about 60% traditional. Mansfield Brewery no longer produce a traditional draught beer. If anyone has any information on the local breweries and their products I should be pleased to hear about it.

Anyway, enough of this technical banter and on to Pubs. THE NEW MARKET HOTEL in Lower Parliament Street, opposite the Palais, has got to be visited to taste Home Brewery bitter and mild at their very best. I have yet to taste a better pint of Home Ales. It is served by electric pumps from wooden barrels. The landlord, Tony Green, insists on only wooden barrels. (I, personally, do not think that it makes much difference whether wood or aluminium barrels are used, but it does show that he cares very much about the quality of his beer - even to the point of fanaticism.)

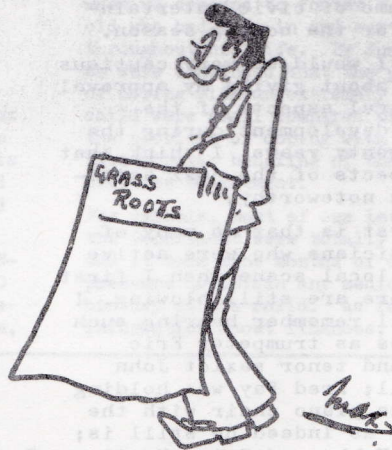
Same cellars

The New Market has an interesting background. It was built in 1928 on the site of another pub called the Plough & Sickle, but the cellars are the same as in the original pub. I guess the New Market was named after the market on King Edward Street (now known as the "old" market). New flats and a bus station are to be built on site of the "old" market, so logically the New Market should be renamed "The New Flats" or something like that. However, it won't be: it is going to revert to the old name of the Plough & Sickle. (Incidentally, the old pub is reputed to have sold something like fifty barrels of beer a week, which is 14,400 pints!)

The renaming is in line with the landlord's plans to renovate the pub. This is a real renovation and not the

(continued on next page, column 1)

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(ROCK: continued from page 10)

All you have to do is answer the following questions and send them with your name and address to: Grass Roots Competition, People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, to arrive no later than 22nd November. You could win a copy of the new BJH album or the new Sparks, and I'll try to send posters to anyone that enters.

- (1) What is the title of Barclay James Harvest's first album?
- (2) Who plays keyboards for BJH?
- (3) Which of the Mael brothers writes Sparks' lyrics?
- (4) On which label did Sparks commence recording and with whom do they now record?

(For this month's rock music dates, see What's On, page 2)

DAVE BRETT

(PUBS: continued from previous page)

usual "tarting-up" process. The public bar will be retained - along with the old railway memorabilia - but the old lounges are being completely refurbished. One final point - the prices are low and are going to stay that way: bitter and mild are 14p and 13p respectively.

NEXT MONTH. Having now written about two O.K. pubs, I'll be talking about pubs to avoid.

CHRIS HOLMES

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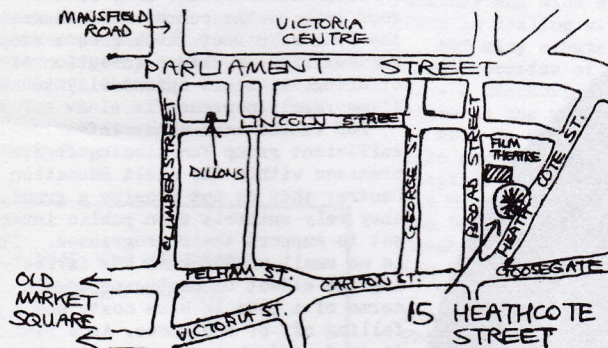
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Application forms in all shops,
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Nottingham. Telephone 44021.



MUSHROOM

MUSHROOM, Nottingham's alternative bookshop, will be moving to 15 HEATHCOTE STREET, NOTTINGHAM on November 13. The Arkwright Street shop will remain open until then.



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ARTS

33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham

'Arts Page'

THE AIM OF THE "ARTS PAGE" IS NOT merely to keep readers informed about the larger, spectator "Arts" in Nottingham. Whilst we recognise that there is a place for such information in "Grass Roots", we feel that the active, creative arts have been largely overlooked in the community and never been given an organ through which to express and publicise themselves. This page, then, is aimed at those writers, artists, actors, cinema buffs, etc. who, either individually or as a group, wish to tell us what they are doing.

Theatre Club

THE NOTTINGHAM THEATRE CLUB HAS BEEN providing drama for the community in a variety of venues for high on fifty years. However, it is only since April 1972 that they have been operating from their present premises on

Halifax Place (off Pilcher Gate/Fletcher Gate) in the Lace Market.

The club premises hold an auditorium capable of seating an audience of 100 and an amenable licensed bar which doubles as meeting place and rehearsal bay.

The high level and wide variety of the club's productions is maintained by a group of skilled volunteers who deal with every aspect through design, construction, direction and performance. The club gives the impression of being an efficient and accomplished unit which is always ready to welcome new members; whether they are drinkers or performers.

For November, the club offers two productions - from November 4-9 at 7.30, Chekhov's "The Seagull", and for one evening, November 16, "Dear Janet Rosenberg, Dear Mr Kooning".

Craft centre

"KATRINAVIK" IS A TOTALLY NEW CONCEPT for arts and crafts in Nottingham. A group of four craftworkers and artists have drawn up plans for a retailing craft centre founded upon creative and commercial lines.

Nottingham has a number of small galleries retailing artwork at the upper end of the financial bracket; "Katrinavik" aims to produce a variety of artwork to appeal to all tastes and be within the reach of all pockets. Chuck Goodall, the group's organiser, sees the enterprise as providing interior decor for all homes.

The group is not just a collection of individuals believing in their

creative urges. Its strength arises from this belief and is redoubled by an astute recognition of marketing necessity. Chuck himself is both a craftworker and an experienced Market Research Officer; his associates are gifted both creatively and technically - the group is, in every sense, an organic unit.

As well as the group's artwork in paints, plastics, glass and macrame, there are plans to create a craft centre capable of serving as a community workshop so that others may develop their skills and contribute to the creative endeavour. In addition, "Katrinavik" hope to provide a craft library and cafe as information centre and meeting place. With time they hope to be able to offer a printing press for local writers who wish to share their creative endeavours.

Clearly, "Katrinavik" is offering a valuable service for the active arts in Nottingham. Plans to go into operation in November have been temporarily thwarted by the failure to get the use of certain premises. The group are negotiating for fresh premises and, with luck, should be under way by Christmas.

"Katrinavik" is not just an ideal, for it is very nearly a working reality. Any readers wishing to know more should contact Chuck Goodall via Grass Roots at 33 Mansfield Road.

Peachey Street

AS WELL AS PROVIDING A CORNER, WITH the Mansfield Road, for that renowned Nottingham meeting-place and aquarium, the Peacock, Peachey Street also houses the city's only absolutely alternative cinema - "The Peachey Street Flick". True, the Film Theatre on Broad Street plugs many of the gaps left by the commercial cinemas; the Peachey Street Flick goes a step further with an avowed intention of offering "a unique opportunity to see films rarely screened".

PSF is the work of a self-sufficient group functioning from premises within the Adult Education Centre; they do not receive a grant, they rely entirely upon public interest to support their programmes. It is no small wonder that PSF is feeling the effect of rising prices in terms of a rise in hire costs and a falling off of audiences. As a result, it is feared that unless audiences grow they will have to cease providing this valuable service for the city.

At the moment, PSF is well into its Autumn season; a season devoted to "Classics of the German Expressionist Cinema", a formative period in the development of the cinema and, moreover, a genre that is rarely given screen time. Nottingham is particularly fortunate to have the opportunity of seeing films which usually have a showing only in the wider avenues of London; it would be a shame to see this facility disappearing from Peachey Street.

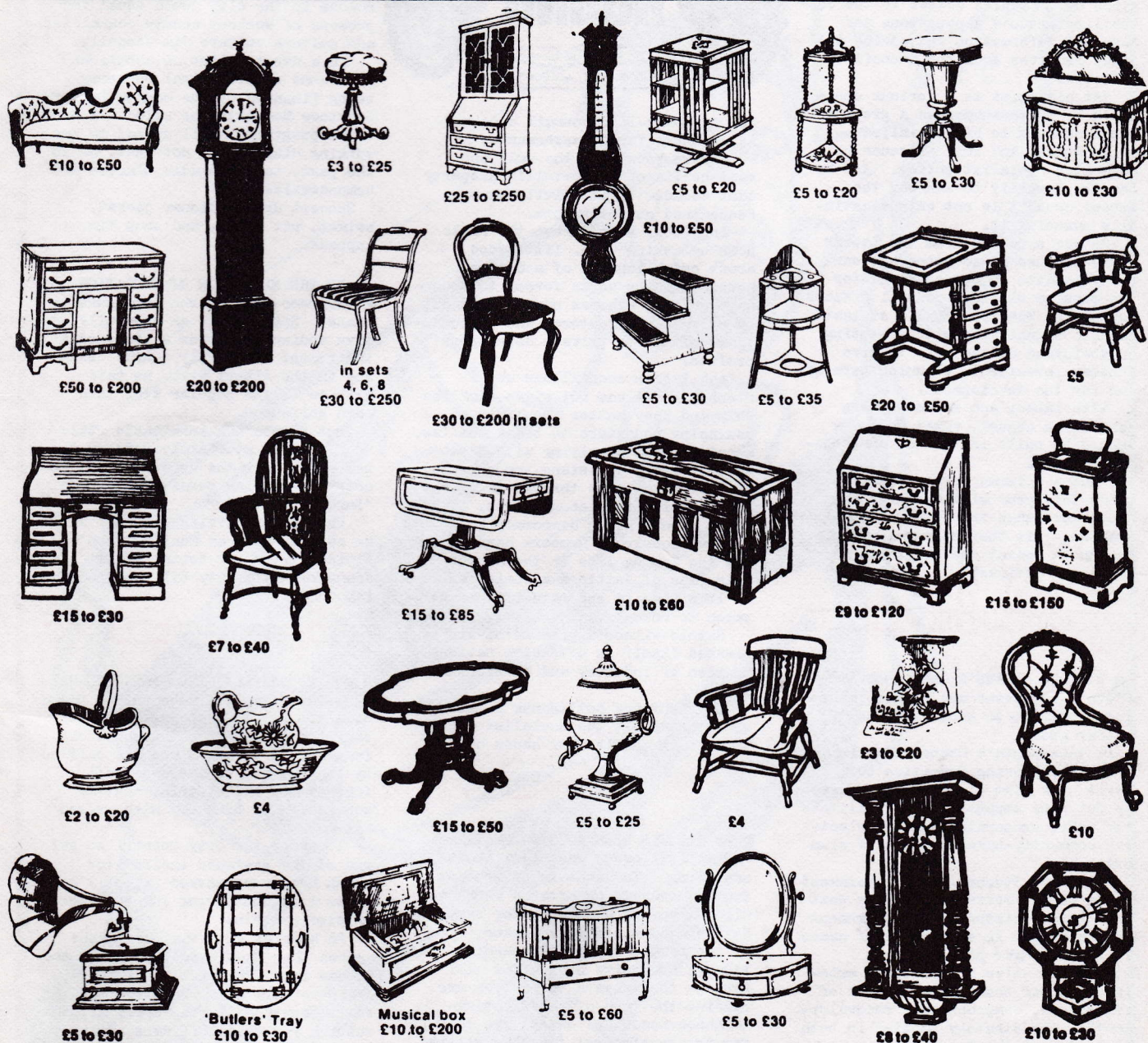
Future attractions can be found in the Dates column on page 2. The PSF season continues (hopefully) at 7.15 p.m. every Thursday until Christmas. Further information about individual films can be obtained from the Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare Street.



WANTED

We urgently require to purchase items as illustrated below in any condition. We also require any old Barometers, Mechanical Money Boxes, pieces of Porcelain, China, Pewter Plates, Furniture, etc., in fact, anything which is old. Our Buyers will be pleased to call any time to value or buy.

(We will also purchase any parts of Clocks, Music Boxes, Mechanical Toys, etc.)



The Jug & Bowl

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RETURN TO THE FOLD OF NOTTINGHAM City Council's prodigal son Coun. Stephen Evans has again been rejected by the controlling Labour group.

After a long summer of appeals to the regional and national executives of the Labour Party and his giving of solemn undertakings to be a good boy, the Labour group has persisted in turning down his application for return of the party whip.

He remains out in the cold, unable to carry out his work as an elected representative to the full, since he is denied access to the controlling group's discussions and also the information and advice the group receives from the council's officers.

Yet his crime is a curious one - month by month he proves a growing embarrassment to his Socialist colleagues. And why? Because he advocates Socialist policy. And he has the temerity to ask why the Labour council is not enthusiastically pursuing it.

He was expelled from the Labour ranks because he accepted his ward party mandate to oppose plans for the massive block of council offices behind the Theatre Royal. At last month's Planning Committee meeting he abstained on the vote to give Bentrax Investments planning permission for the development.

With labour and raw materials scarce, he argued, vital homes should be built instead of unnecessary offices.

What a dilemma for a council which this year will demolish 653 homes more than the number being started. Are they strong-minded enough to resist the temptation of flash new offices?

AND COUN. EVANS'S QUESTIONS AT both committee and council meetings continue to embarrass the Labour group.

At this month's Council meeting he asked the Housing Committee to review its slum clearance programme to put more emphasis on rehabilitating unfit properties and on selective community-based renewal of slum areas.

Nice one Stephen. The Government White Paper "Better Homes, the Next Priorities" states: "The Government believes that in a majority of cases it is no longer preferable to attempt to solve the problems arising from bad housing by schemes of widespread, comprehensive redevelopment" - the strategy adopted in both St Ann's and the Meadows.

"Such an approach often involves massive and unacceptable disruption of communities and leaves vast areas of our cities standing derelict and devastated for far too long." Too right.

He also called on the Council to co-operate with squatters in use of short-life housing. Another quote to make the faces red, this time from Environment Department circular 18/74, which states councils should be ready to work with reliable squatters' organisations. In various London boroughs over 3,000 squatters



occupy short-life council accommodation under formal agreements.

And we know only too well the vast heritage of short-life property that decades of inactivity have bequeathed on Nottingham.

And Coun. Evans drove the nails home by asking Coun. Littlewood about establishment of a direct house-building works force, to undertake housing schemes now carried out by private contractors, and presumably to eliminate private developers' profits.

Ask Labour councillors why Stephen Evans was not given back the whip and they mutter about him encouraging squatters to break the law, about him not complying with "democratic" group decisions and pursuing his political aims through organisations outside the Labour group. What price Labour group democracy?

How closely do members have to toe the caucus line in the acceptable face of Nottingham socialism?

It's time to end this petty despatch to Coventry.

Harold Wilson's praesidium has pledged itself to extensive nationalisation of industry and development land.

So right now Nottingham's Labour group needs all the Socialist conscience it can lay its hands on.

FOR ALL HIS SINS HOUSING CHAIRMAN

Bert Littlewood was right about one thing. The squeals of protest from homebuyers on estates where the City is buying up houses for rent HAVE proved a nine-day wonder.

Are people realising council tenants are quite nice after all? Perhaps the tenants themselves are raising the tone of these boring neighbourhoods and owners are reaping the benefits of freshly-inflated house prices.

AS EXPECTED, THE AFFAIR SURROUNDING the hasty departure of Administration Director Henry Waring from County Hall has culminated in fiasco.

The reasons for his departure from the job of No.2 public servant with the county authority have still not been made public.

Instead, the controlling Labour group have fobbed us off with a host

of denials to speculative suggestions which serve only to increase doubts about the whole business.

And at the end of the day, with Mr Waring still 17 years from retirement, the deal could cost the rate-payers anything up to £78,000 - and that's before inflation over the years to come is taken into account.

FOR THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL BARKER

award for outstanding comment, no-one in the city could equal the prowess of Worksop county councillor and culture vulture Jim Connolly.

In a debate about an ambitious programme of orchestral concerts being financed by the county Leisure Services Committee he said: "I hope these programmes will appeal to the working classes and not just, as in the past, to the middle classes and homosexuals."

Concert dress: dinner jacket, helmet, pit boots, and snap tin, I suppose.

AND THE ELOQUENCE OF EDUCATION

supremo Bill Cairns continues to amaze. Speaking to an unhappily captive audience of over a thousand at the recent Trent Poly awards ceremony in the Albert Hall, he paid tribute to the popular star turn Lord Wolfenden.

But in his own inimitable style Coun. Cairns stubbornly refused to believe either the programme or his notes, referring persistently to a "Lord Wolferton".

Who is this living legend? Will we see him soon on Monty Python's Flying Circus? or better still, sponsored by mighty Bill on Opportunity Knocks?

I DON'T NORMALLY GIVE TECHNOLOGICAL

advice without a substantial backhander. But in response to overwhelming demand from thousands of families in St Ann's who are baffled by the mystery of the Eastcroft incinerator and district heating scheme I will break my high-priced silence.

I advise the City Council to get rid of the wretched incinerator which has never worked properly and looks like continuing for ever more in similar vein.

In keeping with the Guy Fawkes season they should instead power the scheme from a massive bonfire.

There will never be a shortage of fuel. County Hall can supply all the rubbish you need. Officers are up to their eyes in ton upon ton of published reports.

Councillors are boggled by wad upon wad of reports which are followed by stack upon stack of press cuttings giving coverage to the wad upon wad of reports.

Any members who want to give their brains a treat and perform a community service at the same time can send their unnecessary paperwork, by the bale, to City Director of Technical Services John Haslam at Lawrence House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham NG1 5NT.

Barker