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# Nottingham Voice



BECAUSE OF THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, THE NEXT FORTNIGHTLY VOICE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FOUR WEEKS' TIME ON SATURDAY, 15th JANUARY.

## SLIMMERS' CORNER

### Potato Latkes

LATKES (of Jewish origin) are quite good news, especially when all else fails. Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of grated potato (peeled first) with half a grated onion and 1 tablespoon of flour. Add one large egg, salt and black pepper, and mix thoroughly. Drop by the spoonful into oil or butter and fry reasonably gently until golden brown. Keep them thin or they won't cook through properly. You can substitute other root crops - I've tried swede with reasonable results. Jerusalem artichokes might be a good bet - but not carrots. If you don't have any onion, try garlic, or garlic/onion salt. This is a dish to improvise! But if you don't have eggs, forget it!

By the way (for readers of Voice 51), the damson pickle is fine ●

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THIS MONTH has seen another feeble attempt by Nottingham's Labour lefties to get the anti-Dunnett bandwagon rolling. We've seen it all before, of course, including the immortal party once thrown by loony Nottingham University lecturer Dieter Peetz to celebrate the impending collapse of the stout MP for Nottingham East.

All has been decidedly quiet on the eastern front for some time, however. Ever since this time last year, in fact, when the then Labour City Council persuaded the Boundary Commissioners (at the second attempt) to accept its proposals for revised ward boundaries. These involved - surprise, surprise - the total abolition of troublesome Market Ward which was split down the middle - and the opposition with it, naturally.

Further blows were delivered by the party establishment at the May elections, when the most dissident councillors somehow didn't get re-nominated. And, surprisingly, the Tory landslide didn't do Fat Jack too much harm either (though such things are beyond even his control), since it knocked the stuffing very thoroughly out of the whole Nottingham Labour Party, including the dissidents.

Now, if they were following the national trend,



the revolutionaries should be regrouping. After all, the papers are full of stories of Marxist infiltration. What is happening in Nottingham East? Well, a pamphlet is being circulated round ward parties revealing amazing facts like Jack Dunnett's involvement with a number of property deals and his connections with imprisoned immigrant-smuggler Rana Ashraf.

But as usual, the volumes of smoke are accompanied by not the faintest glimmer of fire. We've all known for a long time that Jack Dunnett is not many people's idea of a socialist, that he is a very wealthy man who has made his pile from property interests and being a solicitor and that from a socialist point of view there seems no particular reason why he should be in the Labour Party at all - like Jim Callaghan, Denis Healey and Roy Jenkins, in fact.

We wish the "campaign" the best of luck. It's a bitter irony that generations of working-class aspiration in Nottingham should only serve to prop up such an archetypal fat capitalist as Jack Dunnett. But Jack Dunnett is no Reg Prentice or Neville Sandelson. He's a realistic campaigner with a firm grip on the party machine, and it'll take more than the usual amateurish manoeuvres to shift him.

Time for a really professional conspiracy, surely ●



**COUNCIL HOUSE TENANTS** - not the most privileged of people - are at least more fortunate than some: namely tenants of the council's luxurious Victoria Centre. Principal grumbles are as follows:

(1) Car parking facilities. Tenants are offered a space at £2.15 a week. Unfortunately, there are no reserved spaces and tenants - even if they pay - often cannot find a space, particularly on Saturdays.

(2) Access after 8 p.m. The Victoria Centre Tenants Association (VICTA) claims that after 8 p.m. only three of the six lifts are available, and in practice only two lifts are used - leading to frequent breakdowns, long queues and considerable delays.

(3) The cost of heating. VICTA has been told that the maximum room temperature of

68°F is only guaranteed in windless conditions with outside temperatures no less than 32°F (freezing point).

Footnote. The Council has got nearly £2½ million tied up in the Victoria Centre ●



THREE LOCAL AUTHORITY employees were observed setting off many large expensive fireworks at County Hall on November 22nd. They explained that they were testing them. Did some Guy Fawkes celebration leave out the old bureaucratic sparks? Or are they preparing for the Queen's visit next year? Nothing like planning ahead! ●



DESPERATE MEASURES are being taken in Forman Street to discover news items which have not already appeared on Radio Nottingham or in the Daily Telegraph.

Latest of these pitiful ploys has been a probe into the private lives of reporters in the hope that something interesting might turn up.

So far the campaign has produced little except the world exclusive about a cat locked in a flat at Ilkeston - which naturally enough made a front page panel.

This feckless feline in fact belongs to the Post's reporter at Ripley Neil Walker - not a member of the NUJ - whose intimate connections with the animal-loving Evening Post were not revealed, presumably to spare his blushes.

Stand by now for a whole series of scoops, including Southwell Man's Sexploits Revealed, and Sugar Beet Is Interesting - Claim ●

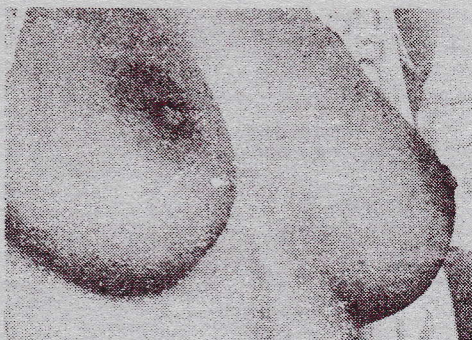


IT WILL NO DOUBT be of some consolation to the growing number of unemployed teachers in Nottingham that, while those actually doing the work have to fight for their jobs, cuts in education spending are affecting some in the profession less than others.

And, as in other local government departments, it is the bureaucrats who



### THE PAGE 3 TIT PHOTO



23-year-old Fiona Boobs is a company director's daughter - so she's got some pretty big assets! We certainly appreciate them, anyway! In fact, we wouldn't mind a quick take-over bid across the board-room table! Don't know which we'd prefer, though - holding a few shares or sharing a few holds!

are the first to jump onto the gravy train.

The Policy Sub-Committee of the County Council has given the go-ahead for the "regrading" of Area Education Officers, and intends to hand out salary increases of between £650 and £850 at a total cost to the ratepayer of over £11,000 per annum.

"Regrading", of course, is a familiar dodge to get round the government's pay restraint policies by claiming that an increase in workload justifies a higher salary ●



A WELCOME NOTE of theology returned to the Tory press the other week with the long-awaited news that Margaret Thatcher is Jesus Christ.

"Conservative leader Mrs Margaret Thatcher was mobbed by supporters in the centre of Cambridge today," reported the Evening Post. "Little old ladies armed with shopping bags elbowed their way through the city's market square to get a glance of Mrs Thatcher and younger people climbed on to walls and waste

paper bins."

Happily, though, all is not lost. As long as Labour retains the support of all big, fat old ladies, it is difficult to see how Mrs Thatcher's skinny, wrinkled hordes could withstand them.

Footnote for Labour activists. Clearly, the Tory party's youth strategy could be demolished at a stroke by a pre-emptive strike against municipal wastepaper bins ●



### The Voice Do-It-Yourself Guide to Council Tenantry

#### Part 3: Pluses and minuses of paying the rent

WHICH SHOULD come first? The Rolls Royce, the two colour television sets and the Louis XIV chandeliers - or keeping up with the rent?

In these hard economic times this has become the crunch question for more and more council tenants.

And more and more tenants are taking the sensible decision not to pay the rent.

With careful planning, this need not be nearly as traumatic as it sounds. In fact, for those in straitened circumstances it can be a rational way of switching to a more viable way of organising the family budget.

For, although sooner or later the Council will evict you, you will then qualify as a homeless family and will be rehoused immediately (so don't send the kids to grandma!).

True, rehousing can be slightly distressing, involving up to three months in a boarding house or the Salvation Army's paternalist penitentiary in Peel Street - but at least you will have the satisfaction of knowing that this will be costing the Council more than you would have been paying (or not paying) in rent!

And eventually you will be rehoused in a much cheaper council house where it will not be nearly so difficult to make ends meet.

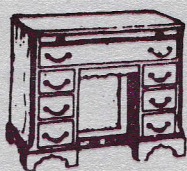
For those who have no wish to move, however, a practical alternative has been pioneered by a tenant at Bestwood who has turned his council house into a brothel. This has had the additional advantage of entertaining the neighbours, many of whom have sat up all night in order to complain



# The Jug & Bowl

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about what was going on.

The only fly in the ointment has been the odious moralising of Coun. Philip Owen, a young biology teacher whose scruples presumably do not extend to the slaughter and dissection of blameless rats, frogs and cockroaches in his laboratory!

Come off it, Coun. Owen! We thought your party believed in private enterprise!



## Letters

Dear Sir,

Your paragraphs about the ambition of our local newspaper chief to become a knight prompt me to suggest that he ought to turn his attentions to making a better newspaper out of what must be the most awful evening journal in Britain. It has been said that the most modern technology can't make a good newspaper out of a bad one, and this certainly applies to the Post. If there was a consumer report on the British daily press, I'm sure our local paper would come well down the list.

Most of the copy in the Post is what the professionals call "undated", and the reader never can be sure whether the news is an hour old or a year old. There is rarely any help as to whether something happened, such as "today", "last night" or "yesterday".

When I buy a Post in the Market Square at four o'clock, I am often handed a paper which, although it has the edition seal 7, has obviously gone to press sometime before lunchtime, and I find myself reading columns of news items from faraway Grantham and Newark, as well as innumerable titbits of gossip from the women's institutes, etc., of every tiny village in the south of the county.

I am by now very familiar with all the doings of the Ferman Hardy family. There may be some sociological interest in reading about the goings-on of this family, but really the news value of such gossip paragraphs, not to mention the photographs of the hunt balls, must be minimal.

Any Labour Prime Minister who even considered giving a knighthood to such a

vehement opponent of trade unions and the Labour Party would be out of his mind. The Post has never had the initiative to start any of the anti-Labour smear campaigns, but it has joined in every bandwagon possible, such as the social security muckraking and stories about council house tenants.

Yours truly,  
Albert G. Hamling.  
55 Park Road, Barnstone, Nottingham.

Dear Editor,

I am glad that you drew attention to my opposition to a Union closed shop in the Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service, as I felt it was inappropriate to the spirit of a Voluntary Agency.

Perhaps you will enquire whether those who work for the People's Centre or any other Voluntary Agency in Nottingham receive Local Authority rates of pay and are paid up Union members?

In my opinion the quality and quantity of work done in a voluntary or any other agency seldom increases with the rate of pay and I very much doubt whether the spirit of enterprise and service will be enhanced by the security and power of the closed shop.

Whose side are you on anyway?

With my best wishes,  
Peter Miller,  
Vice Chairman, NCVS.

(Ed. Our point is that, since the NCVS is financed by the Local Authority, there seems no reason why its workers should not be paid Local Authority rates. The People's Centre is not, of course, funded by the Local Authority.)

Dear Sir,

### MEALS ON WHEELS

I wonder if I might comment on your item on the Mansfield Meals on Wheels Direct Service which appeared in your issue of the 20th November 1976.

When the location of a direct service was considered, Mansfield was found to have the lowest meals on wheels provision

(continued on page 8)



# MICK'S MART

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# SUPERHACK by Stone

The notice board  
at T. Feebly Boring....



NUJ NEWS  
~~IMMINENT~~  
~~REDUNDANCIES~~  
EARLY RETIREMENT  
SCHEME ~ meeting  
tomorrow

The next day, the  
Manager, Mr Polevault,  
explains the advent  
of new technology;

MACHINES  
are the thing of  
the future. They'll  
do away with wage  
bills....



DAYS LATER, S.H.  
IS ON THE MACHINE...

Chamber of Commerce  
Press Releases and  
weak copy



Stack of  
newly printed  
finishing Posts



EVENTUALLY WE CAN CUT OUT THE  
REPORTER COMPLETELY.

can superhack survive?



(LETTERS continued)

in the County. In the Mansfield district 22 meals on wheels per week per thousand pensioners were provided compared to a County figure of 50 meals per week per thousand pensioners. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service acknowledged that they could not improve on this provision, and agreed to concentrate on their excellent luncheon club provision whilst the Social Services Committee provided meals on wheels.

The "latest play" of a direct meals on wheels service was discussed in the Social Services Committee as early as December 1974. In June 1976 the possibility of such a service in Mansfield was discussed with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. This does not, of course, quite amount to the ruthless take-over, engineered by scheming Councillors, as implied by your article. But then the facts are often rather dull.

A substantial part of the money spent on the new service will be used to provide food. This money would have had to be spent even if the Women's Royal Voluntary Service had provided the meals.

If my Committee had been seeking gratitude I think it could have found more glamorous and attractive means than a service as prosaic though necessary as meals on wheels. Presumably, if we had not provided the service we would have been criticised for neglecting the elderly.

Perhaps we should have provided the service anonymously and thus attracted headlines to the effect "Anonymous Benefactor Provides Meals on Wheels Service", however, once identified I suppose "Nottingham Voice" would have seen this as a "desperate play", a variation on "latest play" of your article, to obtain publicity.

We are trying to provide a group of dependent, vulnerable old people with something most of us take for granted, i.e. a regular meal. The service will keep many old people in their own homes and out of hospital and homes for the elderly. For many it will be the only everyday contact with another person, thus providing a check on their well-being.

If we only provide those services to which no approval attaches, we will not be providing very much, and what would be provided would not be wanted by the people in Nottinghamshire. Your position seems to me to be extremely ambiguous.

If everybody regarded an improvement in services for the house-bound as an electoral bribe we would never get anything done, and if you are against helping old people in this way, what can you possibly be for?

Yours sincerely,  
A. Burton,  
Chairman of the County Social Services Committee.

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The following appears to be an anonymous letter from Councillor David Tongue.

Dear Cur,

After reading Nottingham Voice No. 54, once more (splash) I must violently (dab, pat) protest your crediting my letter (slosh, splash) to Coun. Ben Allsop (rub, rub). Cheek!

I have read Do-It-Yourself Guide, Part 2 (splosh, splash) and I am having a bath (splosh, splash). But Nottingham Voice is no good, it contains a lot of old soap (splish, splosh) but can't come clean. Keep hanging in loo.

Yours bathefully,  
W.C. PUBLIQUE.

P.S. As a point of interest, my comrade Coun. Ben Allsop keeps the Evening Post in his toilet and believes it contains more crap, but I'm working on it.

P.P.S. I must close now as the coalman is coming down the path and I must remove the donkey to make room for the coal.

(Ed. This correspondence is now closed.)



Gift suggestions for Christmas: Part 2

For Dad: A handsome 100% solid gold type plated swizzle stick with concealed toothpick. Large range of accessories include nail file, wart gouger, nose picker and hyperdermic syringe. £26 (plus VAT) from Shabitat.

For the Wife: In these waste-conscious days of ecology, Save It, do-it-yourself, Oxfam, etc., save £££s by knitting your own egg-cosies, tea cosies, egg and tea cosy presentation wrappers, etc. The



# **PORTLAND ARMS**

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**PORTLAND ROAD, NOTTINGHAM**

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**BEST KIMBERLEY ALE**  
**COOL GUINNESS & LAGER**  
**CHIP BUTTIES**  
**BACON COBS & SOUP**  
**JUKE BOX**  
**POOL TABLE**  
**FRUIT MACHINES**

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**RUGBY PLAYERS WELCOME**

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possibilities are almost infinite - and simplicity itself to make with the Great Steaming Knit Machine. Runs off ecological steam from a wood boiler. No messy oil! £6,000 approx. from Guest, Keen & Knittlefold.

And let's not forget Hubby: how about a brand new U-No-What from London Rubber's famous "Up the Junction" Range. Especially recommended is "Latin Guerrilla", a hot little number which actually glows in the dark and plays "What now my love" from concealed speaker. A snip at £6.

... and by the way,  
mine's a half. P.J. GRCB WORTH



### ER II, We love you

SUCH IS THE importance of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations that we cannot resist bringing you edited highlights from the minutes of the last Policy and Resources (Silver Jubilee) Sub-Committee of the City Council.

The Committee considered the programme for the Mini-Festival at Wollaton Park and for a bonfire on the Forest (to be part of a "national chain" - organised by Tesco?). It was agreed to hold the bonfire at Wollaton. The Committee then decided not to proceed with these events.

The Entertainments Manager reported on arrangements for a Silver Jubilee concert at the Albert Hall. This was abandoned because of the cost. Radio Nottingham are to be approached to see if they will pay for it.

The committee then considered various mementos, it being agreed that a self-adhesive badge would be appropriate. These would cost about 7p each and be sold for 15p. The Entertainments Manager said that a roast ox could be provided and that the supplier would be asked to make a contribution to the Appeal Fund.

Consideration was given to planting a floral clock near Trent Bridge as long as a sponsor could be found.

It was decided not to present Her Majesty with an Illuminated Address.

The Committee then decided that, since the theme of the Silver Jubilee appeal was "help young people to help others", it would be more appropriate for the bonfire to be

held at Bilborough Park at the same time as an "appropriate event at the Harvey Hadden Stadium".

The climax of the meeting came when the Publicity and Information Officer reported on the provision of a "Silver Jubilee bus" (Ed: don't tell me! It's a heavily disguised Lilac Leopard). The General Manager was asked to provide a suitably prepared bus and the Publicity and Information Officer to be responsible for producing a special commemorative bus ticket for the occasion.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the Ideal Home Exhibition have written to the City Council asking for permission to use the City Coat of Arms at a special Jubilee exhibition. As the letter points out, "1977 will find itself in the pages of history". This will come as something of a shock to historians who, it is reliably reported, were planning to move directly from 1976 to 1978 ●



### City centre pub guide

#### 37. The Crystal Palace, Clumber Street

THE LANDLORD of the Crystal Palace, Derek Adams, appears to have succeeded in the extremely difficult task of creating the atmosphere of the traditional "local" in a pub situated in a city centre shopping

for

# Letterheads & Leaflets

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

£2.20 for 24 fortnightly issues  
(including postage).

Send cheques, POs, etc., payable  
to Nottingham Voice, to 33 Mansfield  
Road, Nottingham.

precinct.

Passers-by on Clumber Street will  
notice its rather attractive curved window  
frontage. Inside is a long, comfortable  
bar, with a small snug at the farther end.

What is not obvious to the casual  
customer, but a well-known fact to local  
beer lovers, is that the Crystal Palace  
has a deep cellar cut into the underlying  
sandstone, which means that even during  
the exceptionally hot summers of recent  
years Derek has been able to serve his  
excellently kept Shipstone's beers at a  
pleasantly low temperature. In addition  
to this, however, he has a flash-cooling  
system on one set of pumps, thus making  
him, to my knowledge, the only landlord  
to be able to please both the purist and  
the drinker with a liking for chilled beer.

The Crystal Palace once operated a  
"ties only" rule at weekends - but this  
has been relaxed since the hot summer of  
'75 when the usually impeccably dressed  
Mr Adams was himself to be seen behind  
the bar in an open-necked shirt!

An ideal pub to pop into at lunchtimes  
when doing the shopping, but well worth a  
trip into town for in the evenings - parti-  
cularly at weekends for the traditional  
pub sing-song with piano.

G. NOME

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

CLLR T.G. Strickson has recently  
attended a conference on minority groups  
organised by the Community Relations  
Council.

In his report to the Social Services  
Committee Cllr Strickson says that the  
theme of one of the talks "was that if  
situations are left undealt with, they  
remain, and they deteriorate and that  
there are situations within the minority  
communities which come very clearly into  
this category - the perpetuation of social  
and economic disadvantage becoming

worse as this goes on and being particular-  
ly aggravated by the factor of colour".

Thank you, Cllr Strickson ●

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Notice

At the Building, Forest Green Community,  
Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green, next to  
the Library:

Fri, 17th Dec. 6 p.m. "Clowns and  
Modern Ballet". Free admission - kids  
come along!

Sat. 18th Dec. 12 a.m. Grand Jumble/  
Bizarre. Kids' non-sexist books, wood-  
en toys, cakes, Xmas trees, leather belts,  
bags,...rings, candles, nearly new  
clothes, women's literature, alternative/  
revolutionary books. And every Saturday.

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### KILDARE ROAD FLATS

#### AN OBITUARY

THE CITY FINANCE Committee announced  
at its meeting on 14th December that the  
latest estimate for repairs for this jerry-  
built council housing development stood at  
£750,000. As recently as July this year,  
the sum was given as a paltry £516,400  
(the original cost of building the flats in  
1968 was a mere £689,194).

In a report to the Committee, the City  
Secretary and Solicitor, Marcus Wakely,  
pronounced as follows:

"All the information which I have  
received confirms the view expressed in  
Paragraph 6 of my earlier report, to the  
effect that virtually all the defects are  
attributable either to faults in the design  
or to constructional faults which should  
have been discovered prior to the issue of  
the Final Certificate and for which the  
Contractor is not therefore liable.

"On the basis of the information  
currently available to me, it remains my  
view that the City Council have no grounds  
for a successful claim against the Contract-  
or in respect of the costs involved in  
making good the defects to the Kildare  
Road housing development."

In other words, because of the incom-  
petence of the City Architect of the time,  
David Jenkin, the City Council now faces a



bill of £750,000 with absolutely no come-back against the contractor, Costain.

Even more alarming, the Finance Committee has stated that this money will simply have to be deducted from the sum normally available for council house improvements ●



ITEM 42 in the last Housing Committee agenda has gone largely unnoticed. "Request for forwarding addresses of tenants (Director of Housing to report)," it read. To what did this mysterious item refer? Normally a written report is included in the agenda to give both councillors and the press the chance to study the item.

According to both the Housing Department and Cllr Borrett, Chairman of the Housing Committee, it referred to a decision to increase the charge for providing an enquirer with the present address of a council tenant. Instead of 50p (cut rate for Gas and Electricity Boards 10p), it is now £2 a time.

Intrigued, we asked the City Council Chief Executive's Office who was entitled to pay for this information. They couldn't really say, but thought "credit agencies" were included. Any credit agencies? No, only "bona fide agencies", they said.

Who else could ask for addresses of council tenants? That was a matter for the Housing Department.

Mr Bickley, from the Housing Department, confirmed that "bona fide companies" could pay for the information. But how did they know whether a company was bona fide? They just used their judgement.

Which organisations were able to use this service? The Police? Social Services? Were tenants informed of this? Could individuals use it? Mr Bickley of the Housing Department said he would have to check and call us back (he didn't).

Since this was a matter for the Housing Committee we contacted the Chairman, Cllr Borrett, who helpfully informed us, "I don't know anything about it. It has been going on for a lengthy period." To be fair to Cllr Borrett he did add, "It wasn't questioned (in Committee) at all. I'm not going into print on the matter."

Cllr Carroll, the former Labour Leader of the City Council, said "As far as I know we were against giving

addresses to anybody when we were in power." Cllr Ben Allsop, the only Labour member to stay to the end of the meeting (the press and local radio had left long before), could give no further details - he was out of the room when the item came up.

Still a mystery, then. How long has it been going on? Since Labour were in power? Or only since the Tories got back in May? ●



### URBAN AID

IT'S A CASE of almost total paralysis as far as this year's Urban Aid circular is concerned. Urban Aid is a grand government wheeze to try and persuade local authorities to actually put some money into deprived areas. Voluntary associations can apply for money (which is then paid 75% by the government and 25% by the council) to use in projects which will improve the lot of the inhabitants of their area.

This year's circular from the Home Office has just been received by the local councils. But the County Council say they are unable to circulate it to voluntary groups because of the expense.

The deadline for applications is 31st December for the County and 27th January for the City (for most projects) or 14th January for Easter playschemes.

As a City official put it to the Voice, "The period for receipt and consideration of schemes is considerably curtailed."

In the past, the Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service has publicised the circular in order to arouse some kind of interest in the matter. This year? The CVS say, "We can't afford to circulate it." ●



### Voice gesture to the Christmas spirit



And remember: Christmas comes but once a year - and that's once too often ●