

£50

It's Your Shout!

£50

We hope you enjoyed reading this paper. We have made every effort to include as many articles from as wide a range of people as possible, but we can't cover everything in 12 pages! If you can see something we have missed please tell us in the questionnaire below, better still send in your stuff.

Now we'd like to know what you think. Please fill in the questionnaire below and send it back to us. We will enter you into our prize draw and you could win one of 2 £50 cash prizes.

We need this information so we can judge whether a magazine such as East Of The City is useful and wanted

1. Do you think the idea of a community Newspaper is a?

GOOD IDEA ☐ BAD IDEA ☐

2. Which of the comments below best describe what you think about this issue?

RELEVANT TO THE AREA ☐ BORING ☐ MUDDLED AND CROWDED ☐
EASY TO READ ☐ REALLY GOOD ☐ GOOD ☐ OK ☐ BAD ☐
INTERESTING ☐ OTHER ☐ (IF SO, WHAT?)

3. THIS NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY LOCAL PEOPLE IS THIS A...?

GOOD IDEA ☐ BAD IDEA ☐

4. What do you think we need more of?

LOCAL NEWS AND ISSUES ☐ HISTORY ☐ WHAT'S ON PAGES ☐
ART ☐ POETRY ☐ POLICE/COUNCIL/HEALTH AUTHORITY NEWS ☐
COMMUNITY GROUP INFO ☐ PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES ☐ PHOTOS ☐
OTHER ☐

5. What do you think about the title?

GOOD ☐ BAD ☐

6. Do you have an idea for a better title, what is it?

7. What was your favourite article(s)?

8. Are you?

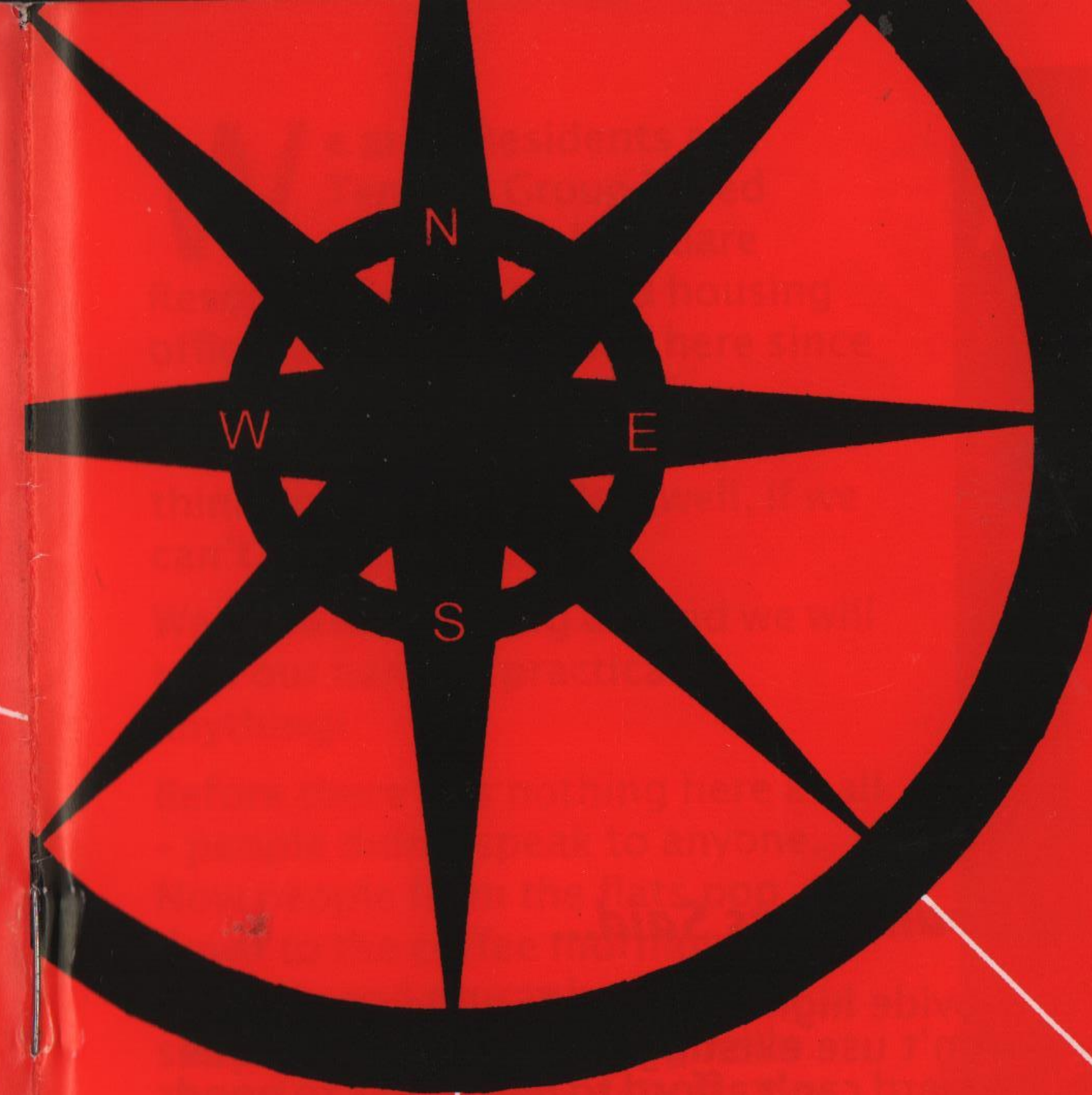
LIVING LOCALLY ☐ WORKING LOCALLY BUT LIVING ELSEWHERE ☐
VISITING FRIENDS AND FAMILY ☐

9. Are you actively involved in any community groups?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If you want to be put into the prize draw please put your name and address below. We will not send this information to any other group.....

Please return this questionnaire to Greg Foister East of the City 5 Radstock Road Thorneywood Nottingham. If you would like to take part in future issues please contact Greg

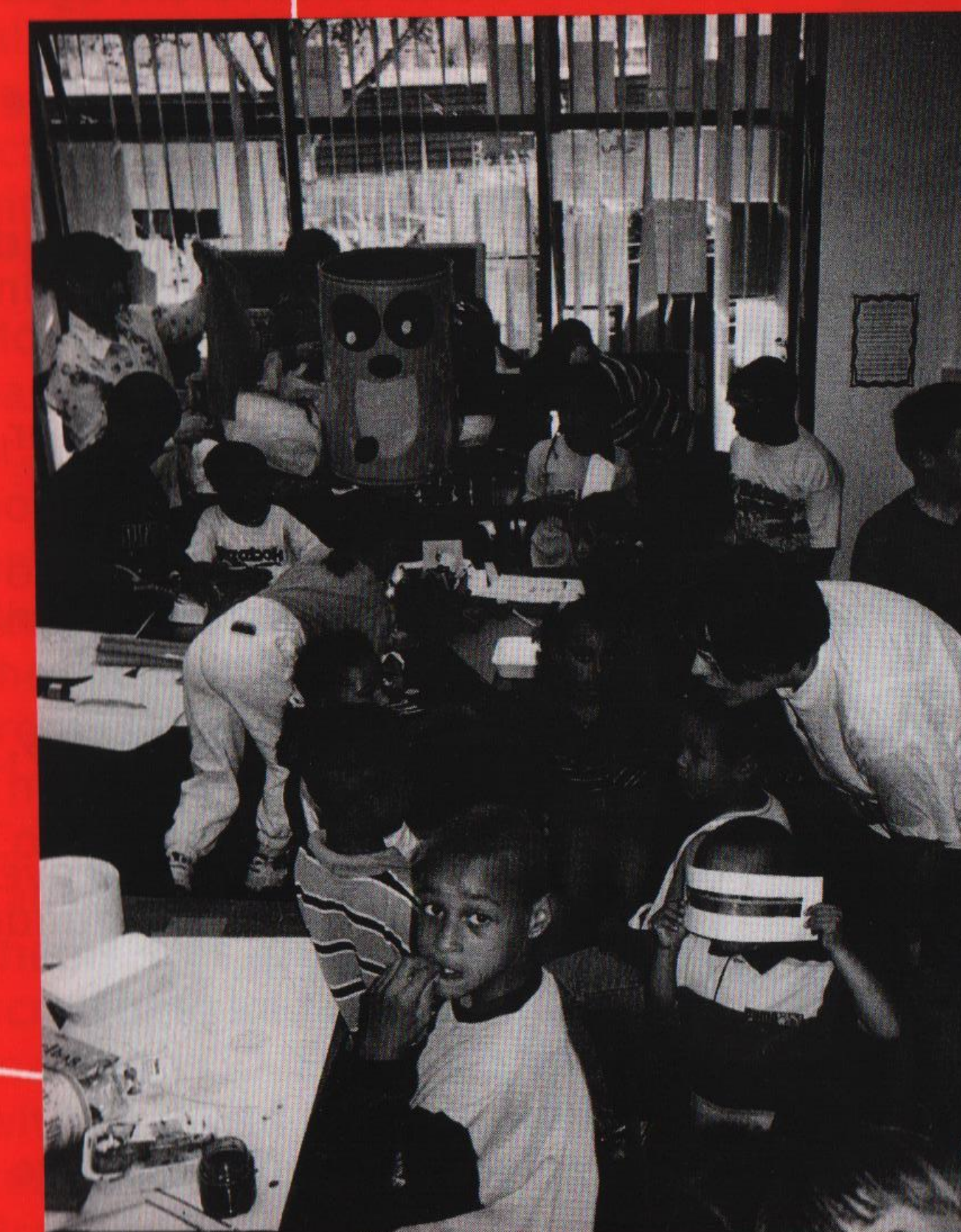


issue one autumn 1999

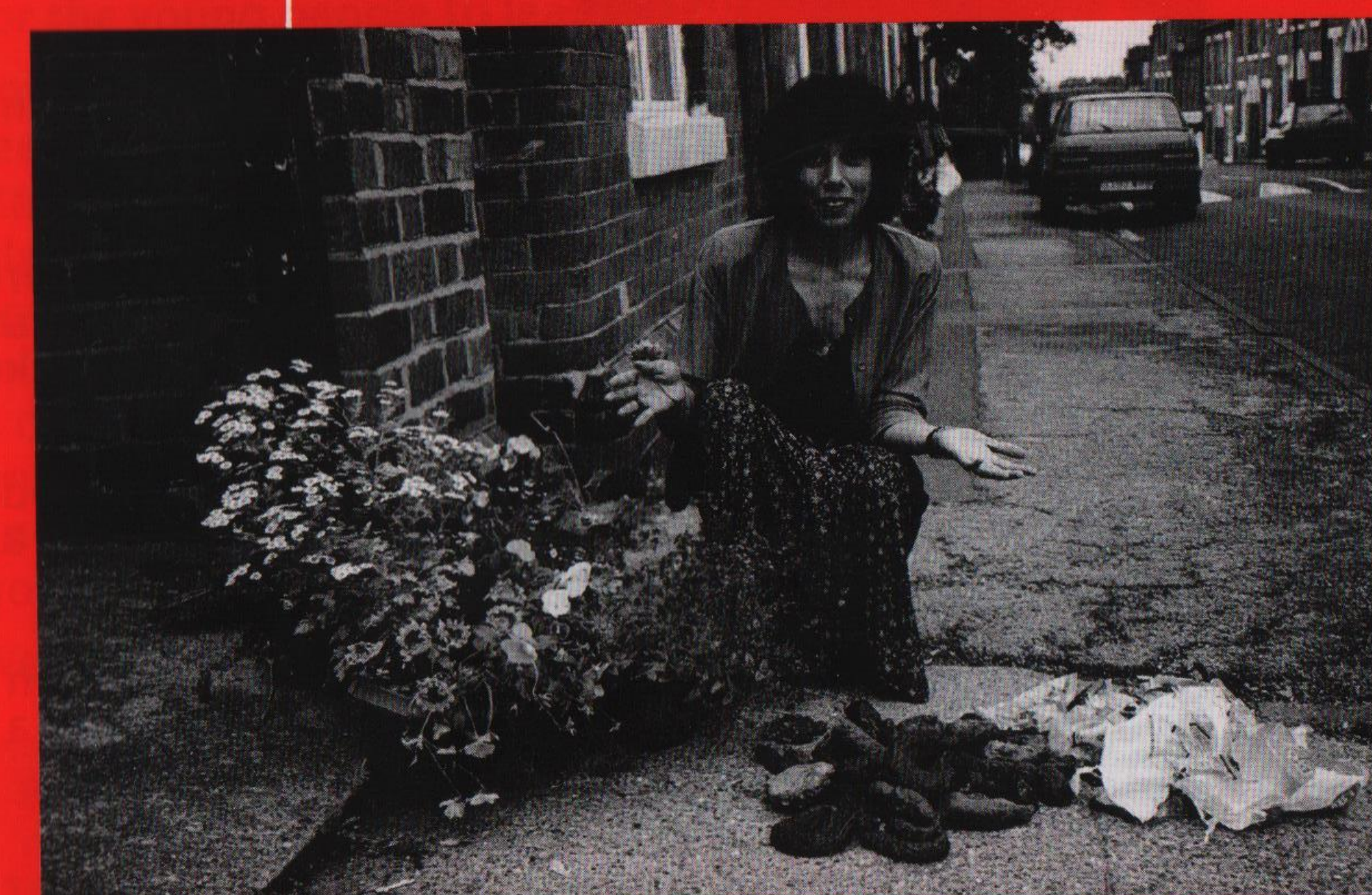
east of the city

A newspaper for this side of Nottingham written by the people who live and work here. Community papers were popular in the past (Chase Chat, Sneinton Community Newspaper). Is there a need for one now? It's all up to you - fill in the back page and send it in with your views and perhaps win £50.

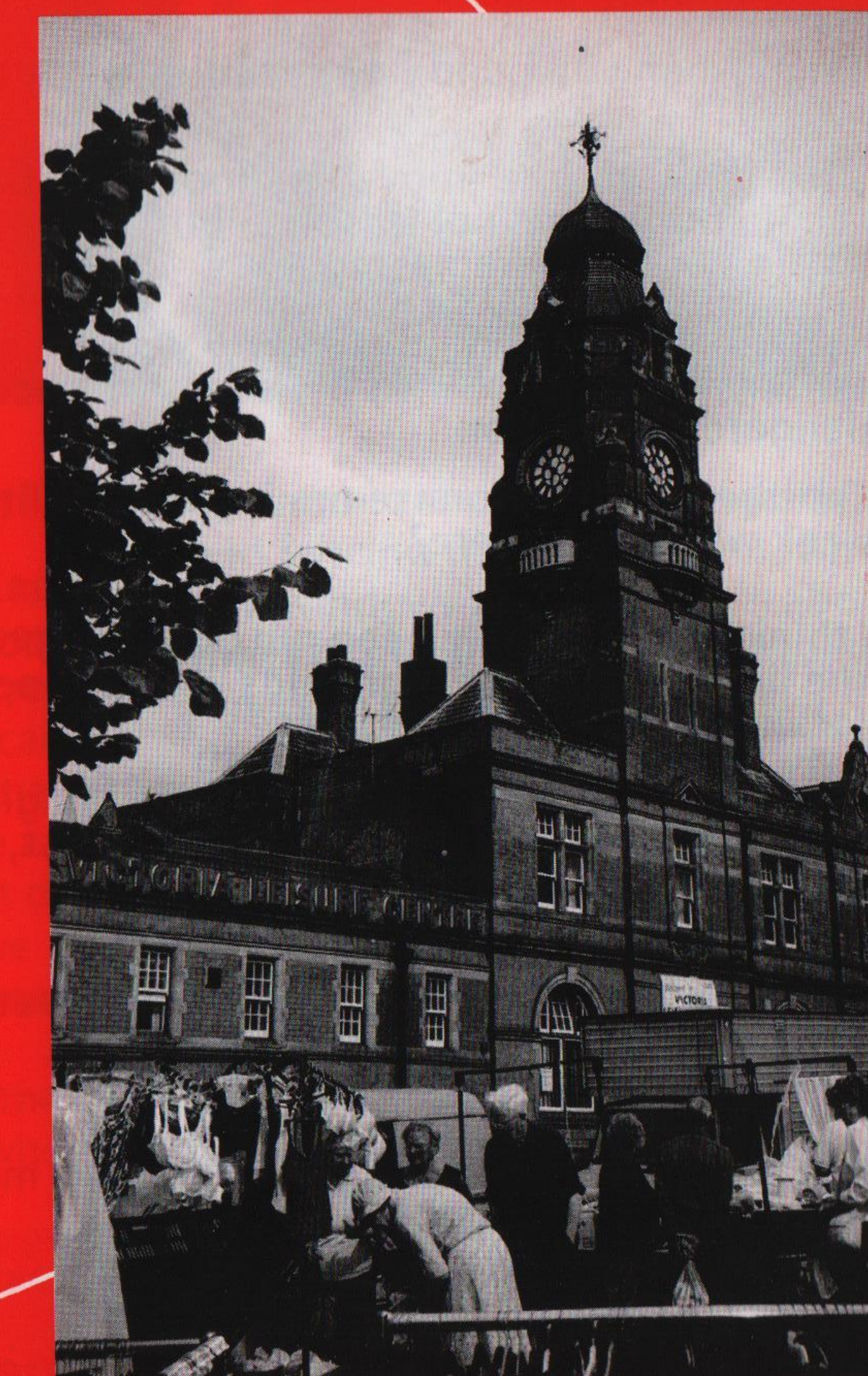
full of eastern promise



Little miracles at play Page 3



Eee Miss what are you doing? Centre



Both sides of the Baths Page 2

*Some of the Comments
at the Public Meeting
on Friday July 16th*

THE BATHS

What the Public Said...

Disadvantaged communities need local facilities.

The City Council prides itself on its green policy - but moving facilities away from local areas encourages people to use cars.

I've been coming here 55 years. What else is there in Sneinton for the young ones? Absolutely nothing. We should be encouraging and improving these places - not closing them down.

To what extent will you take on board the points made tonight - like revising and reviewing the development plan?

Don't think about the image of the city but the local people that make up the city.

The depressing thing about the Baths is the algae in the pool, the broken lockers - a reflection of the lack of investment over the years.

Victoria is a lovely pool and so is Noel Street. Leave them alone.

If and when you build new facilities will it accommodate all the schools?

One pool with a movable floor will be able to accommodate school lessons - but at the end of the day it's one pool replacing 4

Swimming is a dangerous sport - you can drown very quickly, and a pool with 3 classes at once is a very dangerous situation.

Can the Council promise me 2 good quality swims a week which I get here?

I think the pools have been run down purposely. First the lidos went, then Highfields - there's not half the facilities there were before.

There's no way by any stretch of the imagination St. Anns and Sneinton border on the Forest, whatever councillors say

You should only have a consultation meeting when it's publicised well and widely.

You should have held a proper public meeting to show you were committed to it.

What the Councillors Said...

We want to provide high standard facilities to attract people who don't use existing facilities. Low income families in my ward can't afford to get access to good quality facilities and so don't go swimming and are disadvantaged as a result.

The Council have to balance views of different ages and communities, local and across the city.

There's a decline nationally in swimming. The problems are due to underusage.

It is definitely a case of either or. People here would like us to invest in existing facilities - other people in other areas might take a different view.

The decision will be based on what is best for Nottingham

15 years ago a tremendous investment was put into Victoria Baths - and £60,000 a year is spent on maintenance

When the baths lose £440,000 a year in subsidies, that's taxpayers' money.

Our standards of swimming safety have improved over the years. We will ensure the capacity to continue school swimming in a safe environment.

We insist on higher grades for our staff and more staff than other cities in the country.

Actually facilities are not used by local people as much as we think they are.

Nottingham has more swimming capacity than in any other city of this size.

We have to work harder at making The Forest more accessible. We've made representations to the bus company and got a concession they will make provision.

If the publicity for this meeting was not good enough, we can hold another meeting and look in a longer time frame.

Shouldn't the people of Sneinton set up a campaign group instead of waiting for the Council to set up a meeting?

We are a Residents and Tenants Group based within Marple Square Resource Centre (the old housing office) and we have been here since January 1999. In the last few months we've worked what we think are a few miracles (well, if we can't praise ourselves!)

We have loads going off and we will turn our hand to practically anything!

Before there was nothing here at all - people didn't speak to anyone. Now people from the flats pop down to the coffee morning on Tuesday and we can't go to the shops without kids saying hello. There's a lot less vandalism. The kids have a better attitude now - before the big kids used to bully little ones. Now, if they see them fall over they pick them up. It's because they mix together in activities. We have a youth club with 55 members and growing - it's breeding every week.

Mondays it's homework club and basketball at the YMCA, funded by St. Andrew's Church. Tuesdays boxing at Sneinton (we're trying to get rid of territorial attitudes). Wednesdays it's art classes - they've built an orange Mercedes from cardboard and wire. Thursdays it's music at the Community Recording Studios. Lads and girls have written music themselves, practice rapping, scratching and recording, and are making a CD. Friday it's football with qualified trainers. We have two teams and local businessman Brendan Minihane has provided kits and boots. We've just got computers from People's College for the young people to learn on. For adults, we've had a parenting teenagers course and dressmaking classes. Advice sessions are planned. We have a good committee of 28 members with a mixture of ages and backgrounds. 5 or 6 kids are interested in being on the main committee. We're encouraging them to feel they have got a say in the estate.

We'd like to extend the Centre at

A Few Miracles



the back to put on even more!

£10 - 12 million of Housing Capital Programme money is to be spent on our estate - WOW!! Can anyone tell us what that will buy? We can't, but what we do know is that the people who live here will have a say on what it's going to be spent on, and that's true! We have to live here so why not make it the best estate in Nottingham? Why shouldn't we be able to walk the streets safely, park our cars where

we can see them, have the gardens and fencing the way we want, with new windows and doors? It's about time! If the money is spent wisely, if people get involved and have their say then the estate will be £10 - 12 million better!!! A fun consultation event took place July 29 on Huntingdon School playing field arranged by Phase Ten Action Group and NCC Housing Development Section.

Su Townsend and Alan Hardy

Our Councillors have had few comments from their constituents on the future of the Baths. Let them know your views by writing to them at the Council House or seeing them at their surgeries.

East of the City was compiled and designed by Colin Haynes, Kevin Searcey and Carlo Giannonne with Greg Foister (CDW)

Thanks to everyone who helped with this issue. Articles are not necessarily the opinion of the paper. East of the City was funded by Nottingham City Council Area Committee East and the Renewal Trust.

Life In the Wash



Ian Amanda Marina

At our launderette we're not into profit making because it's a community launderette. Any profit goes to offering an even better service. Prices are quite reasonable - and there's always a member of staff on to make sure it's safe and that people get a good quality of service. Everyday people come in because it's reasonable and quick. Some come in to do quilts. If they're ill or disabled it saves them doing washing at home. Lots of old age pensioners rely on us. We do a pick up and delivery service with a discount for OAPs and students.

Actually we're going out and expanding at the moment - so we can get more staff. We have to expand outside the local community to reduce prices locally as there's not enough business here to keep it going. We started with all new equipment from English

Partnerships and City Challenge in June 96. Then we had 2 part time staff, now there's 4.

At the moment the premises is all being redecorated and new more comfortable seating is being installed - as it is a community launderette. The launderette is about to be renamed Bright Waters Laundry and Pristine Dry Cleaners.

I've been here since it opened. It's a bit monotonous watching the washing, but the characters that come in make it worthwhile.

Amanda Budd.

Bright Waters Laundry is on Robin Hood Chase Shopping Precinct. It offers a free pick up and delivery service throughout this paper's circulation area. Phone 9483097 for details.

We Like to Eat!

SNEINTON WHOLESOME FOOD CO-OP

Living in an urban environment like Sneinton and wanting to eat fresh (preferably organic) local-grown food presents difficulties... Our nearest wholefood shop (Hiziki in Hockley) has now sadly closed and Sneinton has no similar shop of its own.

Many of us have gardens too small (or non-existent) for attempts at self-sufficiency, and like many parents of small children my only contribution to local allotments has been a fallow patch.

I do however make Elderflower Cordial from Lees Hill Street blossoms, and was delighted to be able to serve it to an enthusiastic response at the first meeting of Sneinton Wholesome Food Co-op. (Well, we weren't called that then, we were just a group of people all pondering the difficulties I've outlined).

The Renewal Trust's Local Food Development Worker, Colin Haynes, had identified a food co-op some time ago as a possible way of bringing together local purchasing power to meet the minimum order requirements of wholesale suppliers, and was encouraged by this initial response (8 people attended that first meeting, we are now 15 strong).

We've become a voluntary group, have a bank account and can order monthly from a huge catalogue of products. There's more to do before we achieve all our aims - we need a proper delivery and distribution place, and a fridge if we are to order fresh produce. But at least we can buy organic and other wholefood products at discounted prices, share bulk packs, and information, and collectively source local grown fresh produce. This last aim is perhaps the trickiest - can you help? Or would you like to join SWFC? For further details contact Colin on 8413721.

Martha Speed

What's the Matter with Sneinton Market?

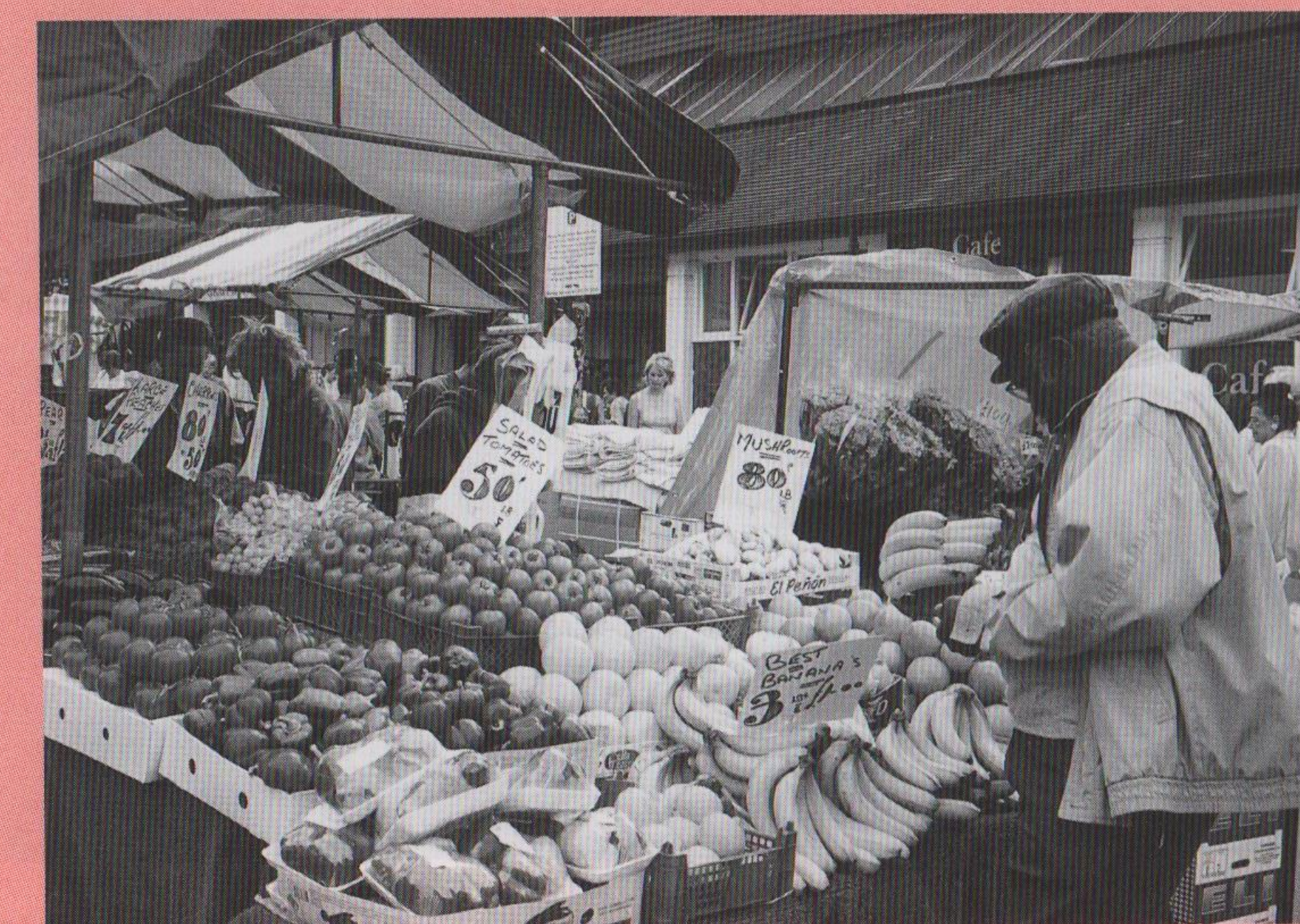
Nowadays you get charged the same on Sneinton Market as in the shops. But before, Sneinton Market was always known to sell stuff for poorer people. Not so today. You can get cheaper stuff in Mark's and Spencer's.

I got asked £24.99 for a cardigan. I said that was too expensive. He said, "Make me an offer" I offered £15 which he accepted, but I got short-changed out of a £20 note so it cost me £18.

On most of the food stalls the stuff is out of date - but you get what you pay for. The fruit and veg is about the best - and there are some good new stalls and shops.

But sometimes the stalls are crammed up and you can't get down the alleyways. You should have a Police patrol to stop you getting your purse pinched - there's a lot of pilfering. You need a traffic warden to make sure the pavements are clear. You can't get through with the piles of rubbish (though there are bins) and pavements that need repairing. It's dangerous, especially if you're older, disabled or partially sighted.

Doris, Peggy, Joey and Helen from BMK Tenants Association



Nowhere to Play

There's nowhere for kids to play football and cricket in Sneinton. We have to play on Kwiksaver car park and the street, but racists come and chase us away. It's alright for adults, but we can't do anything about it.

It's not safe on the park - we think they need more security. We don't get to play much - our dads say run around for half an hour after school, but it's not safe in the street.

Ajmal, Naheem, Aqib, Ibrar, Jabar, Shafiq, Kadir, Hamid, Wasti.

Area Committee East



Decisions which affect local communities in the East of Nottingham are considered by a City Council group called 'Area Committee East'. Councillors and representatives from local groups make up the committee. Recently I was invited along, as a contributor for *East of the City*, to see what all the fuss was about.

The meeting was held in the beautiful Council house, where I met and chatted with some of the participants. Among the people attending was Councillor Dave Mellen, who chaired the meeting. The group discussed important issues, from housing to summer play schemes, and it was interesting to listen and take part in the discussion.

The Area Committee is very useful, a fine way for people in the East area to express their opinions on local issues. It also allows councillors to listen to other people's views before making decisions on local issues. However, it is a great shame that to be a member of the committee, you have to represent an organisation. It would be much fairer if all the meetings were held in halls in local communities, with anybody able to join - after all, we are the people who the committee claim to represent.

Carlo Giannone

Area Committee East are holding an Open Meeting on Community Safety at the Chase Neighbourhood Centre, Tuesday 28 September at 7pm

Enter the Dragon



High up on Sneinton Boulevard, a silver dragon stands guard over a gateway. A fairy story? Take a look.

Inspired by Gaudi and photographs of natural forms, Robert Stubley welded his dragon out of sink tops and stainless steel scrap. He loves natural forms - watching David Attenborough programmes for ideas. He's always been doing bits and pieces, trying to paint, but recently, with more time on his hands he's been doing other things. With the correct materials he reckons a dragon would take him a month - but without materials and top class equipment it took three months.

Nobody has complained - everyone enjoys it. Little children cross the road to look. It gives people a bit of entertainment - something to talk about at the pub.

A second dragon is halfway through construction for the other side of the gateway. His gate is a starscape based on the Hubble Telescope photographs on show at Wollaton Park.

Robert likes the medium - you can knock stainless steel about, stick it outside and it won't corrode - it's a tough material that will be around for thousands of years! Perhaps the dragons will create their own mythology.

Colin Haynes

Once upon a time in Sneinton....

there lived a horse called Polo and he was all white with a brown patch on his back. One day Emma, a little girl, was riding on his back and Emma fell off. Polo was a magic horse and he could talk as well. polo turned around and saw a little fairy laughing her head off. Polo got so angry his face went bright red. The fairy was so scared she ran away to her friend Jodi the Goblin. She wore a bright pink hat and a green waistcoat and a long brown skirt. The fairy turned into an owl and went off to Polo and she was just about to punch him when Jodi stopped the fairy and said "That's probably why his face went red." and the fairy said "No it wasn't." They carried on fighting for another hour and Polo and Emma got so bored that they walked away. Polo with his magic turned Emma back to normal because she had broken her leg from falling off Polo. From that day the fairy didn't put spells on Emma any more but she did hurt someone but I'm not going to tell you.

Rosie Victor (Sneinton Festival Story Winner)



And *which* would you prefer?



No I didn't gather up the dollops of dog dos in this picture... actually they are hand made using a recipe of salt dough and papier mache. Unlike the real thing they don't pong and they won't get stuck in the treads of your shoes! I had to have a chuckle to myself - who'd have thought in all these years I'd be making these fake turds. I had lots of fun making the trodden in ones especially and you should have seen the kids' faces at school when I popped my unpainted creations into the oven at gas mark 3 for one and a half hours.

"EEEE what are you doing Miss?" they said and you're probably wondering the same.

Well, all this blossomed out of a project I did 2 years ago. Some of you may remember me roaming

round our streets, knocking on your doors thanking those of you who so obviously adore flowers for making little front gardens. Whether you'd put flowers on your balcony in a tub, a trough or a box or in the drainpipes you'd brought a splash of love and a feast of colour to the street side of our daily lives. These flowers are **the bright bright jewels of joy our tired litter strewn and dog shit dolloped streets so desperately need.** I can remember thinking **if only every piece of litter and dog shit could be a flower maybe one day we'd be living in something close to paradise.** Planting flowers and beauty not dog mess and trash. Taking time to care for and share in the simple pleasures our plant friends bring.

We could make heaven here on earth!

We can make this the best place we know - our own inner city oasis. Thank you to those of you who share your flowers Thankyou to those of you who don't drop your litter Thankyou to those of you who pick it up Thankyou to our Sneinton Barra men, caretakers and dustmen Thankyou to those of you who pooa scoop bag it and bin it. Look out in time to come for a strange, winged creature pushing a wheelbarrow load of curiosities round the streets of Sneinton. If you see this creature please be nosey and have a closer look. You're welcome to share your thoughts and feelings on what you see ... till then take care

with love Usha

Sneinton Fairy Tales

from Sneinton C. of E. School
Makes a delicious story, ideal for Nottingham in July.

Ingredients

1 dog
3 princesses
10 green peas

6 cats
4 gingerbread men
1 windmill (with Rapunzel)
8 beauties
2 beasts
1000 cars
a dash of 'Once upon a time....'
10 Wizards of Oz
1000 tons of park

7 Foxes (and Hounds)
20 trees
60 Little Red Riding Hoods
1 church
Method
1. Take one large pot. Add 100 kg of cats, dogs, princesses and peas.
2. Add gingerbread men, windmill (and Rapunzel) and a dash of 'Once upon a

time....' Bake for half hour.
3. Filling: mix Wizards of Oz, Little Red Riding Hoods, Foxes (and Hounds) and cats until messy.
4. To finish: sprinkle with beauties, beasts, trees, park and church.
Best served free.

I had just watched an enjoyable video of John Constable's Country. As a very amateur artist, brushes and paints at the ready. I looked around for inspiration. No waving fields of corn or bullrushed ponds, no thatched cottages with gardens – just a back yard – but there were lots of flowers – blue campanile, yellow loose – strife, geraniums and feverfew, the brick wall had patches of lichen and weeds growing.

I went for a walk to the mill to seek further ideas. There was the old but newly restored Mill standing proudly with a beautiful 'Constable' sky with lovely cumulus clouds. Looking over to the distant horizon were fields of corn, not waving perhaps but they were there and a field of yellow rape, Colwick Park with its lakes in the foreground.

Two wagtails ran across my path and swifts circled overhead. A squirrel chased up a tree. Who needs 'Constable' Country? There's lots of beauty to be found in Sneinton.

It is a place of history – famous

Constable Country



people have been born here, from George Green to stars on TV, and who knows what hidden talents are to be found in Sneinton. I may

never be a famous painter but I returned home with ideas to try and put onto paper.

Phyll Hatton

ON THE STREETS

BY MARK ADAMS

*On the streets is not much fun
When you've nowhere to run
I'm on the streets on a hardened floor
Homeless people know the score
People stop and stare at you
As if to say what can we do
But all they really want to know
Is that we've got no place to go
A sleeping bag is all we got
Some new clothes but not a lot
To beg for food seems so cheap
A peace of mind to go to sleep*

Mark came to Sneinton in early August 1996 after living on the streets since the age of 16; Mark quickly became a popular figure in the community especially with the children.

After a few weeks Mark got involved with the Greenway Centre as a Volunteer Youth Worker he soon set up football training for the under eleven's at the centre - this group was very popular. The children wanted to play for a team and asked Mark if he could help. Mark decided he would form a football team but did not realise how hard and costly this was going

to be. Despite many hurdles Mark managed to convince people that he could make it work. He asked for volunteers but could not get any help.

Mark was determined that he would not let the lads down so he became the Manager, Trainer, Secretary, Treasurer, and Fund Raiser. Eventually the Greenway Junior Tigers were born. Regrettably Mark died tragically only a few months after starting the Greenway Junior Tigers.

Next time you see a homeless person on the streets don't judge them - they are no different from you or me.

Kevin Searcey

Community Hot Spot

Edale Road Bus Stop

The Bus Shelter is fine but the problem is the people who use it as an outdoor café. After eating they throw the food wrappers and containers, and the empty drink cans, and the uneaten portions of food over the railings into the shrubbery that fronts the Oliver Hind Youth Club.

Not only is this pile of rotting food and rubbish unsightly but it is likely to encourage the infestation of rats and mice. It is not a nice job for the staff and volunteers at the Oliver Hind Club who have to clean the mess up.

Would a large size litter bin adjacent to the bus shelter ease this situation?

Mary Michalak

Green energy for Greenwood

Local school Greenwood Dale has launched a 'green energy' project with Green's Mill. The school has erected a wind turbine which uses the free power of the wind to pump water to the school pond. The wind turbine, which was built at no cost to the school, is used to teach children about non-polluting energy.

However, the school's ambition does not stop there. Head teacher Barry Day is keen to build a 'wind farm', made of a few full-size turbines, in the woods near to the school. The electricity produced could be used by the school instead of costly mains electricity, meaning that there will be more cash to spend on educational equipment.

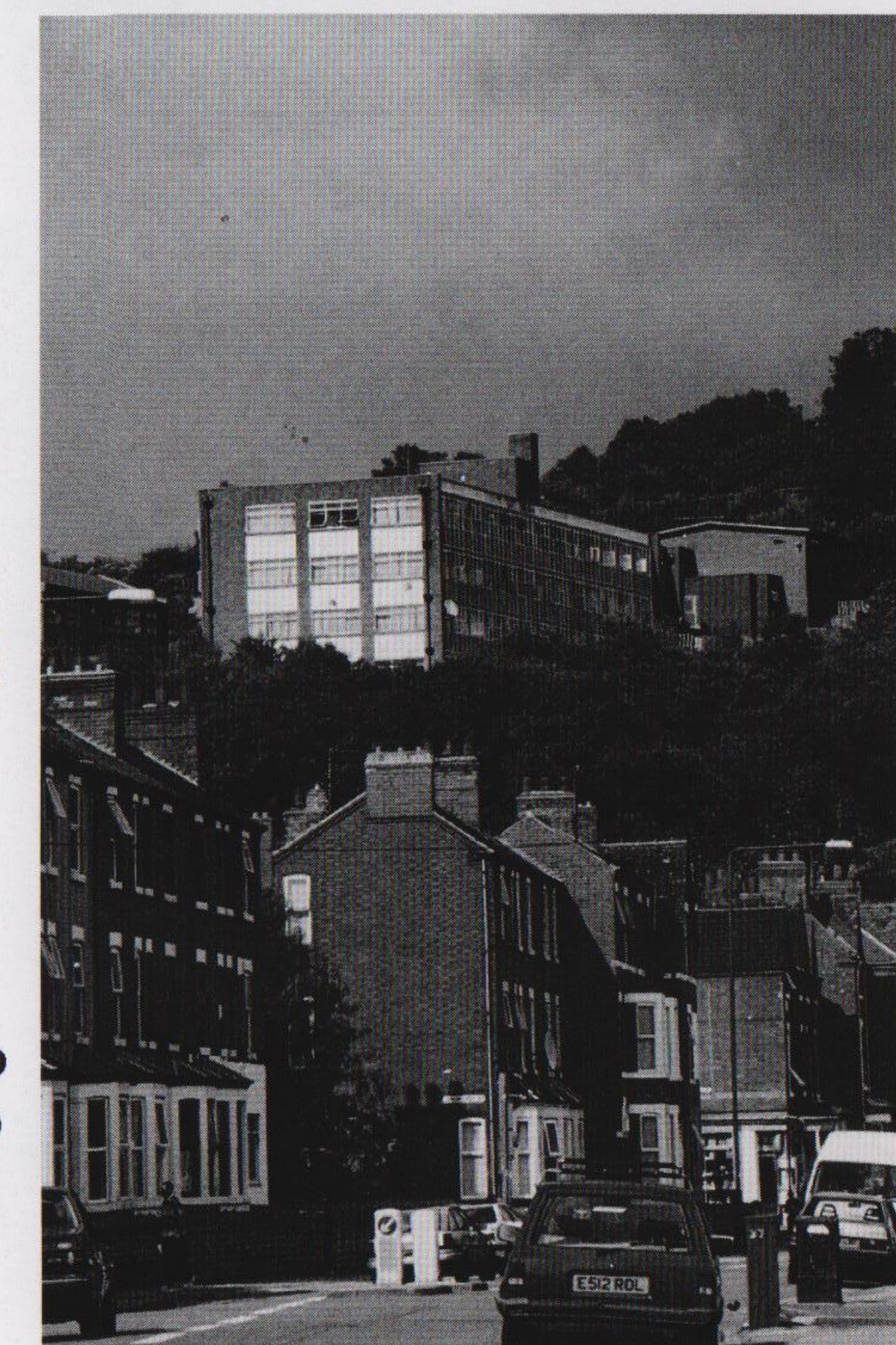
The school is searching for commercial sponsorship to cover

the cost of the turbines and the project has already interested local, national and international companies.

Mr. Day is keen to stress that "before the project is to be started, we have to listen to the views of local residents". The wind turbines will be placed *below the skyline* on the Daleside Road side of the hill, ensuring that the noise is deflected away from Sneinton and that the turbines will not affect the look of the hill.

Greenwood Dale hopes that this pioneering step will inspire other schools and businesses to look into using renewable energy, in order to reduce the amount of pollution in urban areas like Sneinton.

Carlo Giannone



Did You Know?

That without volunteers the Welfare State would have collapsed many years ago?

There are six million carers looking after elderly or disabled relatives in the UK today. Did you know that over 86,000 volunteers work in UK Charity shops alone? Voluntary work has its roots in history. In medieval times most of the charity work was organised around monasteries and religious organisations, but one of the most significant changes was a move from piety to good works. Early voluntary work saw the establishment of hospitals. In the 12th and 13th centuries 500 hospitals were founded and the 18th century saw the emergence of the Charity School movement. We tend to take for granted the Health Care we have today, and the Education System that is in place. But we owe a lot to those early volunteers who realised that by getting together and pooling their individual efforts they could make a difference.

The need for volunteers is still as great as ever. Bakersfield & Neighbourhood Community Centre could do a lot more for the young people of the area if we had the volunteers. A few people giving 2 hours a week would enable us to run a youth club, or an after school club. We could run a drop in centre on pension days so that local pensioners could come in for a chat and a cup of tea and look at the papers.

As a Volunteer, what's in it for you? You will meet new people, make new friends. The experience itself will be rewarding. For those who are younger, the experience you get may provide a meaningful framework for your personal and career development.

Vets

We have almost everything in Bakersfield and Sneinton - Health Centres, Lawyers, a Bank, a Launderette, Good shops, Chip Shops, Take aways, Libraries, and a decent Bus service, etc. What is missing? We could do with a Veterinary Surgery. Not everyone has a car, and to get to the nearest Vet means taking two buses. Some taxis are reluctant to take animals even if you have them in a carrier. I am sure a local based Vet would be a God send to many local people.

We are fortunate that the Charity Prevent Unwanted Pets have a charity shop on Sneinton Dale. Anyone requiring assistance or advice on getting a cat or dog neutered please contact them.

Cassandra

Bakersfields

This potentially idyllic district is regularly plagued by youngsters rampaging through it, causing mayhem. This problem reaches its height in the light Summer evenings and during school holidays. Why does this happen?

Well, there are a number of reasons, such as the lack of parental control, etc. One solution, or part solution, would be to provide a managed play area, such as those that have proved very successful in St. Anns and at Greenway, for unfortunately facilities of this sort are sadly lacking in Bakersfields.

Could not the Councillors, Officers and Police have another look at this problem and hopefully come up with a solution?

Cliff Webb

For the Love of...

There's a little Peace of Heaven on a Hungry Hill in St Anns. A place where stress leaves you as you enter strong green gates and wander along ancient feeling lanes, where Gentlemen Walk and Bees have their own Avenue.

Here hedges grow tall. The air really smells fresher.

Wild flowers flourish. Birds sing sweet melodies aware of the odd feral cat. Down little twitchells a glimpse of a fox, a hedgehog slowly meanders.

Mother Nature reigns in the heart of a city - and here gardeners love to grow pumpkins, potatoes, callaloo, cabbage, sweet corn, leeks, peas and beans. Apple and pear trees prosper, raspberries and blackcurrant swell.

In harmony, hands in the Earth, regardless of colour or place of birth. People GIVE AWAY plants with great delight, freely share ideas, and plenty of advice.

The problems outside our hedges and gates seem



unimportant - and can surely wait. While we plant those seeds, hoe away the weeds, water tomatoes - and sit at our ease. No Doctor's pills or Counsellors couch can provide the antidote to 1990's life as does our beloved allotments nestling on a tranquil hill in St. Anns. (Maybe She herself is lending a hand).

Protecting her hills and valleys from the greedy Council's Ransome - keeping it Natural - the way it should be. She's already lost Bluebells from the opposite Hill, the Woods in the Borough, and the Well that was Hers.

Even the Swifts know this Place was blessed, and from Africa fly each year to feed, breed and safely soar over beautiful landscapes they truly adore.

Now this Land to feed the Hungry, (over which the sun sets each night) MUST SURELY BE PROTECTED.

So let us all stand - spades and forks in hand - to fight off the marauders from our Historic Soil where gardeners for generations have put in honest toil. Our little Peace of Heaven - a still quiet place. Where we can grow, not only fresh Fruit and Vegetables - but healthy Hearts and Minds as well.

Margaret Hall

Battling the Brambles

A few weeks ago I got an allotment on Windmill Lane. This whole project is a snowball turned avalanche.

I began cutting back 6ft branches - and they cut me back. I found a bird sitting on its nest and five apple trees.

I feel very happy stomping around my half-cleared vegetable plot flicking mud whilst digging the ground. I find it hard to believe if I keep digging I should eventually reach Australia (although I'm quite happy here).

Dian Tingley

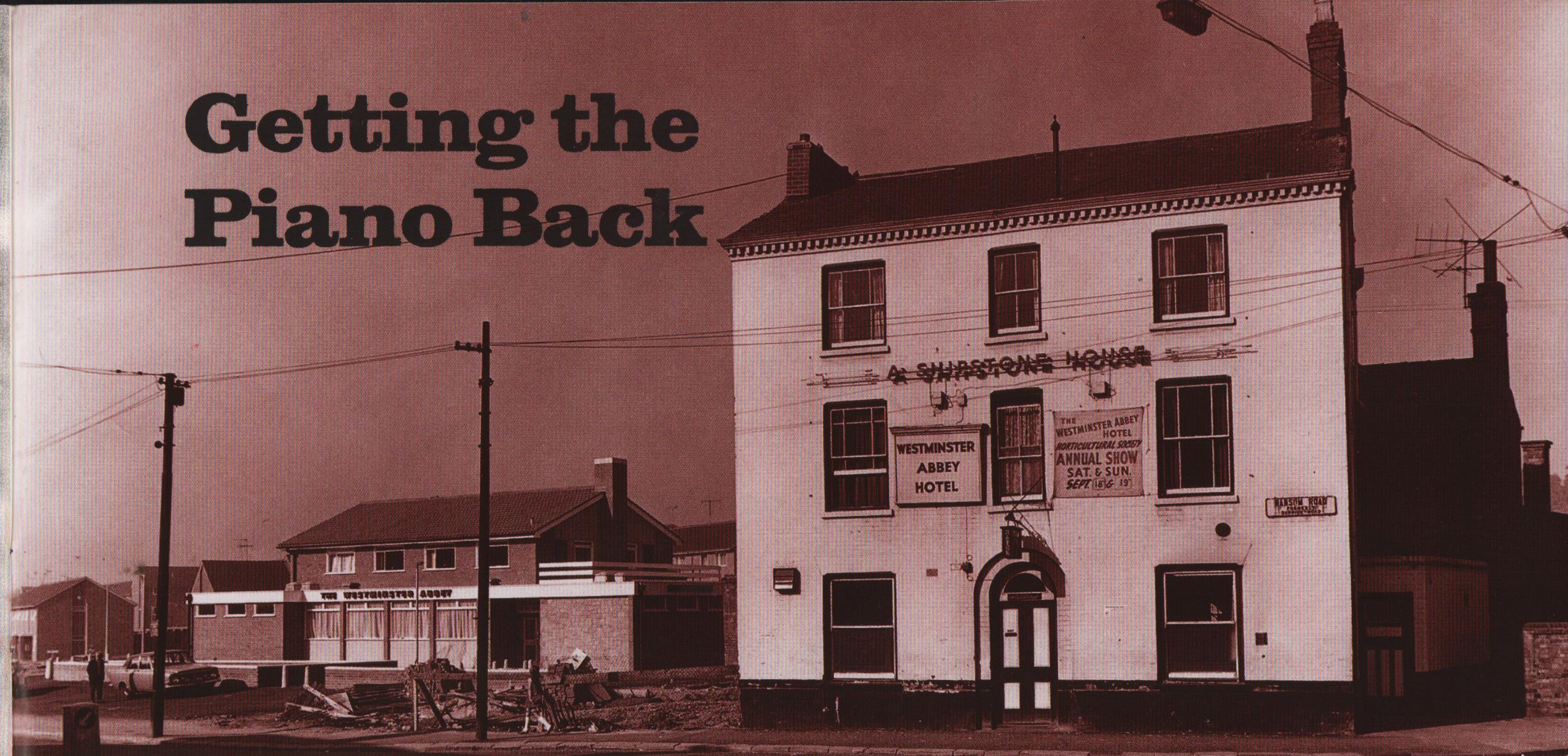
Most currently vacant allotments are overgrown and need pioneer spirits like Dian to set them right.

Details of vacant plots are available from Tony Hallam, Allotment Officer, City of Nottingham, Leisure and Community Services, Woodthorpe Grange, Nottingham NG5 4HA, Tel. 9152764.

Assistance in finding a plot in St. Anns can be obtained from the STAA Allotment Project, Tel. 9821511, or on Sneinton Dale from Mr. Scothorn, Tel. 9418762.

If you'd like to buy allotment veg, a Home-Grown Produce Market (including callaloo!) will be held at the Afro-Caribbean National Artistic Centre (ACNA) at the top of Hungerhill Road in St. Anns on Saturday morning September 4th.

Getting the Piano Back



They were very nice, the pubs in the old St. Anns, and they went - and with it went a tradition. All these pubs - 57 of them - had these little rooms where people would have social functions. They had Buffs and weddings and Easter Bonnet Parades - wonderful Easter Bonnet Parades. People would get produce off Hungerhill Gardens they'd grown themselves which they'd sell in the pub. You'd go in the pub and you'd come back with your arms full of vegetables and there'd Chrysanthemum Shows - all that's gone. And sometimes I go to other places and it's not all gone. Not all gone in Arnold, in Basford - it's not all gone, for that matter on Mansfield Road - but in St. Anns it's all gone and it's very sad and I don't know quite how you put it back.

The reason it went was the Corporation decided they wanted to knock everything down. Among the 57 pubs there were 8 brewers and the Corporation did a deal with Home Brewery and Shipstone Brewery and said we'll wipe out the minority ones and have these two big ones and you'll have a happy little area where you can make loads of money in new pubs.

There was a pub that did Mitchell and Butlers up on Woodborough Road - I used to love Mitchell and Butlers Mild, just a half of it. There was Holes and Warwick's - do you remember Warwick's Ales from Newark? It used to say on the bottle of Warwick's Ale "Brewer to HM the King of Spain".

Just think of that - the King of Spain drinking Trent water. And now you go into Nottingham and you're asked to drink Spanish San Miguel out of a can. It's the other way round. And that tradition went to give this clear field to those big brewers, just as the nice houses, and there were nice houses, they were all got rid of so Wimpey could build what has been built easily and have a clear run. And it was a dreadful sad business - I don't know how we quite put it back again.

It's a little difficult to get the piano back. It would be nice to think that one went out to the pubs that have the music with secateurs - you know what secateurs do - and just snip the wires and get the piano back. It gave nice jobs to the pianist, you know. Pete the Feet plays a piano at the Old Vic and he's wonderful - magic. There's a really nice mixed crowd there - not of old 'slags' or young 'druggies', but a really nice mixed crowd like you used to get in the old pubs of St. Ann's - the Westminster Abbey.

That tradition was brilliant. It gave occupation to all those people, and pride and charm and things it would be lovely to see back.

Ray Gosling

Do you agree with Ray that the pubs in St. Anns have lost their spirit? Are the pubs in Sneinton and Bakersfield any better? Would you like to see the piano back? Let us know for the next issue.

The Red Cow

Once upon a time, way back in the 1930s and 40s the hub and the heart of a local community was the local pub. Ours was very special - it was the Red Cow on Windmill Lane, Sneinton. My dad, Arthur Smith, brewed the beer here and I would go with him every Sunday morning when I was a young girl and watch him put in the malt and hops and ingredients that made the Special Brew they called Red Cow Ale. I remember how friendly the men of the area were with each other and Sunday dinner-times they would bring to the pub all the produce they had grown. Tomatoes, lettuce, radishes, beetroot, marrows, peas, beans, you name it they grew it themselves on the local allotment gardens. Great excitement for all of us children was when the Mystery Trip Bus came up Windmill Lane to take our dads and granddads to Skeggie or Mablethorpe for the days outing. No women went - only the men. As the bus went off the men would throw pennies and halfpennies out of the windows and we would run after the bus until it was out of sight. We would all be waiting for its return at night and a big cheer would go up outside the Red Cow when we saw the bus coming up the Lane. We couldn't wait to see our dads bringing back sticks of rock and a present from the seaside for us and our mums. Red Cow gave us Christmas Parties, V.E. Day and V.J. Day Parties; every family knew each other. I had my wedding reception there in 1949. Happy Memories of a Happy Community Life and the Red Cow.

Kath Price