

Citizens of Tomorrow

I've been a Member of the Youth Parliament for nine months now and the experience has been fantastic. In February all the MYP's got a weekend in a London hotel for the national meeting of our Parliament. We worked on a Youth Manifesto which outlined the beliefs of the Youth Parliament and what should be done by the government. This was later presented to MPs including Andrew Rowe who's been a brilliant help. In this area, where I live, I've been getting involved in community activities such as helping out at the recent fun day on King Edward's Park. I've also been working with a youth forum who organised an exchange visit to Karlsruhe.

The id project I'm working on is a first as far as I know. We're gonna record the opinions of 500 young people in the East Area using a video camcorder. This can then be presented to the council and the people of Nottingham to air everyone's views. I've had a load of great help from Manjit

Sahota, a youth worker, and also from Jagroop Bal and Dee Brown. So far we've been into Greenwood Dale, and recorded at King Edward's Funday and at the Youth Shop in Hockley, as well as in the Market Square. There have been some really mature and incisive opinions on show from everyone we talked to. We've got plans to go to a load of other community events over the summer. So if you spot me out with a camcorder some time, watch out, i might just grab you to appear on the id project!

The last thing I would like to add is one thing the UK Youth Parliament is committed to - lowering the minimum voting age to 16. If we young people can achieve all this and show that we have strong and mature opinions, then why not let us have the power to vote?

Carlo Giannone MYP (Nottm. City)



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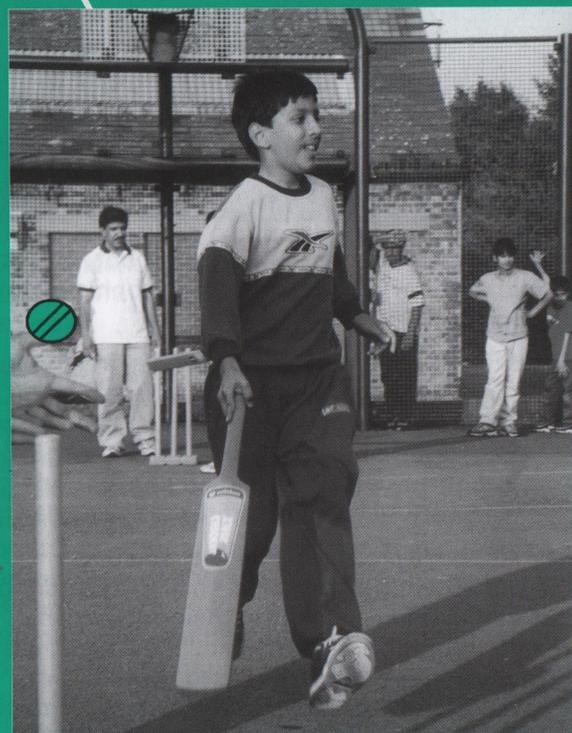
east of the city

A newspaper for this side of Nottingham written by the people who live and work here

Fresh Ideas

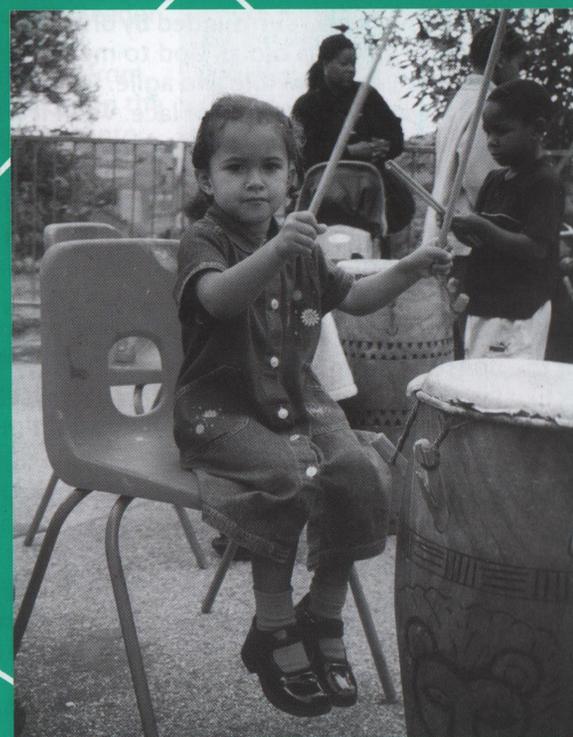
**Young hopes,
young talent,
young action.**

Pages 2-5 & back



howzat!

Cricket practice at the Greenway Centre in Sneinton on Tuesday nights.



the beat goes on

What shall I play? Sister Dorothy's Caribbean Day at St. Anns Play Centre on Nugent Gardens.



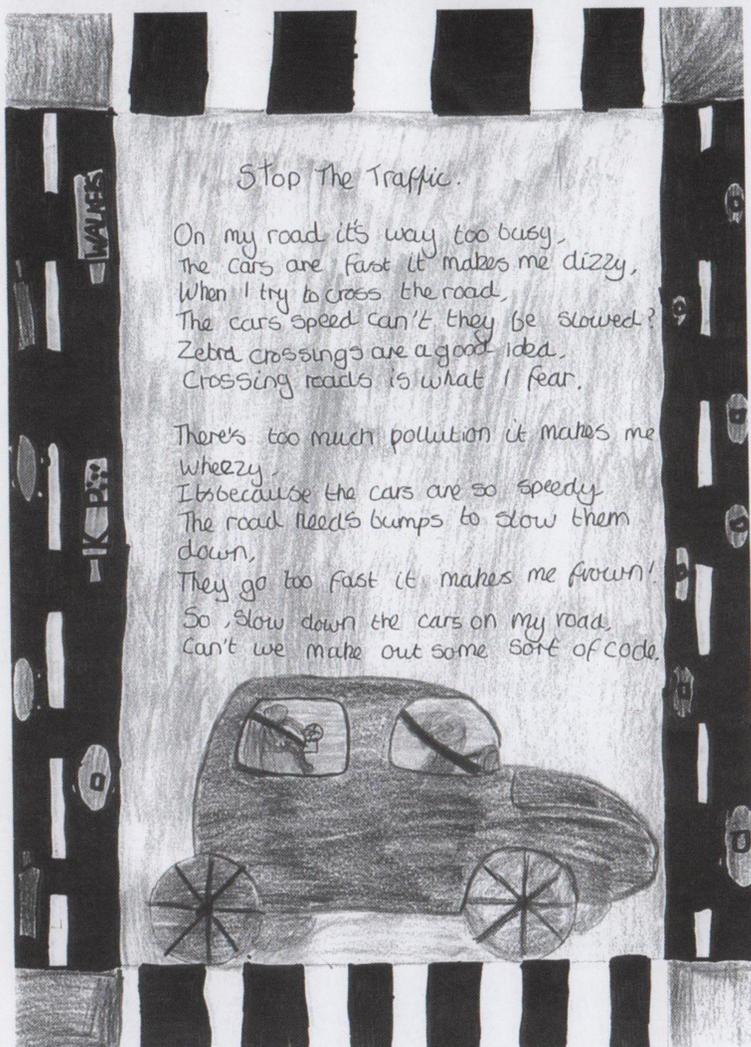
Stars in their eyes Page 7



Nice as apple pie Page 6

A Better Bakersfield, Sneinton, St. Anns...

Entries from 12 year olds to the recent BANCA competition.



Stop The Traffic.

On my road it's way too busy,
The cars are fast it makes me dizzy,
When I try to cross the road,
The cars speed can't they be slowed?
Zebra crossings are a good idea,
Crossing roads is what I fear.

There's too much pollution it makes me wheezy,
It's because the cars are so speedy,
The road needs bumps to slow them down,
They go too fast it makes me frown!
So, slow down the cars on my road,
Can't we make out some sort of code.

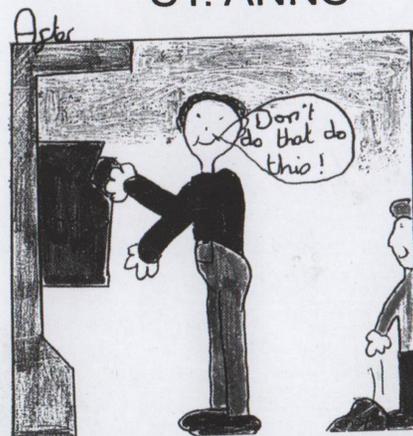
Carolyn Bickley

SNEINTON WOODS

My main aspect of help are the woods behind the train tracks because people dump things like old doors and beds and trollies, all sorts of things. Also people walk dogs and don't clear up their mess so children that play on the trees tread in the mess. Children make rope swings on the trees and play on them so the woods need to be made safe. I think the woods need to be cleaned, the grass cut, dog bins put out, and swings and tyres tied safely to trees, so that children can play safely.

Millie

A BETTER ST. ANNS



Please help our city to be safe and to be litter free, because children can get hurt by broken bottles.

Kirstie Johnson

They should have a Bakersfield City Centre with something for all ages. Bingo for the Elderly as entertainment. For Adults that go to work or maybe want some peace from their kids there's a creche, but it is for 1-16yrs of age at £10 an hour. At a certain amount of time city centre closes for kids (unless at the creche) it is only allowed for adults to go to the bars. Adults are only permitted to drink alcohol after 10.30pm.

For the teenagers there's a cinema full of the latest movies, and disco clubs for 13s to 16s so they can meet new people. For little children there's a ball pit and soft toys and small slides. There's a Little Chef Restaurant and MacDonaldis and plenty more fast food services.

Kerri Jones

Before



Ah yoh this place has people who are very bad And it's making every one sad. There names are- I don't want to mention their names because that will make them more mad. They're from Sneinton and Bakersfield. (After two years) (When the badness has gone) Ah yoh this place is fantastic I speak it so dramatic My name is Fraser A rapping fanatic from the one and only GREENWOOD DALE !!!

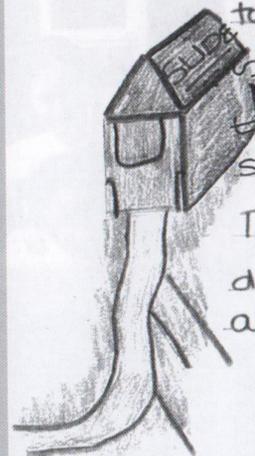


Lean Fraser

The problem.

The problem that I think is the two broken down garages on sneinton dale. They both make the area look dirty and cheap I think that some one should turn it into something useful.

Amy Houston Windmill park needs to be improved. There is graffiti all over the climbing frame, the swings and the slides. There is not much to do, the swings are always broken.



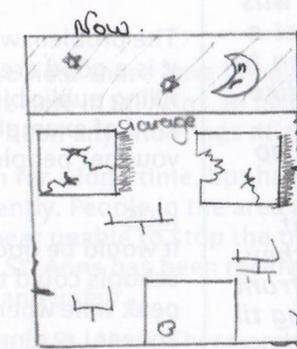
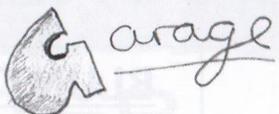
NOISE

There is a lot of noise on the streets. Probably, babies can't get to sleep, which I think is not fair. People should be in all houses at a certain time, e.g.

11pm.
Marten Maughan

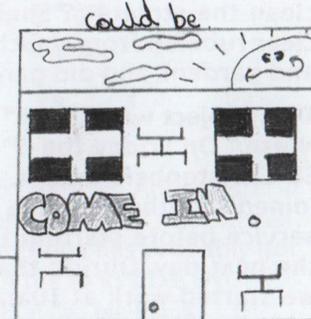
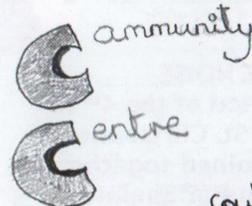
A Satisfactory Sneinton

by Aaron Kohut



The solution.

I think to solve this someone could turn it in to something useful for example "A centre for the home less, or a community centre for children"



east of the city

East of the City was compiled and designed by Colin Haynes, Kevin Searcey, and Carlo Giannone with Greg Foister (CDW) and assistance from Nottingham City Council Housing Marketing. Funding for this issue has come from Nottingham City Council Area Committee East, The Renewal Trust and the South and East Primary Care Group. Articles are copyright their authors, photos their photographers.

We welcome articles and ideas from local people. We need newshounds! Either phone 0115 8413721, write to East of the City, c/o The Renewal Trust, 27-31 Carlton Road, Nottingham NG3 2DG, or e-mail eastofthecity@hotmail.com.

What do you do on the Bank Holiday?

Dozens of young people spent their clearing up the streets, tidying gardens and removing rubbish in the Cosby Road end of Sneinton, with help from volunteers from the Housing Department on Sneinton Boulevard.



CLEAN SWEEP IN SNEINTON

THE NOISE

During the period of the 4th to the 7th of May, St. Christophers and St. Nicks joined together to clean the streets of Sneinton, clear rubbish from the church and gardens and did gardening.

This project was called "The Noise." On Friday the 4th of May St. Christophers and St. Nicks joined together to have a service before starting the work the next day. During that period we started work at 10am, we had a break at 12,30 until 1.35 for lunch, we carried on with our work and finished at 5.30 and had a meal at six.

On the last day we had a service in St. Christophers Church and said our good byes. During the four days we made lots of new friends in Sneinton and also from St. Nicks. It was a very worthwhile exercise, and we enjoyed it very much.

Jade Cumberland
And Leighane Chaplin

It was beyond everybody's expectations. It was amazing - to get a group of children to work together like that with no animosity and no arguing.

It was a great achievement - they worked solidly from 10 in the morning til 6 at night for 3 days.

We were on continuous runs, taking the rubbish away - we couldn't keep up with them. I was really truly impressed - it restored my faith in youth.

Barry Cross,
Area Caretaker

BLUNT AND PRECISE

BY KEVIN AIR -
COUNCIL EMPLOYEE IN THE AREA

The problem with this area (Sneinton) is that it is a good area apart from Shopkeepers filling public bins with their trade waste. What kind of example are they showing to younger people?

KIDS

It would be good if teachers in various schools could try and monitor the pupils at peak time when rubbish is more likely to appear i.e. dinner time and going home time.

SMASHED UP BUS STOPS

Surely it would be to everyone's advantage to fill bus stops with a different kind of material such as Perspex rather than glass because apart from glass costing the firm money to replace it all the time, it's also hazardous for the public.

And last if everyone could see other people helping in this part of the community then that might encourage them to take part and make Sneinton a much nicer environment to live in for years to come.

NG3 NEWS

For local Teenagers



Members of YIP (Youth Inclusion Project) Youth have been busy in the computer room at the Chase producing their first newsletter, from which these articles are taken.

GANGSTER WARS

Some might say, it's a shock to hear there have been so many shootings in such a short time in St. Anns. In fact, it's a shock to hear that there have been any shootings at all.

Shootings have been going on for a long time, but have recently occurred more frequently. People in the area are concerned that the police appear unable to stop the trouble. While this has been going on, St. Anns has been receiving a lot of bad press that is biased and unfair.

There are good points to living in St. Anns. These are never given their fair share of publicity and as a young person living in the area I am fed up of hearing comments such as "living in St. Anns you have to have a bullet proof vest."

St. Anns has a good community spirit among young people and families, who have lived here all of their lives.

There are lots of opportunities for young people to improve their future. There are several youth clubs such as:- Sycamore Centre and Russell. Training opportunities are also on offer for the whole community in several Centres around St. Anns and Sneinton.

So would all of you who can see only an imaginary bullet-proof vest give the St. Anns community a break and for once in a while concentrate on the positive.

STANZ TALENT

When it comes to talent St. Anns has always provided the best in NOTTINGHAM. At the moment St. Anns has probably got the best MCs with the likes of BLENDER, MOULDER & MYSELF BIG MURDER.

St. Anns can also boast to have the best GARAGE CREWS like GENERVEESY CREW who are battling with Radford's Pure Inspiration to become the best in Nottingham and the new comers on the scene Hot Radiation who have stepped onto the big stage with the other 2 Hot Radiations GOD-FARTHER (leader) BIG MURDER gave Y.I.P. an exclusive interview.

St. Anns can also boast that it has the best RAPPERS & SINGERS. We bring you interviews with St. Anns young talents in every issue.



The second of our Healthy Eating afternoons took place on Wednesday 9th May, starting at 2:00 pm at Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre. Attending were a group of volunteers from TRACS, Ecoworks & Stonebridge Farm, and the themes for the day's cooking was English So with a very excited group of nearly twenty people, we prepared and cooked up the following meal:-

Ecoworks made the starter, which was a tasty Lentil soup, very yummy. TRACS made the main course, both mincemeat and veggie mince cobbler, which was tasty mince with cheese or herb scones cooked on top (they must have been good as it all disappeared) roasted mixed vegetables, mashed vegetables and also boiled, so a good choice for all tastes, all very tasty. Stonebridge Farm made the sweet, which was good old traditional apple pie and custard, very nice too. We all sat down at around 5:30pm, and enjoyed a first class meal in a really friendly environment. We look forward to the next one, when we hope to find a few more organisations, who would like to join us, for a fun afternoon.

Vanessa Boughton

Weighing it up for the community feast

Dave's Challenge

Mellors Lodge staff come in regularly to the Chase Café for lunch, but were moaning about the food. Dee and Emma said "We could do that" so Dave the Chef challenged them "Go on then, next week on Tuesday you cook the meal". And they did, preparing a delicious chicken curry with dahl and naan bread and serving it to customers. Today's Special, guest appearance, two new chefs in town. "The food went just like that- we don't want them in here too often. They were worried to begin with and I thought they would back out, but they did well in the end." P.S. Catch Dave Mason's food at the café whilst you can- he is off to Australia for a year in December.

ABOUT TIME?

Isn't it about time The City Treasury began to work alongside, Housing Associations and Corporations for those of us who (for whatever reason) are on State - Benefits?

Why is it that the Housing Associations Policy of issuing a "Notice to Quit" within 28 days of arrears accruing (which is perfectly feasible for those who simply do not pay their rent) is often enforced despite the tenant awaiting Housing Benefit, knowing it takes the City Treasury at least 6 - 8 weeks to process a new claim? Also taking into account that most, if not all Housing Associations complete the "Housing Benefit" application with a new tenant when a tenancy agreement is signed to ensure that the application has been made, in order for them to recoup their rent.

As it more often than not takes the City treasury so long, this leaves often the young or vulnerable with a provisional "Notice to Quit" hanging over them for the next twelve months even if full Housing Benefit is awarded and backdated to the day the tenancy began. The very fact of the "Notice to Quit" standing for twelve months puts

the tenant in a very restrictive position, *if for example* a woman fleeing violence were to find she may be at risk in the particular area in which she has been re-housed, she would be unable to apply for an exchange or transfer within these twelve months simply because she has this "Notice to Quit" against her.

More often than not we will find the tenant in this situation may have been re-housed from Refuge, Hospital, Jail or one of the many Homeless units in the city. Many of these tenants looking for a new start in their lives from whatever trauma they may have experienced in the past only to find them selves, in what can only be, a stressful and worrying situation hanging over them. The fear of losing their home for a young, single mother *for example* is inconceivable.

All we ask is could the Housing Associations not chase up the City Treasury before they put the unnecessary stress upon the tenant? We should not have to live with stigma purely because we are on benefits.

Janet, Voluntary Worker, Sneinton.

the beat goes on in st.anns... OH WHAT A NIGHT!

While you were watching the Stars In Their Eyes final on TV the cream of Nottingham's singing talent were singing their hearts out at the Karaoke Final in the Woodborough at the top of Robin Hood Chase. Landlord Douglas Read put up £500 to make sure the competition would go with a swing. There were 8 semi-finals.

"There were some appalling acts, but all people having a go. We've ended up with 14 fantastic acts for the final - it'll be hard on the judges to make a decision."

Top prize was £150, second £75, third £50 and every contestant took home a bottle of wine and had a bite at a buffet. Mr. T the DJ brought them through the heats and compered the final. They sang to a full house.

The range was amazing. 60 year old Mr. Max (who came away with the second prize) presented a lively rendition of *Ain't that a Shame* by Fats Domino. Greg sang a smooth Commodores number and first prize winner Steve sang a moving version of Nilsson's *Everybody's Talking* followed by *La Bamba* in the second half.

"This is the best karaoke I've ever heard - and I'm a musician. There isn't a duff singer amongst them."

Monica sang Temptations, and modern music wasn't left out with third prize winner Cheryl singing Mariah Carey and Donna Shania Twain. Winston made us all feel brand new like the Stylistics and Anton Smith gave a heartfelt original version of *Unchained Melody*. Mr. George looked like a country squire but sang *Quando, Quando* like Dean Martin- followed by a great

Frank Sinatra for *My Way*.

"Talent comes from the street. The rich can't do this."

Matthew ("all the way from Bulwell") sang *Lady in Red* and Emma a throaty *Mustang Sally* then *Mona Lisa*. "It's nerve racking when you're up there - you come back shaking."

Leroy did an Al Green, and Trish ("Matron by night, she'll deliver your babies for you") sang the old favourite *Lipstick on Your Collar* Connie Francis style.

"If you want to know about race relations - just come here."

It was a quality programme that rivalled Stars on TV - on your doorstep for the price of a pint. Landlord Douglas says "Everybody enjoyed a splendid evening - I was over the moon. There was no problem whatsoever - people were full of fun with no thought of violence or mischief."

He preserved it all on videotape and might be persuaded to play it back if you ask nicely. And Douglas is doing it again.

There was some controversy about the results - so he has decided to invite the contestants back in August for a repeat contest. There will be 4 judges from the music industry with a strict judging format, with marks awarded for singing the song well, for presentation and body movement on stage. And Douglas will be providing another set of prizes.

Colin Haynes



DALE ALLOTMENT REVIVAL



This time last year we had only a third of our plots taken, and seen from afar, the site had the appearance of meadowland. Not without allure, I admit, but hardly justifiable at a time of widespread interest in gardening, and growing concern about the quality of the food we eat.

At the time of writing, three quarters of our plots on our site are now under the spade. Most of our new plot holders are under 35, and a good number of them are women, who for too long have been under-represented on allotments. For many decades allotments all over the country have benefitted from the dynamic contribution of immigrant cultures, and so far this year, we've seen four local Bosnian families join the long established gardeners from Italy, Ireland, Kashmir, Jamaica, Spain and Finland. They're already making their mark, constructing beautiful sheds made mostly from wood rescued from skips, or else given to them by their new allotment neighbours. Happily, friendship and mutual aid come easily on our blessed plots.

We in the east of the city, can count ourselves lucky to have so many allotments all around us. But we mustn't get complacent. Developers are always looking for land, as those plot holders at the Blenheim site, facing displacement at the hands of Raleigh, will tell you. The best way of ensuring allotments stay with us, is to make sure sites are full. Very few sites have waiting lists and most plots cost around as little as £25 a year with discounts for those on low incomes.

So, if you're looking to grow your own food, enjoy fresh air and healthy exercise, and make new friends, grab your piece of land and make sure allotments are with us for a long time to come. Long live allotments!

MARC RICHMOND

SNEINTON DALE ALLOTMENTS. Tel: 9599432
For more info contact TONY HALLAM
CITY COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS OFFICER:
Tel: 9152072.



Dig for Vegetables
Dig for Victuals!
Dig for Pleasure
Dig for Treasure
Dig for Fun
Dig under the Sun
Sow your Seed
Plant whatever you Need
Only got a Yard?
Rent an Allotment
Gard(en)
Dirt Cheap! Glen Kinch

Traffic Problems

At the beginning of the September 2000 term, all schools were asked to forward road traffic problems affecting their school, as some money was available for needy projects. The amount of potential accidents on the Sneinton Road crossing, even with the lollipop lady present, had risen to an unacceptable level. The William Booth School asked if something could be done. After three terms of hard work, we finally have a brand new pilot scheme of solar powered environmentally friendly signs complete with flashing lights being installed for the September 2001

term. Plans are also afoot to reduce the amount of parking space on Notintone Street, by boxing the middle section of the road around the school entrance.

That just left the problem of parents who continually park on the zig zags outside the school entrance. We had to make it clear to those parents that the highway code rules 213 and 217 stating you must not park or wait at a school entrance prohibit for the safety of the children. Obstructing a child's view across the road endangers their life!

The school governors over the last five weeks have continually taken car and taxi plate numbers of people who persist in endangering children's lives. Whilst running this campaign we have found that when parents adhere to the parking regulations and escort their children into school, there seems to be a reduction in the school late register!

William Booth Parent Governors

wild in the city!

If you sometimes think about getting an allotment - but think it's going to be too much work. Just imagine what it's like having eight! That's exactly what new group **Urban Nature** has taken on at Hungerhill Gardens, St. Anns.

We're incredibly lucky to have a place so rich in wildlife, in the heart of the city. Much of our countryside has been farmed so intensively, for so long, that vast amounts of wildlife habitat has been lost forever.

But Hungerhill Gardens still has excellent hedgerow systems, a huge song bird population and a growing list of wild species. There are lots of reasons why - allotment gardening in the city has never been anything like as intensive as we now have in our countryside. More and more people are concerned about the quality of the food they eat - and interested in growing food organically. That means less use of the chemical pesticides and fertilizers that poison the wildlife food chain. Over the years, disused allotments have been colonized by young woodland species and scrub - providing both food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife.

Urban Nature's aim is to improve open space in the city through practical management and the creation of a wildlife habitat. The allotments are their first major project. At least four of the plots will be planted as hazel coppice. Coppicing is an ancient woodland management system that creates a great habitat for wildlife and a useful crop. The young hazel trees will be underplanted with native woodland flora like bluebells, primroses and red campion.

The group are also helping to produce a wildlife survey of the Hungerhills site and offering information and advice to other allotment holders who want to make their own plots more wildlife friendly. Wildlife habitat in the garden makes a lot of sense - with a friendly team of hedgehogs, bats and frogs on your side, you can say goodbye to your slug problem. Bumble bees are also under threat in the wild but if you give them a home they'll work on pollinating your plants all day long for free.

For more information about Urban Nature ring Pete or Cathy on 0700 900 0129 or visit www.urban-nature.net

One of the highlights of this year's Sneinton Festival was the Sneinton Arts Trail. A group of artists/designers/makers opened their houses and studios to the public over the weekend 6-8 July. The work on show ranged from glass blowing to performance poetry. Other artists work included textiles, pottery, sculpture, jewellery and painting. Not to be missed was the smallest Gallery in the World, or in Sneinton at least. There were no prizes for guessing its' original use!

The Trail opened in a torrential downpour but the glorious sunshine throughout the weekend ensured that a substantial number of people both from the locality and around the city were able to enjoy the venues and delightful gardens also. Great appreciation of the event has been expressed both by visitors' spontaneous comments, by information collected on the evaluation sheets available at every venue and by visitors' readiness to purchase work for sale. The intention of Arts Trail was to show the variety and quality of art work being produced and performed in Sneinton. All those involved, participants and visitors agreed that this has been achieved in an innovative and enjoyable way. It is intended to extend the Sneinton Arts Trail next year, so watch this space for further details.

Jane & Chris Marrows

SNEINTON ARTS TRAIL 2001



IT'S HARD TO GET HEALTHY!

Doesn't it make you sick... When the Health Centre receptionist says it will be two weeks before you can get to see you doctor.

If you knew you were going to be ill, you'd have booked in advance. How come the receptionist is the judge of whether you're an urgent case or not?

Doesn't it make you sick... When City Transport put their worst drivers on the 47 route to City Hospital.

"A roller coaster ride" as one passenger put it - zipping in and out of side streets round the station and the Square. Some of the passengers are outpatients going for treatment who can do without a shaking up.

Doesn't it make you sick... When they build the new Limp-In NHS Health Centre handy for the train station but out of the way from bus routes. Unless you have a car, you have to be fit to walk there!

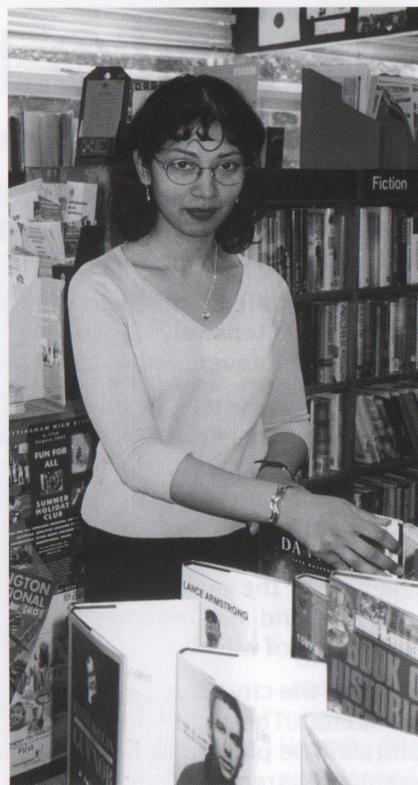
Turning over a new leaf at the library

Hi, my name is Kam and I'm the Librarian covering Sneinton, Bakersfield, Carlton Road and St Anns Libraries and no, contrary to popular opinion I don't say 'shush' a lot.

I've worked for the Council for 9 years having started as a trainee librarian and simultaneously studied for the qualification at Loughborough University part time. Once I qualified I worked at the Central Library on the ground floor for 6½ years which I enjoyed immensely and gave me a very good grounding in the work of a Librarian. Deciding I wanted a change however, I successfully managed to persuade the interview panel in accepting me for this post - though personally I think it was sheer fluke.

I've been in this post since January 2001 and I've found that there is a lot to learn and do - even 6 months in I keep tripping over things I don't know. What is important though is ensuring continual communication with staff and working with them to develop the service.

Part of my job involves me in building on existing contacts and creating new ones in the community to encourage and sustain links with the library. This will include amongst others contacting community groups and centres, local schools, playgroups, and organisations - but quite often though people tend to find me. Some of the community aspects that I have been involved in is linking in with the Sneinton Festival to hold 2 workshops in Sneinton Library using local artists and school groups, responding to Banca playgroup to come to Bakersfield Library for storytime and book exchange, encouraging further links with the Stonebridge



Centre and Carlton Road Library, and running a school class visit at St Anns Library in how to use the resources in the children section.

Another major aspect of my job is attending city wide meetings to develop the service. I am currently on several groups including Reader Development, Music, and the Equality Group and stemming from the Reader Development Group the St Anns Reading Group came into being which I now run and organise.

Last, but certainly not least an important element of my job is to help ensure that each library has relevant book stock to the needs of their customers which requires a lot of attention and constant revision.

Well hopefully you're still reading this article as what will be happening in libraries in the future are firstly the children's summer activities will be starting the week beginning the 30th July in all the libraries, and the Central Government initiative 'Sure Start' will soon be launched in St Anns and Carlton Road and is now being extended to Sneinton.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you want any support or service or link work with the library.

Kam Bangar

The Renewal Trust Childcare Voucher Scheme

The Childcare Voucher Scheme was launched in February 1999 and has assisted over 100 people with Childcare costs whilst they go to work or attend a training course.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide help towards the cost of childcare up to the value of £20.00 per child per week (at a rate of £1.00 per hour). A maximum of two children can be claimed for. The voucher can be claimed for 52 weeks per child, this may be extended if a college course lasts longer than 52 weeks.

Many parents prefer for a close family member to look after their child, as the parent and the child often feel more comfortable with this arrangement. Under the scheme the child's grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters can be the carer. The scheme is a great alternative for parents who otherwise simply would not be able to afford other more formal forms of childcare.

Allison Raymond from St Anns works as a Shop Supervisor. She heard about the scheme through her sister Tracey who told her to "bear it in mind when you want to return to work". What appealed to her most is the fact that "in addition to being able to spend quality time with me, when I am at work my son can spend time with his cousins," as her carer was her sister who also has children of her own.

Rachel Osborne from St Anns works as a Check-Out Operator. She found it very difficult to find a carer for her son because she works nights. So registered childcare was not an option for her. So she came up with the solution. "I decided to get my mum to look after my son. This arrangement has worked very well for us thanks to the Childcare Voucher Scheme".

If you would like more information about the scheme you can drop in to The Renewal Trust at 27/31 Carlton Road, Sneinton, Nottingham, NG3 2DG or call on 9243551 and the staff will be happy to help you.

Donna Simpson

I remember skipping home from school down Serlby Rise one still, sunny afternoon. A huge bunch of bluebells in my hand. From time to time, I'd stop and bury my face in the flowers, inhaling the heady, damp, dark scent. It was too big for my hand really, my tight grip bruised the fleshy green stems and the slippery sap ran out over my fingers. But it was always so hard to stop picking bluebells. Each one seemed even more beautiful even bluer and more fragrant than the last, far too lovely to be left behind.

I know, I know, they're far too precious now to be picked and carted home by thoughtless kids, half dead before they even reached their destined jam jar. But it's a sadness to me and the world's a poorer place to know I may never again experience the shockingly intense perfume and colour of a huge bunch of wild English bluebells. The ones you see in gardens now are a different species, Spanish usually, paler and less fragrant. Not the same at all.

Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, skipping down Serlby Rise and into Granby Walk and down the sandstone steps onto Pym Street. Down past the handful of 'new' council houses. Down past the gated grounds of Rosehill School, where we played illicitly in the long, long Summer holidays. And finally to number 130, where I lived. Further down, at 167 I think, lived my friend Margaret Willey, with her brother David. A pair of freckled redheads whose mother came from far, exotic Blackpool. The other member of our trio, Lesley Mooney, lived just around the corner on Woodhouse Street.

My grandma, Tilly, lived next door at 128. I remember sitting, watching her work, surrounded by drifts of snowy lace. She seemed as old as God to me but her hands were young - fast, flexible and agile. Pulling out the threads to separate the strips of lace. Then it was my job to take the pillow cases, stuffed with cotton waste, down into the maze of streets beyond the end of the road, to Jackie Pownalls yard. There the bundles of cotton threads were weighed and exchanged for a few extra pennies in grandma's purse.

Jackie Pownall's Yard, now there was a place - like a wizards lair - dangerous but completely fascinating. When the house was a mess, my mum used to say, "It looks like Jackie Pownall's in here". I still say it myself sometimes - but of course, nobody knows what I'm talking about.

So, back on Pym Street, I remember the beer-off on the corner of Woodhouse Street. All the wonderful jars of sweets; rainbow kaylie, satin cushions and sweet, buttery chopsticks wrapped in bright orange cellophane. I remember the beer pumps and gleaming copper drip trays. People came with white enamel jugs and big, thick glass bottles with big, black stoppers attached by complicated wire contraptions, to be filled with either mild or bitter. No lager, cans or widgets in those days.

On the opposite corner was the Dairy, which sold milk and was a lot less interesting. Except, of course, for the proprietor, Enid. Enid was an unlikely shade of orange and wore make up every day and dyed her hair jet black and drew a pretend beauty spot on her

I Remember...

PYM STREET



cheek with a black eye pencil. Without doubt, on our street, Enid represented the pinnacle of sophistication and glamour.

At the bottom of the street - every child's dream - a sweet factory. Payne's sweet factory, in fact. The reason why escapes me now, possibly just bad timing but Margaret, Lesley and myself were hardly ever in that most delightful of positions - hanging around outside the factory, at clocking off time, on pay day.

Out they'd flood, a crowd of girls and women. Fastening coats, tying headscarves, smiling, chattering like a flock of starlings. Money in their pockets and their minds already on the weekend. They swept past us like queens, scattering largesse to the peasants. Pulling hard, brightly-coloured, boiled sweets from their pockets and throwing them for us to catch. Laughing, as we raced up and down and squabbled over dropped booty. How disappointing it was sometimes, when they turned out to be cough drops. Still, none of us could afford to turn our noses up at free sweets. And you did get used to the taste after a bit.

Cathy White