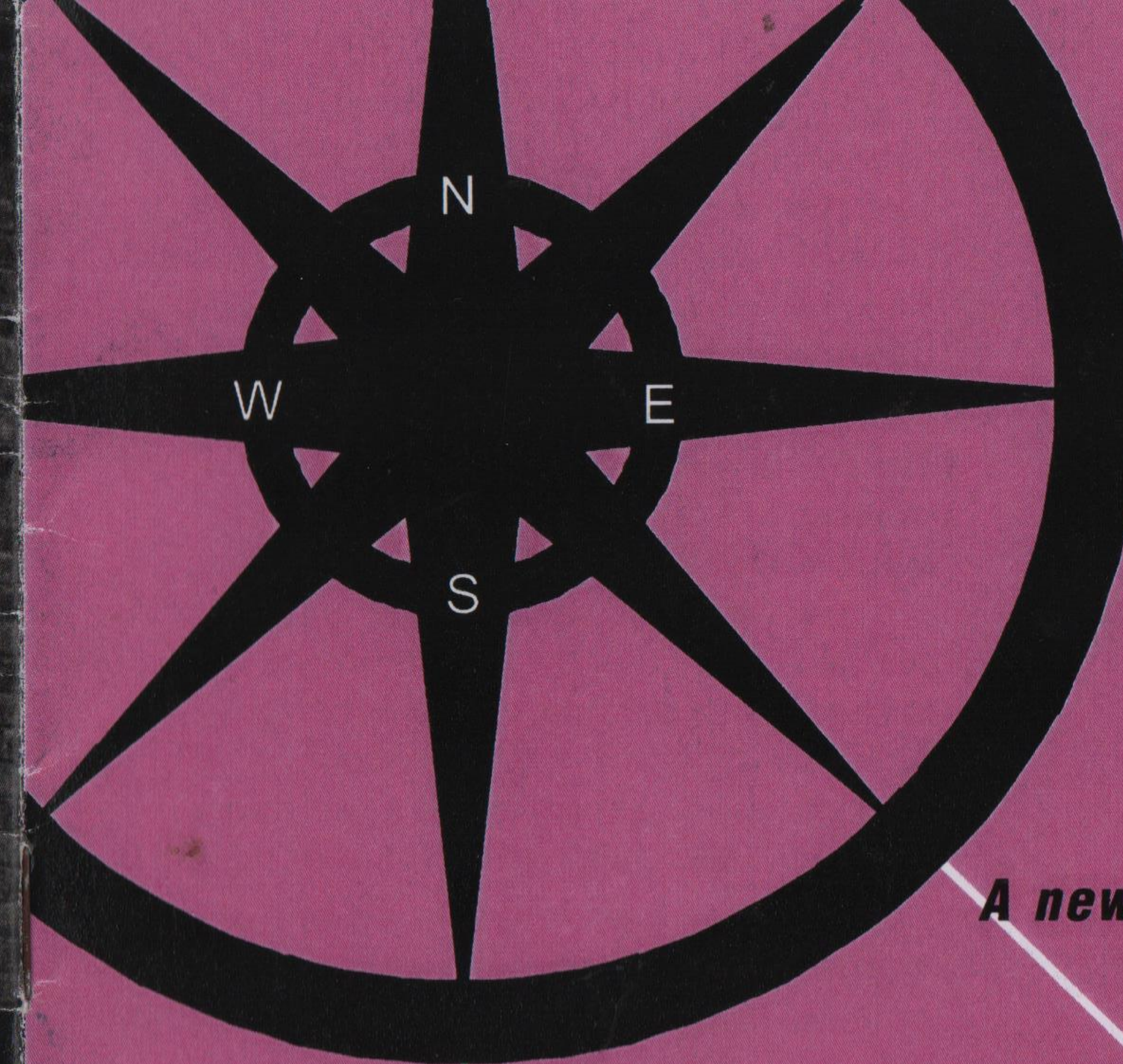


WATKIN STREET

GUNS
ONLY
BRING
GRIEF



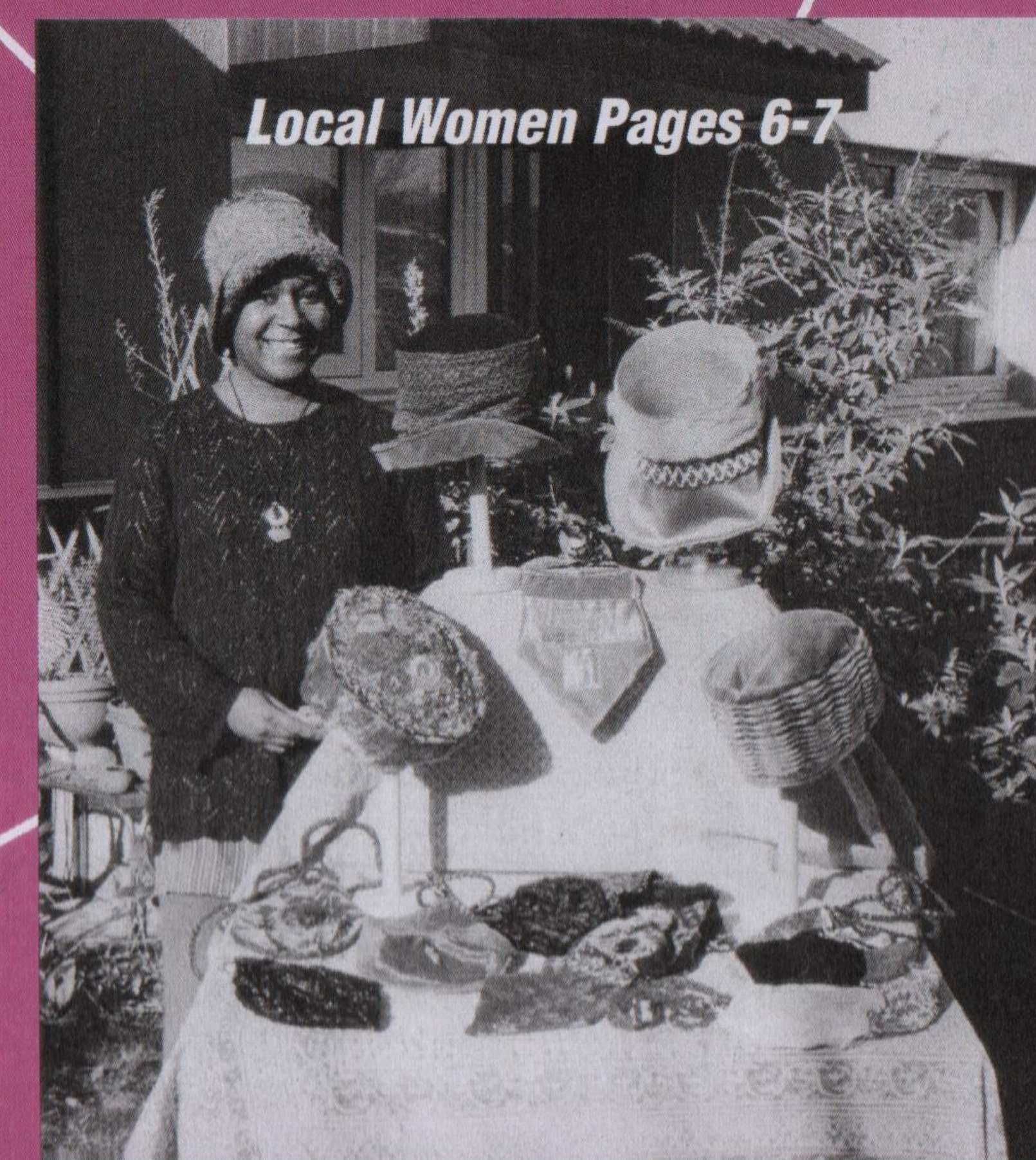
issue four june 2002

east of the *city*

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



Market changes Pages 4-5



Local Women Pages 6-7



Queue blues Page 3



The idea was to put down a little bit of information, a record of what was happening, and from that info a newsletter would be produced to let people know what's going on in their centre - with people that use the centre writing about it. The first one will be mainly photos of the Fun Day - but from that will come a regular newsletter with local events, views and gripes. It might have an off the wall look, if that's how it goes - it might change from week to week, depending on the local people that produce it.

Rob Wilson

I came in to volunteer to help at the Greenway Centre Healthy Fun Day and got told that Rob wanted me in the computer room. To my surprise, I was asked to edit and publish a newsletter in four hours (but because I was already busy, I had to do it in two). I didn't think I had a chance.

The Healthy Fun Day, in February, had a mixture of entertaining and interesting workshops to have a go at- yoga, massage, pottery, MOT your body, music with a wok and bins and Lush the dance group. It was full of a lot of positive comments from people and children. There were workshops for people of all ages, and a creche for the children - and fantastic food. Photos of the day were taken using a digital camera. These were downloaded to a laptop computer and I added quotes and titles with a variety of word art, such as "Hannah and friends with henna hands." Some copies of the finished pages will be around at the centre.

I'm used to doing a bit of computer work, but this opened my eyes to desk top publishing. I'm definitely interested in working with Rob Wilson, the IT tutor at the Greenway centre, on developing the Greenway Newsletter.

Anna Knowles

Keeping the Arbo Mix

You might not think that the Arboretum area is 'east of the city', but at least until next year we are - strange but true - part of the St Anns Ward of the City Council. We're the bit between Mansfield Road, Forest Road East and Waverley Street, just up from the city centre. The Arboretum is a mixed area: part of it's a Conservation Area with 19th century housing, other bits are 1970's estates, and we've also got the Arboretum Park, the High Schools and even the Forest! It's also a mixed area in terms of people, with lots of housing association and private tenants, some owner occupiers, and a good mix of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

This mixture has been thrown off balance in the last few years by the rise in student accommodation. In some parts students now occupy 80% of the houses, and there's been a lot of specially built flats. The Arboretum Residents Association is trying to stop this trend, because we think it's going to destroy our community. We welcome diversity and new energy in the area and we don't have anything against individual students, but they do have a particular kind of lifestyle which can change an area.

Because students are away on vacation for four months of the year the local corner shops find it hard to survive. Students generally don't have children so it's harder for

playgroups to keep going (which makes it harder for other families to stay in the area). Because most only live in the area for a couple of years they don't get a chance to know their neighbours or build up commitments to the area. And it has to be said that a lot of the original residents are getting fed up with the noise and the parties!

We have been lobbying our Councillors to let them know how we feel, and the City Council has now stopped giving planning permission for newly built student accommodation (but they can do less to stop landlords buying up the old houses and packing them full of unsuspecting first years). We've had a meeting with the City and representatives of both universities, and we hope to start working in partnership with residents in the Radford area too.

The last few years have made us realise how quickly the character of a community can change, and how a neighbourhood can become 'a student area' without anybody seeming to make a decision or have any control over it! But we remain optimistic and committed to the part of our constitution that says: 'We want to live in a mixed area - mixture of use, mixture of people.' It's the only way to keep your community alive!

Alan Schofield

Comments from the bus queues

SNEINTON DALE

"They're putting these old buses on the Bakersfield route - they're crowded and fusty and smell of damp."

"Do you know what we've done to get all these clapped out old buses on Sneinton Dale?"

"They stink and I don't like to sit down on the seats."

ST. ANNS

"The 42's on time!
Makes a change!
Got a camera?"

"A 42's off - so there's no 41s - it does a circle but they won't let you get on it at Brewster's Road and come back to town - you have to come down to the terminus."

"Going round the Victoria Centre takes forever- it's 7 extra sets of traffic lights."

"They reduced our service from

every quarter hour to every 30 minutes. That's not what I call improvements."

GENERALLY

"Terrible isn't it - it'll be here next week. Anybody got a mobile?"

"It'll be along soon - unless it's gone to bus heaven."

"We'll not mention there's never no buses to get on - everyone's just sick hearing about it."

"You can't trust the buses."

"I'm forking out for a bus pass and I can't even get a bus. At least I'm young enough to learn to drive."

"We got on a green and cream bus the other day and I loved it - I hate all those swirls on the side of the bus."

"Why do we have to have multi-coloured buses?"

"They should call it Nottingham

One Bus - just one bus a day on each route going backwards and forwards."

CROSS CITY SERVICES

"You used to be able to take one bus to travel across town to other shopping centres - now they force you to stop in the city centre so you do your shopping there."

"They ought to bring back the buses to the Queens. You've enough to worry about if you've someone in hospital - you don't need to think about changing buses. They were good for the students too."

DRIVERS

"The drivers are getting the flak and it's not their fault - they only work for them."

"Bus driving is difficult - you're doing this, doing that, watching this, watching that, all for £5 an hour. It's ridiculous."

Reply from Nottingham City Transport

The oldest buses are not used on service 23/24 in fact these are mid life vehicles which have typically been with the company for only 5/6 years.

Since September 2001 we have introduced an improved cleaning regime. This ensures that each bus is cleaned at least once per day when it returns to depot, additionally we respond to specific requests from drivers or customers concerning any dirty vehicles.

The level of service provided on any route depends on the number of people using that route. Service 42/43 is a service which provides for the demand that there is.

Due to a number of factors, including major traffic congestion and delays we are unable to provide direct services from all parts of the City direct to the major hospitals. With our Transfer Ticket there should be no fare penalty arising from having to make the interchange.

The conditions of service for drivers are improving, we have this year proposed a major restructuring of the wage scale for drivers, which will improve their earnings ability greatly. We are still actively recruiting drivers and would invite any of your readers who are considering a career as a bus driver to contact us on 0115 9505745.

The fares increase recently is to provide for: Investment in new vehicles, all of which will be low floor. To launch more, fast, frequent routes, to attract and retain drivers, ensuring we deliver the service we require.

In order to make your journey safer by introducing on bus CCTV cameras and the latest bus safety features. To invest in new technology "next bus" information providing real time information at bus stops.

Mark Fowles
Managing Director

**east
of the
city**

East of the City was compiled and designed by Colin Haynes and Kevin Searcey with Greg Foister (Area Co-Ordinator) and assistance from Nottingham City Council Housing Marketing. Funding for this issue has come from Nottingham City Council Area Committee East, The Renewal Trust, Social Action Research Project 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.



A Sneinton Night Out

Fancy a night out locally, a raffle, a bit of bingo and maybe a bargain or two? The Auction at the Earl Manvers on Colwick Road every Friday night offers all of these. Mancunian Les has been running auctions for 3 years now, moving down to the Earl Manvers to satisfy the demand when Huckleberry's shut down. "You've got to put the quality in as well as the quantity" says Les "offer a money back guarantee, make sure electrical goods are up to standard, do a low price delivery and build up custom with people so they come back to you." With low overheads, they can offer new goods from Manchester warehouses at prices that undercut the shops, as well as auction items. "We like coming to Les - he knows how to deal with ordinary people. He's a good lad that way - and we get us bargains" says regular customer Iris Fanning. "Watch that telly and video" says someone, only to be told "I thought you'd got one in every room already." "I like that little conservatory set, but I ain't got a conservatory." "I don't know whether to go for the dralon armchair for my kitchen." "How many chairs have you had in your kitchen?" One end of the best room is piled high with stuff, the other end with punters. Steph draws the raffle for a portable TV and a bottle of whisky. Les takes his coat off and checks his mike. "One two, one two." The action is about to start. But people still drift in, looking at lots without wanting to seem too interested. "My name's Les, my wife's name is Steph. You can put your stuff in for the auction before 4 on a Friday - we add 10p in the pound on top as commission. Everything electrical is checked and shown working." A pile of LPs, including Streisand and Springsteen, goes for £2. Videos go for a couple of quid each. "That one's marvellous - it made me cry." Buying is slow, so there are plenty of bargains. A fridge is £12, a portable colour TV £7, a table with a cloth and lamp £6, a Stanley tape measure, knife and two types of screwdriver £2. "Any bids for a motion picture lamp?" No-one knows what it is - an emotion picture lamp or emulsion picture lamp ??? Les throws it open in case anyone wants to make a last minute bid or change their mind - then it's down to the bingo. Mrs. Fanning (who you may remember as landlady of the Bendigo) came away with a planter weighing a ton and a pile of videos.

Colin Haynes

EAST SIDE

EASTSIDE is the flash new name for the wedge-shaped piece of land between the east of the city and the city centre, stretching from the Elbow Cafe down to the railway line.

This area has a mixed range of uses at the moment - leisure, like the ice stadium and the bowling rink; industry, retail, offices and some housing.

There are already great changes going on here - such as the conversion of older buildings into student accommodation and flats - and the thriving city centre is expanding in this direction! Property values are going up and there are chances for big money to be made so changes are inevitable.

The EASTSIDE MASTERPLAN is an attempt to fit these into a framework rather than have development happen willy nilly and end up with conflicting uses.

Various architects and consultants have been called in by Nottingham Regeneration to prepare a plan of how this area should develop over the next ten years, taking the needs of the local communities and other stake holders into account. There has been some consultation - for the public, a wind-swept stall on a winters day on Sneinton Market. The men in suits had a power breakfast at the Platinum Suite in the Ice Stadium with coffee and croissants. But local people have heard little though the plan could produce some major changes to our area.

Some proposals will be welcomed by all such as improving pedestrian access to the city centre which is at present difficult. But at a presentation at the Renewal Trust AGM, most concern was raised about proposed sweeping changes to Sneinton Market.

Various ideas are being floated - like knocking down the old wholesale market buildings and building an office tower or student accommodation. There's even a suggestion that the open market site be built over and the open market be moved into the centre of a U-shaped building on the town side. Traders, councillors and residents are concerned about how these changes will take place with minimum disruption to local businesses - and how it can be ensured that changes benefit local people rather than damaging our favourite shopping spot.

The consultants say these concerns have been taken into account and will be reflected in the plan which will aim to deliver a more vibrant market.

Revitalising SNEINTON MARKET



Suggestions include:

Music to liven it up

An ethnic crafts market

A second hand spree

Phone in your ideas to East of the City on 8413721

Sneinton Market - A New Chapter

Been to Sneinton Market recently? Yes, it's still there every Monday and Saturday 9am to 1.00pm, as it has been for over 100 years.

Some things have changed, but it is still known as one of the cheapest places for fruit and vegetables.

The Pitchers are still there with their colourful patter but not now selling pots, just meat and bedding. Traders are still there specialising in what they sell be it Caribbean Foods or Asian trimmings and fashion fabrics. If you want to know how to make it, operate it, or cook it, ask a Sneinton market trader, not the impersonal supermarket trainee, who seems to know little about what he sells and seems to care even less!

Sneinton now boasts its very own Farmers market every second Saturday of the month.

Where else can you buy Ostrich Burgers and fresh Homegrown vegetables?

Sneinton Market has changed. Give it a try - you will find more there than you think.

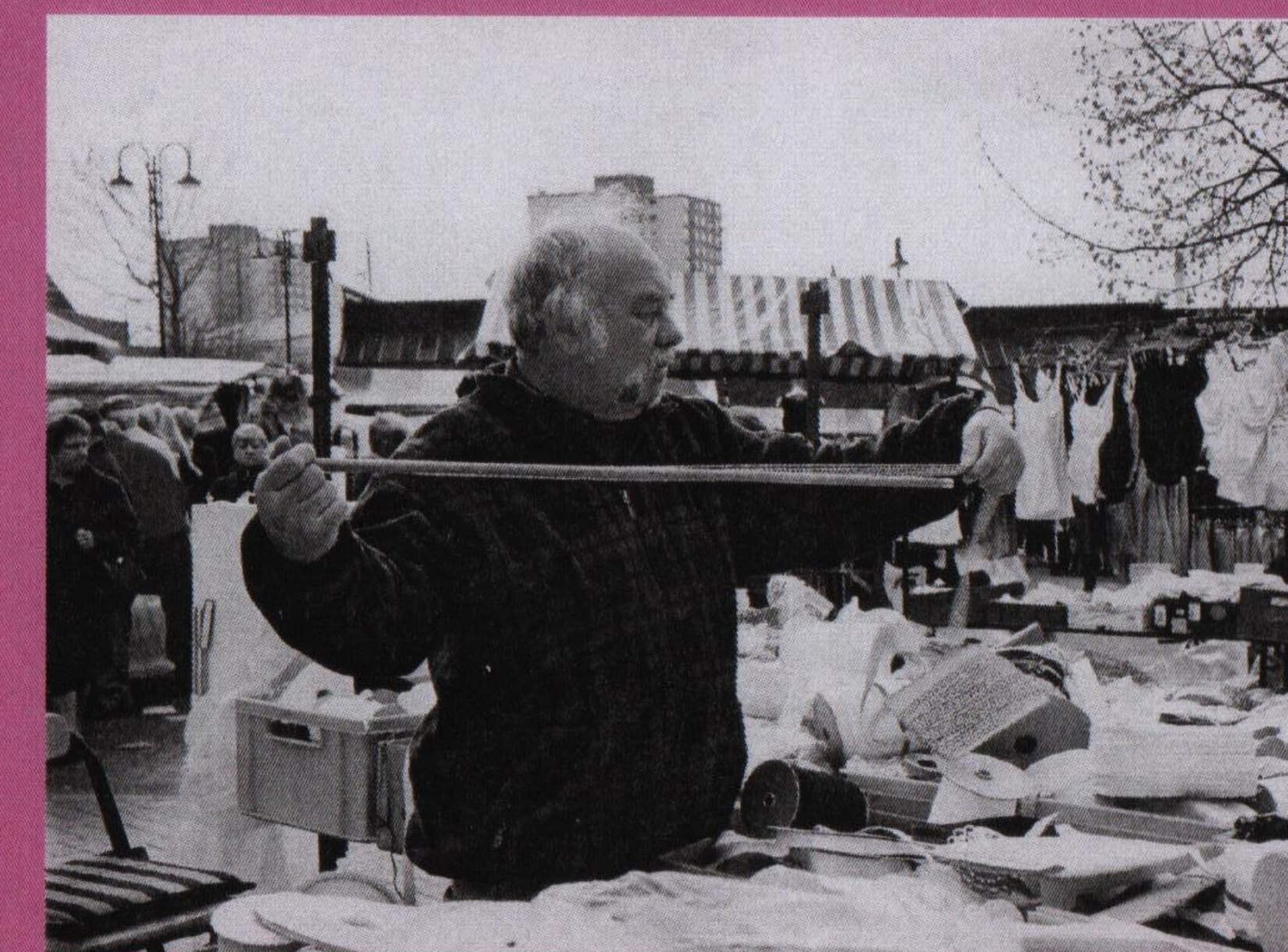
Mike Barnes
Sneinton Market Trader

Markets change according to what people want, and Sneinton Market is no exception.

A Farmers' Market, supported by Area Committee East, has started on the second Saturday of every month (e.g. 8th June, 13th July) in response to the interest in better quality food and giving customers the chance to meet the food producers themselves.

But stalls are a bit sparse on Mondays.

What do you think is needed to revitalise Sneinton Market?



"It's the best connected place in the city - all roads lead to Sneinton Market."

Eastside Consultant

Local Women



My Patchwork Diary Beverley Powell

My wallhanging is a patchwork diary using all the remnants of skills I've learnt through College and the Embroiderer's Guild. Here is a section of old embroidery I've used. This is my first attempt at making felt, and another section where old clothes were shredded using the frayed fibres, encasing them under sheer fabric in a quilting effect. When I was convalescing in hospital I saved sweet papers from chocolates I received. The colours simply inspired me. I kept them in a jar for future use. I love working with texture and mixed media, so my sweet papers came in handy. I would also introduce twigs which I have woven into the piece of work.

People think I go out and buy expensive materials, but I am a great believer in recycling. I just use old clothes and curtains and make them into something new, like my hats, bags, and purses.

I used to be a dressmaker in a factory as a sample machinist. Due to illness, I had to

leave and found I had all this creativity bubbling inside me.

I went to Clarendon College and learned new skills where my enthusiasm overflowed. I came out with a City & Guilds in fabric design and dressmaking, and an award for student achievement.

I am doing my work for my own pleasure as it is very therapeutic and rewarding.

Living in St. Anns, my life saver is my allotment. My garden is an inspiration. At times, I sit up there quietly with my sketch book and dream away and get ideas from plants and colours. I communicate my feelings through colour. I make felt in touchy, feely rich colours. I made a felt hat like a crown of jewels. A lot of my work is based on jewellery - with the richness of eastern culture, Asian, Chinese and a bit of African thrown in.

Each year I keep trying new things - this year it's gardening, music and singing.

Razia's Story

I arrived in Britain in October last year as an Asylum Seeker from Zimbabwe. I was left destitute in Zimbabwe and arrived here with no belongings or clothes with my 3 children. I had to flee my home and my country because I was threatened by death due to my colour and political affiliations. I first went to Leicester and then in November was sent to St Ann's in Nottingham by NASS (National Asylum Seekers Support - the government organisation responsible for the dispersal of asylum seekers in the UK).

I had not been in Nottingham long when Refugee Housing sent me a flyer about a refugee, asylum seeker and community celebration event. I was very interested in going along to get to know new people and find out about what's going on - I wanted to feel my way into the local community. I found this event very welcoming, I met Mandy Pride (Community Services Officer) and told her I would love to do some voluntary work. Mandy drove me around St Ann's a few days after and introduced me to opportunities available in the local area. Through Mandy I've met lots of people in the area and made very good links. This has helped me integrate into my local community.

I made links with the Refugee Forum and Bluebell Hill Community Centre where I now do voluntary work 5 days a week between the two organisations. I really enjoy the work I do with asylum seekers, refugees and elderly people. I have also helped out at other events for example the health awareness day at the community centre.

By attending this SARP funded event I have really increased confidence in myself. This led to me developing new networks after coming to Nottingham not knowing anyone, engaging with organisations that interest me and participating and involving myself in activities. I have developed positive relationships, learnt about resources and opportunities in the area and offered my time and skills in the spirit of reciprocity. This whole experience has had a snowball effect.

I have just had some excellent news from the Home Office - I have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK. It is such a good feeling to know that I am safe now, my children and I do not have to live in fear that we are going to be sent back to Zimbabwe.

The links I have made, the voluntary work I am enjoying, the networks I have established and the friendships me and my children have made are all fundamental to stand us in good stead to move forward and integrate into life in Nottingham now we've had a positive decision to stay in the UK.

My name is Uzma Mustafa and I am 24 years old. I am born and bred in Sneinton and have always, up to the present day, lived here.

I am the fruit and veg manager at the Kwiksave in Sneinton. I have been working there for almost a year now; three months as assistant, until I was offered the manager's post which I have been doing for 5 months.

The good thing about this job is that it is so close to home and maybe I have become lazy towards bus travelling and walking long distances to work. I hate the early mornings but I then look forward to seeing my work colleagues and friends. A few jokes and stories told by the delivery people makes a good start to the day which tends to last till the end of my shift.

I start work at 7am every morning but I really enjoy my lie-ins on Sundays. The day usually starts by stocking up fruit and veg, checking the quality of deliveries. There is a lot more to the job but it is a piece of cake.

My first priority in this job is good customer service, to ask customers what they would like to purchase. I enquire about their preferences and availability of that particular item and most of all customer satisfaction. My other main responsibility is my staff as I need to make sure they realise the commitment I require. In return I offer them advice and support on how they can improve the way they work as individuals or as a team. I strongly observe the relationship between myself, staff and customers. I work with both groups to eliminate any problems or misunderstanding they may have. I try my best to all equally.

I've never worked in retail before, but so far I don't have any regrets. I dislike awkward customers, but on the whole, I really enjoy the job and I liked to be challenged with different things every-day. I have lived in Sneinton all my life, so the majority of my customers are my friends and neighbours, who do make the job worthwhile. So this makes me forget the negative aspects of the job and motivates me for another day as a manager.

I furthered my passion for art by studying at South Nottingham College and will soon be graduating with a degree in Surface Decoration from De Montford University, Leicester. I am hoping to end up in interior designing or stationery designing such as cards and giftware maybe freelancing or self employed basis. I also work at the Royal Mail Sorting Office in Beeston.

It may seem like I have a busy lifestyle, but to be honest I really enjoy studying and love both my jobs and the people I work with.



Fruit 'n' Veg Uzma Mustafa



ST. ANNS COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Over the last six months, a Community Orchard has been established by the local community group STAA on the Hungerhill allotments in St. Anns. A Community Orchard is a space where local people can get together to grow fresh fruit and enjoy the great outdoors. Ten plots with some existing mature fruit trees have been cleared and planted up with nearly 70 more of a huge variety - apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, mulberry, walnut, you name it. Children from four local schools - Sneinton C. of E., the Karimia Institute St. Anns Well Junior and St. Anns Well Infants - came and planted trees and a variety of helping hands took part in the clearance including Notts. Women's Training Scheme, a group from Forest Comprehensive School and our very own Orchard volunteers. This beautiful site - which includes a pond and a stream - is presently awash with blossom and awaiting your visit!

Activity Days take place between 11am and 4pm on the third Sunday of every month. In the past, these have included Apple Day celebrations, Pruning Courses and an extremely popular Craft Day attended by over 60 people who tried their hands at greenwood crafts and live willow weaving.

A number of exciting summer events are planned, along with the regular work on the

site - looking after the trees, building a hut and keeping the hedges in trim. As autumn comes around we'll be picking all the fruit and deciding what to do with it. Everyone's welcome, young and old, experienced and beginners, those who want to get their hands dirty and those who want to sit around and chat and watch it grow!

We are also interested to hear from any other individuals, schools or community groups who would like to use the site for an event or as a space to get together outdoors. You may want to "adopt" a plot, looking after it and adapting it to your needs. We will give you the support you need to make this happen.

So if you think you'd like to get into growing some food, meet some new people or just get out in the fresh air a bit more, give us a ring or come along to one of our Activity Days. Come for as long as you want, and bring your family and friends. We'd love to see you there!

Richard Arkwright and Sam Brown, St. Anns Community Orchard workers. Orchard mobile - 07816 209108 (Main entrance to the Community Orchard is towards the bottom of Ransom Road, just opposite the Metrazone play-centre).

Sneinton Playlink



Sneinton Playlink has been up and running since the summer of 1999. We are a voluntary group of local parents/carers who are actively working together to provide fun activities for our children and for local families. Membership is open to all living in Sneinton and the surrounding areas. Our aim is to reach out to all of the families' particular needs, by running activities to include all abilities of the children, and with many activities either being free or subsidised. We have an equal opportunities policy written in our constitution and actively work towards an anti discrimination approach in our procedures and practices. We have the support of an Area East Play Worker and have funding from Nottingham City Council, and by fundraising ourselves.

As a group we have run 'Fun Days' during every school holiday, in which up to 250 people have attended. We have arranged days out to Derbyshire (Matlock), Sea World (in Birmingham), Conkers (in Leicestershire) a Narrow Boat trip and visits to local places of interest, such as the Galleries of Justice (yes we felt the fear!!). The group has held Christmas Discos over the last 3 years and has been to the Pantomime as well as attending various performances at the Playhouse. We were involved in Sneinton Festival (2000/01). This is just a snap shot of some of the events we have held over the past few years.

We are holding a variety of events over the next few months. Sneinton Playlink will also be going to the Playhouse on Friday 5th July to see Krindlekrax. The tickets will cost a fraction of the price at £2.50 per person. We are also planning a day trip to Dovedale on the 23rd July, and a FREE Funday 2nd September on the Mounds.

We are a small committed group. What Sneinton Playlink needs are more volunteers, to help run this fun and valuable group. We can offer training, support and a good time for your family and the community you live in. Within the group there is the chance to train and gain skills, in whatever you feel is appropriate for the smooth running of the group. Members have been trained as First aiders, in Child Protection issues, computer skills and organizational skills.

Please ring either Maria 8475667 or Margaret 9418623 if you want more information.

PLAY IN THE PARKS

Sneinton Playlink is also running a project called 'Play in the Parks'. The Social Action Research Project, Area East Committee and Phase 10 Board fund this worthwhile scheme. The Leisure and Community Services support us with providing an Area Play Development worker. This has enabled Sneinton Playlink to recruit sessional playworkers. This project has enabled us to provide informal supervised play opportunities for local children within the community Monday to Friday evening after school. This has been successful with up to 35 children from different parts of Area East to have play opportunities in a safe environment.

Since the days are now lighter 'Play in the Parks' has moved from the community centres back into the parks. All sessions are FREE!!! Children aged 8-12 years are very welcome.

MONDAY 4pm to 6pm - Marmion Park, Gordon Road, St Anns.
TUESDAY 4pm to 6pm - Heskey Park, Heskey Walk, St Anns.
WEDNESDAY 4pm to 6pm - Colville Park, Colville St., Arboretum.
THURSDAY 4pm to 6pm - Greenway Centre (indoors and out). Trent Lane, Sneinton.
FRIDAY 4pm to 6pm - The Mounds, top of Edale Road, Sneinton.

During school holidays the sessions will run from 11am to 3pm, at the same venues

Growing Up In Sneinton

"Growing Up in Sneinton" is a book being funded by Sure Start Sneinton to celebrate the childhood memories of people born and brought up in the Sneinton area. It is being organised with the help of the library service and contributions (particularly of school memories, the windmill, places, events) should be sent to Liz Lowe at 27 - 31 Carlton Rd. NG3 2DG or phone 9112564.

At the risk of encouraging future pyromaniacs - I'll relate the tale about how one of our favourite occupations on 1950s Rossington Road was to go up the Mounts, hide behind the boards, which were literally big wooden boards presumably put up there to stop kids like us getting into trouble...and then we'd set fire to them and await the arrival of the fire engines. There was no intent to endanger life and limb and in fact this would have been difficult as the boards were a long way from the houses, separated by quite long gardens, but we thought this was great fun.

I'll also relate the tale of Robert and the knife...I was about 10 and playing up the Mounts on a hot summers day with my swimming costume on - Robert was a lot, lot older than me - in my memory anyway - and he threatened me with a knife which he held at my stomach. I went in and told my nan, who promptly flew down the road, into his house - no-one locked their doors in those days - chased this lad, who was a lot bigger and taller than her - in my memory anyway,

around the house, and gave him a good pasting. when his mother came home from work she heard his version, and came up to have it out with nan - on hearing her side of the story, however, she went back home, chased him around the house and gave him a good pasting herself!

Another favourite occupation during school holidays was to go up Colwick Woods. There often used to be strange men with no clothes on lurking in the bushes. My friend Edna had a boxer dog which she used to release and he'd chase after them. We had no idea what these men were up to and thought it was a great laugh.

I'm not really sure if these are the sort of thing your readers would like to hear... Must go, but I'll try and come up with some other tales - and I will ask my mum and my dad too, as she grew up round here as well.

Sue Atkinson

Sure Start Sneinton is a new partnership of agencies, organisations and parents working together to change and improve services and their delivery to under 4's, their families and carers. It will be based at 144 Sneinton Dale and is funded through Central Government. Parents of under 4's who would like to become registered as Sure Start Sneinton Parents, so they can receive information should ring 0115 9112564. All services are offered confidentially.

Opinion Corner

Youth Forum

It's great that there are finally going to be more youth workers in Sneinton. They've been needed for a long time. But one of my biggest moans is that there should be a committee of all the agencies and people involved with youth so they can get together and plan what is done. There should be some kind of young people's forum to say what's needed - that's how the young people at the Greenway got their astroturf.

Ann Fuller

Getting Slower

I'm an older person and to me everything seems to be getting slower. I used to shop in a little Italian delicatessen; now that's closed down and I have to shop in a supermarket and queue for ages. I used to use a local bank; that's closed and now I have to queue for ever at the bank in the Square. Is it just me that feels like this?

Mrs. A

Proud of the People

I have just read issue three of your magazine and found it enjoyable and informative. I live in St.Anns and am proud that the people of St.Anns are coming together to do something so well. Unfortunately, I have come to hear of your magazine through my work place (based in Forest Fields) and not through my local community otherwise I would have been able to read the first two issues. Is there any chance of home deliveries?!! Good luck to future issues, I wish you great success.

Julie Stones

Our distributors (the Post Group) should have delivered East of the City to every house in Area East and the Renewal Trust area.

If you did not receive a copy of the latest issue, Please contact Sandra Johal at Housing Marketing on 9151418

Thoughts on Violence and the Shootings from the Sycamore Centre

I think it's very sad about Brendon. His family & friends don't need this misfortune. He will be missed very dearly. Hope he stays with God.

Brendon Lawrence was a kind and helpful person. When I got hit, he hit them. I treated him like he was my brother. He did not deserve to die. Lots of love.

This is what I think - I think this is mad. St. Anns never used to be like this, it's ridiculous. These little boys think they're Mafias.

Brendon did not deserve to die. Da peeps who killed him do!

I think it's wrong but we should let the police find out and I think we shouldn't get involved.

Black people need to stop killing of black people.

*When will you young ones ever learn life is precious? It ain't cool to go on bad - it just upsets families and makes you look a fool
Love 2 live
Live 2 love
Rastafari
Let the truth guide you
Peace.*

I think violence is a sign of fear and frustration and loss of control, not of power, self respect or strength. There are different ways of standing up for yourself - harder sometimes, but ultimately more effective. It's never too late to change the patterns.

We mustn't continue to let violence rule or react with violence to violence. I believe we must also educate people in self worth. If people truly place worth upon themselves and life they are less likely to take someone else's.

I say remember all the victims and make sure more victims don't become culprits because they don't feel heard. I say more projects to build a community and individual self-worth- talks, discussions, arts based activities, sports, etc.... I also say a prison service based on reform and educating people in the actual consequences on others and themselves for what they've done, together with a chance to put something back if and when they are truly reformed.

Transform violence into a raised awareness of the issues and concerns and fears that make it such a problem.

I have lived in Nottingham all my life and have lived in most innercity areas, Radford, Hyson Green, and St Ann's.

When I heard that someone had been killed (especially in this manner) it seemed like this could be the end of our city as we know it. Most members of the community whose kids are now teenagers 13-18 will remember how closely knit we were as a community- mothers and fathers knowing each other, from a country far away, and keeping their friendship alive through helping each other out and a mutual respect for each other.

We of that era were given those traditions and we too had friends whose parents and ours were friends for years and so passing on this shared common goal. So making and keeping friends was easy for us- if you did not know them other family members would.

I feel to some extent that we the generation of that era have failed these young people by isolating ourselves on all levels through retribution, stubbornness and selfishness which we have transferred to them. Our kids should not be living our lives, but their own. If you want to give your children a chance, give them all the good knowledge that we had when we were their age and not the bad things we've learned after.

Let the kids be kids, I don't want responsible kids, I want respectable kids. Responsibility is our job- they are not adults, If you say find a job at 15- 16 years old then you cannot tell them not to smoke, drink, or vote until they are 18 years old. Don't give them so-called responsibilities then take them away- we are adults for life and not just for occasions.

Robert Stephens

Antonia Zenkevitch