

Auntie Vee

issue five autumn 2002

east of the city

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



I came to Nottingham from Brixton last year, and opened my shop, V.J's on Luther Close in St. Anns, in December. We sell groceries and a little bit of home made food- like home made patties, chicken dumplings and real good home made drinks like cucumber juice, carrot juice and Guinness Punch.

The kids from St. Anns Well infants call me Auntie Vee- you get to know them and they rap with you. The big people need to tell them we love them even when they're rude. We put out a bouncy castle for them during the Jubilee and we're thinking of having one again in the summer holidays.

BE YOURSELF

Try to find who you are and why you were born - knowing that you're very special. Say to yourself - this is me, I'm going to make the best of my life. I am me and no other one - I was born on this earth to be very special. There could only be one Prince Charles - there's never ever two people the same.

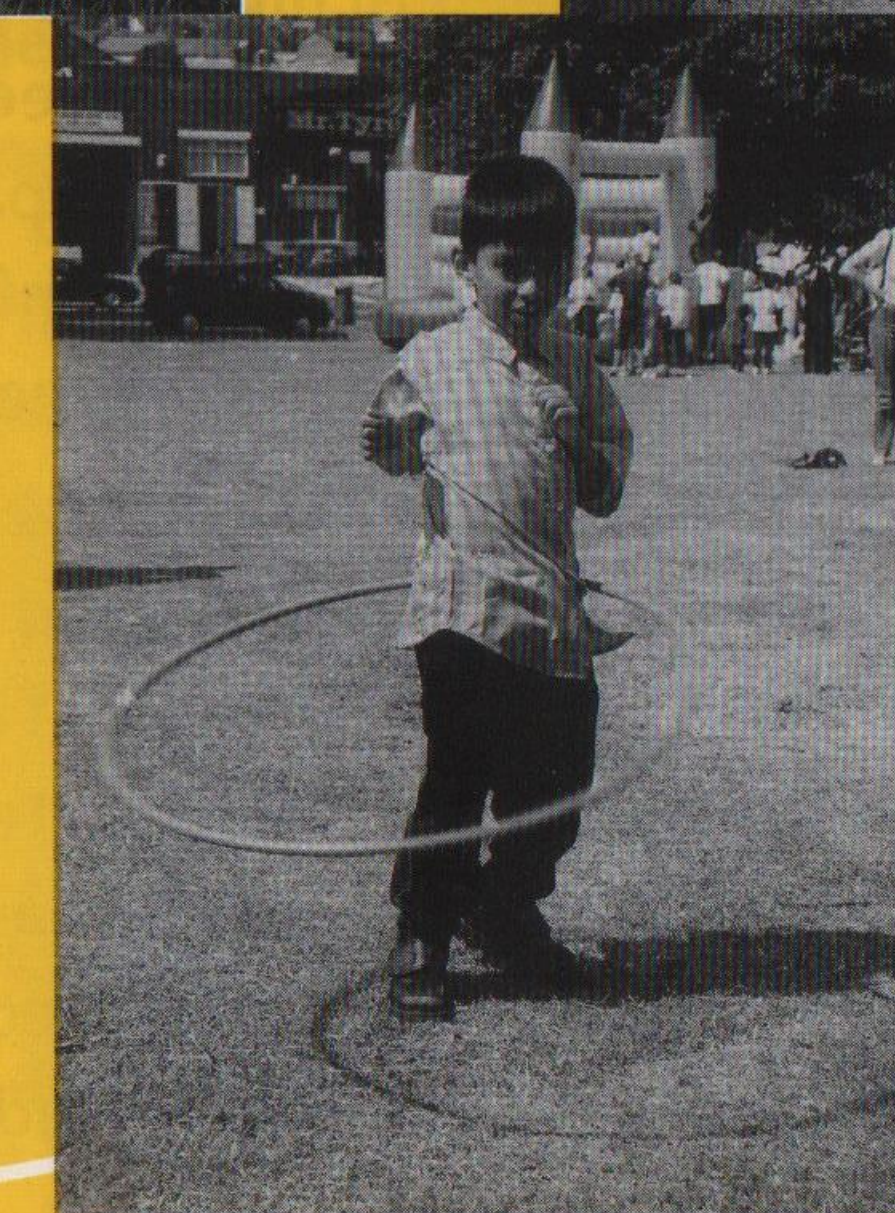
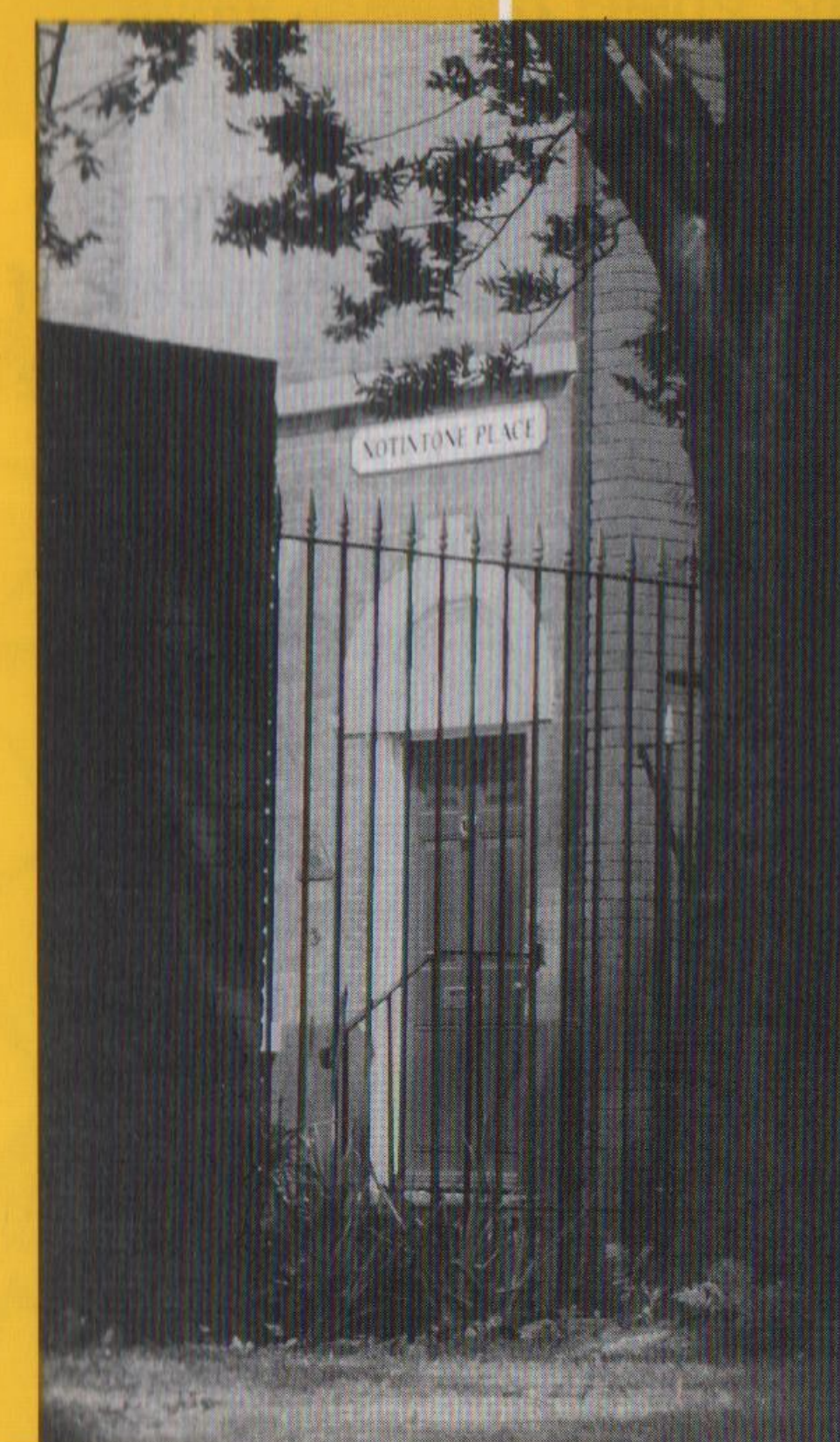
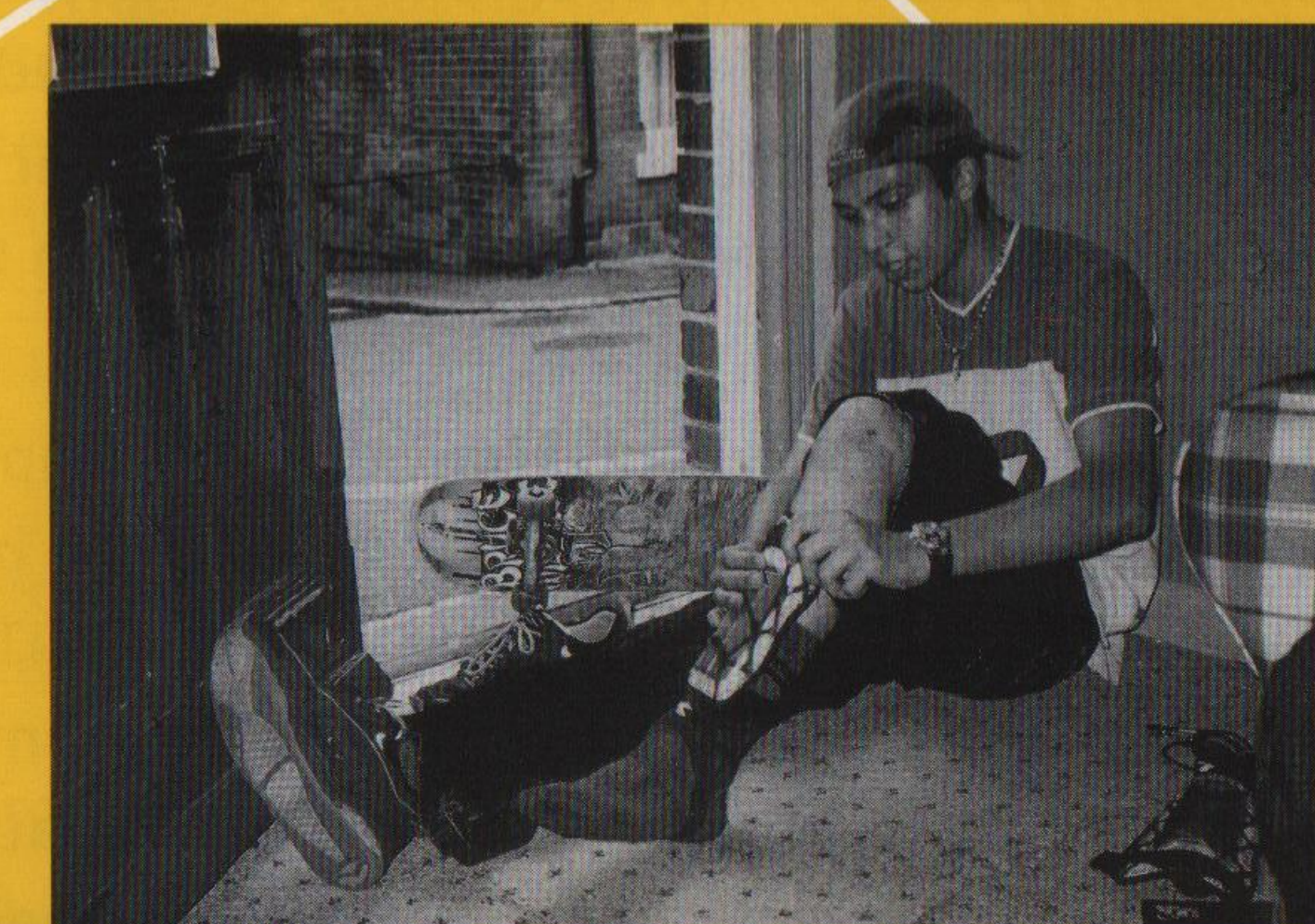
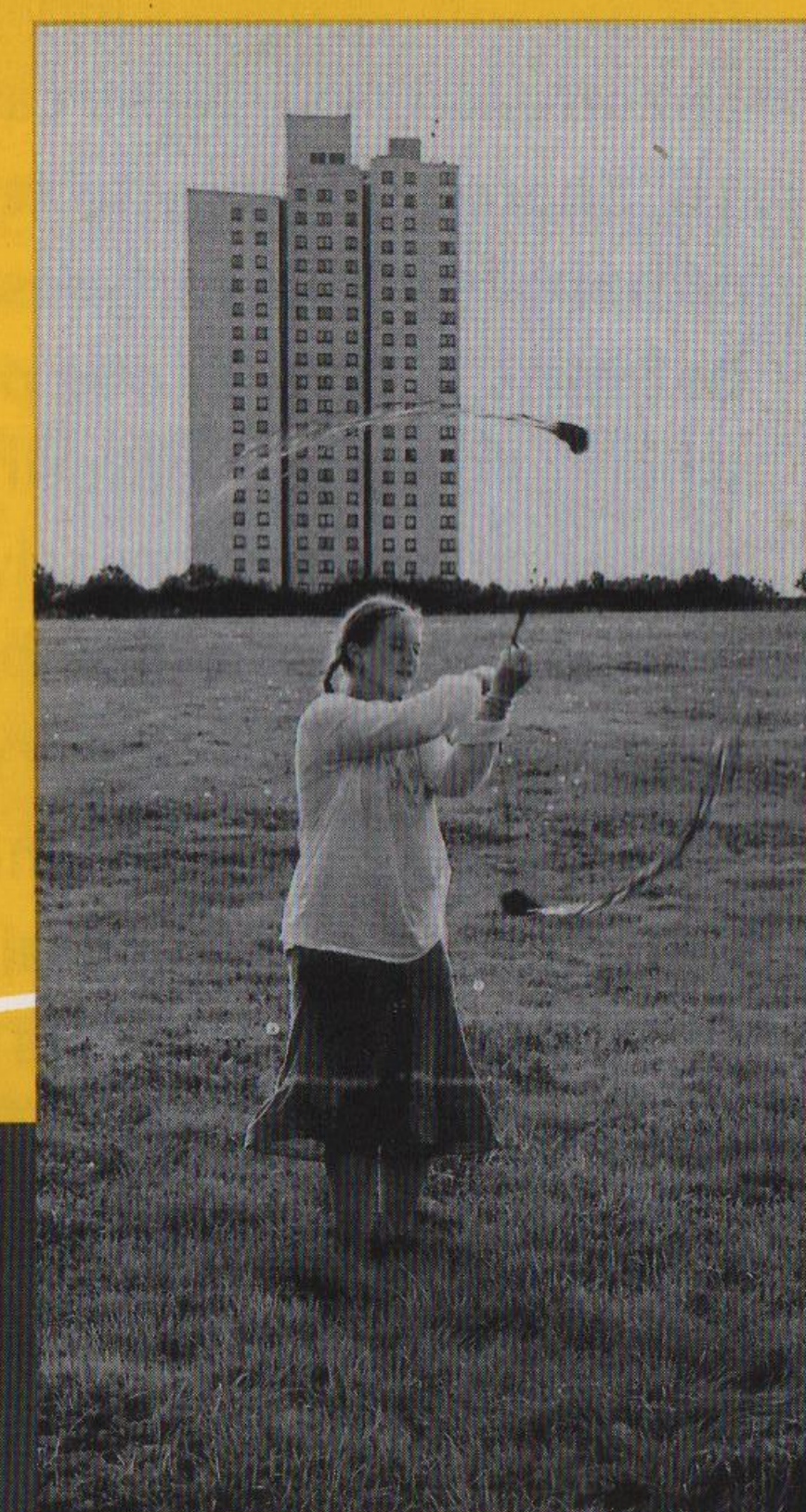
Life owes to no man but to you to achieve what you think you would like to be - It takes hard work and clear thinking. When you find who you are you're happy with who you are. You inherited the earth - you never stop to think how the breeze blow, the rain fall, the sun shines. We just come into the earth and we're enjoying these things. Every day we should say thank you. We're very special to be born and see them. Myself, my children, my grandmother up the line, lucky we live - we can breathe the air (whether it's fresh or not) and enjoy it, we have hands to do things and eyes to see. Whether we believe in God or not, we were created some way or the other. It's a mystery how we got up from creeping and start to talk and walk.

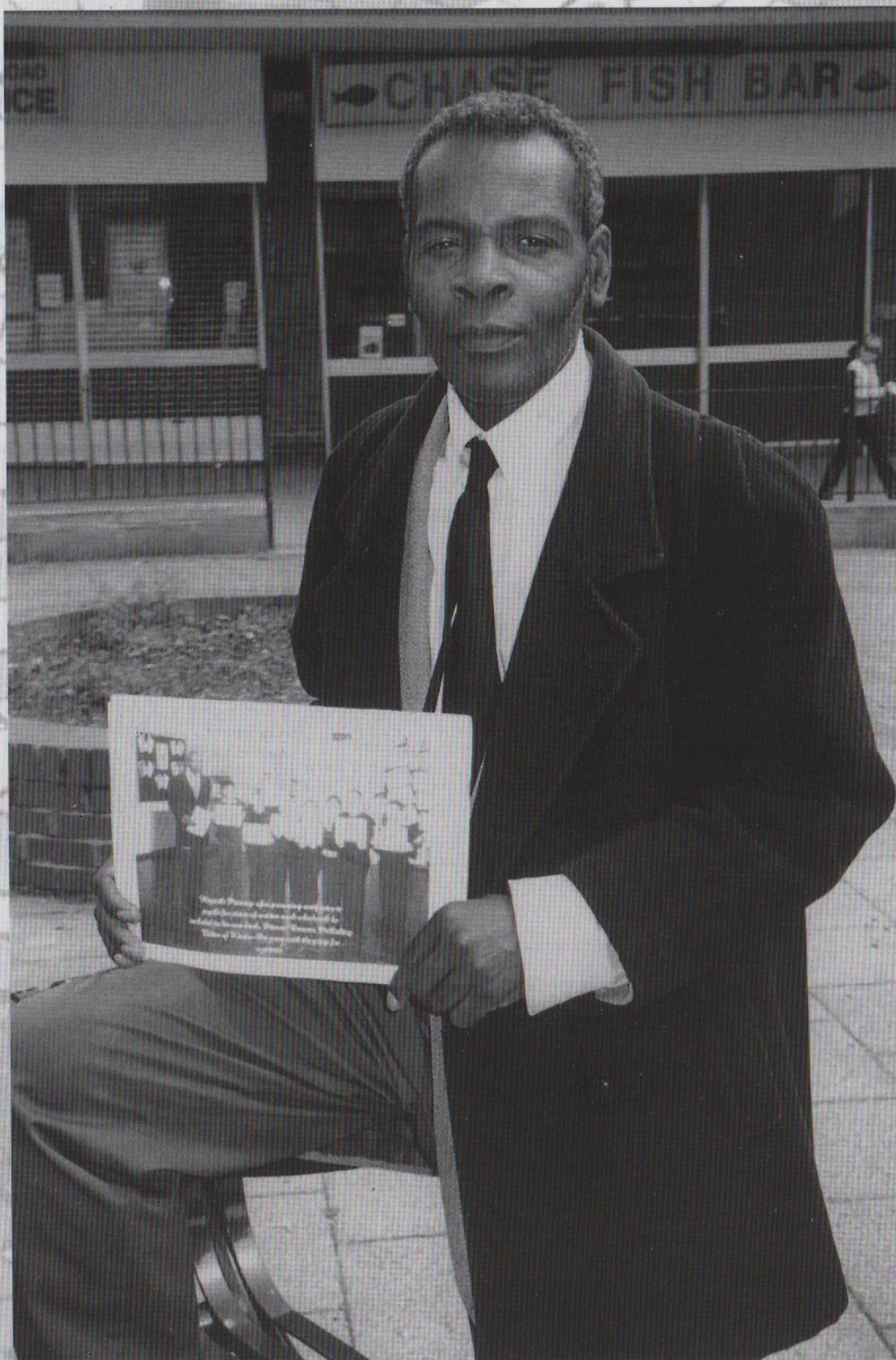
We need young people to realise they don't need to be rich like Richard Branson - but happy with what they've got, and move from there - not with a negative thing but a positive thing.

Marian Juett



Summer Fun





New Book By St. Ann's Author

asked to respond was 'what would I like to be when I grow up?'

One 9-year-old from St. Edward's insisted she wanted to be a choreographer. Meaning she had no intention of training to be a dancer and stopping there - what she wanted to do was learn the dance so as to feel empowered to create dance moves and teach others to dance NOW THAT IS REALISTIC! One 20-year-old guy who is currently on the Access course (People's College Carlton Road site) said when he was her age he wanted to be Muhammad Ali which is UNREALISTIC FROM THE WORD 'GO'. Now he's grown-up he wants to be a Social Worker.

One Community Leader we are certainly happy to have in the pages of this forthcoming book is Sharon Gibson former Double Olympic athlete in javelin throwing and current area Youth Development Worker for Russell's Youth Club in St. Ann's and Oliver Hind in Sneinton. These clubs cater for youngsters from 10 to 16. Sharon is happy to report an increase in the range of opportunities with respect to after-school projects - better still, boys at one point used to dominate whereas girls are featuring more so as to make their presence felt in successive disco dancing competitions as well as bigger events like Caribbean Carnival and Black History Month.

Finally, a sad note on which the book has had to come to terms, is the sad passing of Brendon Lawrence, a St. Ann's youth who was gunned down in February of this year. Beverli Taylor, currently a Mentor at Elliott Durham Comprehensive says in the opening pages (the FOREWORD) that students wept openly especially when they realised that Brendon was a past student of the school insomuch that a large two-part Condolence Sheet was created by them in order to accommodate a spate of community writing. The book incidentally confers its own tribute by giving coverage to the funeral service.

"live.. wire ... COMMUNITY WRITING" hopes to be out and about on the streets from October onwards and will be available at Waterstones bookshop in Wheeler Gate as well as the front desk of the Robin Hood Chase Neighbourhood Centre. It will be launched by a special event on the afternoon of October 25th with readings by young people, music and Caribbean food.

Pitman Browne

My last book 'Children get out of the Ghetto Mentality' took me out and about on the streets (mainly St. Ann's) in pursuit of those who might wish to talk to me about the sort of effect that crime related issues like drugs, prostitution, truancy, guns on our streets and our own backyard, have been having on their own lives.

This current manuscript in appropriate run-up to my next book in contrast, tends to look on the brighter side. I have named it "live... wire... COMMUNITY WRITING" which again, is mainly set in St. Ann's, and focuses on some of the creative gifts and natural talents with which our young people have been richly blessed. After visiting schools within our catchment area, say Elliott Durham Comprehensive, Hogarth and St. Edward's Primary, I am convinced there is a field of blossoming upcoming creative writers who are waiting in the wings to start making their entry into the fields of the arts, the sciences, whether at local or national government level.

Incidentally, I have already undertaken a series of writing workshops within these schools with the hope that these youngsters will learn to write and think creatively as they reflect on themselves. One of the main workshop pieces to which they were

CAFE CAMPAIGNERS



"At the end of a long walk, all I want is a fried egg cob." So says Stan, pedigree mongrel (above). Sneinton mother Dawn Manners, pictured with George, agrees but would prefer a healthier snack - reasonably priced, using locally sourced produce of course - to be imbibed in a charming atmosphere. "What we need in Sneinton is our own cafe," she reckons. "Call it community cafe, call it social economy eatery, call it what you like. We have a high density, pretty low income population, plenty of pubs and lively community/arts activities at Tracs, The Greenway, and the Windmill - but no fab bistro. You know the kind of thing- Goose Fair bulbs, veggie and junk options, 8 til late kind of operation - owned, staffed and sustained by locals. If we don't watch it, with the housing market flying upwards, a global chain coffee-house or worse still the big yellow M will appear and make a killing out of our area."

"Our own enterprise is very do-able. There are pockets of social funding to be had to develop a business plan, start-up funds available, and some great local examples to learn from - The Chase in St Anns and Sumac in Forest Fields. Sneinton also has some wonderful buildings around that could be renovated - the one above is a near derelict warehouse on Belvoir Hill. It has recently been bought by a housing association and council permission has been granted for its demolition, with new flats proposed. In the conservation area? How did that happen, and is this really what our area needs?"

With all this in mind, a small group of us are coming together to develop a strategy. If you want to become involved, please do:

sneintelligentsia@hotmail.com or meet up at the Nellie on the next full moon October 21st 7pm.

**east
of the
city**

East of the City was compiled and designed by Colin Haynes and Kevin Searcey with Greg Foister (Area Co-ordinator). Distribution is organised by Nottingham City Council Housing Marketing on 9151418. 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, ideas and comments from local people. 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

SNEINTON BIKERS

We are the boys from Sneinton and we are members of the Sneinton Bikers. We started this project at Christmas time and we have received the money what we raised before we started the project. We used to ride illegal bikes at Colwick Wood and on private land, now we have got some bikes from the police to help us with the bikers team and also we have somewhere to store them in Breakaway. Team captain Carl Blower and chairman James Gray and Shane Dawson sorted it out with Roger and Julie at Breakaway so we could raise money to buy parts for the bikes and hopefully we will have enough money to buy our bike kits.

Carl Blower

The Sneinton Bikers are now thinking of going on motorcycle maintenance courses at college. They are warmly supported by TRACS Neighbourhood Centre.



SNEINTON BOARDER

Skateboarding in the U.K. was very popular during the late 70s to early 80s and has started recently to become more prolific amongst youngsters again.

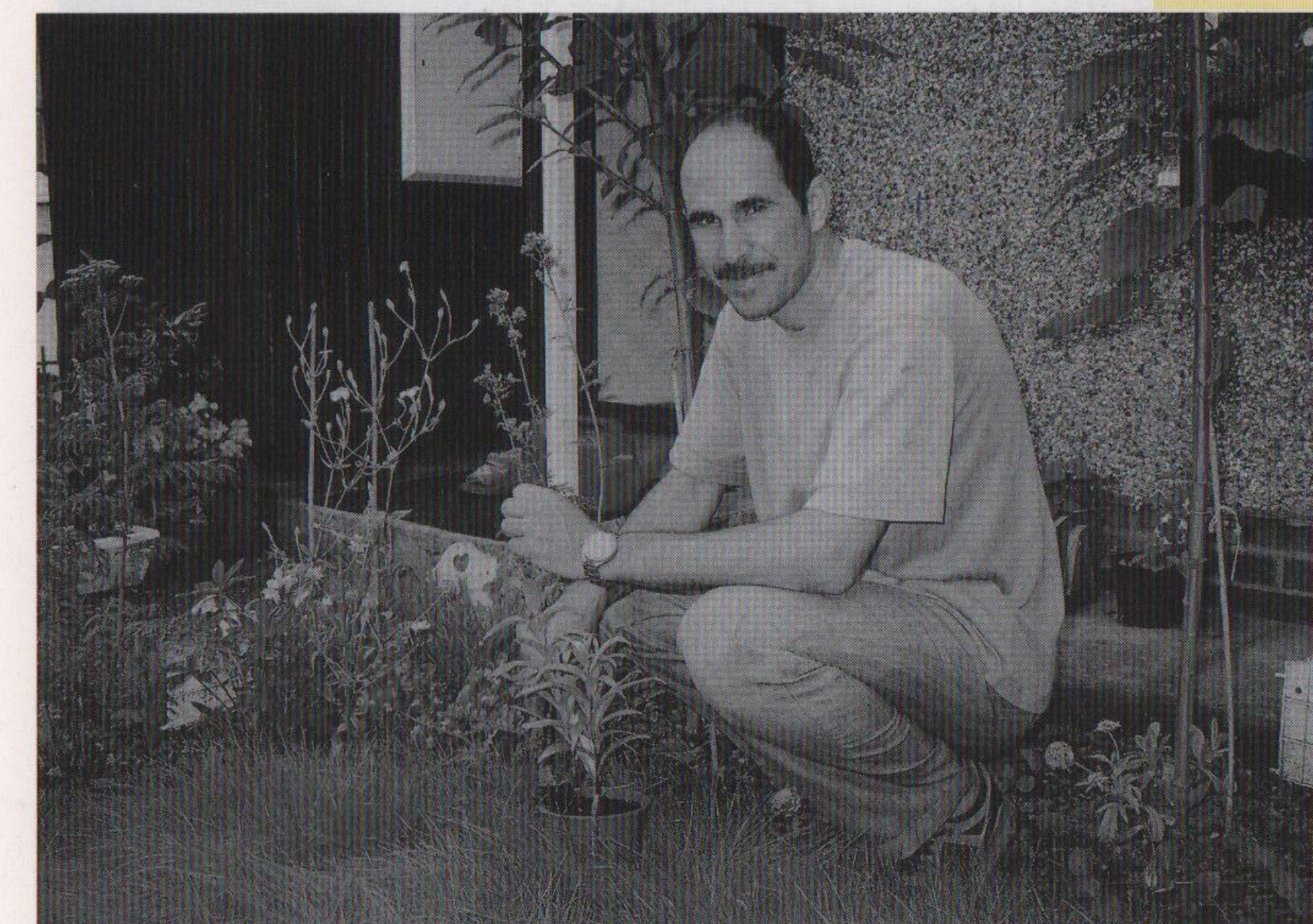
I am James, I am 21 and have been a "boarder" for about 6 months now- and I'm struggling to locate venues to skate in and around Sneinton. People often tell me where I can find skate parks and other venues to skate but I, like many friends do not have time around work, school or college to travel to such places, let alone the money. There are alternatives to travel fares and often entrance fees but many skate spots are patrolled by security making it hard for beginners like me to get off the ground.

The only place near enough for me to skate is Lady Bay Bridge, still half an hour journey on foot. More often than not this venue, being the only one for miles and with only a mini ramp, is very over crowded with aggressive inline skaters (roller bladers), boarders and the occasional biker (bmx).

Bylaws of Nottingham and many other cities prevent anyone skating in the town centre leaving not many options for us. You can have your name put on a list by the police for boarding in town more than three times and receive a fine of up to £35. There are stories told regularly of warnings from police and security but not enough is being done to provide easy access to local skateable venues or spots. A handful of friends who attend jobs and college have resorted to visiting venues like Market Square late at night when security is lax, sleeping late on days off for love of the sport.

By not doing enough I think that Nottingham City Council are dampening youths ambition and willingness to exercise. A final message to all who do skate, do not give up, keep on skating and don't lose your passion for the sport at any cost!

James, one of Sneinton's dedicated "sidewalk surfers"



Beautifying The Area

I came with my family to St. Anns last December as an asylum seeker. I was a horticulturalist in Iraq, so I worked hard to clear the rubbish around the house and get a nice garden.

When I made my garden direct on the street - it made the street clean. When anybody makes a good garden - it makes the street clean. My children are interested and help their dad. In front, there are flowers, a lawn and giant artichokes. After 2 or 3 months, they're so high you can climb up on them! In the back garden I grow crops.

An old woman asked for help and advice - but I can only help my neighbours. When anybody doesn't have a job, the council should help by giving them plants. Some people can't afford to buy them. There should be expert groups coming round to advise people on how to grow them. Every month, the council should teach them in the Chase Community Centre how to grow crops. The BBC TV and radio should show people how to do it too.

I landscaped a garden for Ecoworks, and built a garden for the Refugee Forum on Mansfield Road. I also volunteer to help with the Salvation Army garden at Notintone House. I've cleared two overgrown allotments on Hungerhills with friends and planted salad plants like we have in Iraq. They're a bit hot but contain lots of iron. The allotment area is full of rubbish - they should clean or cut the hedges. If they put a mobile shop in front of the allotments, they could sell vegetables and jam and gardeners could spend the money on buying seeds for winter and doing improvements.

Jamil Daoud

I was so shocked and saddened to hear the news that Jamil, Sarah and their 4 children were detained after a 7am raid on their home by the immigration services and may be deported.

I visited the Dauods in the detention centre at Heathrow, and am very worried for them. It is a prison. Why are they in prison when they have committed no crime? Why are *children* in a prison? When you hear about asylum seekers and detention centres on the news, you don't really take it in, you think there must be a good reason why people are there - maybe they are a threat to the rest of us and that is why they are there. You don't really think about it. You don't realise innocent, good people, including *children* are being locked up and denied the ordinary freedoms the rest of us take for granted.

After escaping from Iraq they finally found a life together as a family here in Nottingham. The children have settled in at school while Jamil and Sarah have worked hard as volunteers and the whole family has made great efforts to learn English. All the family made many friends here.

I think they finally started to feel safe and that they could live as a normal family in a normal environment here in Nottingham. Then they were taken away to this detention centre and told they would be deported to Spain. I'm really shocked that our country can treat an innocent family this way. It seems so cruel that they should be taken away from their home like this, when they have done nothing wrong.

If they do have to go to Spain they will have to start all over again, learning a completely new language, a new way of life and starting out in a strange community and in strange schools. Surely they have suffered enough already?

Sue Conway

For further info contact: Refugee Forum Tel:985 9546

SPUDS R US



The three of us are employed by NECTA (Nottingham Environmental Construction Training For All Limited) and work on the Hungerhill Allotments in St. Anns. Our work usually involves clearing and maintaining overgrown allotments to encourage people to take over the plots, however back in April the Renewal Trust provided NECTA with organic seed potatoes which were planted and maintained by horticultural trainees Alan Daws and Phil Denham (pictured). The potatoes have now been harvested and distributed to local community groups.

Rachel Findley



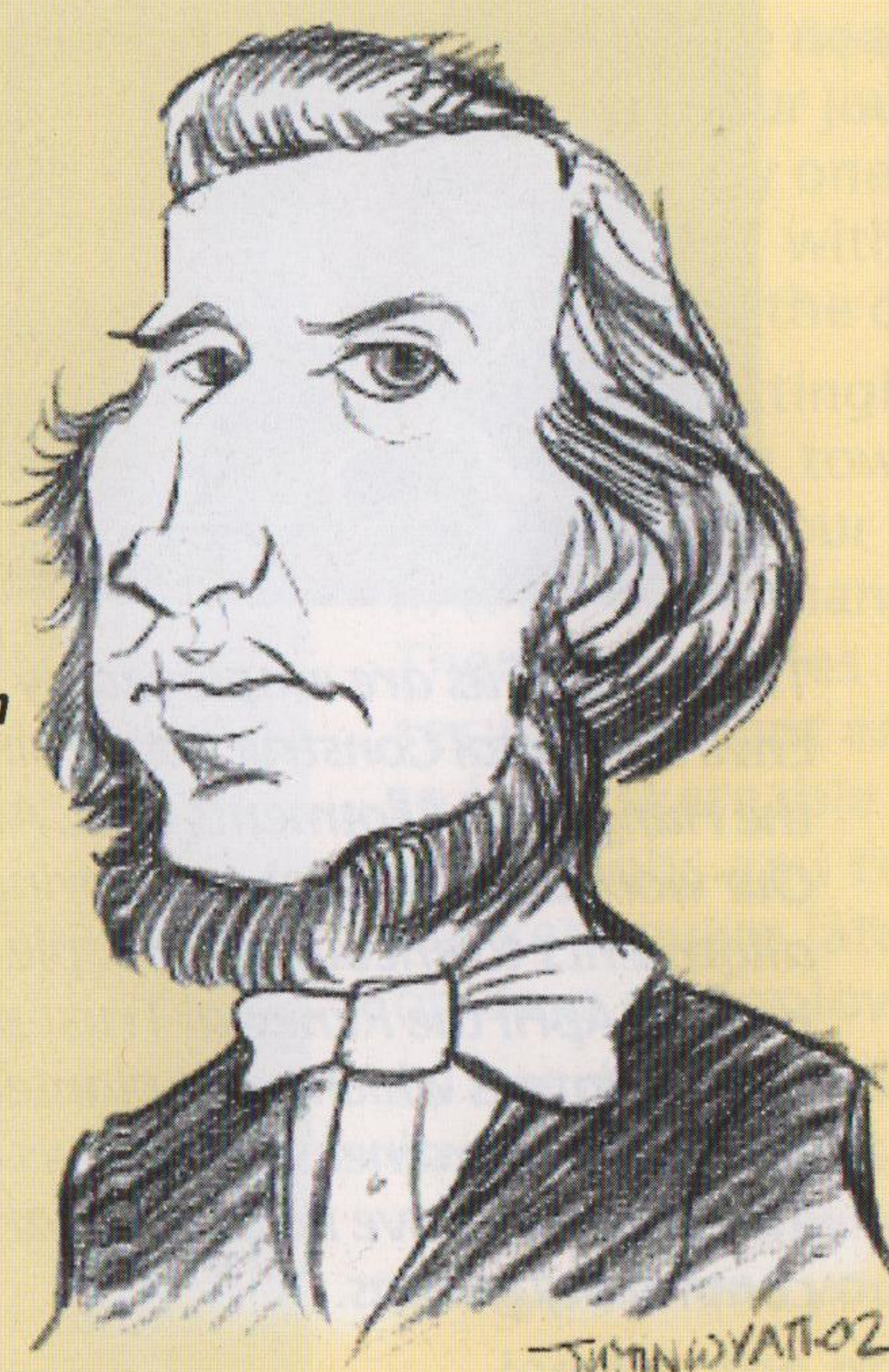
Care & Share Shop

Salvation Army

William Booth was born at No. 12, Notintone Place in Sneinton in 1829. The organization that he started, the Salvation Army, operates worldwide but still has a strong presence in the east of Nottingham.

Booth's own birthplace is a museum open to the general public on request. Around it is an award-winning complex of buildings including an Eventide Residential Home and a Day Centre.

Our illustration of William Booth was drawn specially for the paper by Justin Wyatt, Disney artist, at the Big Grin Cartoon Festival on Broad Street in July.



I've been here six and a half years and I love it. I love the people - a cross section of the community come in. Some have been coming since the shop opened.

We try to live up to the 'Care and Share'. If anyone has a problem, there's always someone here to listen. If they have bad news or live alone and have no-one else to tell. People can say things here they can't say to their own relatives, have a moan about the government, the pensions and get a bargain. Everyone's looking for a bargain nowadays.

What comes in tells the story of that person's life - what hobbies they had, what books they liked to read, their taste in music and even what job they had. It's sad when you get framed photos and Sunday School prizes from the 1890s - you'd think a relative would want to hang on to them.

Margaret Scott

Don't only describe it as a shop - it's primarily a goodwill centre. Loads and loads of people come in here and they always get a welcome from Margaret and staff. I'm very much an agnostic - but the way these people run things, they show Christianity in a good light.

Customer

Our aim in the Day Centre is to provide the elderly and infirm living in the Sneinton and St. Anns area with holistic care. We offer a safe, secure and friendly place to socialise, a home cooked meal (all meals are prepared and cooked on the premises). We have many activities ranging from quizzes, flower arranging, glass painting to outings to the coast and shopping centres. All these are supervised by fully trained care staff. We have funding from the City Council and also do our own fundraising, therefore ensuring that many of our activities are free of charge.

The Complex provides numerous other facilities for the community such as a club for the differently abled on a Monday evening, food parcels for the poor and needy (by referral from other agencies such as Social Services), a children's club (Thursday evenings plus many more.

I would like to tell you about just one of these OUR DAY CENTRE.

A TYPICAL DAY AT OUR DAY CENTRE

The morning begins with our friendly driver and escort arriving at your own home in our specially adapted ambulance to chauffeur you

to the Complex. On arrival you will be greeted by our welcoming staff just in time for tea and hot toast. Daily newspapers are provided for you to read free of charge. After refreshments everyone tends to move to the lounge area where there is background music playing. Most of the clients then take time to sit and chat to one another or buy items that may be on sale (bric a brac, etc.)

Lunch is served at 12 o'clock in the main dining room, a two-course meal is provided. Meals range from traditional roast beef dinner with all the trimmings to fish and chips, apple pie and custard and much more from varied menus. Our catering staff are fully trained to assist with any dietary requirements you may have. Tea, Coffee, Juice are also provided with your lunch.

After lunch is when the activities start, normally at 2pm (we give you the chance to digest your lunch!) The activities are optional, but who could resist joining in when there's so much on offer? Afternoon tea is served and around 3pm you will then be chauffeured home!

If you would like to know more about our 'Day Centre', then please feel free to telephone me on 9503927.

Tracy Witts Project Worker

Notintone Day Centre for the Elderly



Insight in Mind

"Stay up late late watching crap TV" This is the beginning of one of the animated poems that describes experiences of depression in Insight in Mind.

Insight in Mind made its television debut somewhat late into the night on Channel 4 on June 30th 2002. It was 1.10 in the morning, and we were staying up late to watch it, AND having to watch some 'crap' TV first

Seeing it on television was incredible. It was quite an unreal experience. Some parts of the film were shot in my Sneinton back garden with my cat, others were filmed up at the windmill and at the park in Colwick. It was quite strange seeing such local and familiar places on the TV.

We (Swings and Roundabouts, a group of 5 of us) had finished making Insight in Mind in July 2000. During the last 6 months we had worked out of an office at Tracs Neighbourhood Centre. It was extremely hard work, small budget films are not glamorous. Some of the filming days were long and arduous. Often we would be editing long into the nite and I could often be found animating at weekends.

The film previewed at the Broadway and has been shown there the last two years in celebration of World Mental Health Day, October 10th

It is a non-documentary style piece, using poetry, performance, music, animation and art, it takes the viewer on an emotional journey through experiences of mania, anti-psychotic medications and depression.

The film, made with a Mind Millennium award, has been very successful. It is now being distributed by Mental Health Media..

On its completion we sent copies to both Channel 4 and BBC hoping to get a television slot. A year later, Channel 4 contacted us to say they were interested. It was back to the cutting room though as they wanted some changes. Dan, who we had previously worked with us is now working in London so I took a couple of trips down and we re-edited to make the final 20 minute TV. It's certainly sharper than the original cut and the final quality was improved.

The process of getting work on television was quite fraught at times but it was satisfying to see it on the box. Maybe next time they show it it will be on at a more sociable hour.

Penny Arnold

CIRCUS SKILLS

I haven't got baggy trousers or big shoes. I haven't even got a red nose but I'm a local parent in Sneinton with a knowledge of circus skills.

Diabolos, poi balls, giant bubbles, plate spinning and of course face painting, balloon modeling and juggling are the skills I passed on at the circus workshop in Sneinton in June this year.

Funded from Sure Start Sneinton, the workshop was over 3 weeks with most participants helping to run the face painting stall at the Sneinton Festival. The course was a great success and hopefully these skills have now passed on further to both young and old.

I believe these activities do not require great artistic talent - they can be picked up by anyone with lots of practice and the right tips. Anything that is an excuse to play and share delight is right up my street!

Having decent co-ordination but terrible balance, I have to decline from some other circus activities such as unicycling and stilts. The other skills I have practiced, some for a few years, others for just a few weeks. I was amazed that I could put all these abilities together and have a circus skills package to pass on.

Many thanks to Dawn Claypole and the Sneinton Festival Committee who made this possible for me. If you are running a local community group and would like a circus skills workshop (recommended age 7 - 87 years old) please contact me for further details c/o TRACS 958 4862.

Sue Whitworth



Summer Fun



SNEINTON FESTIVAL

In preparation for this year's festival, a new word was bandied about by the organising committee - gazebo. We bought several so that if the rains came on the Saturday, we would have some cover. Not necessary - the sun shone from the moment the festival procession set off from the Windmill car park and was still casting shadows when the last chairs were carried back into the Hermitage.

Hundreds of people browsed among the stalls, buying goods and absorbing information from many community groups. Also eating a variety of the foodstuffs on sale. The children renewed acquaintance with MC Parker, queued up for the face-painting, crowded round the circus performers and listened keenly to a talented story-teller. There was continuous music and a great performance from a local teenage dance group.

The Festival is more than the Saturday extravaganza. The Hermitage was packed for the International Food Evening, a team from St. Ann's won the five-a-side football competition and again there were craft workshops at some local schools and the library. The theme was 'Magic Sneinton' and so was the day!

Harold Everest

Fun Day at the Chase

Summer Fun



KWIKSAVE

Instead of having Curly Watts to cut a ribbon for the relaunch of Kwiksave in Sneinton, we thought we'd like to build links to the local community - especially to improve relations with local youths.

Clayton Foston, Manager

So, one Saturday manager and staff barbecued burgers on the front and kids bounced on a castle while the disco played. Prizewinner Saba from Greenwood Junior School arrived in a stretch limo. Some customers found the noise too much, though, and postponed shopping until Sunday instead.

CRIME & PEACE

I came to the area 2 years ago from Cornwall and can't believe the crime here it's mind boggling. I'd never seen phone booths and bus shelters smashed up before- or burnt out cars. Only this week, I was driving to work and got caught up in a police pursuit where the chap they were chasing nearly smashed into me head on. I find the crime hard to cope with.

I was a bit disillusioned with it all, that's what made me take up photography. I got a cheap camera and started clicking away at different areas of Nottingham photos of people, friends and Goose Fair. I had postcards of Goose Fair made up and I've sold 600 to the City Council Tourist Office. Now they want me to do different postcards of different sites in Nottingham. I've had several photos published on the letters page of the Post.

I forget all about crime and look at the beauty that's here- like the mist rising off Colwick Lake in the early hours of the morning. I bought a new camera a few months ago and now I've learned to use filters.

I've learned something- if I hadn't come here, I wouldn't have done this. There's beauty all around you, you just have to look for it. But I miss Cornwall passionately.

Alexander O'Brien



MOVING BACK

I moved to Nottingham from Bedfordshire about 16 months ago, and the first place I went to live was St. Anns. I soon discovered that many of my colleagues at work didn't think particularly well of the place, although most of the affordable areas in Nottingham seemed to have a dodgy reputation. Still, apart the obvious financial advantages, they didn't seem that bad too me. Sneinton was full of different people and colours, with an open market that reminds me of the Italian ones. St. Anns was full of life, with children playing in the streets and people standing outside their homes in summer chatting with each other. I was quite surprised one morning when I was greeted with a smile by a woman standing outside her home. That doesn't happen often in town. Surely in Milano, where I come from, if a stranger greets you in the road the best people think is that he's weird, very weird.

After 6 months in St. Anns my contract ran out and I had to rent a room in Keyworth. When my job was confirmed, I decided to buy a house and came back to St. Anns. I found a place in the same street where I was living before, just near the beautiful allotment gardens. I have nice neighbours and the people of the road are very friendly.

I'm not blind, and I'm aware there are problems as well. But problems are part of life. They can be a cause for suffering or they can be a seed for great happiness. It's up to us. I've recently seen a documentary about community builders: Gandhi, Ikeda and Luther King. They are or were fantastic people. All of them went through great difficulties, and used them to develop a strong self and make a difference to their world. We all have the same potential.

Emilia Fiorini

MY ANCESTOR GEORGE

My only claim to fame is being a descendant of George Green. George was a genius - but all his descendants are absolutely hopeless. To them it's an attainment if they can reach their 12 times tables. I've been to a few commemorative dos with people from America and China talking formulas - but I didn't have the vaguest what they were on about.

Colin Green of Bakersfield

LADY MARMALADE

When I made my first batch of marmalade about three years ago, and it went so well, I hoped that eventually I might raise a few hundred pounds from the sale of it for church funds. But now it has topped the thousand pound mark - which is quite unbelievable and I feel I must thank EVERYBODY (particularly members of the congregation who buy supplies so regularly) for their support in helping to raise funds for St. Stephen's church.

Pat Hunt

N. B. Pat is very modest about her considerable achievement. That £1,000 represents about 1300 - 1400 jars of marmalade filled, screwed down, and brought into church for sale. I have tried every brand on the supermarket shelves and this is the best of them all. I am sure Delia Smith could do no better!

Anne Day

Pat's marmalade can be bought at St. Stephen's Church (on Dale St., Sneinton) Open Days or at their Coffee Mornings every Thursday from 9.30am.

BUS STOP PHILOSOPHERS SUMMER WEATHER

You don't know what to put on - sometimes you're sweating, sometimes you need a top coat. They used to call it flaming June and it was, all the way through to August. You only needed a blouse at work. Now, you don't know where you are.

When they started sending all those rockets up, I said there'd be problems. All that atmosphere, it's all got to go somewhere. And now you don't know where you are with the weather. But everything changes - there's nothing you can do about it.

Lady at bus stop on Sneinton Dale

MY GUIDE TO NOTTINGHAM CLUBS



- Palais** The place to go for people looking for a one night stand. It especially caters for the ugly, overweight, single and very desperate people.
- Faces** More mature, very nice music - all round nice place.
- Works** For people who live in Broxtowe and St. Anns and general unemployed D.S.S. people.
- Isis** If you're on a hen night or a stag do. is just rubbish.
- Beetroot Ocean** is for your really young 18 year old lads and 14 year old girls that can pass for 18.
- Bomb NGI** Only good if you're off your head. is for gays and lesbians and married men looking for a fling with a man.
- Media** Used to be very good, now extremely rubbish.
- Cuba Libre Long Island** Cheap drinks but full of rude boys. Alright, but now full of Palais people and the Ocean crowd.

Elizabeth Richards

Liz, voted 'Rear of the Year' at The Works, is writing a book "Sex in the City of Nottingham."