

NOTTINGHAM VOICE

MARCH 1975 · 8p

A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH!

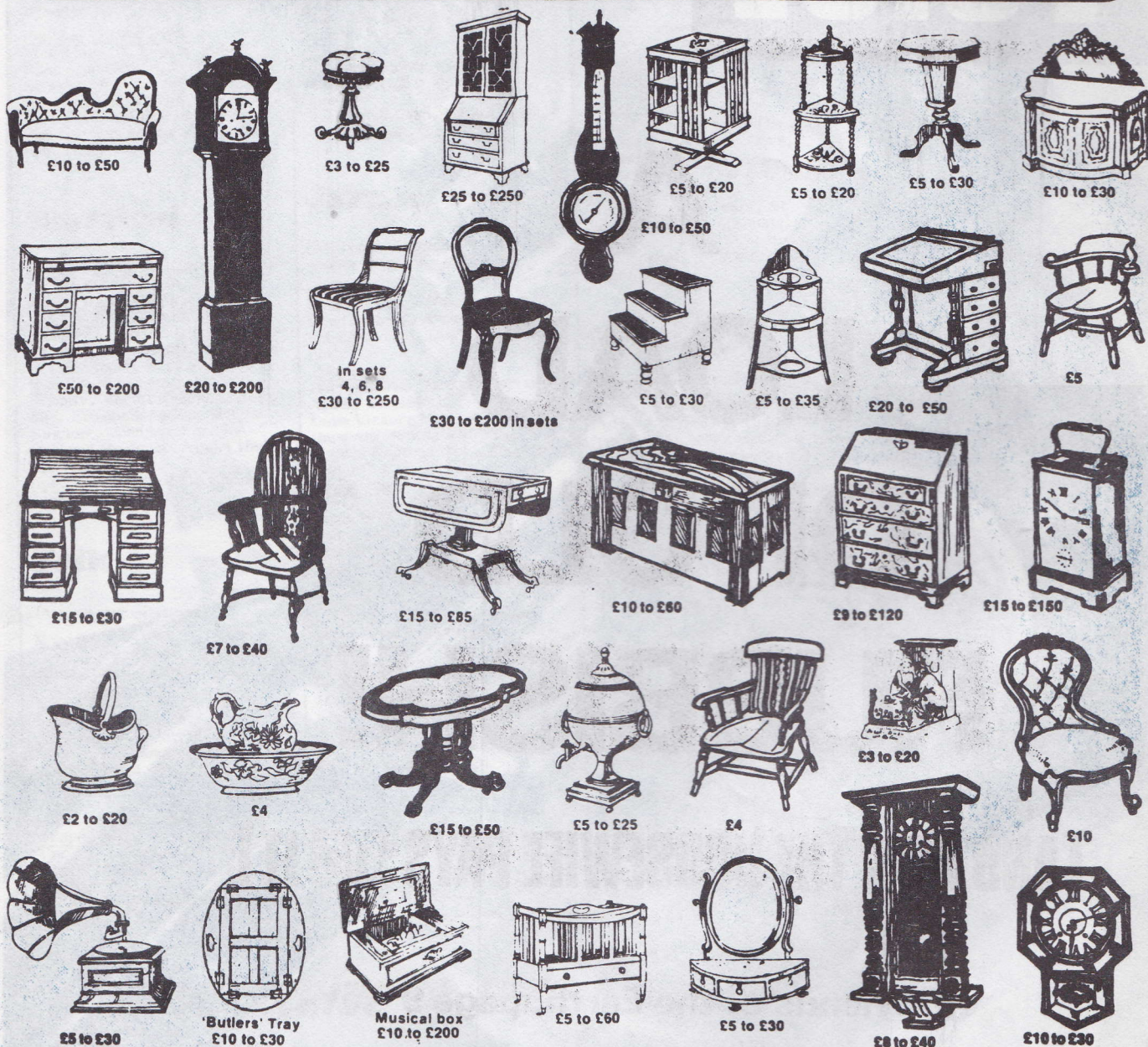
(AND HOW THE HOUSEWIFE PAYS FOR IT)

Friends of the Earth: page 9

WANTED

We urgently require to purchase items as illustrated below in any condition. We also require any old Barometers, Mechanical Money Boxes, pieces of Porcelain, China, Pewter Plates, Furniture, etc., in fact, anything which is old. Our Buyers will be pleased to call any time to value or buy.

(We will also purchase any parts of Clocks, Music Boxes, Mechanical Toys, etc.)



The Jug & Bowl

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RING NOTTINGHAM 864077

Nottingham's independent monthly paper

NOTTINGHAM VOICE

Number 16 · March 1975

People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham

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Committee

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Quite a fair city

HAVE YOU NOTICED the pretty little purple and yellow crocuses struggling to survive amongst the broken paving stones and piles of rubbish in the demolition areas of Nottingham?

Perhaps not! But it is almost Spring, and we thought we'd mention some of the pleasant things about the City which are so often taken for granted - in the hope they won't all be knocked down, screwed up, or otherwise dispensed with because of the misplaced howls of local ratepayers or the self-aggrandisement of City Councillors!

Enlightened

For example, the city centre has been much improved by pedestrianisation (one of the Council's more enlightened policies), although some people may not be getting their money's worth because they take the free buses across the city (another trail-blazing innovation to be defended at all costs). Catch the 88 and you can get off in the Market Square: feed the pigeons, listen to the odd orator on his soap-box, or just sit around - in the sun sometimes. Go on to Fletcher Gate and you can take a wander in the Lace Market, which is just about holding its own against a multi-storey car park and proposals for a Festival Hall. Or you can catch the 77 round to Sneinton Market on a Monday or Saturday and see what bargains you can find.

Nottingham may have the dubious distinction of being further from the sea than almost any other place in England, but it is surprisingly easy to get out into the countryside for a picnic - say in Cotgrave Woods. Or if that's too far, lovers of the great outdoors can always promenade along the Embankment or paddle their own canoes down the Trent (and, rather more difficult, paddle them back up again).

There's also Wollaton Park, with its Elizabethan Hall stuffed with stuffed animals, and its live deer and cattle in the park outside. And the museum in

the outhouses is a fascinating record of Nottingham's industrial past - lace-making machines, old Raleigh motor-bikes and ancient cigarette rollers.

Then once a year there's the three-day binge of Goose Fair - it's a shame it's no longer held in the Market Square as it was until nearly fifty years ago, but it is still one of the best fairs in England, and the kids get time off school for it - a welcome chink in the Education Authority's bureaucratic armour.

If you like your pleasures more sophisticated, Nottingham does have one of the best repertory theatres in the country, as well as the faded glories of the Theatre Royal with its dizzy ascent to the gods. And there's the Festival, of course (renamed "Holiday Time" by proletarian elements on the Council), no rival to Edinburgh but still putting on some highly enjoyable events - late-night steel band concerts on warm evenings in Wellington Circus, for example.

Charitable

Another once-a-year event is the students' Karnival. Unlike many cities, Nottingham seems to really appreciate the efforts of its students, and a lot of hard cash flows into the charitable coffers - last year Nottingham students collected more money than any other Rag in England, and their rag magazine holds a world sales record. (What a pity, incidentally, that this year's rag organisers found local firms so unhelpful when it came to donating or lending equipment.)

Perhaps the (self-conferred) title "Queen of the Midlands" was always a little conceited - though not as extravagant as some other descriptions found in the media from time to time, "Paris of the North" (!) and "City of Sin" (the News of the World, of course!) being the most tantalising.

Well, naughty and Parisian it may not be - but Nottingham is still quite a pleasant place to live in!



FAIR JUDGE

IT IS NICE FOR ONCE to be able to pat the Courts on the back. We are always being advised to bring our own cases, but so often the strange rituals and procedures of the law put us off. In February, however, Judge Heald in the Nottingham County Court ensured that at least four people felt that justice had been done.

In *Paragon Investments v. Newbury and Persons Unknown*, a landlord brought proceedings to evict four squatters. Although they had legal advice, they presented their own case, which turned on a technical point of law. Judge Heald gave them a very fair hearing (although he refused to be drawn into the ethics of squatting), and decided in their favour on the point of law. He also seemed to be enjoying the proceedings more than the average day in court. Other potential litigants in person should take heart. It seems that, if you have a case, are capable of putting it over, and treat the judge courteously, you will get a very fair hearing in Nottingham.

(Incidentally, the legal point was that the landlord was using the special anti-squatter procedure, but had not tried to find out who was in the house, and did not follow the correct procedures. The judge held that this made the application invalid against all the squatters, including those actually named in the summons.)

UP IN ARMS

Dear Sir,

In your January edition of "Nottingham Voice" your columnist Chris Holmes, resident Beer expert, wrote a piece on the Vernon Arms. Perhaps you may be interested in further information about this public house relating to its treatment of customers.

On Saturday night, February 1st, approximately 15 people were drinking there prior to moving on to a party nearby. (The party holder being a "regular".) The party were spending quite a lot of money, but nobody was in any way intoxicated, nor did anyone conduct themselves in a manner likely to cause any embarrassment to those present. However, the landlord found reason to complain about stools from one table form-

ing a link with the adjacent table, and about one lady's coat being on the floor next to her stool. ("You're not making this place look like a doss house".) His request to members of the group to move themselves and their stools was, to say the least, less than courteous. This prompted a friend of mine to ask the landlord to extend the common courtesies to his customers in the form of either "excuse me", "please", or "thank you". This request prompted action from the landlord, who, after threatening (and I quote verbatim), "I'll take you outside and kick your fucking head in", threw out my friend and myself. (Nothing physical, he just ordered us to leave.) The rest of the group, including several who formerly drank there regularly, to their credit, then walked out in protest.

I am since led to believe that ours was not an isolated incident, and that several people have managed to get "on the wrong side" of the landlord, including an Asian gentleman who felt he was being overlooked at the bar. I would certainly recommend that this is a pub to miss, and that potential clients look for an alternative.

Yours getting it off my chest,
John Coyne,
5 Lenton House,
27 Lenton Road,
The Park,
Nottingham.



FESTIVAL HALL

ANYONE WHO OBJECTS to the City Council's plans for a Festival Hall in the Lace Market has a chance to do something now. The Council is about to submit the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Warser Gate site to the Secretary of State for the Environment. You can see a copy of the order and a map at the Office of the City Secretary and Solicitor, The Guildhall, South Sherwood Street (opposite the Central Library). More important, whether you see the plans or not, you can make an objection by writing to the Regional Controller, Department of the Environment, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham before the 30th March 1975, stating the grounds for your objection.

If you're not certain on what grounds to object, take a careful look at our centre-page feature in last month's issue. Remember - the Council owns plenty of land all over the City, including large vacant sites in the Lace Market itself, yet plans to fork out around £1,000,000 to acquire the Warser Gate site. The scheme will destroy a sizable chunk of the Lace Market Conservation Area, and will put the City in

debt to the tune of well over the estimated £5,000,000. And all this in a time of economic restraint, increased rate bills, and a problem of homelessness reaching crisis proportions!

SHOP FRONT?

THE SHOP WHICH HOUSES the Advice Centre run by MATAR (the Meadows Tenants Association) has undergone a change of status as far as the Planning Department is concerned. The land use marked for the shop at 63 Wilford Road was originally as commercial premises. However, it's been known for some time that MATAR is unpopular with the Council. This is possibly a result of the Court action which they brought against the Council over repairs to a house, or possibly because they had the nerve to put up a candidate against the Labour Party in a local by-election. Either way, the Planning Department now has the land use of 63 Wilford Road marked as the headquarters of a "political party". Not, of course, that MATAR is a political party (it's a tenants association).

LABOUR POINTS

HERE IS THE LATEST bulletin on Nottingham Labour Party (readers with an unpolitical disposition may skip this section!); the patient has had a restless month; his condition is still critical; the symptoms may vary slightly but the disease is much the same.

The most sensational development is the mysterious disappearance of Dennis Carroll, junior apprentice in Jack Dunnett's East Nottingham set-up and sometimes councillor for Bridge Ward. Following last month's news of absentee Clifton councillor David Brailsford (even the "Arrow" couldn't dig up a photo for "Down Your Ward's" visit to Clifton this month), Dennis's absence could pose a few problems. The mystery first came to light when the February 16th meeting of Market Ward Labour Party, of which Dennis is Ward Secretary, had to be abandoned because he failed to turn up. Where is he? well, he packed in his job with the City's north-west area social work team at the end of last year, and it could even be that his search for a new job has taken him as far as Swansea!

Other developments have been less surprising. What a pity Ladbroke's didn't run a book on the East Nottingham Constituency Labour Party elections - we'd have won a packet if the odds hadn't been so short. By a truly marvellous coincidence all the runners we tipped in our last edition were winners. Especially notable was the victory of favourite for the Secretary Stakes, old nag Betty Higgins, who romped home with a massive lead of 24 lengths - a creditable performance, and even better than stable mate Peter Burgess, the self-styled Urban Gorilla, winner of the joint honours in the Vice Chairmen's Cup.

Finally, political prediction time again - in this case the forthcoming City Council meeting on April 7th, when the Labour Group reveals its plans of "who sits where" on the different Council Committees during 1975-6. Unsurprisingly, the "happy band of brothers", comrades Carroll, Littlewood, Maynard,

Burgess and Higgins, perform a few skilful side-shuffles to tighten their grip on key committees, while gravy-train passenger Charlie Butler (usually in a sleeper) will doze his time away on Policy and Planning.

Up-and-coming youngster Bob Birch (watch this lad, he has rapidly grasped on which side his bread is buttered) adds Land Sub to Planning - from which latter committee baby-faced rebel Stephen Evans has been removed (surprise, surprise!). Another candidate for the chop from the Planning Committee is Stanley Baker, councillor for Portland Ward. Coun. Baker is thought "overworked" by the Labour Group. No doubt this "overwork" results from his strenuous efforts to avert the purchase by the City Council of newly-built private houses on the Hollydene Estate, Cinderhill. Tough luck, Stanley - you stepped too far out of the party line!

LOST POST

AN ADVERTISEMENT appeared in the national press towards the end of last year offering the post of Urban Environmental Officer, to be employed by the Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service and paid for by the Department of the Environment. There were two other posts, one in Birmingham and one in Loughborough. One of the jobs of the Officer was to support local community groups who were seeking solutions to local environmental problems.

Those foolhardy enough to apply for this job received for their pains a letter from the CVS which informed them that "Owing to circumstances beyond our control, we regret that we

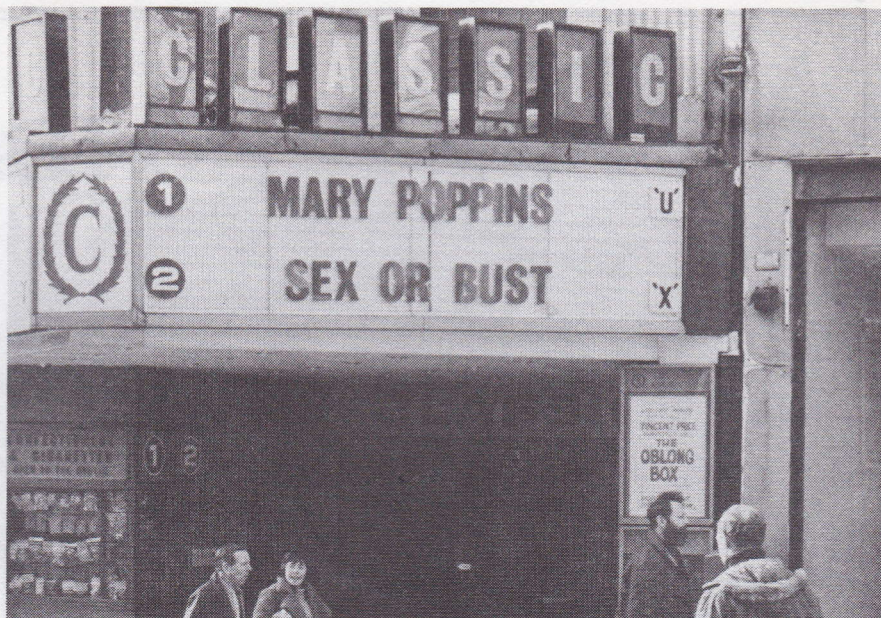
THANKS!

READERS SHOULD have noticed a distinct improvement in the look of Nottingham Voice this month. Thanks to the generosity of the Nottingham University Students' Charities Appeal, we have been able to purchase a posh electric typewriter with a more readable typeface.

More important, the Appeal Committee also gave £3,000 (the largest single donation) to the People's Centre, which guarantees the Centre's immediate future in spite of the refusal of the Labour-controlled local authorities (City and County) to contribute one penny towards its excellent work.

The cheques were handed over at a ceremony in the Portland Building on Wednesday, March 5th. Ironically, the presentation was made by a member of the local Labour establishment, Sheriff of Nottingham Len Squires, who was thus able to make a small reparation for his party's meanness.

Incidentally, a report reached us some months ago that Councillor Squires once demonstrated his admiration for Grass Roots (as we then were) by publically tearing up a copy which was being passed round a pub! Well - at least he didn't tear up our cheque!



Shock revelations at the Classic last month

are unable to proceed with this appointment at the present time".

The "circumstances beyond our control" are believed to be none other than City Council leader, "big daddy" John Carroll, who felt that he was in a better position than the government to decide how the D.o.E. spent its money. The appropriately named Mr Organ of the D.o.E. had said that the Department could not proceed with the appointment without local authority support, and promptly backed down when Councillor Carroll refused to give the City Council's blessing to the project.

Not a peep has been heard from the CVS, from the supposed "support" committee which was set up to supervise the post, from the D.o.E., or indeed from anyone. Meanwhile, the other two appointments are going ahead as planned - presumably because Loughborough and Birmingham don't have Council leaders who are so paranoid that they see militants under every community work appointment.

PUZZLER

THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE recently received the following letter:

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the residents of Harlaxton Drive, Lenton, please could you ask the Housing Department or the Social Services as to why number 112 at Harlaxton Drive has been empty for close on twenty years - a house that would so easily house either a family or be used for flats. The house is not up for sale and has been allowed to lie empty in spite of the present situation in regard to homeless people. Can your organisation look into this at number 112?

Harlaxton Drive Residents.

The residents are not quite right. The house has been empty for 11½ years, that is since August 1963. The problem is that no-one seems to know who the owner is. The "Voice" suggests that the quickest way of finding the owner is

for a group of squatters to move in. In fact, had squatters moved in when the house first became vacant they would be in the happy position of claiming possession this August, since this becomes legally possible if the owner does not dispute possession for twelve years.

The People's Centre wrote to the Housing Department on behalf of the residents and was told by the Director of Housing: "I would suggest you contact the owner as to why the house has been vacant all this time". We can't do that since we don't know who the owner is. So we are offering as a prize a year's subscription to the Voice for the first correct solution to the puzzle - who owns 112 Harlaxton Drive?

PLANNING AHEAD

READERS OF THIS PAPER last September may recall our concern for the future of the south end of Bridlesmith Gate, a pleasant thoroughfare threatened by the acquisitive urges of Cox Industrial Estates Ltd. Cox are an expanding local concern who thrive on a keen eye for vulnerable bits of old Nottingham which are "ripe for redevelopment". Rumour suggests that the City Planning Committee is on the verge of a sell-out. A meeting on March 6th in Barker's Coffee House (a building of some interest to conservationists) may or may not have convinced the Committee of the virtues of preservation. What is certain is that the proliferation of Cox "acquired" notices in this area does not represent a love of quaint old buildings. Watch for future developments!

OBITUARY

Peter, 35 years. Saturday, 22nd February, 1975.

Peter was run over by a bus on Mansfield Road. The real killer was the drug alcohol. Much of the responsibility for his death lies with a society which elects governments who permit alcohol to be brewed and sold under



Empty cottages at Wollaton (see 'Square Dealings')

licence without any provision for the Peters of this world. He was punished for becoming a victim of this drug. The help offered to Peter was fines, prison, and an admittance to Mapperley Hospital for five days - hospital that let him walk out without even a tranquilliser to help. Peter was known to a few who were in a position to really help, but who chose to play God and write him off. Peter's heart and mind stopped on Saturday, but Peter had been dead for a long time as a human being. Rest in peace, Peter.

SQUARE DEALINGS

TO OUTSIDERS, the name Wollaton Village often brings to mind a picture of middle-class worthies, quick to man the barricades in defence of their architectural heritage. However, in the case of the cottages surrounding the Square in the very centre of the village, there appear to have been few residents around (middle-class or otherwise) for many years.

Investigations reveal that at least seven of the twelve cottages have been empty for two years, probably longer. All the cottages are listed as buildings of architectural and historic interest and are believed to date from the eighteenth century (see picture above).

Numbers 736-740 Wollaton Road are owned by a local resident, W.P. Radford, who lives in one of the cottages and has carried out some repair and renovation work.

735-737 Wollaton Road and 1-5 Bramcote Lane are in the ownership of a property company, Aspley Bow Estates Ltd, who have their sights firmly fixed on gaining profitable planning permission for new housing on the land behind. The cottages appear to be a bargaining counter in the developers' attempts to gain planning permission from the City Council.

In similar vein, the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society appears intent on keeping numbers 2-4 the Square empty in the hope of eventual

demolition and redevelopment of the site with a lucrative supermarket.

The City Council seems reluctant to use compulsory purchase powers to end the stalemate - so the cottages remain empty.

Perhaps some of the rank and file shareholders in the Co-op might be moved to reflect that treble stamps on Thursdays are poor consolation to the 10,000 families on the Housing Waiting List.

HOUSING INQUIRY

THE HOUSING NEEDS of Nottingham are not being met. That was the verdict of an Inquiry held recently by the Housing Action Committee, a body representing tenants associations, trade unionists, and political groups in the City. The Inquiry heard papers presented on a variety of topics, and discussed homelessness, squatting, tenants' control over redevelopment, rebuilding policy and the forthcoming rent increases. A number of proposals were put forward for action. These included action against the rent increases, producing a local squatters' handbook, and publishing information about the local housing situation. Predictably enough, when the programme of twenty demands was put to the Housing Chairman Bert Littlewood, he rejected most of them and claimed the Council were in fact carrying out the remainder.

The "Voice" will be publishing a full report of the Inquiry next month, together with the full facts and figures about housing in Nottingham.

HELP!

BALLOON WOODS Youth Club is at a crucial stage in its development. Only able to meet on Friday nights at the Balloon Woods Centre, when the club puts on its own Disco, we are up against various difficulties.

Owing to lack of facilities at the Centre, other activities are difficult to

arrange. In addition, a number of people are trying to get the club closed, after constantly complaining about noise, about hooliganism, about everything and nothing. We are a common target, and though some complaints are deserved, members are not hooligans. There has been no trouble in the club, and the majority of members appreciate the use of the Centre.

The club has great potential and is already a success. It is run by members for members. They handle everything themselves, from management of finances to running the Disco, manning the door and the kitchen, and sorting out the occasional disagreement. They enjoy the responsibility, but morale is getting low - all the aggro is discouraging.

Members were keen to do anything they could to assist the community and have always been willing to help anyone in any way. They are, despite the name they have been given, nice people with a lot to contribute. But apparently they aren't wanted at Balloon Woods. We desperately need premises where members can meet every night of the week, where there are facilities for indoor games, a coffee bar, an occasional disco, and a motor-bike workshop, and where we can invite people to come and talk to us (the Police, the Services, the Fire Brigade, IVS, etc. have been suggested), and perhaps recreational classes could be held. Land at a reasonable rental where we could erect our own building would be ideal. Please, can anyone help us to move?

JUDY LEWIS

CONFERENCE

ON FEBRUARY 20th it was announced that 8,203 people in the Nottingham area had lost their jobs since November last year. The worst affected industries are textiles, building, and engineering. It is therefore urgent that Trade Unionists work out ways of dealing with the threat of unemployment. A local conference has been called to discuss this issue, and cover topics such as threshold payments, factory occupations, sit-ins, the defence of the welfare state, and wage deals versus redundancies.

It is hoped that the conference will take place on Saturday 12th April. It is being provisionally sponsored in their personal capacities by Mel Read (ASTMS), Ken Fleet (Institute for Workers' Control), Malcolm Anderson (NUT), J. Hewitt (UCATT), and T. Pamplin (NUT). For further information, contact J. Hewitt, 56 Park Road, Lenton, Nottingham (Tel. 47304).

BEESTON STRIKE

NINETY WOMEN at the Ariel Pressings factory in Beeston came out on strike on February 5th in a dispute over threshold payments and equal pay. The management had refused to honour an agreement over threshold payments made last April and amounting to £3.20 per week. They had also refused to fix a date for the payment of the third and last step towards equal pay. The women, who had recently joined the T & GWU, held a lunchtime meeting at which they decided to strike and picket the factory. The pickets were successful in turning away some delivery lorries. The Working Women's Charter Campaign visited the picket lines and distributed leaflets, which

were enthusiastically received.

Within three working (or striking) days the management had agreed to the women's demands, and promised three-fold payments, and to negotiate a date for equal pay, if the women returned to work the next day (February 11th), which they voted unanimously to do. The unions (the AUEW was also involved) completely failed to gain any assurances about short-time working or redundancies. The women may well be faced with another struggle over these issues. In the immediate future, however, the works convenor, Mrs Irene Peet, is hopeful about the outcome of equal pay negotiations following the shock the management received on February 5th!

The women are now back at work and have invited the Working Women's Charter Campaign to speak at their next branch meeting.

MARY ANDERSON
(Nottingham Working Women's
Charter Campaign)

RENT ACTION

ONCE AGAIN council house rents are going up in Nottingham and all over the country. Along with price rises, this means more pressure on the housekeeping. There used to be a large subsidy on council housing (which was brought in to buy off the anger of rent strikes in Glasgow as long ago as 1915). Now, in line with the rest of the Common Market, these subsidies have been axed in this country. Although the miners' strike knocked the Tories and the Rent Act flying last year and made way for the Labour Party, the new government only held back rent increases until this April.

Local Councils are now permitted to raise rents to "balance their books". What does this mean in Nottingham? A large proportion of the £11 million debt charges paid out of the Housing Revenue Account goes to pay back the interest on previous loans. And that's out of £14 million collected in rents.

What is the most effective way of fighting these increases? Looking back at the rent strikes of 1973, we can compare three methods.

Clay Cross councillors were the only ones to stand out against the increase as councillors. They achieved remarkable results, but it would be wrong to expect this to happen here. Nottingham is like most cities, where there's a thousand miles between the people and "their" representatives.

In all cities where petitioning the Council was the main tactic, the fight soon collapsed.

The third type of action was seen at Kirkby in Liverpool, where they concentrated on organising on the estates with leaflets, posters, bulletins, and marches. They prepared for eviction from the start, and found ways to bring everyone together. This meant withholding all the rent (and not just the increase), because otherwise half the tenants on rebate wouldn't bother to join in. Kirkby Council have written off thousands of pounds of arrears. This approach may seem severe, but it is the only way we in Nottingham will be able to stop the rent increase. We'll need to call mass meetings on every estate, get everyone involved, withhold all the rent, and build up organisations.

N.L., Raleigh Street.

UP THE STEPS



ERROR OF JUDGMENT

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS of a monthly column is that all the important things happen just after you go to press and are stale and boring by the time the next month comes round. Nevertheless, the case of Regina v. Whitfield is far too important to be forgotten in a month.

First, the facts. Paulette Whitfield had herself been an unmarried mother, and had succumbed to the emotional pressure exerted on her to offer her baby for adoption. Later, when she married, she found that she couldn't have a baby. She was desperate for a baby, and convinced herself that she was pregnant. When she found she wasn't, she kept up the pretence, and ultimately stole a baby from a mother-and-baby home. Eventually she was found out by the police. The medical reports said she wasn't mentally sick. She was sentenced to two years in prison. Now, the arguments.

1. There is no doubt that Mrs Whitfield caused a great deal of distress to the baby's mother, and a great deal of work for the police. She knew she was breaking the law, and she cannot expect to get off scot-free.

Mitigation

2. The court appears to have accepted that Mrs Whitfield was suffering from severe emotional strain. Of course, this is not the same thing as mental illness, and no-one is suggesting that she is a candidate for Rampton. No more is it a defence to the charges against her. It is strong mitigation, no more.

3. Can one say, on the basis of the above, that a substantial prison sentence was appropriate? What was the basis of the sentence? It clearly wasn't intended to deter other baby-snatchers, because it's not the sort of crime where you weigh the consequences beforehand. It can't have been to deter Mrs Whitfield, because there is no way she could have tried the same thing again. It can't have been to satisfy the lust for revenge of the public, who are usually very sympathetic to baby-snatchers when the heat of the moment has died down. The only thing it can have been is judicial retribution. I don't mean a personal dislike or animosity on the part of the judge, but a conscious decision that this woman should be PUNISHED.

4. I don't think that this decision can be justified. The judge is in effect saying, "Unless you are mad, you are bad". Society must be protected from crimes, but the penalty imposed on the criminal should also be calculated to assist the criminal to lead a normal and fulfilled

life, so far as possible. The Whitfield sentence conspicuously fails to do that, and the failure is compounded by the fact that this is not even a case where society was at risk. If the judge had considered the reasons for the offence, he should have recognised the emotional pressures at work, and passed sentence accordingly.

HARASSING TACTICS

IF YOU ARE prosecuted by the police, and there is a witness whose evidence is unlikely to be contested, there is a useful procedure whereby his attendance in court can be dispensed with, saving his time and everybody's money. The police send you a copy of the sentence and ask you if you agree to its being read in court even though the witness will not be there. There is a form attached which advises you to show the statement to your lawyer, if you have one, or to get advice before replying if you are in any way confused. A very sensible scheme for all concerned.

The same thing applies if it is the Department of Health and Social Security who are prosecuting, but there are some detailed differences.

1. You are not given a copy of the statement. The prosecuting officer shows you a copy and then grabs it back again, probably without giving you time to read it thoroughly.

2. You do not get to read the form. He asks you if you want the witness or not, and then you sign on the dotted line.

3. He doesn't suggest you show the statement to your lawyer, or get advice if you don't understand. Often he doesn't even ask if you have a lawyer.

4. In a police case, you don't get the statement at the same time as the summons (usually), but in the DHSS case you get summons and statement all at once, at a time when you are likely to be, to put it mildly, worried, flustered and confused.

Why does the DHSS need to use such harassing tactics if the police don't? Are they afraid that if their defendants rely on their rights they will be let off by the magistrates? Or is it just that departmental rules forbid officers from showing courtesy or consideration to claimants under any circumstances?

BARMAN

REBEL JACK

THE SILENCE AMONG East Nottingham Labour Party members, and indeed among the voters who returned Jack Dunnett to Westminster, about his recent alliance with the Tories has been deafening.

He rattled on the Labour Party over the section of the Finance Bill which is aimed at combatting sophisticated tax avoiders.

And, indeed, had it not been for the chairman's casting vote, the section would have been lost.

After a two-hour debate in the Commons Standing Committee, John Pardoe, Liberal MP for Cornwall North, voted with the Conservatives, and Mr Dunnett, who attacked the section in debate, abstained.

TROUBLED

Richard Crawshaw, Labour member for Liverpool Toxteth, had to use his casting vote as chairman to keep the section in the Bill by 15 votes to 14.

The section in question will make it an offence for a solicitor, accountant or bank manager not to tell tax officials of people he knows or suspects are making settlements abroad.

Millionaire, solicitor and company director Jack Dunnett said he was troubled by the requirement. He thought it would affect the relationship between solicitor and client which had existed since time immemorial.

Tory members described the section as "odious" and offensive to the confidence between the professional man and his client.

One said there was a tendency for the Inland Revenue to try to pry into the affairs between professional people and their clients.

Solicitors had told Peter Rees, Tory member for Dover and Deal, that they knew some clients were no longer directly seeking their advice but were going to professional advisers abroad.

SNOOPING

So how many people on the shop floor at Raleigh, Plessey, Boots or Players can afford to consult a solicitor in Milan, say, or the Bahamas about their tax returns?

Nigel Lawson, Tory member for Blaby, got quite steamed up. The requirement in the Bill was monstrous, misguided, misconceived and mistaken because it would ask professionals to inform on clients. It was snooping and prying and alien to Britain's way of life ... the over-rich man's 1984, perhaps?

Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, rightly pointed out that if the requirement was removed, those well-versed in the industry of sophisticated tax avoidance would have a field day.

The hands of the Inland Revenue would be tied behind their backs. They were concerned with trusts and some-



MERRY-GO-ROUND

times overseas trusts by United Kingdom taxpayers which were the standard vehicle for sophisticated avoidance. Innocent settlers and trustees would not be hurt, he said.

As for destroying confidence, the requirement would be no greater than already existed in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Mr Dunnett does not have an unblemished voting record. In 1971, for example, he voted with the Tory Government for British entry into the Common Market.

There were howls of rage from some Lenton Ward Labour Party members who claimed he had helped to keep in office a Government which had proved itself the "worst enemy of the ordinary people since the war".

WRANGLINGS

They said his vote had run against the majority opinion of his constituents, of the Labour Party, Parliamentary Labour Party and the TUC.

There has been no such outcry so far this time, although admittedly this issue is not of the same magnitude.

But what price now the "crimes" of Stephen Evans, whose opposition to the Theatre Point development lost him the city Labour group whip?

Does this mean the Dunnett "machine" can now trample the opposition at source? Does it mean that members of East Nottingham Labour Party are so ill-informed as to know nothing of this bid to axe the tax "snooping" section?

Or are members, after the notorious wranglings of the last year, now so resigned to bitter reality as to allow Mr Dunnett to go whichever way he pleases with impunity?

TORY PUNCH-UP

IT IS WITH CONSIDERABLE relish that I am able to report that the same political inactivity is not at present the hallmark of the local Tory parties.

It is not just the Parliamentary party which has been, and arguably still is, undergoing a leadership crisis.

You have screamed with enthralled delight to learn of Gedling Council leader Herbert Bird's Machiavellian ambitions to seize Philip Holland's Carlton constituency for himself.

Now you will gasp in wonderment to the tales of how the Queen of Notts, Anne Yates, and "two-speech" Woodward have been losing control of the county and city council Conservative groups.

The crisis in the Notts County Council group has been simmering for some time. Mrs Yates has found it hard reconciling herself to opposition.

And, along with other members of the old guard, Finance spokesman Bob Dickson and Education spokesman Fred Rudder, she has had great difficulty in staving off the challenge of the younger element, which came mainly from the old City Council.

Peter Wright has been less of an ally than he may have proved because he also aspired to the leadership.

The new guard, typified by a more astute political sense, includes chief whip Ernest Chambers and best bet for the leadership, Michael Spungin.

AMUSING

The split is evident at every council meeting, and even in a number of committees.

The recent budget debate proved the case clearly. Dickson struggled for upwards of an hour with his unbelievably boring alternative budget.

In a speech spiced with flair and wit, Spungin summarised the position to more telling effect in a third of that time.

And not slow to seize every opportunity to drive the wedge ever deeper into the Tory ranks, Finance Committee chairman Michael Cowan addressed his winding-up speech to Spungin and not to Dickson.

Some of the other Labour leaders are also quick on the uptake, amusing themselves in the games of playing one Tory faction off against the other.

HEADLESS

God help the man or woman crazy enough to take the job as political adviser to the group - it is groping in the dark like a headless hermit, and will require major surgery if it is to prove the kind of opposition the powerful Labour leadership needs if it, in turn, is not to become dangerously complacent.

In the city the bloodless revolution is already under way. Fred Woodward is resigning as group leader for "personal and business" reasons - with all the grace he can muster.

He is being replaced by Jack Green, again backed by younger sections of the puny ten-member group. Bob Adams will be deputy leader and Bill Bradbury chief whip.

Elder statesmen Oscar Watkinson and Bernard Bateman will be offering their advice to all who want it. And committee responsibilities are being spread about more than in the past, where just one or two personalities have dominated all the big committees.

But never mind Fred, you will still be able to make your two speeches - as unchanging prophet of doom on housing and finance - from the back benches.

BARKER

Package dealers

FRIENDS of the EARTH on THE WASTE THAT GOES ON THE BILL

THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY is big. In 1972 it spent £1,250 million on all forms of packaging. Although much of this is essential, a great deal goes on elaborate packaging designed not to protect but to sell the goods in the shops, and, of course, it is the housewife who actually pays that staggering sum - often to throw it straight in the bin. With world-wide resources running out fast, it must be sheer folly to wrap cucumbers in plastic - nature has already protected them.

Similarly, there are over 5,000 different sorts of glass bottle produced in Britain, containing everything from milk to paint thinner. Many people are concerned with this wastage, as tomato ketchup manufacturer A, for example, will obviously be interested only in his own glassware, while it is impracticable to save even a small number of different sorts of bottle in the hope of selling them back to the original producer.

Challenge

If bottles were standardised, then local re-use would be feasible, and one of our packaging campaigns is towards this end. Many manufacturers will be changing their bottles in the near future in order to pack in convenient metric sizes, and thus the costs of changing equipment will be met anyway, so the time is perfect for some degree of standardisation. The various labels for similar shaped bottles would present a real challenge to the designer to create eye-catching produce.

Standardisation would allow glass bottle collection to become profitable. Whole bottles could be sold to the actual users, rather than simply being sold to manufacturers as cullet (i.e. waste glass for melting and re-blowing). Alas, it costs virtually as much to re-make glass from cullet as from virgin materials which themselves are in abundant supply.

The bottle problem is exacerbated by the increasing use of non-returnable bottles. One of Friends of the Earth's first major campaigns was an attack on Schweppes soon after they started to supply soft drinks in throw-away bottles. Their decision was the result of pressure from supermarkets, who would favour manufacturers who relieved them of the bother of returning empties. Only the customer pays.

The decision to use these non-returnable bottles has had long-term effects, as many people now regard all bottles as "throw-away". The milk bottle has been particularly badly hit, and many dairies are turning to non-returnables for milk packaging. If all milk was in non-returnable containers, then we would throw away over thirty million every day!

About a year ago, the Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society and Northern Dairies, who between them have a near monopoly of milk sales in the Nottingham area, changed to using throw-aways for sales from corner shops and supermarkets and sales to caterers. The cost of this policy was put directly onto the consumer by putting $\frac{1}{2}$ p a pint extra on the price of "throw-away milk". This means that a family buying three pints a day will spend nearly 10% extra just to throw the container in the bin, and then pay again for the Council to collect it.

The Co-op argue that they were forced into this policy, since fewer bottles were being returned, and much of these losses were through shop sales. However, they seem to have made little effort to persuade the shopper to return glass bottles. We have several examples of dairies who produce milk bottles with slogans or illustrations on them urging the return of the bottle. The only embellishment to Co-op bottles is one telling the drinker of the advantages of renting or buying a colour television set from the Co-op. Similarly, a bottle could

easily be embossed and a deposit charged, which, although it would cost our three pint a day family an initial 15p, is a lot cheaper than 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p a week all year round.

To try and change this expensive policy, we dumped 2,000 cartons in the main entrance of Co-op House on Parliament Street, together with 260 glass bottles found and collected in just fifteen minutes on one building site. To follow this up, we tried to call a special general meeting of the Co-operative Society by submitting a petition signed by forty fully paid-up members. The motion called for the Board of Directors to set up a working group to "investigate the ecological and economic advantages or disadvantages of the use of returnable glass bottles over non-returnable milk containers".

Boycott

We submitted this motion at the beginning of February, but it was judged by the Co-op Union to be invalid under the rules of the Society. We anticipate submitting another motion to change the rules of the Society, so that special general meetings can instruct the directors to set up such advisory groups. At the moment, a special meeting seems unable to transact any business of the Society, thus depriving many members of a say in its activities.

With a greatly over-crowded world, we must make every possible use of our natural resources, and excess packaging is particularly wasteful. You can help by boycotting over-packaged goods, not buying non-returnable bottles, or simply refusing paper bags in shops.

If you would like to know anything about Friends of the Earth, we meet every Tuesday in the Lion Hotel on Clumber Street at 8 p.m. - or you can write to Martin Tallett, 10 Lamcote Grove, The Meadows, Nottingham.



COMMUNITY ACTION

NOTTINGHAM

BY FRED BROAD

FOOD CO-OPS

IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE to report at least five food co-ops alive and well in Nottingham. The basic idea of a food co-op is for people to get together to share their weekly shopping and buy their food in bulk from whole-salers cheaper than in the shops.

One of the earliest food co-ops in Nottingham is in Corporation Oaks on the Woodborough Road. Fourteen families have now joined. The co-op works on the basis that each family puts in an order once a week and settles up their order on the basis of the previous week's prices.

The hardest job is the trip to Sneinton Market to buy the fruit and veg. at 4.30 on Saturday morning! It's this part which really shows the co-op's philosophy of sharing responsibilities. Sharing the work means that everyone has the chance to learn the secrets of the wholesale market, and has the onus of getting up for a change. Once the co-op had become known, friendly traders began to help by putting the odd box of vegetables to one side at a discount.

Other co-op members then complete the rest of the shopping - cheese and sausages at the cash and carry, eggs at the cattle market. Back at the co-op, the individual orders are made up; and remember, if you want to set up your own co-op - get enough scales, otherwise you'll spend all of Saturday weighing fruit and veg.

The co-op aims to expand its membership, but has already proved itself by providing produce at up to 40% cheaper than in the shops. By cutting out the middleman and by buying food in season, food co-ops are an effective means of community action.

Further details from: Food Co-ops, c/o People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road.

BALLOON WOODS

From: Mrs J. Glenn, Mrs K. Smith, Mrs B. Digby, and Mrs L. Meakin.

MOTIVATED BY TWO articles in the local press, four people got together at Balloon Woods to decide a plan of action. It was decided to go to every flat on the estate and ask tenants to write a letter about their complaints.

A meeting took place with four council officials and about 250 tenants present. Points were raised by the tenants and were then answered by the officials. As a result of the pressure of the meeting, the four

organisers were invited to a meeting with the Electricity Board and a council official.

The Electricity Board seemed sympathetic towards the tenants' plight, but suggested that there was very little they could do about the high electricity bills. After they were told about the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act 1899 Schedule 52 - the undertaking to supply meters if required by tenants - they said that the question of having meters on the premises, which had been requested by the tenants, would have to be looked into further.

The Council were more forthcoming and they said that work would begin on the flats in a week, and they would inspect all flats to see that they were up to the correct standard. Emergency repairs were promised immediately and a "surgery" would be set up by the Council for complaints.

The Council asked for three to four weeks to discuss the problems of allocation and said they would let every tenant know personally the outcome of a full Council meeting on this.

POVERTY ACTION

THE COMMON MARKET is sponsoring an Action Against Poverty Programme with a budget expected to be £1¼ million, a part of which is to be spent in Britain. The programme will choose projects submitted by either voluntary or government agencies, and is aimed at reducing poverty in the member countries. Among other things, the circular states that "particular consideration will be given to projects run by the poor". So far there are no projects submitted by the poor - although the Department of Health and Social Security has put in some large bids. There is no known closing date for applications at present. Further details, with model application, can be obtained from the Council for Voluntary Service, 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Please mark the envelope "Poverty Programme". Anyone interested in establishing area "People's Centres" should also contact the People's Centre, who are also contemplating putting in a bid.

PLAY SPACE

PLANS FOR THE NEW housing in Bulwell show a liberal scattering of neighbourhood play spaces where mums can keep a watchful eye on their

kids from the kitchen window. Even the street maps for visitors to the estate show a series of playgrounds to serve each phase of development. So what went wrong?

The absence of any play equipment on the play areas appears to stem from the reluctance of any Council Department to maintain such equipment. But the lack of any attempt to make the playgrounds attractive and enjoyable is even less excusable since, for any Council housing for which builders' tenders were accepted after August 1972, money for play equipment was made available by the Government. When is the Council going to pull its finger out and claim the grants to equip playgrounds? It is unlikely that there is any lack of tenants who would help look after a playground for kids.

CLIFTON CIRCLE

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD to see local community papers in Nottingham, and Clifton Circle is the community paper for Clifton. There are now plans to increase the scope of the paper and to get it onto a secure footing. There is the possibility that the paper may go over to a proper printed format, as opposed to the present duplicated presentation. Anyone interested in helping with any aspect of getting the paper out should contact Reg Davies, 23 Tintagel Green, Clifton.

DEAR FRED

Dear Fred,

It is nice to see that you have noticed the arrival of various community workers in the city, although to a lot of people in St Ann's this will come as no surprise as I have been here for nearly two years. For the information of your other "deprived" readers it might be worth pointing out that there are also workers in many other areas of the city, namely: Roger Critchley - The Meadows, employed by MATAR; Ann Littler - St Ann's, employed by SATRA; and five workers employed by Nottingham Areas Project (Tel. 75839): Alan Simpson, Russell Fields (Raleigh Street); Jim Battle, Broxtowe; John Bishop, Balloon Woods; Mel Russell, Clifton.

Yours sincerely,
Jane Simpson.
317 Woodborough Road,
Nottingham.

Know your rights

THE POLICE

How is a complaint made?

Any complaint against the conduct of a policeman should be made by a letter addressed to the Chief Constable (or, in the case of the Metropolitan or City of London police, to the Commissioner of Police) or by calling at a police station.

The law requires that every complaint must be recorded and promptly investigated. The records of complaints are regularly inspected, and H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary and police authorities are required by law to keep themselves informed about the manner in which complaints are dealt with. (Sections 49 and 50 of the Police Act 1964, and the Police (Discipline) Regulations 1965.)

A complainant will always be told the result of the investigation of his complaint.

How is it investigated?

The complainant is normally asked to make a full statement and in order to investigate a complaint thoroughly the police will need to obtain information from anyone else who can give help to establish the facts. The investigation is carried out by a senior police officer who, in a complaint of serious misconduct, may come from a police force other than that to which the complaint refers or, in the Metropolitan police, from a different Division. The officer whose conduct is complained of is, of course, given an opportunity to give his account of the matter.

Is there a formal inquiry?

Police officers, like everybody else, are governed by the law of the land. They are also subject to a strict discipline code; and on some occasions there may be sufficient evidence to justify a disciplinary charge being preferred against an officer. In this case he is given a copy of the letter of complaint, and of any statement the complainant has made. The Chief Constable then conducts a formal hearing, at which the complainant is normally expected to give evidence. The complainant is allowed to remain for the rest of the hearing, and is given an opportunity to ask the accused officer questions if that officer has chosen to give evidence on his own behalf.

Can an officer be prosecuted?

When the Chief Constable receives the report of an investigation into a complaint, unless it is clear to him that no criminal offence has been committed, he is required by law to send the report to the Director of Public Prosecutions for his independent decision whether or not there is a case for prosecution.

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PUBLIC HANGINGS

NOTTINGHAM'S GALLERY ON THE ROCKS

A VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE with its Art Gallery and Museum can be both a rewarding and a daunting experience - the latter beginning as you go through what is left of the original 13th century gateway and actually enter the Castle grounds. To gain admission one is forced to go through a ridiculous ritual of passing through a turnstile, which is placed at such a height that even the shortest male is likely to end up singing falsetto.

Bad trip

As for the rewards or joys of the Castle, it depends on individual interests, and the range covered is limited. There is, for example, a rather Kitsch-type Regimental Museum devoted to the Sherwood Foresters, which displays rows and rows of coloured ribbons in glass cases, making it all seem like a bad trip. Within this particular exhibition there are also gongs by the ton for every conceivable battle from our old Empire-building days to the hateful war in Korea, and there are relics and objects described as captured which have obviously been stolen, as well as uniforms galore.

The Castle, of course, has other things to offer, and it can boast of a reasonable silver collection, some interesting porcelain items, and an excellent collection of English glass.

Among the paintings there is little of merit and, as with many other provincial galleries, it is over-represented with works by the later Victorian artists. The keeper of fine art, it seems, has fallen into the trap of displaying second-rate paintings that were probably purchased directly from Royal Academy Exhibitions over the years, and there are on show some poor examples of even the better-known painters.

The curtains and drapes surrounding some of the paintings currently on show do little to hide their mediocrity. The modern paintings on permanent exhibition fare little better: there is a token Nicholson and a bad William Roberts, and there are a few other badly-placed examples on the staircase leading up to the main gallery. These particular pictures cry out for a white background, competing as they do at present with a rather dingy claret colour, half of which has peeled away.

If you visit the Castle during the winter months, you will not be able to have any refreshments unless you take

your own. However, considering what is offered when it is open, you may not have missed much. If one needs a comparison, one has only to visit Birmingham Art Gallery or the excellent Buttery at Norwich, both of which are in pleasant surroundings, are open all the year round and serve imaginative food.

The services offered at Nottingham Castle are not in fact run by the Museum Service but by the Catering Department of Nottingham Corporation. The Director of the Castle, therefore, sheds all responsibility for these appalling amenities, as he "doesn't want to trespass on his colleagues' fields". This attitude is a pity as it is an immediate reflection on the Castle rather than on an obscure catering service.

An additional criticism could also be levelled at the placing of two hideous sheds advertising, and one supposes selling, ice cream. These are in the worst possible taste and do a great deal to destroy the overall image of the architecture and the pleasant lawns surrounding the Castle. The Director, as with the tea rooms, disclaims any responsibility.

Monolithic

The Castle Art Gallery and Museum is just one part of a monolithic organisation which embraces both Wollaton Park and Newstead Abbey, and altogether they require a staff of sixty-five to run and maintain them. Its function is basically the same as all other Municipal Art Galleries and Museums, which is that basically they are treasure houses. In recent years, however, their function has expanded to include, as it were, extra-mural activities, such as giving space for the presentation of music and other art forms.

Nottingham Castle has been no exception to this practice, and has been the home of some rather elaborate presentations, especially during the halcyon days of the early Nottingham festivals.

These activities, it appears, will be continued and encouraged, with more exhibitions created by the Castle Gallery and a place given to touring exhibitions. This future policy may appear to be a little out of touch with reality when one notices that the unique little Victoria Street Gallery is no longer with us. The Gallery never actually belonged to the Corporation; it was rented from a bank, but it was sacrificed because of staffing and security. Two reasons,

one could argue, that a Director should overcome if sufficiently motivated. The loss of this little gallery, which was almost in the heart of the city as well as being on the edge of the Lace Market, seems a pity considering the envisaged artistic future of the area.

However, the immediate future of the Castle looks interesting, as it intends to develop the Director's own specialities; that is, we are to have a Folk Museum, which is to be developed from the row of cottages next to the Trip to Jerusalem in Brewhouse Yard, and there is also to be a Costume Museum, which again is only a stone's throw from the Castle, situated in the former City Architect's offices in Castle Gate. We are not likely to get much in the way of paintings, though.

The Castle Art Gallery and Museum is financed directly out of the rates, and is a department of the Leisure Services section of the Corporation. This means that money is allocated to it in the same way as other Local Authority Departments. It does, however, have an additional fund called the Art Fund, which was established under the Nottingham Corporation Act of 1938. This fund gets its revenue from three main sources.

One is the annual sum from the rate fund, which amounts to £2,500 a year. The second source is from Sunday admission fees, 4p per person as you go through the turnstile, which, surprisingly, amounted to just over £2,000 during the financial year 1973-74. Then there are bequests. All in all it doesn't amount to much, even when one considers that Nottingham, as with other provincial galleries, qualifies for a 50% grant on any purchase that it makes.

Chequered

As the fund now stands at just over £7,000, it doesn't look as if Nottingham will get a Gainsborough or a Rubens, or even a Hockney. We may, of course, just about manage to get another of those boring Boningtons which the Castle seem so proud of.

The Castle, with its chequered history (which includes the grisly hanging of Hearson, Beck and Armstrong for their part in burning down the place in 1831), will celebrate its centenary as a Museum and Art Gallery in three years' time. One may well ask if it will survive for another hundred years, and one could also question if it has really justified its existence over the last hundred.

STEPHEN MORRIS



SITTING-ROOM SLAVES

Extracts from the shock report

PEOPLE WORKING IN THEIR OWN HOMES ARE EARNING LESS THAN £4.50 FOR A FORTY HOUR WEEK. THEY FACE DANGER FROM THE MACHINERY INSTALLED IN THEIR LIVING ROOMS - AND SUBSIDISE THE COMPANIES THEY WORK FOR BY PAYING HEATING AND LIGHTING BILLS.

THESE REVELATIONS MADE SOMETHING OF A STIR WHEN THEY APPEARED LAST MONTH IN A REPORT ISSUED BY THE LONG EATON AND DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL AND WERE THEN PICKED UP BY THE PRESS AND TELEVISION. BUT LIKE MOST SENSATIONS IN THE MEDIA, THEY MAY BE NO MORE THAN A NINE DAYS' WONDER - THE RESTLESS PUBLIC EYE TURNS ELSEWHERE WHILE THE EXPLOITATION REMAINS UNCHANGED.

BECAUSE THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO FADE AWAY, AND BECAUSE THE REPORT MAKES ABSORBING, IF DISTURBING, READING, WE ARE PUBLISHING SUBSTANTIAL EXTRACTS FROM IT SO THAT READERS CAN JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES. ONLY THE MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WORK INVOLVED HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISAGREE WITH THE COMMENT OF THE TRADES COUNCIL THAT "FUTURE GENERATIONS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN MAY READ IN THEIR HISTORY BOOKS THAT THE SWEATSHOPS OF THE 1970s EXISTED IN THE HOMES OF THE PEOPLE".

INTRODUCTION

THE LONG EATON and District Trades Council received reports of low pay among outworkers, and decided that this was an area in which there could well be scope for trade union organisation. Initial investigation indicated that many outworkers were reluctant to discuss their situation with Trades Council members because they feared they would lose their jobs, and a great deal of care has been exercised throughout the study to protect those who wished to preserve their anonymity.

As investigations proceeded, it became apparent that the extent of outworking, and the gross exploitation of some groups of outworkers, was on a far larger scale than had been at first envisaged. It was also discovered that the existing Factories Acts are sadly out of date in this respect, and that the bulk of statutory protection afforded to workers in factories and workshops does not extend to those working in their own homes.

It is not the wish of the Trades Council to abolish outwork. It is frequently the only means by which a family income can be brought up to an adequate level, and it is not our intention to cause hardship and anxiety to those who are so often desperately in need of an additional wage. But we are aware that it is precisely in circumstances such as these where the main breadwinner of the family is on short-time, on a very low wage, or disabled or retired and finding it difficult to make ends meet on a pension, where exploitation can, and does, flourish.

Where people are living on or below the breadline - and there are many of them in this district - they are so anxious to earn a little extra money that they are reluctant to complain about low pay or other forms of exploitation. The people who have helped with this study by giving information have earned the admiration of the Trades Council by

their determination to work, often under difficult circumstances. Their independence and industry should be rewarded by a fair wage, and conditions of employment comparable to those enjoyed by workers doing similar jobs in factories. There are employers in this area who treat their outworkers in a fair and open-handed manner, but from our initial survey it seems as if they are in the minority.

Initial contacts with outworkers were by word of mouth. Subsequent programmes on Radio Nottingham and BBC Television's "Nationwide" produced further contacts, but the recurring theme was - "Please do not use my name". It seems Dickensian that in 1974 workers are so frightened of losing their jobs that they dare not complain about wages and conditions that, at first examination, seem unbelievable. The degree of exploitation that has been uncovered has surprised the Trades Council, but the aspect of the survey which has shocked most is the fear which exists among outworkers, and the hold which unscrupulous employers have over workers who are particularly vulnerable.

It is the view of the Trades Council that a large part of the blame for this shameful and disgraceful situation lies with Trade Unions, who have, by default, allowed exploitation to develop and flourish. The bargaining power of outworkers is necessarily weak. If their immediate position is to be improved, it would appear that union organisation will have to be improved in both recruitment and representation.

FINDINGS

AS MUCH OF THE WORK is piece work it was difficult to establish an hourly rate for comparison purposes. In only one instance - Herrburger Brooks Ltd - were holiday payments or threshold payments made, and apart from this company, who have an excellent record with

regard to outworkers, we could find no instance of any outworkers being covered for industrial injuries, pension rights, or any national insurance benefits. In the case of one company - Pressac - many outworkers collect and deliver the work to the factory in Long Eaton. They do not receive travelling expenses for this, nor are they paid for the time spent travelling. Very few outworkers know how much other outworkers employed by the same firm are paid, or how much they would be paid for similar work done inside the factory.

From the point of view of the employer overheads are relatively low. He has no heating or lighting bills to meet; he does not need to provide canteen facilities, or pay rent or rates on premises to accommodate the workers. From the point of view of the employee, outworking has certain advantages. When there are young children still at home, a mother can work and still care for her family - nursery facilities for under-fives are both extremely limited and expensive in Long Eaton. Many of the people interviewed were either retired or disabled, and found this the only way in which they could supplement their income.

Tiny part

It is important to stress that the work done so far is merely a tiny part of the research needed to comprehend fully the extent of the abuses of the outwork system. The work being done by the Low Pay Unit on outworkers indicates that outworking is not confined to the East Midlands, and is spread over a wide variety of industries.

The Low Pay Unit has come across the same problem of fear of losing the job if any publicity results from giving information. It is this fear that is holding back many outworkers from giving information, even when they realise that their pay is very low. Some of the rates of pay reported and verified make the TUC aim of a £30 minimum wage look as remote as winning the football pools for outworkers, and we found instances where a man in full-time employment and the wife employed as an outworker had a joint weekly wage of less than £30.

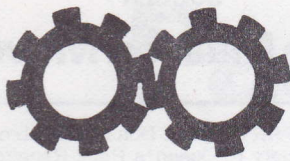
The letter received from Mrs G.S. - has been reprinted in full. It was felt that this letter was so apt and expressed the feelings of so many of the outworkers interviewed that it was worth preserving in its entirety.

Letter from Mrs G.S. - to the Long Eaton Trades Council.

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write to you concerning the outrageous pay that outdoor workers are having dealt out to them.

I have been one of them. Early in 1973 I applied to Pressac for outdoor



THE SHOP FLOOR

work. The first lot I had were a bit of a headache, which I expected, but what I could not understand, the pay was still the same as it was in 1947. 100 pieces for 12/6. For this amount I had to insert 36 metal bits and screw 24 of them down in place to hold the other 12 in place. This operation could not be completed in under 6 hours at any time. I would not believe anyone who said they could do them under; along with the price, the screws had to be sorted out, as they were different sizes, so you can guess what I made an hour.

I also had no less than 16 different kinds of work, much worse pay than those already described, some only averaged 2½p per hour. I felt I had to ask how they got round to such ridiculous prices, they said they had been that price for years. After telling them more than once it was time something was done about them, I noticed I always got the worst work, or there wasn't any today, come again tomorrow, so I eventually finished with them.

Then in June of this year I had outdoor work from Tuda Components. This time I had 100 lengths of Electric cable. I had to part all the fine wires at both ends, twist them round and cut off, all for 15p, this lot took almost 4 hours. So when I returned them I said I would not do any more, not at that price, he said I should get quicker, but I said no thank you, could I have my 15p, he said not today, but he agreed to post it on. After waiting 6 weeks, I contacted Action Desk of the Nottingham Evening Post, they got in touch with TC and they said it was there if I cared to fetch it. Anyhow, after ringing TC and writing to Action Desk once again I eventually got my 15p.

This is what we have to put with, so I wondered if anything can be done to help the exploitation of these people, by bringing in some form of legislation to end this racket of cheap labour, which is being operated by certain firms.

I should be interested to hear your opinion concerning my complaint.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs G.S.—.

TYPICAL REPORTS

Mrs B.—. Mrs B.— is the person in whose name the out work is done, but in fact her husband helps her to a very large extent ... work from Tuda Components ... gave an earning rate of 11.1p per hour with a running start ...

We have a number of Mrs B.—'s pay chits on which hours worked in relation to pay is expressed, but no account can be taken of this as Tuda Components can have no way of knowing how long each person works. The figures include, however, statements like 17 hours for £5.10 and 2 hours for 30p and even worse.



Tuda Components did not return the Trades Council questionnaire. Tuda Components do not pay threshold, holiday pay or any other increment to outworkers.

Mrs H.— did work for Pressac over a period of a few months and had to collect the unassembled parts from the Leopold Street, Long Eaton factory, and the fares involved were often more than one third of the price for the work.... Mrs H.— stated that she had worked out the rate on most jobs as being 10p per hour or less.

Mrs P.— and Mrs E.— do out work for Steada-Raywarp of 184 Nottingham Road, Basford, Nottingham. The Company appears to produce haberdashery, and the work was packaging hair nets, bath caps, and the like ...

Mrs E.— had earned £94.79 from April 1974 to 14.9.74, and Mrs P.— had earned the same - i.e. something like £6 per 20 hour week.

Mrs M.— has done work for Pressac for about 18 months. She works from six to eight hours per day, and this includes Saturdays and Sundays, plus her husband's help which is something like 20 hours per week ...

Mrs M.— was taking, with her husband, something like 80 hours to do 3,000 fittings. I believe they are called "monos". This would yield 8.43p per hour. When timed the two took ten minutes, 15 seconds to do 15 "monos", and this divided into two operatives gives just over 10p per hour. The work had to be collected and returned at personal expense.

CONCLUSIONS

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY at Work Act, which is now coming into force, and can be amended by additional regulations, is, at the time of writing this report, unavailable because of difficulties at HMSO. From the leaflet issued as a guide, it is not clear whether outworkers will be covered by the new legislation.

It is the view of the Trades Council that if the Health and Safety at Work Act does not in fact cover outworkers, it should be amended at the earliest possible opportunity so that outworkers are afforded at least the same protection given to workers in the factory or workshop.

Other legislative reforms that could benefit outworkers would be the extension of existing legislation covering such matters as redundancy payments, Contracts of Employment, and National Insurance to outworkers. Where Wages Councils are in existence, or nationally negotiated minimum rates are applicable, then outworkers should receive the benefit of these minimums

Where collective bargaining rights are well established in a factory, and some outworkers are also employed, it is the duty of the Trade Union members to see that outworkers are included in each agreement made with the employer, and that a special and immediate effort is made to recruit these workers into their appropriate Trade Union.

The abuse and exploitation of outworkers is on such a scale that it necessitates a comprehensive and urgent investigation on a national scale, an investigation which the Trades Council feels should be undertaken by the TUC.

In conclusion, we feel that the employers, the Trade Unions and successive Governments are all to blame to some degree for the neglect of the plight of this section of the work-force. It is hoped that this report, which is the first in a series, will serve as a reminder that weaker, less well-organised sections of the working population are as much in need of help and consideration as any others.

APPENDIX

THE THREE COMPANIES mentioned in the report were contacted and asked for their comments.

Pressac stated that they do not discuss the question of outworkers except with outworkers themselves, and that they would prefer not to comment on the report.

After some discussion with a representative of Tuda Components, it was stated that they did not wish to comment at this stage.

Two attempts were made to contact Steada-Raywarp, but no company representative was available for comment.

FOOTNOTE

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN has been launched by the Low Pay Unit. Readers who feel they can offer more evidence or can help in any way are invited to get in touch with the chief compilers of the report:

Charlie Stevens, Therm House, Long Eaton, Nottm (Tel. Long Eaton 4582), and Mel Read, 29 Cleveland Avenue, Long Eaton, Nottm (Tel. Long Eaton 2286).

The findings of the report are further underlined by the experience of one outworker who appeared in the Daily Mirror and on television (Mrs B.— in the report). She feels she is already being edged out of her job by her employers, Tuda Components - nothing so crude as outright dismissal, of course, simply work that is a lot heavier and more difficult.

THE PARISH PUMP WATCHMAN



THE EXERCISE of power by a caucus is dangerous to democracy. In February's "Parish Pump" we portrayed the formulation of City Council policy by the "few", and tried to show that their decision-making does not reflect the views of rank and file Labour councillors. The immediate danger is that the "few" cocoon themselves in their lairs in sound-proof committee rooms surrounded by council officers, and are unable to hear the clamour of criticism (or even advice) from those outside who supposedly represent the people.

The Theatre Point controversy illustrates this isolation and the way attempts are made to rush through planning consent before either group or public dialogue has had time to develop. The history of the Theatre Point affair concerns the land at the rear of the Theatre Royal, owned by Nottingham City Corporation as a result of a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1968. The site, used mainly as a car park, was considered by the then Nottingham Corporation as a most desirable one for a complex to house nearly all Corporation Departments, creating a centralised administrative unit.

Entirety

To accomplish this, the Corporation agreed to give Bentrax Investments Ltd the first option to develop the site in its entirety. However, the planning application for this was not presented to the Planning Committee until March 14th, 1974 - seventeen days before the demise of the old Nottingham Corporation under local government reorganisation on 1st April, 1974. Unfortunately, the planning application was dated 25th February, 1974, which gave less than the three weeks' notice required before Planning Committee consent could be given. This meant that the matter could not be settled before April 1st, when the new Nottinghamshire County Council would have the right to oppose the application.

Notwithstanding the regulations, the Labour ruling caucus arranged for planning consent to be given, and the application date was changed to February 15th, 1974 (a "typing error" having been discovered on the original application). There was immediate opposition from the grass roots, who felt it undesirable to increase office development because (a) at that time there were in Nottingham 300,000 square feet of office space

vacant or under construction, and (b) the consensus of public opinion was that resources were better employed building homes for the ever-growing number of homeless and deprived.

Abstained

The clamour of opposition to caucus policy resulted amongst other things in attempts to isolate Councillor Stephen Evans (in whose ward Theatre Point was situated) and remove him from the Labour group. Intolerance of adverse criticism is almost pathological among the Labour leaders. Coun. Evans was deprived of the Labour whip because he abstained from voting on the application in Committee, and also, apparently, because he was reflecting the views of his constituents, who deeply resented the Theatre Point scheme.

The action taken by the leaders of the group against Coun. Evans has reached ludicrous proportions. Not only has he been dismissed from the Planning Committee and relegated to the Freeman's Committee (far removed from influence on important matters), but this daring dissident from the crack of the whip has also found his seat in the Council Chamber moved to a place far away from previous associates. Meanwhile he is still appealing to the Labour Party's National Executive for reinstatement.

Vigilant readers of committee minutes may have noticed a recent item about Theatre Point that seems to have passed without much comment. It seems that the City Council is not to proceed with this development, which was so vitally necessary just a few months ago!

Accepted

One wonders who initiated this amazing volte-face - the Labour group or just the caucus again? No doubt they will be inviting Coun. Evans back into the group, since they have now accepted his attitude to the development.

The Theatre Point affair demonstrates the extent to which a caucus will go to preserve its power from the influence of the grass roots and from vocal and vigilant members of its own party. The Theatre Point development is now dead because of the public outcry it aroused. The same may eventually be true of the Canberra-Top Valley affair. But that will be another story...

SOCCER

The Masson Move

THE DEPARTURE of Don Masson from Notts County to Queen's Park Rangers last December has been the major controversy in a drab season for the city clubs. The management justified the move on the basis of the club's finances - an average gate of 14,000 was needed to break even on each game, and the average attendance at the time of the transfer was slightly above 9,000. On the surface this seems a convincing argument - the Football Post strongly supported the move, and many of its correspondents accepted the transfer as inevitable. Yet was it?

Attendances at Meadow Lane this season undoubtedly reflect a certain amount of public apathy. However, the pre-Christmas crowds cannot be explained merely on this basis. A glance at the fixture list reveals what must surely be a major factor - its remarkable mediocrity over this period. For some reason, all the club's most attractive fixtures are concentrated in the second half of the season.

The effect of this on attendances is now becoming evident. For example, the Aston Villa fixture attracted 3,200 spectators above the "crucial" 14,000, while the number of "excess" fans at the Sunderland match was 1,900. This improvement will be more than maintained at the Manchester United and Forest matches, gates probably averaging around the 30,000 mark, and the Bristol City and Bolton matches could well command moderate interest if these clubs maintain their promotion challenge.

Interest

It is more than likely, therefore, that Notts will average around 11,500 to 12,000 for the 1974-5 season - despite the absence of Masson and despite the dismal results in recent weeks. My feeling is that if Masson had stayed the 14,000 mark would have been more closely approached, and with Masson playing a crucial role in their midfield Notts would have had a reasonable chance of remaining in touch with the top three clubs and sustaining public interest.

His departure has also been disastrous for the team's midfield unit. There is a complete lack of a creative midfield player, and this has been reflected in the results, as anyone seeing the home matches against Blackpool and Villa will have been aware. Considering the vital influence Masson had on the team's performances, the transfer fee of £100,000 seems quite ludicrous. In a transfer market where a goalkeeper is transferred for £350,000, Queen's Park Rangers must have made the bargain of the season.

It is interesting to speculate on whether the transfer would have gone ahead if the fixture card had read differently. If my analysis is correct, then the Meadow Lane management has really boomed. If ready cash was the problem, it could surely have been raised through the sale of a player more dispensable than Masson, such as Bradd or Randall.

Although the Nottingham public is frequently taken to task for not turning up

at Meadow Lane in greater numbers, the Notts directors must be realistic in these days of English soccer depression. Attendances at Meadow Lane compare satisfactorily with other Second Division clubs. Promotion-chasing Blackpool could only attract 4,900 for their home game against Notts, and FA Cup heroes Fulham had an attendance of only 5,700 for a recent fixture with Hull City. In 1973-4, two of the promoted clubs, Luton and Carlisle, had average gates of 12,000 and 8,000 respectively (the corresponding figure for Notts was 11,900), yet neither of these clubs suffered such drastic action.

The sale of Masson was both untimely and fundamentally misguided. It will do nothing to endear Notts County to a Nottingham public which has suffered during the past twenty-five years from the sale of key players by the two major clubs. The only ray of hope is the many promising young players currently being given experience in the County reserve side. The youth policy at Meadow Lane has been a credit to that excellent manager Mr Sirrel, who has done so much for the club. May he gain more support from the club's board of directors than was evident during the Masson saga.

JOE BOOT

RACING

Toffs' Sport?

RACING, IN COMMON with many spectator sports, particularly football, suffers from declining attendances and financial problems, and the debate as to how the situation can be improved has been raging on and off for the past few years. It is apparent to all concerned that the very best horses still attract large crowds; the prospect of seeing a Mill Reef or Arkle in action, with preferably one or two competitive handicaps on the same card, is a guaranteed crowd puller. But for each high class performer there are at least one hundred mediocre or poor horses - unfortunately there are as few Nijinskys as there are Manchester Uniteds.

Owners tend to see increased prize money as the key to the revival of the industry, and most racecourse executives have made strenuous efforts to find the necessary sponsors. In the present inflationary climate it is no doubt true that the cost of keeping horses in training is rising rapidly. It will also come as no surprise if sponsors begin to drop out of racing as the economic situation worsens. One of the obvious remedies, which seems almost inevitable and has been much discussed, would be to reduce the number of racecourses and operate on a more centralized basis as they do in France, although the distinctive regional flavour of English racing might be lost if such a policy was too radically applied.

But owners, however much noise they make, are only one part of the racing equation, and their solutions to racing's difficulties tend to reflect their own financial problems. Equally important is the ordinary racegoer and gambler, without whose money racing could not survive.

It often seems, though, that the racing establishment fails to realize this simple truth. The democratization of



racing is still a distant vision. The average member of the community might, with justification, feel the poor relation after visiting the majority of racecourses. On arrival at the course, he will find that, unless he can afford to pay a minimum of £1.50 per person, he will not be able to see the horses in the paddock, will not be near the finishing line (i.e. a furlong off at Ascot, half a furlong at Nottingham) and will have the least comfortable stand and the poorest of cafe and bar facilities.

Facilities

To take Nottingham as an example, though it is by no means the worst offender: for the recent Berni Inns Novices Chase Final day, admission charges for what by most standards was only an average day's racing were £2.65 (members), £1.90 (Tattersalls) and 55p (public enclosure). Inside, while the facilities and prices of food and drink in the first two were good by comparative racecourse standards, the public enclosure offered a spartan stand and a makeshift mobile coffee shop.

If the ordinary member of the public, particularly the first-time racegoer, was offered better facilities, and a wider selection of them, and not made to feel so obviously like an unwanted but tolerated second class citizen, attendances might begin to rise and popular interest in the sport assert itself.

While the "toffs" are "protected" from the nasty public by steel fences, through which we can all spot our favourite aristocrat, and while the Jockey Club remains dominated by millionaires and landed lords, there is little incentive for the average member of society to attend. Yet the same top people are only too

happy to collect money from the public via the Levy Board.

Of course, some courses (though very few) have made some steps in the right direction. It must also be said that racing, with its gambling connections, is never likely to become a poor man's sport, but there is little doubt that it could be made to appeal to a far wider audience than at present. The attendance at betting shops and the popularity of televised racing indicate a substantial off-course interest.

I would suggest that the public are less deterred from going racing by the class of racehorse (after all, there is always a huge attendance at Doncaster for the Lincoln - a competitive handicap, but not of a very high class) than by the class-ridden and hostile atmosphere of the majority of Britain's racecourses, with all the disparity in facilities I have described. Too many of those in power still show traces of the old attitude that the public are lucky to be allowed in at all!

ALAN FOUNTAIN

REVIEW

Strong Gong

THE SPRING 1975 edition of "Gong" (the Nottingham University arts magazine) has pulled out a genuine plum in the shape of a 25-page interview with Clive James, the all-purpose wizard of the media. Interviewer Michael Draper evidently did his homework thoroughly, and the polymath Mr James settled down to the discussion with obvious enjoyment. The result is not only highly readable, but worth the 25p purchase price in itself. Although concentrating on music and the lyric-writing partnership with Pete Atkin, the discussion roams over a fair number of James topics - reviewing, poetry, criticism, television, theatre, why he gave up drinking, etc.

Naturally, the magazine is a little overwhelmed by all this (it's nearly half the total length), but the rest of "Gong" is an interesting mixture well worth a close read. What's especially enjoyable is that, although the standard is by no means uniformly high, "Gong", like Clive James, isn't afraid to take risks ("I don't trust a placid prose that forms too early and can never be faulted on the grounds of enthusiasm," says the interview). Like him, it doesn't always avoid Pseudos Corner either (it must be impossible to write about rock music as if it were Eng. Lit.), but it's encouraging to see the academically serious and the verbally ambitious being given a good run.

"Gong" is also unsnobby - the "Who's Who" of contributors shows a 12-year-old secondary school pupil as well as students, lecturers, and published novelists and critics. The older and more experienced writers tend to make a slightly better showing, but it's good to see such a wide range of authors using "Gong" as a platform for serious and experimental work.

JBS

("Gong" is available from "Gong", Students Union, Portland Building, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Cheques or POs for 30p should be made out to "Nottingham University Students Union". The magazine will probably be on sale also in some bookshops in town.)

JAZZ

Photos: Nigel Pert

NIMBUS FLY HIGH



READERS OF THIS column will have gained the impression that I'm not all that gassed by the local jazz audience who, as I've had occasion to say in the past, tend to be somewhat cool in their reception of worthwhile music played by semi-pro groups.

OK, so I admit that they're as appreciative as any other British audience when giving a standing ovation to the Stan Kenton Orchestra, or digging a smooth solo by the Alex Welsh Band's Roy Williams, and they even appear to actually enjoy some of the more ambitious arrangements of the Chris Barber Band. But they have a poor record when it comes to supporting and expressing their appreciation of the efforts of local musicians, particularly in the "modern" sphere.

Fiery solo

That's why players such as Colin Ball - usually to be heard with the Harry Brown Quintet at the Federation Club - has every reason to be brought down after blowing a fiery, emotional and imaginative solo, and getting a whisper of applause for his pains. That's why John Marshall, arguably the most accomplished soloist in the city, hasn't had a jazz gig for months. That's why Mel Thorpe, another sax player of considerable talents, has been exiled to playing in Leicestershire for years.

But at least in Mel's case local supporters of the jazz scene have an opportunity to put the record straight by supporting the newly-established sessions by his group Nimbus at the

Imperial Hotel on Saturdays. I'm going to stick my neck out after only hearing the full group on one occasion at the time of writing and suggest that the music on offer at the Imperial is potentially the most exciting thing to happen in the city jazzwise for a very long time.

A bare description classifies Nimbus as a five-piece electric rock/jazz outfit with a line-up of Mel Thorpe (sax, flute), Roger Munns (electric piano), Bruce Woolley (guitar), Geoff Pearson (bass), and Les Shaw (drums). But such a description doesn't take into account the originality, inventiveness and sheer technical skill which the group displays. And I'm going to stick my neck out even further and suggest that young guitarist Bruce Woolley is going to go a long way in the music business. He alone is well worth the effort of going to hear. Incidentally, his father Brian Woolley is well-known to long-term Nottingham jazz fans from his association with the trad jazz scene, and he's still active with the Good Time Jazz Band at the Chestnuts Club. But young Bruce is going to teach dad a thing or two about jazz playing.

The group's programme is largely based on original material, much of it written jointly by Mel and Roger with one or two charts from bassist Geoff Pearson. Apart from conventional rock forms, the writing has also explored Spanish influences in compositions with such exotic titles as "Seguidillas Gitanas" and "Segura Samba". But it's the consistently high interest level maintained by the new material which makes it so striking, characterised as it is by

constantly-shifting tempos and rhythms and occasional explorations in the direction of "free" playing.

Mel Thorpe's sax and flute playing is driving and inventive, and Les Shaw still rates as the top local percussion man with me - he's given plenty to think about in the complex programme, but still manages to drive the group along while carefully shading the dynamics according to what's happening in front of him. Both Roger Munns and Geoff Pearson have been in the music business long enough to know what it's about, and they share the corporate enthusiasm for the kind of music they're involved in.

Appreciation

On the opening night of the current residency, about sixty fans appeared to give cautious approval to what they heard. Once they were into the group's sound they tended to relax and be more free in their appreciation. I was conscious that I was among what may turn out to be Nottingham's most discriminating audience, and once the news gets round I can't see why Nimbus shouldn't gain an enthusiastic local following. I make only one qualification to my own unstinted approval of what they are doing - I think they ought to book occasional guests to appear with them. I believe that even the most successful and committed group need the stimulation of other musicians to sustain the interest of the audience who support them.

CLIFF LEE

ROCK

Below: Hatfield and the North

Albert Hall rocks again



THE MOST IMPORTANT news in Nottingham's rock music scene this month must be the re-opening of the Albert Hall to live rock music. Budgie and Cisco take to the stage on March 7th, and although no further bands have been booked for the venue, the prospect of more rock concerts does seem likely.

The Albert Hall was closed to rock music in July 1971 after Sha Na Na and Uriah Heep appeared there and a few rock 'n' roll belligerents managed to remove several seats from their mountings and generally abuse what is, after all, a church. Let's hope there'll be no klutz at the Budgie concert, and that its success will result in the regular booking of bands at this venue. Since the Albert Hall seats 1,600 people, it should be possible to book reasonably big name bands without having to charge too much for tickets. Perhaps next month we'll be able to print details of future concerts at the Albert Hall.

Pedigree

A band which has rapidly gained recognition since the release of its first album and subsequent tour is Hatfield and the North. The group have a pedigree between them as long as your arm; members of Caravan, Egg, Matching Mole and Gong joined together to form the present line-up. The first album, titled simply "Hatfield and the North", presents a just testimony to the considerable talent within the band. The overall style is very reminiscent of early Soft Machine and Egg, but some tracks reveal strikingly original material; take a listen to "Going up to People and Tinkling" and "The Other Stubbs Effect". You can catch the Hatfields at Nottingham University on March 15th, and it should be a very good gig.

The Electric Light Orchestra released an album last month titled "Eldorado". As a concept album it

succeeds well, portraying a young dreamer who tires of life in the city and escapes to a world of adventure and excitement, a world where he is hailed as a hero, wine and dined, and seduced by an evil woman. He remains in this new world, free and having found eternal life. Jeff Lynne, who wrote both music and lyrics, has achieved something profound with this album by blending his personal style with that of other writers (notably John Lennon, who would have been proud to pen "Can't Get It Out of My Head" and "Mister Kingdom"). The tracks are mainly highly emotive numbers which invoke instant nostalgia, particularly those with gentle string arrangements. The title track is an exceptional and very moving work, with its fluttering violins and cellos and wailing chorus.

A re-styled Curved Air visit Leicester University on 13th March. The new line-up consists of Sonja Kristina (vocals, guitar and keyboards), Darryl Way (violin and keyboards), Phil Kohn (bass), Stuart Copeland (drums and percussion) and Michael Jacques (guitar). A Curved Air "live" album has just been released on Deram along with a single, "Back Street Luv" and "It Happened Today", both live. I hope the band have a few new ideas, since Darryl Way's last album, "Night Music", was devoid of any memorable tracks.

Virgin released a couple of good albums last month: "The Orchestral Tubular Bells" and "V", a sampler double album. The former is refreshingly different from its predecessor; the orchestral arrangements, courtesy of David Bedford, produce a much fuller sound. I think that I could easily grow to like this version more than the original, simply because "Tubular Bells" seems to have been intended for orchestra.

The "V" sampler presents many bands on the Virgin label: Robert Wyatt, Mike Oldfield, Tangerine Dream, Captain Beefheart, Hatfield and the North, and plenty more.

The Mike Oldfield track is of some interest: featuring among others Kevin Ayers on wine bottles and David Bedford on vocals, it is a droll rendition of "Don Alfonso", a traditional song about a matador. The Hatfield track is from their new album and titled "Your Majesty is Like a Cream Doughnut". Not really a particularly memorable track - others may disagree. "White Noise II" is a synthesizer concerto realised by one David Vorhaus, and as such is quite interesting, although pure synthesizer does tend to get tedious after the first minute.

All in all, an album well worth the cash, especially since it's only £2.94, and for tracks by fifteen different bands that can't be bad.

10cc can be found at the De Montfort Hall on 23rd March to promote their new album, "The Original Soundtrack", released on Mercury. I've never really been heavily into 10cc live. I thought their performance at Trent Poly last year was appalling; they were far too loud and there was too much improvisation for my taste. On record, however, it's a different state of affairs: the band are superb, and the new album is a fair reflection of the fact.

Competition

You can win a copy of "The Original Soundtrack". We're giving away two copies in this month's competition. Just answer the following questions and send your answers on a postcard to Nottingham Voice Competition, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, to arrive no later than 28th March.

1. Name the members of 10cc.
2. What was their first hit single?
3. From where do the band originate?

Last month's winners of the Caravan albums were: Geoff Collins, Cloister Street, Old Lenton; R. Lister, Wollaton Vale; and Tim Nichollson, Sherwood.

DAVE BRETT

THEATRE

Comedians



Master and pupil: Jimmy Jewel and Jonathan Pryce

"COMEDIANS", the latest play by Trevor Griffiths, opened at the Playhouse on February 20th and continues until March 27th. Nottingham audiences were introduced to the work of Trevor Griffiths last November, when the National Theatre travelling company presented "The Party" - a play which examined the position of London's middle-class revolutionaries in the summer of 1968.

Clever

Griffiths' latest offering concerns itself with a group of would-be comedians attending an evening class in the craft at a Manchester secondary mod, under the tutelage of the Lancashire Lad himself - Eddie Waters. It is a clever piece of casting to give Jimmy Jewel the part of Waters; however, one feels that it is perhaps a little too clever. Despite his closeness to the role, Jimmy Jewel does not always evidence the necessary assurance - suffice it to say that he looks the part.

The group of aspirants - two Irish-

men, three Englishmen and a Jew - are preparing for a performance between sessions at a local bingo club, where their talents will be assessed by the London agent Bert Challenor ("remember, we can't all be Max Bygraves - but we can try"). So proceed the first two acts; the third act returns to the school room for the post-mortem and Challenor's contractual decisions. The play's structure is evident - a statement of character and situation in the first act, the test in act two and the repercussions in the third.

On one level the play concerns itself with a consideration of the nature of mirth but, as with "The Party", Griffiths' drama has several levels of interpretation.

The arrival of Challenor is a crux for the would-be comedians. Eddie Waters has helped them produce a comic programme for the audition - the characters meet Challenor before the performance and must choose either to stick to their principles and the Lancashire Lad, or compromise their act in pursuit of professional terms. The apparent surface goodwill that most of

the lads have in act one is frayed by the competitive dash of act two. Act three stands as an uncomfortably "unfunny" experience as the spent comics return to the schoolroom.

The general considerations that I have made so far skate over the more important levels on which "Comedians" works. It is essential to look closely at the character of Gethin Price - a van driver with British Rail.

Deadpan

Whereas the other comedians are hoping to use their native wit to rise from their present social position, Price has more altruistic aims. From the very first, Price stands out. He arrives at the class before the others, with his hair closely cropped, in preparation for the night's events. To the others he is just "a moody bugger" as he paces around the stage, flicking into abrasive life when called upon. His wax-like features are naturally deadpan, yet they mould themselves into a multiplicity of aggressively distinctive forms.

It is evident from the beginning that he possesses a large quantity of vital hate, motivating him to act upon some firmly-held principles. While others might compromise in pursuit of financial ends, Gethin Price will not, for he has aims beyond the mere material.

The first act suggests that his performance in act two will be something special - we learn that he has adopted a completely new act for the night (thus suggesting his fierce individuality) and that he will be performing after the others have gone through the harmless motions of smut, racism and prejudice. We see his difference from the others in act one when he recites an obscene limerick, which pains Waters - a comic who believes in compassion and care as the bases of humour - and stuns his fellows into an embarrassed silence.

When the comics begin to perform in act two, their priorities come to the surface. The double act of Ged and Phil Murray demonstrates the individual selling out to the highest bidder. Half-way through their act Phil throws out an unscripted joke, aimed to win Challenor's approval. The result is a complete loss of trust and rhythm and a prevailing sense of uncomfortable animosity between the brothers.

It would seem appropriate, at this point, to consider what, for me, was one of the most interesting aspects of Griffiths' craft. As the comics present their acts the theatre audience is forced to take on the stance of disgruntled bingo fans whose evening has been broken by these unwanted comedians. The audience is thus involved in the drama, as with the awareness throughout that the play's time scale is that of actual time.

Shades

Griffiths' characters demonstrate many shades of the comedian - the comic who tells jokes that are not funny, the comic who provokes awkward laughter through shameless obscenity, the comic who wins the audience's favour and then loses it through loss of timing - all of these situations are eminently portrayed by Griffiths and well presented by the company. Act two is a tour-de-force as an experiment into the nature of laughter; Griffiths clearly knows much about the comedian's art and knows how to lead his audience to define their position.

The centre-piece of act two, however, is Gethin Price's performance (played with perfection and consistency by the company's leading actor, Jonathan Pryce). The audience settles into an atmosphere of prickly anticipation after Price's act has been announced by the matter-of-fact bingo-caller/master-of-ceremonies. Price enters, dressed in the caricatured garb of a United supporter craving for a train to vandalise. He is joined on stage by two bourgeois dummies, two individuals who appear to be waiting for a taxi after an evening at the theatre.

Griffiths' craft is consummate - the audience, who moments earlier had been laughing with the other comics, now squirm in their seats as their "type" is destroyed by the barbed tongue of Price's Grock-like humour. His act complete, the audience returns to the safety of the bingo-caller who, ironically in keeping with Price's code, calls out - "on its own, look after num-

ber one." Price is the only one who is truly successful after the performance, the only one who returns to the school-room singing - "There's no business like show business."

Change

Trevor Griffiths is often criticised for being a maker of statements first and a dramatist second. To my mind, such a criticism fights shy of the heart of Griffiths' work. Certainly in "Comedians", as in "The Party", a statement is made, but around this lies a good deal of dramatic art. "The Party" was remarkable not just for its statement of sustained Marxist dialectic, but also for its dramatisation of a cultural milieu in a time of change.

CINEMA

Death Wish

DEATH WISH, the latest offering by director Michael Winner, would in all probability have joined the vast store of unnoticed mediocrities had its subject been anything but highly controversial.

For those who have not seen or read about it, the action, almost entirely centred on New York, revolves around a self-styled vigilante, Paul Kearsy, played by Charles Bronson, who, revolted by the effects of a terrifying attack on his wife and daughter from which the former dies and the latter retreats into insanity, decides to take on the muggers of New York single-handed. He succeeds in polishing off several of their number in suitably bloody style and becomes something of a popular hero in New York before the police step in and "persuade" him to settle elsewhere - he chooses Chicago.

While the immediacy of the topic might not be apparent to some British viewers, certain elements of the American audience apparently applauded wildly each time another mugger was laid low - perhaps understandable in New York, a city with the worst social problems in the "advanced" western world but with an ever decreasing budget to cope with them (there have been education and police cuts in manpower and expenditure within the last few months).

Throughout, the audience is encouraged to identify with Paul's stand. The killing and attempted rape of mother and daughter is horrifyingly portrayed, shown rightly as a merciless interruption of their happy family existence. We are not surprised when Paul exchanges a rather briefly established liberalism for the identity of a gunslinging lawman of the old West. Thus the narrative sequence prepares us to almost sanction his nightly patrols in search of the muggers, and to accept the violence of his revenge as he empties dozens of bullets into numerous writhing (and often black) bodies. His actions even prompt other decent citizens to "have a go", while the police chief, although mounting a huge search to catch Paul, has to admit a grudging respect when he finally does confront him in a hospital bed and orders him to leave town.

At no time do we find within the film itself, with the exception of the mumb-

"Comedians", it seems to me, is an even better work than "The Party"; beyond the fiercely aggressive figure of Price and his stark commitments there lies a dramatically conceived examination of character and situation. The human urge - to better one's social position - is examined and rejected. In the end, the individual who is proudly alone "waiting for it to happen" is the only (anti-) hero. On another level the characters of Challenor and Waters provide a dramatic balance and tension between the calls of realism and idealism.

Above all else, "Comedians" is an entertaining and funny play; a powerfully human experience performed by a strong company of accomplished actors.

GP

blings of Paul's discredited liberal friends, a hint of questioning let alone criticism of Paul's actions. Audience acceptance of his reactions is based on an appeal to the justified fears of ordinary people that their city might be overrun by muggers; yet the film's limited terms of reference ensure that only one "solution" to the problem seems viable. By relating Paul to the best traditions of the law and order myths of the old West (and entirely forgetting that Wyatt Earp shot most of his victims in the back during drunken brawls), the film enables us to see Paul rejuvenated as he rediscovers his and America's virility by standing up for the "old values" through the barrel of a gun. By the end of the film Paul is disdainful of his old liberal friends and has found kinship with a gun-toting property developer whose philosophy of existence amounts to a desire to preserve the privileged existence of middle class America by killing all "undesirables". It is interesting, too, that Paul is an architect - perhaps offering to refashion America physically and spiritually.

Obvious

One should not overreact to the film, but its insidious attempt to manipulate audience fear and prejudice, perhaps in this case too obvious to be particularly persuasive, continually invites us to accept Paul's "solution". As such, it offers a solution to a problem of which it has deliberately failed to explore the real complexities. In this respect it is important to note that the film omits certain crucial areas of the book, in particular a fuller explanation of Paul's earlier liberal position and a slightly greater focus of attention on the causes of the muggers' behaviour.

One should not be prepared, either, to dismiss the film as simply poor "entertainment" (though it is that, for my money at least), even if one accepts that any film can be just entertainment: it also purports to carry a social and political message which, in my view, must be recognised and rejected.

JLG

EATING OUT



ONE OF THE LESS wholesome trends in low-price catering is the emergence of the restaurant based on the "good night out" principle. For those unfamiliar with the syndrome, a typical such restaurant might be expected to include at least two of the following disagreeable features: a discotheque; a dance floor (though acceptable with good live musicians); a cabaret; a fixed-price menu of three or more courses; advertising material displayed on tables, enjoining patrons to "have a glass of wine with your meal"; thematic decoration (i.e. Dracula's Cave, etc.).

Proprietors of such establishments generally tend to assume that patrons will be either (a) too exhausted by the general festivity, (b) too distracted by the entertainment, or (c) simply too drunk to notice the food, which is therefore at best uninspired and at worst downright inedible.

Which, alas, brings us to "Mr Pickwick's" on Upper Parliament Street, which scores three minus points before getting to the food for its dance floor, discotheque (or, at any rate, loud recorded "popular" music) and fixed-price, four course menu.

Appearance

Fixed-price menus are normally a restaurateur's way of giving the appearance of giving good value for money, whilst saving himself the expense of actually doing so. Thus, "fruit juice" normally appears as one of the choices for first course, soup of the day for second, and so on, allowing the proprietor to make economies on the main course, which is after all what the patron is, or should be, mainly paying for. Mr Pickwick, whoever he may be, is no exception to this formula.

The first course offered on our visit was a choice of fruit juice (don't play into their hands at this economy game), or melon (unavailable), leaving us with egg mayonnaise (one boiled egg covered with proprietary salad cream on a piece of lettuce), or prawn cocktail (a few prawns, straight from the deep freeze and improperly thawed, covered with proprietary salad cream on a piece of lettuce).

The second course was soup of the day (I told you so. In our case, a rather grey and sorry "minestrone"). As can therefore be imagined, the fixed-price menu stands or falls on the main course. Mr Pickwick, unfortunately, falls.

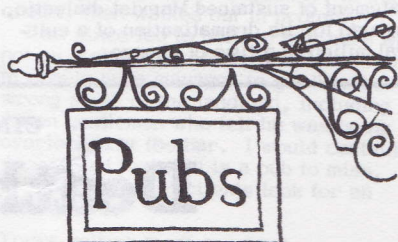
Main course. I had coq-au-vin. This rather tempting sounding dish turned out to be extremely unappetising, none too warm, and with a weak, bland sauce. My partner's T-bone steak was unremarkable except for being rather tough, and not cooked to her liking. Both of these dishes were accompanied by frozen peas, chips and carrots, the latter betraying their origin visually in that they were not properly scraped or peeled, and were served complete with tops.

Fourth course. At this point I gave up and settled for ice-cream (frozen), leaving my partner to finish with apple pie, which she reported to be "quite good".

Mr Pickwick is inadequate, too, on the drinks front. No carafe wine, just non-vintage bottles with French-sounding names like "Les Courtiers".

Predictably enough, complaints about the meal were met by the management with the response, "What else do you expect of a four-course meal for £2.30?" And the old favourite, "We've had no other complaints". What a pity!

G. NOME



THE LAST TWO ARTICLES on pubs have been slightly vitriolic and complaining. I thought, therefore, that it was time I wrote an article that praised a pub rather than knocked it.

The St Ann's Well Inn on St Ann's Well Road is good news - or the end of the good news, because it won't be there much longer (we're not sure how long - perhaps two or three years). The pub is about 500 yards from the old Central Market up the St Ann's Well Road on the corner of Peas Hill Road.

The tenants are Ivy and Ken Cane, who have been at the St Ann's Well for nearly two years. They were at the Peveril Hotel on Gordon Road previously and brought a lot of their old customers with them. In fact, when Ivy and Ken first moved into the St Ann's Well and their old locals followed them, there was rivalry between the "Peverillers" and the "St Ann's Wellers". They would sit in opposite corners of the Vault and try to out-sing one another. Neither side won and everyone is now the best of friends.

Which leads me on to the atmosphere in the pub - it's terrific; very friendly - you couldn't possibly stand there for more than about two minutes and not get talking to someone.

This has probably got something to do with the type of people who go there. It is basically a local, but a fair proportion of the people in there are people who have been re-housed in Top Valley and Clifton but still go back to drink - especially at weekends!

What about the pub itself? It is a basic Shippo's boozier - small lounge bar and much larger vault. You can play darts, skittles, dominoes or cards (if you can get into a game) in the vault; you can listen to the juke-box - not too loud - or just natter. In fact, it's like lots of other good local pubs where people can go and feel at home (stop it Holmes, you're getting on your soap-box again).

Unusual

Hopefully, Ken and Ivy will be able to go to another pub nearby when the St Ann's Well closes (redevelopment and all that). They certainly ought to, since they run a terrific pub that serves great beer - hand-pumped bitter and mild at 16p and 15p in the vault and 17p and 16p in the lounge. Another interesting point is that they have vault prices in the lounge at lunch-time, which is very unusual nowadays. Ken and Ivy told me that they used to do this in the Peveril until 8.00 at night, which is something that I have never seen anywhere.

They also do good food at lunch-time and evenings (10p for a ham cob can't be bad).

All I can say in conclusion is that I hope that the replacement pubs in the area have the same atmosphere, the same beer, and hopefully the same landlord.

P.S. If this article has seemed a bit serious, it's because I think that keeping pubs like the St Ann's Well is a serious matter.

CHRIS HOLMES

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IF ANYONE is interested in helping to set up a community press in Nottingham, which hopes to Screen Print, Letter Press, Roneo, and (if possible) Litho, please contact Iain Harrison, c/o Nottm Voice.

AT "DOWN TO EARTH", 20 Hockley, Nottm (open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Thursdays), we sell: grains, flours, cereals, flakes, nuts, dried fruits, pulses, beans, peas & various natural condiments, all unrefined without chemical additives, & organically grown where possible. We also have a wide selection of herbs and spices, & sell the famous Rear-shy bread. Examples of our prices: peanut butter, 32p/lb; porridge oats, 10p/lb; brown rice, 14p/lb; brazils, walnuts & hazels all at 13p/qtr. Our craft section is small but thriving. We have handmade candles, bags, bamboo flutes, silver jewellery, hats, dolls, shawls, ponchos, etc., most of them made by local people.

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PEOPLE'S CENTRE DIRECTORY

THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE, 33 Mansfield Road, Nottingham (Tel. 411227), gives advice on legal, welfare, housing and other rights, and also acts as a centre for a number of organisations. It is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The following organisations can be contacted through the People's Centre (call in, write, or 'phone 411227). Times of weekly meetings (held at the People's Centre unless otherwise stated) are shown where applicable.

Specialist legal advice is given by the Response group (see below).

Alcoholics Anonymous
Thurs. 7.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Black People's Freedom
Movement

Campaign for Homosexual
Equality
Thurs. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Child Poverty Action Group
Weds. afternoons,
Fri. evenings.

Claimants' Union

Fair Housing Group
Gingerbread
(one-parent families)
Mon. 7.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Homelessness Action Committee

National Council for Civil
Liberties
Tues. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Nottingham Community Planning
Group
Weds. afternoons.

Pachwork
(organises volunteers to decorate homes and do gardening for old and disabled people)

Refuge for Battered Wives
Campaign
Most Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Response
(qualified legal advice)
Mon., Tues., Weds.
6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Shelter
Weds. afternoons,
Fri. evenings.

Student Community Action

Women's Liberation Group
Advice on women's rights: Fri.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Group meetings: Thurs. 8 p.m., Newcastle Chambers, near Bell Inn, Market Square.

Cinema

Nottingham Film Theatre
Fri. & Sun. 7.30 p.m., Sat. 5
& 8 p.m. unless otherwise
stated. Co-op Arts Centre,
Broad Street.
Mar. 14-16: Charlie Varrick
Mar. 21-23: Two-Lane Blacktop
Mar. 28-30: Gumshoe
(following dates still to be pub-
lished).

Peachey Street Flick
Thursdays, 7.15 p.m. Adult
Education Centre, Shakespeare
Street.
Mar. 20: A Sunday Romance (dir.
Imre Feher. 1956/7 Hungary)
(further programme still to be
published)

Classical

Mar. 15: Derby Concert Orchest-
ra. Berlioz, Weber, Borodin.
Albert Hall. 7.30 p.m.
Mar. 19: English Sinfonia
Ensemble (Neville Dikes, harp-
sichord, & soloists). Co-op Hall
Broad Street. 7.30 p.m.
Mar. 22: Nottingham Harmonic
Society. Verdi: Requiem. Solo-
ists: Elizabeth Simon, Monica
Sinclair, John Mitchinson,
Raimund Herincx. Albert Hall.
7.30 p.m.
Apr. 5: Treorchy Male Choir.
Albert Hall. 7.30 p.m.

Folk

(All regular sessions)

Mondays
Burton Joyce Folk Club. Wheat-
sheaf, Burton Joyce.
Tuesdays
The Scheme. Fox Inn, Parlia-
ment Street. 8 p.m.
Arnold Folk Music Society: folk
singing and dancing. Youth Wing,
Gedling Road, Arnold. 7.45 p.m.
Wednesdays
Beeston Folk Club. Three Horse-
shoes, Middle Street. 8 p.m.
Thursdays
Carlton Folk Club. Windsor
Castle, Carlton Hill. 8 p.m.
Fridays
Nottingham Traditional Music

Club. News House, St James's
Street. 7.45 p.m.
Saturdays
Cropwell Bishop Folk Club.
Wheatshaf. 8 p.m.
Sundays
Co-op Folk Club. Crown Hotel,
Ilkeston Road. 8 p.m.

Jazz

(All regular sessions. Evenings
unless otherwise stated.)

Mondays
Chris Burke's New Orleans
Band. Warren Arms, Stapleford.
Johnny Hobbs. Blue Boar, Huck-
nall.
Tuesdays
Harry Brown Quintet. Warren
Arms, Stapleford.
Dave Vickers Magnolia Jazz
Band alternating with Phil
Boyd's Ragtime Band. Bell Inn,
Angel Row.
Wednesdays
Mercia Jazz Band. Tally-Ho,
Oakdale Road.
Swing Quintet. Warren Arms,
Stapleford.
Harry Brown & other groups.
The New Place, Federation
Club, Ebury Road, Sherwood.
Chris Burke's New Orleans
Band. Porterhouse Club, Ret-
ford.
Thursdays
Ken Eatch Band. Old General,
Radford Road.
Chris Burke's New Orleans
Band. Cherry Tree, Calverton.
Jazz session. Town Arms,
Plumtree Square.
Fridays
New Crescent Dixielanders.
Earl of Chesterfield, Carlton
Hill.
Les Devotees. Carlton Liberal
Club.
Various bands. Imperial Hotel,
St James's Street.



Saturdays

Nimbus. Imperial Hotel, St
James's St (see page 20).

Sundays

Chris Burke's New Orleans
Band. Town Arms, Trent
Bridge. (lunchtime)
Tommy Owen & Harry Brown
alternately. Warren Arms,
Stapleford. (lunchtime)
Jazz Artisans. Bell Inn, Angel
Row. (lunchtime)
Cisco. Imperial Hotel, St
James's Street. (evening)
Nottingham Jazz Orchestra.
Old General, Radford Road.
(evening)

Meetings

Mar. 22-23: Women's abortion &
contraception conference. Not-
tingham University. (Information
from Nottingham Women's Centre
26 Newcastle Chambers, Market
Square, Nottingham.)
Apr. 11: Nottingham Fabian Soc-
iety. "Public accountability of
large enterprises." J.G.N.
Drummond (Director, Shell UK
Ltd), D.E. Jenkins (Dep. Dir-
ector, NCB). University Adult
Education Centre, Shakespeare
Street. 8 p.m.

Theatre

Nottingham Playhouse

Wellington Circus. Box Office
Tel. 45671.
Mon.-Fri. 7.30 p.m. Sat. 5 & 8
p.m.
Comedians
Mar. 15, 25, 26, 27 (last per-
formance).
Major Barbara
Mar. 19 (preview), 20 (first
night), 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 31.
Apr. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10.

She Stoops to Conquer
Apr. 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 (last per-
formance).

Nottingham Playhouse Sunday Performances

Mar. 16, 8 p.m. An evening with
Ian Wallace.
Mar. 23, 8 p.m. Humphrey
Lyttelton and his band.
Mar. 30, 7.30 p.m. The 7.84
Theatre Company in "Fish in the
Sea" by John McGrath.
Apr. 6, 8 p.m. Labi Siffre.
Apr. 13, 5.30 & 8.30 p.m.
Paper Lace.

Theatre Royal

Box Office: Tel. 42328/9.
Mar. 17-22: "Murder at the Vic-
arage" by Agatha Christie, with
Barbara Mullen. Mon.-Fri. 7.30
p.m. Sat. 5 & 8 p.m.
Mar. 31-Apr. 5: "The Dancing
Years" by Ivor Novello, with
John Hanson. Evenings 7.30.
Matinee Wed. & Sat. 2.30 p.m.
Apr. 7-12: "La Vie Parisienne" -
Nottingham Operatic Society.

Nottingham Theatre Club

The Lace Market Theatre,
Halifax Place. Bookings: Tel.
57201, 7-11 p.m., or 233695,
daytime.
After Haggerty
Apr. 7-12, 7.30 p.m.

Co-operative Arts Theatre
George Street. Bookings: Tel.
46096.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Mar. 17-22.

Rock

March

15: Hatfield & the North, and
Chopyn: Nottm University.
15: Stray: Boat Club.
19: Fruup: Derby King's Hall.
20: Mick Ronson: Sheffield City
Hall.
22: Global Village Trucking
Company: Boat Club.
23: 10cc: De Montfort Hall,
Leicester.
24: Steve Harley & Cockney
Rebel: De Montfort Hall,
Leicester.
29: Jack the Lad: Boat Club.
April
12: Slack Alice: Boat Club.

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