

Grass Roots

Number 11

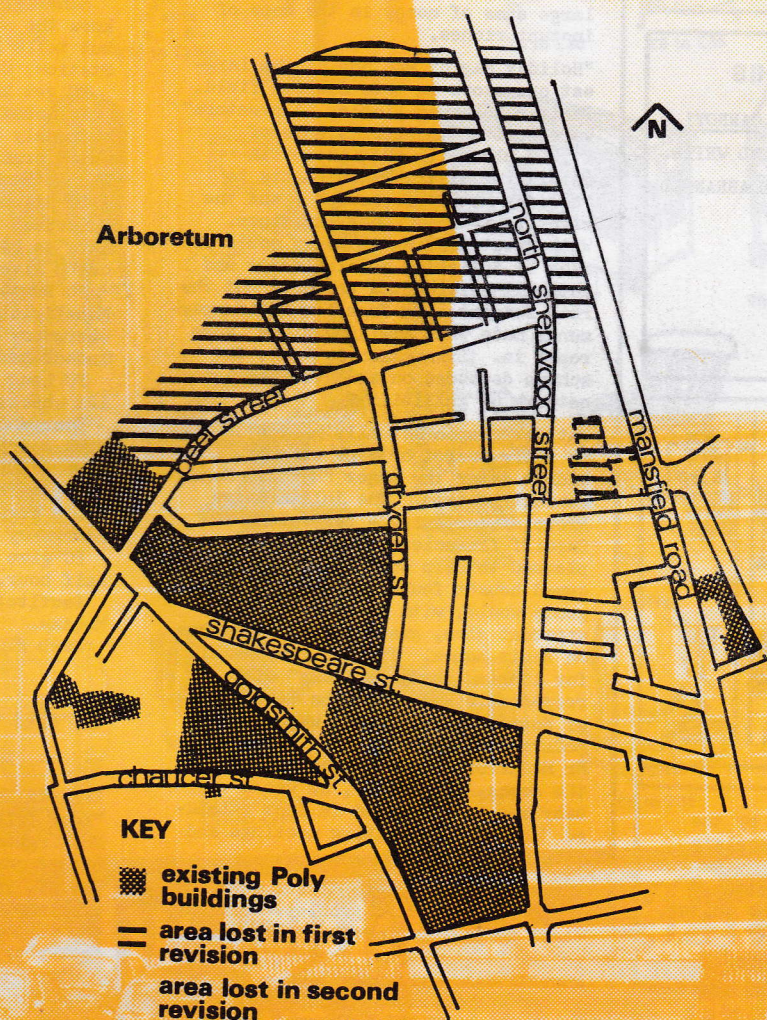
Nottingham, October, 1974

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PAGE EIGHT
NOTTINGHAM
PUB
REVIEW

Is Nottingham fair to its Poly?

Story on page 6



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On target



Magic touch

MOST PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY readers of
the Daily Mirror, will know about the
evils of the pyramid-selling confid-
ence trick. The government effective-
ly put an end to it last year, but
not before many people had "invested"
large sums of money in the hope of
instant riches.

"Holiday Magic" was one of the largest
operators in this dubious field.
Their scheme was simple. "Investors"
were invited to deposit sums of
£1,000 plus with the company in
return for distribution rights to
"Holiday Magic" cosmetics - and the
right to recruit other investors.
With great difficulty money could be
made by enlisting a sales force and
actually selling the product, but the
real returns came from per capita pay-
ments made when new "investors" were
roped in. Like chain letters, the
scheme depended on an ever-increasing
network of gullibility.

But few people actually have £1,000
in their pocket or bank account. This
didn't deter the eager "Holiday Magic"
recruiting team. The Julian Hodge
group of companies - benevolent
Cardiff financiers - was only too
pleased to help out. Recruits who
owned houses found that the Hodge
group would, with great haste and
apparent glee, grant second mortgages
on their homes. The man responsible
for linking shady "Holiday" with
respectable Hodge for the benefit (?)
of Nottingham investors was a Mr
McCarron of Stourbridge. Regrettably,
Mr McCarron has now disappeared from
the scene. Last year, he was a very
easy man to find, and in fact attend-
ed "Holiday" recruiting meetings and
"training courses".

But what of those who didn't own
their own homes? No problem. "Holiday"
staff member Mrs Dorothy Mole advised
people to approach a leading finance
company for a personal loan - but not
to mention "Holiday Magic": "Just
tell them you want the money to buy a
car with". Mrs Mole is also rather
difficult to get hold of these days.

Two things stand out about "Holiday's"
recruiting campaign in the Midlands.
One is the fact that it was carried
out almost exclusively in the West
Indian and Asian communities. The

second is that it took place just
before the law was changed - at a
time when "Holiday" staff must have
known that their wings were due to be
clipped, and that subsequently their
"Investors" stood no chance of making
the promised fortune.

Nottingham Community Relations
Council is conducting an investigat-
ion of "Holiday's" activities in the
City. So far it has revealed that all
the "investors" contacted have grave
financial problems attempting to make
repayments invariably totalling more
than twice the amount they borrowed -
without a penny's return on their
original "investment".

Secret Service?

DESTITUTE WOMAN IN NEED of help from
Social Services.

Social Services say there is
nothing they can do.

People's Centre decide to try and
convince SS that they can indeed help.

PC 'phone SS on Mansfield Rd.
4 o'clock Friday afternoon. No
reply. Must have gone home for tea.

PC 'phone emergency SS number.
Get through. Told it is the wrong
area, we need West Bridgford.

Mansfield Rd emergency SS doesn't
know the number of WB emergency SS,
but tells PC to ring Lowdham Police
Station, Communications Dept.

PC get through to LPS, C Dept.
Policeman at other end seems
extremely suspicious. Who are you?
Which organisation? What do you do?
Who's the Boss?

PC attempt to explain.
Lowdham Police Station says, "We
have to be careful", and, "Sorry, we
can't give you the number you require".

PC suggest he ring emergency SS,
Mansfield Rd area, and check with
emergency SS worker that PC are
indeed genuinely trying to help.

PC hang on for ten minutes while
LPS checks.

Emergency SS worker, Mansfield Rd,
says sorry he's not in a position to
give LPSCD permission to give PC num-
ber required.

LPS suggests that they ask WB
emergency SS to ring PC back.
PC give LPS 411227 and wait further
half hour. No-one rings.

Destitute lady will try again on
Monday.

GOOD NIGHT.

Urdu sounds

EVER TRIED TO GET a request played on
"Your friendly Radio Station" - Radio
Nottingham? If you want to hear the
latest rantings of Little Jimmy
Osmond, you probably won't have any
problems, but if your idea of what's
top of the pops is a little number
from your favourite Urdu crooner,
you're likely to be asked to supply
your own records.

Our friendly Radio's DJs have
apparently been heard to ask the
Nottinghamshire Community Relations
Council for a sum in the region of
£25 towards the supply of Asian pops
for their "minority interest" pro-
gramme. It's sad to hear about the

(continued on page 4)

Slicing the Nottingham cake

How the Labour Council's new boundary proposals affect

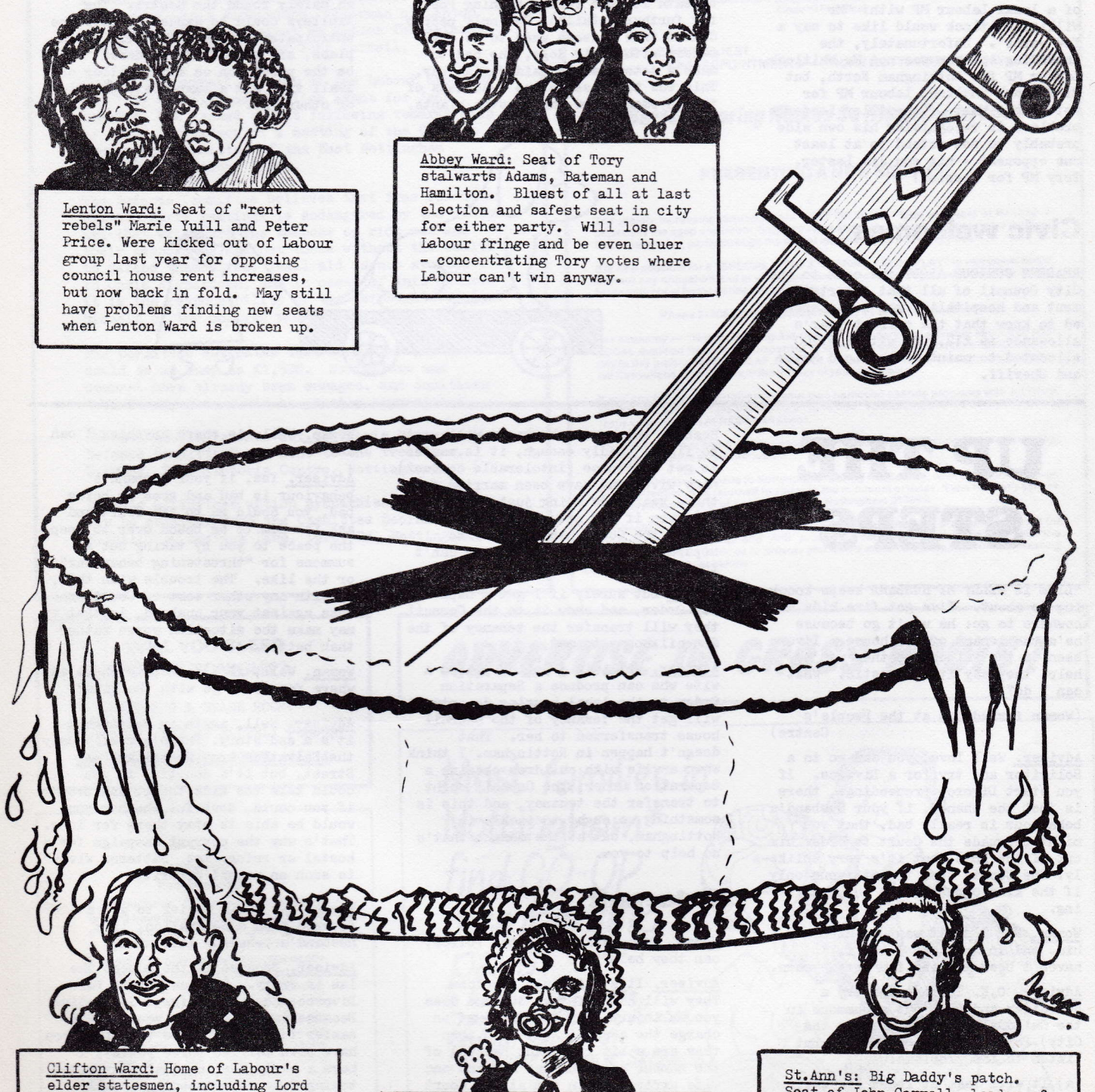
five key wards



Lenton Ward: Seat of "rent rebels" Marie Yuill and Peter Price. Were kicked out of Labour group last year for opposing council house rent increases, but now back in fold. May still have problems finding new seats when Lenton Ward is broken up.



Abbey Ward: Seat of Tory stalwarts Adams, Bateman and Hamilton. Bluest of all at last election and safest seat in city for either party. Will lose Labour fringe and be even bluer - concentrating Tory votes where Labour can't win anyway.



Clifton Ward: Home of Labour's elder statesmen, including Lord Mayor Stan Shelton. Ultra-safe seat - Tories didn't even fight last time. Will be split in two, giving one more safe seat (unlikely to be offered to Stephen Evans!).

Market Ward: Seat of baby-faced rebel Stephen Evans, who was expelled from ruling Labour group for opposing Theatre Royal office block. Carve-up of Market Ward could see him fighting new rock-solid Tory ward - the Park!

St. Ann's: Big Daddy's patch. Seat of John Carroll, leader of City Council and Labour group. Labour-voting council houses, to which will be added working-class terraces off Alferton Road. New-look St. Ann's could be fairly safe Labour!

(continued from page 2)

BBC's financial difficulties. Perhaps, in return for bailing out the Beeb, Asian listeners will be allowed to make an appropriate deduction from their radio licence fees?

Whoops!

RED FACE OF THE MONTH must belong to Labour County Councillor Ernest Lester. Chairing a meeting called to discuss the setting up of a Citizens' Advice Bureau in Nottingham, Councillor Lester greeted the rising figure of a local Labour MP with: "Mr William Whitlock would like to say a few words". Unfortunately, the intending speaker was not Mr Whitlock, Labour MP for Nottingham North, but Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham West. Councillor Lester's problems in recognising his own side probably do not extend to at least one opponent - his son Jim Lester, Tory MP for Beeston!

Civic welcomes

READERS CURIOUS ABOUT the cost to the City Council of all that entertainment and hospitality may be interested to know that the current year's allowance is £12,000, with £29,200 allocated to maintain the Lord Mayor and Sheriff.

UP THE STEPS

"LIFE IS HELL; MY HUSBAND keeps knocking me about. I've got five kids and nowhere to go: he won't go because he's the tenant of the house. I've been to the Police but they won't help, they say it's domestic. What can I do?"

(Woman for advice at the People's Centre)

Adviser. Well love, you can go to a Solicitor and try for a Divorce. If you start Divorce proceedings, there is just the chance, if your Husband's behaviour is really bad, that you might persuade the Court to order him out of the home, but it's very unlikely. The Courts tend to intervene only if the kids can be shown to be suffering.

Woman. But I don't want to divorce him, and in any case I can't, I haven't been married for three years.

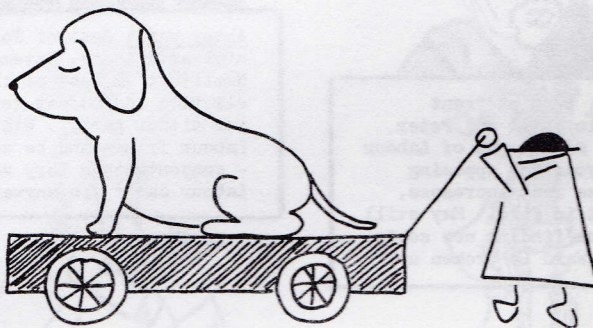
Adviser. O.K. Then go and try a Solicitor and take out a Summons in the Guildhall (as you live in the City) for a Separation Order. But listen to the problems:

(a) It will take at least six weeks before you get to Court, and if your case is disputed, it will take four or five weeks after that before the case is heard and resolved.

(b) You have to go through the harrowing business of proving "persistent cruelty", which means making a whole lot of allegations against your

Dry run

PEOPLE WERE UNDERSTANDABLY annoyed when the old public right of way along Carrington St was obliterated by the Broad Marsh Centre - especially when it turned out that the Council was as surprised about this as everyone else. In practice, of course, people pass through quite freely, and at the Bus Station end late travellers even have the choice of being run over on the Collin St motorway or mugged in the subway beneath it (see recent Evening Posts for further details). The only people denied free passage used to be dog-owners with their dogs, who had to make a detour along Maid Marian Way. This was to preserve the sweetness of the pavements and the plastic plants.



Notice of the restriction was given by a coy little cartoon on the glass doors at the entrances, though a weak joke hardly made up for the loss of a right.

Happily, the management has recanted, and dog-owners now have the same privilege as everyone else (nobody, of course, has the legal right to pass through, since this is now private property). The management is still worried about the shops and the malls, however. Perhaps the answer is a recent suggestion that small trolleys should be provided at each entrance so that dogs could be wheeled safely round the Centre. The trolleys could be sanded in case the anticipated nuisance actually takes place, and a further refinement might be the provision on each trolley of a small tree and a lamp-post, plastic or otherwise.

Husband which most husbands will want to fight. Oddly enough, it is easier to get a Divorce (intolerable conduct). Many wives who have been married for three years are doing just that. (c) Even if you get your Separation Order, the Court has no power to separate you. The Magistrates can't turf the husband out.

Woman. But surely if I get a Separation Order, and show it to the Council they will transfer the tenancy of the Council house to me?

Adviser. Well, in a lot of places a wife who can produce a Separation Order to the local housing department will get the tenancy of the Council house transferred to her. That doesn't happen in Nottingham. I think when a wife with children obtains a Separation Order, the Council ought to transfer the tenancy, and this is something we ought to tackle in Nottingham, but at the moment that's no help to you.

Reluctant

Woman. Well, what about the Police, can they help?

Adviser. It's difficult for them. They will help if your husband does you an injury, and they will often charge the assault, but even then they are a bit reluctant because of the number of times the husband and wife arrive arm in arm at the Court by the time the case gets round to a hearing, and the whole thing seems to have been a waste of time or worse. And of course it can be worse. A wife has to think carefully before she starts a process which will involve her husband with a criminal conviction for assault.

Woman. Well, is there anything I can do?

Adviser. Yes, if your Husband's behaviour is bad and goes on being bad, you could go to the Court and ask for him to be bound over to keep the peace to you by taking out a summons for "threatening behaviour" or the like. The trouble with this, as with any other sort of Court process against your husband, is that it may make the situation worse rather than better.

Woman. Well, if I leave, is there anywhere for me to go with the kids?

Adviser. Well, again in Nottingham it's a sad story. There's really only the Salvation Army Hostel at Peel Street, but it's doubtful if you could take the kids there, and even if you could, doubtful whether you would be able to stay there for long. That's why the current campaign for a hostel or refuge for "battered wives" is such an urgent priority.

Woman. Why is it easier to get a Divorce than a Separation, if a husband's behaving like mine?

Adviser. Because at the moment the law is crazy. One law exists for Divorce and another for a Separation. Because in a case like yours it is easier to get a Divorce (provided you have been married three years), I have a nasty feeling that many wives taking Divorce proceedings really only wanted the respite of a Separation Order, with the possibility of a reconciliation.

Woman. Well, where do I go from here?

Adviser. Frankly, to a Solicitor, and let him tell you what is the best course.

"A COMBINATION OF CONSERVATION and selective redevelopment would accept the loss of the worst to permit or promote restoration of the best aspects of the area." In a nutshell, this is the City Council's policy for the Lace Market, set out in its glossy report on "A Conservation Policy for the Lace Market" (price £1 from the City Planning Office).

The policy could not face a tougher test. For, as the publicity brochure notes, the Lace Market contains "the highest concentration of buildings of architectural and historical interest within the city, including some of the finest examples of Victorian industrial architecture in the East Midlands". Also, the location of the Lace Market, right next to the city centre, means that the pressures for clearance and redevelopment of the old buildings will continue to remain intense over the next few years.

Present character

Historically, the present character of the Lace Market derives from the change-over in the lace industry during the second half of the nineteenth century from domestic to factory production, which generated the need for prosperous lace merchants to construct purpose-built factories, warehouses and offices. Today, the firms in the Lace Market are almost wholly concerned with processing and distributing the lace which is manufactured in the Erewash Valley, Derbyshire.

It is the relative decline in the lace trade which has produced many of the environmental problems of the present Lace Market. The decline in lace-making and the emphasis on processing and distribution means that more service traffic is needed to do round trips to collect and distribute goods. Given the lack of loading and unloading facilities in the old buildings, this has led to traffic congestion and associated environmental problems.

Vacant sites

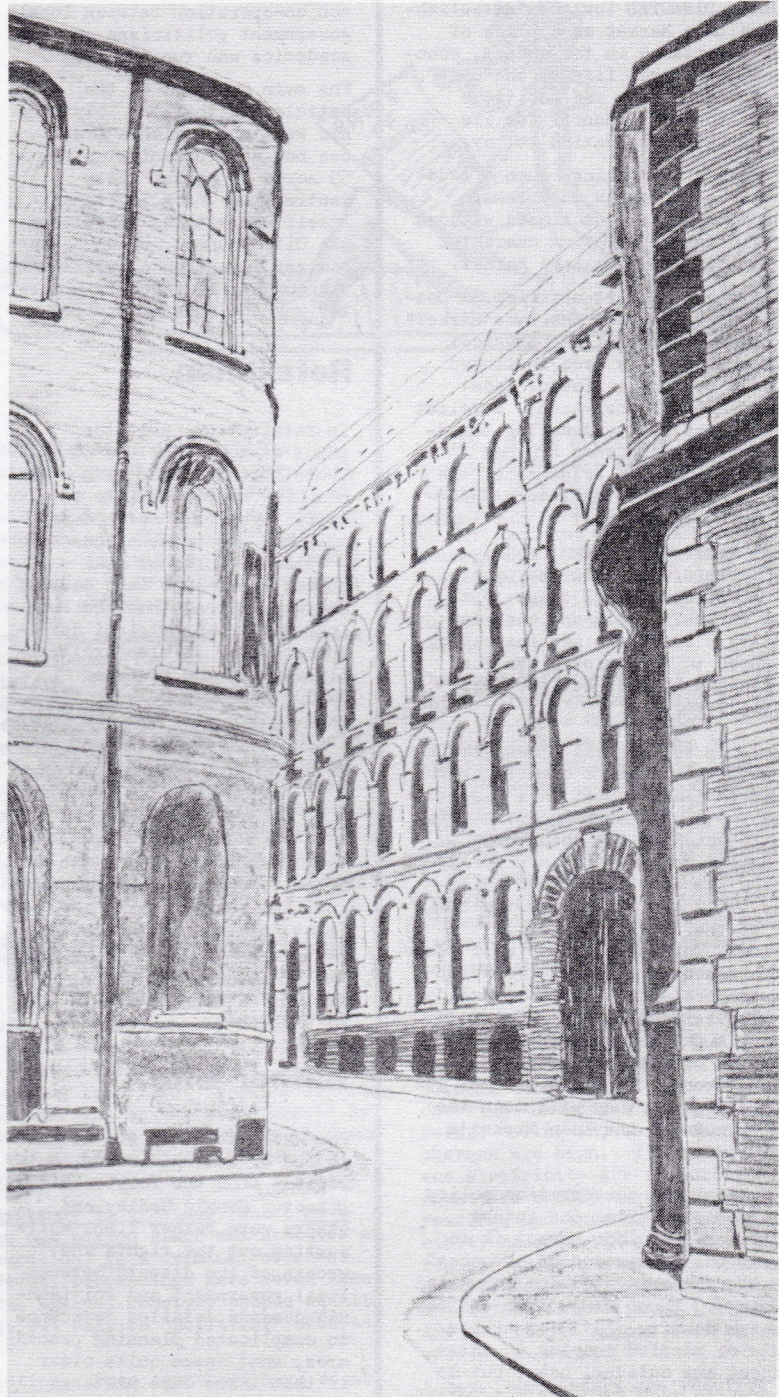
The architectural value of the old buildings and the dense compact nature of the Lace Market has prevented the alteration and expansion of existing premises by the many small textile firms which have gradually replaced the lace-makers. Thus many of these firms have moved out to other sites, leaving buildings to deteriorate or creating vacant derelict sites.

The Lace Market was made a Conservation Area in 1969, and the Council's policies to tackle these physical problems of the environment are of three kinds:

- (1) the protection of old buildings;
- (2) strict controls over new development;
- (3) the promotion of new uses for buildings and vacant sites.

The Council is also prepared to buy property where this is necessary to secure the preservation of the finest old buildings - perhaps a foretaste of a more active conservation role in the future.

NEW MARKET FOR OLD LACE



Grass Roots

The Lace Market

A POLICY DIRECTED towards "establishing the Lace Market as a place of major importance in the social, economic and cultural life of the City". This is the worthy and ambitious hope of the City Council for its Lace Market conservation policy.

Few would argue against such a laudable aim, but doubts must remain whether this can be achieved without sacrificing the existing character and buildings in the Lace Market.

In the recent report entitled "A Conservation Policy for the Lace Market", the deterioration of the physical environment of the area is linked directly to the decline of lace-making. Many of the vacant, derelict sites or the empty, decaying buildings are a consequence of this decline. They are evidence of the uncertainty about the future function of the Lace Market in Nottingham.

A 1969 survey found that nearly 6,000 people worked in the Lace Market, over 4,000 of these jobs being in the textile and clothing industry. But there are increasing pressures to redevelop sites for offices and to push out the small textile firms.

Nowhere in the Council's conservation report is there a commitment to retain the Lace Market as a manufacturing district. There is much talk about a watchful eye being kept on the design and scale of new building and the preservation of old buildings, but uncertainty over the basic role of the Lace Market still remains. This uncertainty will also be increased by existing redevelopment proposals for a concert hall on the site between Fletcher Gate and St Mary's Gate, and by the planned expansion of the County Courts at High Pavement. If these schemes get off the ground, they will mean the loss of more of the Lace Market's old buildings.

The nearest the conservation policy comes to considering the future function of the Lace Market is to suggest the "promotion of new uses" suitable for renovated and converted buildings. These range from offices and high density flats for single people or married couples to entertainment and cultural uses, but do not provide much guidance for resisting pressures to redevelop, and do not add up to a coherent policy for the area.

Future threats to jobs in the Lace Market resulting from these pressures cannot be resisted if the future of the area is not clearly spelt out. Property developers, unlike the Council, will not be hedging their bets, but will move in fast.

Land feud

THE LOCAL SAGA of the Trent Polytechnic reached national attention on 23rd June when the Sunday Times published an article headed "Land feud threatens degrees at showpiece polytechnic". The authors cited it as a "classic case of non-co-operation between local government politicians and the academics who run the Poly".

The main argument of the article was that the Polytechnic went ahead with a grandiose new development plan for 55 acres of "prime" city centre land which it did not itself own without consulting the City Council, which "never had any intention of relinquishing" it because its priority was the housing problem.

Retaliation

In retaliation, went the paper's story, the new County Council (which had taken over planning responsibility in April this year) refused not only the most contentious area - 16 acres north of Peel Street - but also land east of Sherwood Street that had been included in an original development plan. It also arbitrarily divided the proposed 10,000 students between the city centre site and the Training College at Clifton as part of a proposed merger - while admitting openly that there was no educational justification for this.

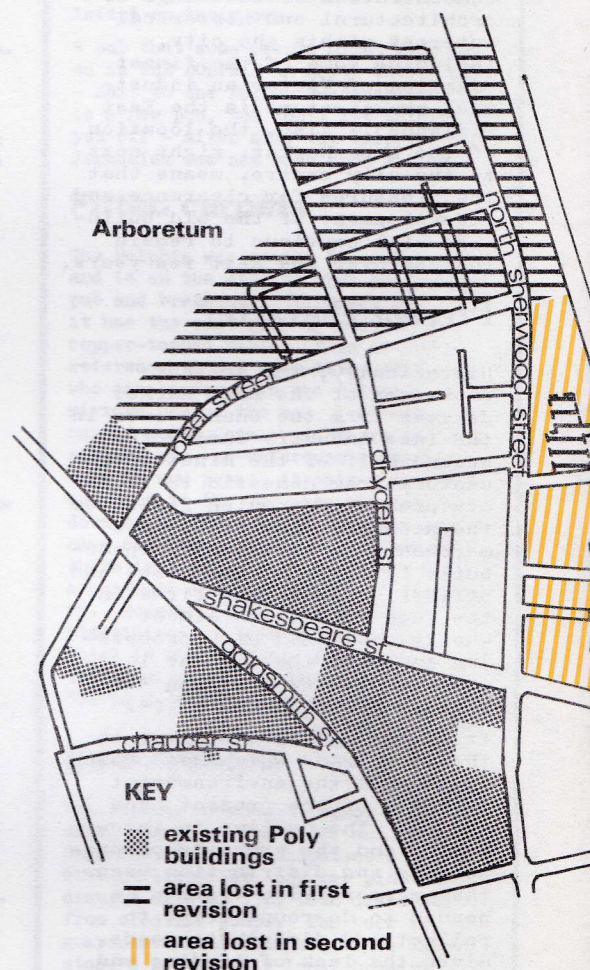
As a result, concludes the article, this once prestigious institution may now be the first polytechnic to lose its status, since official Department of Education and Science policy opposes split-site development.

Rather limp

The whole tenor of the article is one of scaremongering, but replies from the Polytechnic's Director Ronald Hedley and others were rather limp. While sorting out the rights and wrongs of the dispute between local government and Polytechnic demands detailed reference to complicated planning procedures, what seems quite clear is that there were mistakes and misunderstandings on both sides.

The Polytechnic was caught in a cleft stick. Planning permission from the local authority could not be formally applied for until the Department of Education and Science had approved detailed plans. Preparation of these was expensive - and there could be no absolute guarantee that the local authority would accept

The incredible shrinking Poly



them. But, despite the Sunday Times' assertion that "the Polytechnic did not approach the Planning Sub-Committee of the City Council until October 1972", there were, in fact, constant negotiations, including a meeting with the Planning Committee in December 1971.

Nor did Ronald Hedley go ahead with "addressing meetings and committees in the hope of securing the land" after he'd been told he wouldn't get it - in fact, he wasn't told this until June 1973, after the Development Plan had already been published. Thus, when the Council revised its plans in June 1973, the Poly had no choice but to revise its site requirements accordingly.

Rather than in panic demerit by either fault seems to lie in traditional practice. Perhaps it is from important lessons future can be learned.

Until 1972, standards for new development have been to slap Compulsory Purchase on the existing property. The area has been since 1950, when initiated on the Town "Civic and Educational" the residents have been poor and unorganized, planning piecemeal though they were still fairly the Poly's point of

New discovery?

Yet when the Council had its sudden change of heart about using these processes again for the huge area now required, had it really only just discovered the housing problem there? The Council's persistent failure to keep up with its own "slum clearance" programme means that it has been forced more and more to be seen to be doing something positive.

The fact that tangible new development of any kind in the original Polytechnic development area requires first knocking down yet more homes is easily forgotten in the flush of the Council's proud proclamation that it had stopped the "land-hungry Poly" and its students from taking up all the space.

Scapegoat

Blaming students for a lack of houses is a bit like blaming black people for a lack of jobs. The Poly was made a scapegoat (though this was partly its own fault for its naive faith in behind-the-scenes, "top-brass" negotiations, and its lack of concern for the people in the area). But, as a result of the Council's obstruction, the Poly now finds itself lacking a good concrete policy to fill the gap, and is buying property from landlords in the Peel Street and Arboretum area at inflated prices, and turning out existing tenants so that its own students can move in.

It may be that the prepared plan - a "campus"-type Polytechnic lurching over 55 acres just off the city centre - is not what the people of Nottingham would like to see either. But more to the point is that they have never been asked.

5,000 limit

The County Council's proposal to limit the city centre site to 5,000 students and develop at Clifton instead has been accepted by the Joint Education Committee with not a voice raised to ask how easy it will be to get land at Clifton when the time comes - for, on present proposals, the size will quadruple.

There was a marked absence of basic democratic procedures in the treatment of the people of the Polytechnic area by all the authorities involved. We await with interest the outcry from Clifton people which the less prosperous inhabitants of Dryden Street, Peel Street, Hampden Street, etc. were unable to voice.

Know your rights

Squatters and the law



A GROWING NUMBER of people in Nottingham who have found the Local Authority's response to problems of homelessness or poor housing slow or inadequate are finding that one solution - at least to their immediate problem - is to take over empty houses as squatters.

There is no shortage of empty houses in Nottingham, for, in addition to individual empty houses in private ownership, the Council's policy for empty "short-life" property in clearance areas is to leave it boarded up and empty until the bulldozers move in. Many such houses lie empty for years - quickly becoming a target for vandalism and unofficial refuse dumping, and contributing to the largely avoidable squalid appearance of clearance areas.

Squatting is not a criminal offence, provided that no damage is done to the premises, such as breaking down the door to obtain entry. In fact, squatters will normally be able to show that they have actually improved the state of the house, at least by occupying it, if not by doing repairs. (Any boarding-up materials should be set on one side for re-use at the end of the squat to avoid charges of theft.)

Conspiracy to trespass (where more than one person plans and executes an occupation) is a criminal offence. However, proceedings have never been taken against homeless people squatting, but only in "political" occupations.

Eviction. Once squatters have established possession, i.e. by moving in furniture and actually occupying the premises as a dwelling, they have the same protection from eviction as any residential occupier. This means that the owner, or the person entitled to possession, must obtain an order for possession from the Courts. An application for a possession order must be made either in the County Court (where the owner names the individuals against whom possession is

sought in his application) or in the High Court (where the individuals are unnamed, but where the owner can show that he has made a reasonable attempt to find out the names of those in possession). There have been cases where squatters have delayed proceedings by supplying enquirers with false names, thus invalidating applications made against them.

The only defence against a Court application for possession is to show that the owner has created a tenancy by accepting rent, or has agreed in some way to recognise the squatters as licensees. But neither the owner nor his agents nor the police can evict squatters. This can only be done by the Court Bailiff or Sheriff with a court order. Families evicted from a squat have the same rights to Council "Part III" temporary accommodation as families evicted from rented accommodation.

Electricity, gas, water. Squatters have the same rights to the supply of these services as any other householder. However, it is well worth checking that mains supplies exist before moving in, as re-connection charges are high. If meters for gas and electricity are in position, squatters should make a note of the readings and inform the gas or electricity board, with a request to be registered as a consumer. This avoids possible charges of theft. If no meters are in position, the boards are obliged to supply them but may ask for a deposit.

Rates. Squatters are required to pay rates as occupiers, and should inform the rates department after moving in.

Wherever possible, squatters should make contact with the local tenants' association. Tenants' associations and squatters are on the same side in the fight for better housing and more of it, and for the right of people to control for themselves the houses they live in.

Night out

"I'M KEN. RIDE ME," proclaimed our Friday evening host on the 5A; buzzing twice at two ample pairs of thighs, clutching his left bicep in the lock of visibly paling knuckles.

The fatigued lions guarding the wilting portals of the council chamber; gasping through gritted teeth in the way that an irate housewife does, dangling a rolling pin at an erring husband; provide little support when down at heel on a luckless weekend (the weaker the better).

These buses masquerade as "one-arm bandits"; nibbling at finger nails and gobbling twice the possible fare - on for a penny in for ten pence. And so, our weary traveller bids farewell to these dreary doorways and steps into the lustrous world of furious Beeston.

Beeston - an oft neglected clime in these troubled hours - how better can you spend that surplus 43p on an equally surplus Friday evening?

Approaching the land of "Boots" and afternoon picture shows, the bus fills with hordes of equally spirited

funlovers out on the weekend. The High Street absorbs a hundred powdered faces and brilliantined heads. Tonight Beeston, tomorrow the worse.

Pinched buttocks in "The Wiltshire Duckling", magnifying mirrors in "The Percentage"; but how do these compare with the blitzed charm of "The King's Hat". "The King's Hat" still retains that air of the Nottingham of the war years with the ale to complement such an attitude.

"How are you Len, alright?"

"Yeah, thanks, how are you?"

"Alright? mmmmm."

"Yes."

"Good, that's the style ..."

Look out here comes a big one. Scrambling from beneath tables, scarred with a number of carelessly stubbed fag-ends, the clientele have that numbed poodle-lolling, life-like look - substantiated after a stroll to the nearby urinals.

But beyond these walls lurks an evening's entertainment - a party bucket of "Captain Llewellyn's" braised mussels (this will come in later). Half an hour at the bus station and just in time to catch a bottle of Luncheon Ale at "The Poe's Head".

We return to the purse - Robin - a night out on t'town for £4.72 - who can complain? No wonder the lions paws as they try to tow the party lion.

Mike Oldfield's new album, "Hergest Ridge" (Virgin), seems to be this month's most interesting release. Not unlike "Tubular Bells", it gently slips through mellow harmonious passages and proficient guitar solos into a highly complex finale. Of course, the playing is almost entirely by Oldfield, as was "Tubular Bells". If you want to listen to the album before buying it, then I suggest you hear the last half of side two: it is really exceptional.

"Nottingham Castle Rock" is the title of the first compilation rock album produced in Nottingham and featuring local bands. Released as a non-profit-making venture by its protégé Chas Griffin, the album retails at a mere £1.25, which is excellent value for money by any standards. Nottingham has plenty of eager, ambitious and original musicians, and this record serves as a just testimony. My favourite track is one by Centuaris, featuring an impeccable guitar solo and subtle keyboard and vocals. The average age of this band is an unbelievable sixteen years ...

We're giving away two copies of the "NCR" album in a competition this month, plus posters for the runners-up. The answers can be found in the sleeve notes on the album.

1. Who plays a right-handed guitar upside down?
2. Which group gigs "from Yeovil to Kendal"?
3. Who plays "Hits from the Thirties"?

Send your answers to Grass Roots Comp., 33 Mansfield Rd, Nottm, by 21st Oct. - and could you also list your three favourite bands to help me plan

(continued on next page)



HOW DO YOU go about deciding what is or isn't a good pub? Is it the beer, the landlord, the atmosphere (whatever that is), or the people? All these things have got to be right. They are all necessary, but not sufficient on their own.

A pub that some people might miss out on is THE DOLPHIN in North Church St - next to the Police Headquarters. It is a new pub, but don't let this put you off - after all, the Trip to Jerusalem was new once upon a time.

Fitted carpets

The Dolphin was opened two years ago and is on the site of what was once a pub and brewhouse. Like all new pubs it has the customary fitted carpets, copper-topped tables (this is not a reference to the over-tired policemen who can be found in the Dolphin), mirrors behind the bar, low ceilings, canned music, etc., and there isn't a public bar - an unfortunate development in new pubs. At this juncture a question to the brewers: Why not cut down on the £6 a sq.yd. carpets and have cheaper beer instead? Perhaps there is a conspiracy between the pub architects and the furnishing industry. However, the Dolphin is not plasticised or formicated (a term which is very apt for some pubs). As the landlord, Colin Bramley, says, "It is a no-gimmicks place".

Real draught

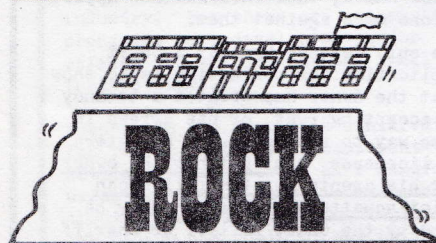
The beer is excellent. Apart from the usual keg beer, keg lager and keg Guinness, there is Shipstone's draught bitter at 15½p per pint and draught mild at 15p, both dispensed from electric pumps. The beer is guaranteed real draught, since Shipstone's is the only local brewery which has not yet succumbed to the temptation to pasteurise or filter some of its draught beer, and then serve it with the help of carbon dioxide.

The Dolphin gets a wide cross-section of the population and is ideally placed if you're shopping in town or on the way to the cinema or theatre: and you don't have to pay the earth for a drink as you do in some of the city centre pubs (who mentioned the Flying Horse?).

Another attraction is the excellent choice of food at lunch-time. Well cooked, spotlessly served and inexpensive - gammon, chips and peas is only 45p.

Finally, and very important, the toilets are very clean, so that as well as drinking good beer in pleasant surroundings, you can perform the necessary relief operations without being put off any further refreshment.

CHRIS HOLMES



OCTOBER AND THE WINTER MONTHS are invariably good for concerts, this year being no exception, and I highly recommend those gigs by Uriah Heep, Strawbs, Sparks and 10cc. Sparks have a new album, "Propaganda", released to coincide with their tour, and, judging by their previous ones, it should be a goody. 10cc's current album, "Sweet Music", is an exceptional work and well worth a listen. If you don't already possess the album, try listening to "Somewhere in Hollywood" and "Old Wild Men": Selectadisc will oblige by playing album tracks which you want to hear.

Roxy Music are also on tour this month and always seem to come up with original ideas specially for the occasion. Their new album should be interesting - it not only features tracks by Bryan Ferry, but also ones by Andy Mackay and Phil Manzanera. I'll be sending Roxy Music or Eno posters to the runners-up in this month's competition. Incidentally, Roxy have a very good service for their fans. It takes the form of a club and costs 60p to join, for which meagre sum you receive a poster, a badge, history of the group, and newsletters, plus competitions - and it is the best fan club in Britain! You can join by applying to Peter Leay, 9 Sunbury Road, Wallasey, Merseyside.

(continued from page 8)

future competitions - Ta!

Major upcoming gigs

- 1 Oct: Roxy Music (De Montfort Hall)
3 Oct: 10cc (Leicester Poly)
5 Oct: If (Leic. University)

- 7 Oct: Wishbone Ash (De Mont. Hall)
19 Oct: Hollies (Loughborough Univ.)
19 Oct: Country Joe McDonald
(Leicester Univ.)
21 Oct: 10cc (Sheffield University)
26 Oct: Strawbs (Nottingham Univ.)
26 Oct: Al Stewart (Loughboro' Univ.)

- 26 Oct: Budgie (Sheffield Univ.)
29 Oct: Uriah Heep (De Montfort Hall)
31 Oct: Lindisfarne (Sheff. City Hall)
1 Nov: Kevin Ayers (De Mont. Hall)
4 Nov: Sparks (De Mont. Hall)

DAVE BRETT

CHRIS RICHARDSON DEFENCE COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP to organise the defence of Chris Richardson, Chairman of Lenton Ward Labour Party, against an action for defamation brought by Councillor John Carroll.

Councillor Carroll, leader of the Labour Group on the City Council and election agent for Jack Dunnett, has issued a writ following remarks made by Chris Richardson at a meeting of the General Management Committee of the East Nottingham Constituency Labour Party.

The Defence Committee believes that free speech at private party meetings is endangered by the action, and that wits are the weapons of rich men and their associates against those without the wealth to defend themselves: legal aid is not available to Chris Richardson, and in cases of this nature it is the responsibility of the defendant to clear himself of the charges made against him.

The Committee estimates that costs and damages could be as much as £1,500. Solicitors and counsel have already been engaged, and donations towards expenses would be greatly appreciated.

Cheques should be made out to "Chris Richardson Defence Committee" and sent to the Treasurer, S. Evans, 7.30 Victoria Centre, Nottingham.

Details of further action sympathisers may take can be obtained from the Committee Secretary, M. Yuill, 30 Barrack Lane, Derby Rd, Nottingham.

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We look forward to being of some assistance to you for New Hearing Aids, Accessories, Servicing, Repairs and Batteries, etc.

Please entrust your repairs to Nottingham Hearing Aid Service, where they will be given expert attention, and returned to you with the minimum of delay. If you have any service queries please write or phone Mr. Binks — Nottingham 213065.

Nottingham Hearing Aid Service will now be able to offer you a complete service for 'Viennatone Bonachord' and 'Alto' products from the Nottingham centre. This new arrangement will enable us to provide you with a more complete and efficient Hearing Aid service than ever before.

WILL YOU SLEEP ALONE TONIGHT?

HAVE YOU A SPARE ROOM?

COULD YOU TAKE AN ELDERLY PERSON?

AGE CONCERN: TEL. NOTTM. 46714

WANTED...

People who care

Throughout Nottingham, voluntary groups have sprung up to meet a variety of different needs. The range of groups is vast. It includes helping at clubs for the elderly, playgroups, the physically and mentally handicapped, entertaining in hospitals, decorating, gardening, helping families, and befriending the housebound or lonely. Most of all, groups depend on the help of people like you. So if you've got some time to spare and you would like to help out in some way, then why don't you contact us and find out about the various opportunities that exist.

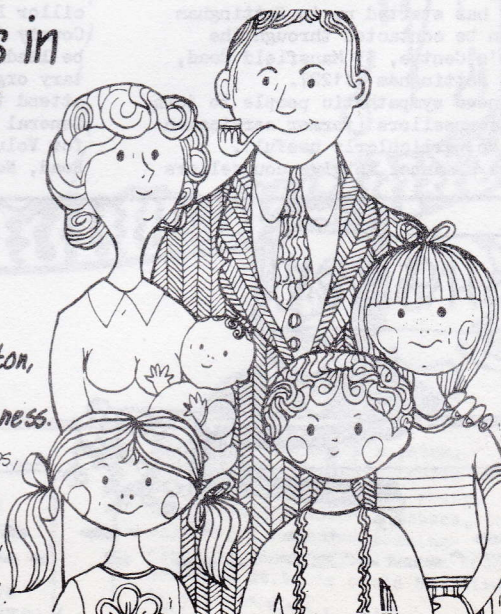
The Voluntary Work Agency,
Nottm. Council of Social Service,
31a Manfield Road,
Nottingham.
Tel. 46714.

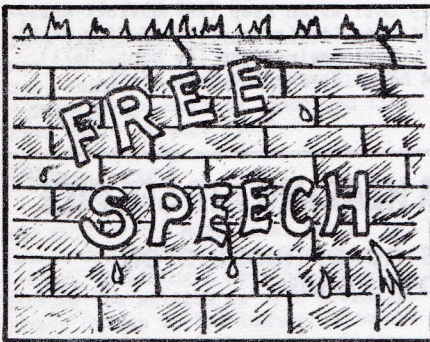
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Application forms in all shops,
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243 Derby Road, Lenton,
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At Ease

Counselling for servicemen

"Join the army; travel to exotic, distant lands; meet exciting, unusual people and kill them."

But the forces' recruiting material isn't that honest. Many men join up for the promise of freedom to travel, to escape the restrictions of home, for a good wage (rather than the dole or low-paid and boring work), for the chance of getting a training in a skilled trade. They're told it's easy to get out. It's not, and it's too late for them when they realise they've been duped, when they discover the petty discipline and the bull, the violence to people inside and outside the forces. Many are refused the training they were promised, or find they have a skill useless outside the military. As for the money, a man with a family finds it hard to save enough to buy himself out, even if he is allowed to, and then he has to consider that when he leaves the job he also sacrifices his home.

In the army itself discontent is now particularly strong, for it's not just people in distant places soldiers are called upon to shoot. The war in Northern Ireland has been for some the final straw determining them to leave.

AT EASE is a counselling service to advise servicemen about the legal ways of leaving the armed forces, such rights as they have in seeking discharge, and to help them through the necessary procedures. It has been running in London since November 1973. Now it has started up in Nottingham and can be contacted through the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road, 'phone Nottingham 411227.

We need sympathetic people to join us as counsellors (former servicemen would be particularly useful). There's a manual to give counsellors

most of the information they need.

A serviceman could easily give up when faced with complicated discharge regulations and "pressures" from his superiors. AT EASE can really help. So please publicise it among servicemen and their families. And if you'd be willing to leaflet barracks, please get in touch with us.

Karnival

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION about this year's Nottingham Students' Charities Appeal comes from S.J. Butcher, Carnival Publicity Officer:

"Last year we raised over £22,000, this year's target is £25,000. £1,800 went to buy a minibus for the Sherwood Community Centre, and the rest went to carefully chosen charities

both local and national. ACTION, the community work side of Karnival, achieved more than ever before. We held a wheelchair survey in the city centre, parties for the disabled in the Halls and great blanket knitting sessions.

"This year we are putting more emphasis on ACTION than ever before. On the three Action days no other Karnival activity of any sort is allowed - even the selling of CHICK our rag magazine. The three ACTION projects this year are -

Weds. 16 Oct. A Sports Day for the disabled held in the University Sports Centre.
Tues. 22 Oct. Parties for the handicapped in Halls of Residence.
Weds. 24 Oct. A Welfare Rights Drive in the Meadows, involving the distribution of leaflets, and a mobile information stall."



A.G.M. for C.V.S.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Council for Voluntary Service is to be held on 29th October at the Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street. The main topic will be the relationship of voluntary organisations to the local authorities. Councillor Dick Wilson, Chairman of the County Council Policy Committee, will be leading the discussion. Any voluntary organisation is invited to attend this meeting. Write to the General Secretary, Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service, 31A Mansfield Road, Nottingham, by October 18th.

Rights course

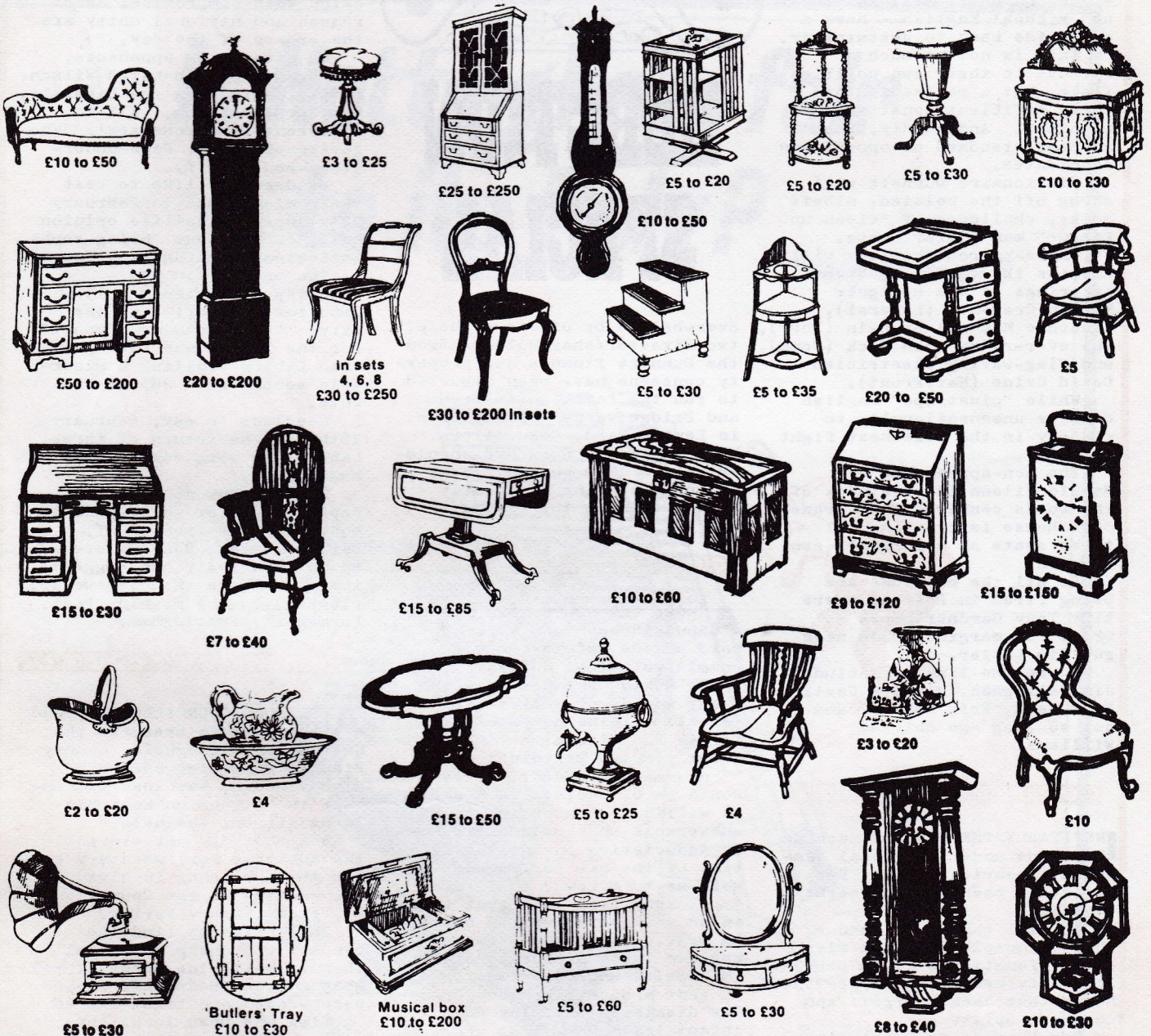
THE PEOPLE'S CENTRE is running a course for everyone interested in finding out about legal, housing, health and welfare rights. There will be a series of evening sessions on Wednesdays from 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. at the International Centre, 61B Mansfield Road, Nottingham (the meetings on 2nd and 23rd October will be held at the People's Centre). The Course is free to People's Centre volunteers, students, OAPs and claimants, and £2.50 for everyone else. Contact Teresa Woodcraft at the People's Centre, 33 Mansfield Road (Tel.411227).



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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GRASS ROOTS will be seen by most of its readers after the General Election. We are sticking our necks out, though, with a few comments on the campaign made while it was still in progress - and some predictions about the outcome in local constituencies.

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**I**T'S ALL OVER BAR the shouti Nottingham's Labour old guai - Jack Dunnett, Bill Whitlock and Michael English - have a safe ride back to Westminster.

This is not so much a tribute to their own political flair, but a reflection of their efficient constituency machines. And, sadly, the amateur standard of opposition candidates.

Millionaire Dunnett will shrug off the belated, albeit noisy, challenge of "clean up Labour" man Dieter Peetz.

White-haired Whitlock will dismiss the varied electoral offerings of bra designer Martin Crew-Gee (Liberal), smoothie Michael Spungin (Tory), the ever-reddy John Peck (Comm), and flag-waving electrician David Caine (Nat.Front).

While "pinstripe" English cruises unsensationally to victory in the "cleanest fight in town".

The non-appearance of Harold Wilson in this neck of the woods confirms that Transport House is treating all three seats as a foregone conclusion.

So all the big guns are being fired in Beeston where tiny Tony Gardner hopes to wrest the marginal from nice guy Jim Lester.

There the line-up included Jim Callaghan, Barbara Castle, Tony Benn, Eric Varley, and not so long ago Shirley Williams.

~~~~~

INEVITABLY THE DUNNETT machine has come under the local campaign's heaviest fire. But it has still been a catchweight contest.

It will take more than a show of muscles and the misguided fanaticism of an expelled Party member to topple the house that Jack, Carroll and Co. have built.

But Dunnett is not letting up. He covets every vote, particularly in these days of mass migration from the Crocus Street scene to habitable homes on far-flung estates.

He and his workers have been combing through the electoral rolls to chase the Meadows emigrants.

Party workers are not as easy to come by as they used to be, however. Despite Agent John Carroll's claim to be

MERRY GO ROUND ELECTION SPECIAL

overwhelmed by offers of help, two director/shareholders from the Dunnett finance and property concerns have been imported to run the campaign in Trent and Bridge wards - while over in Lenton Ward, Councillors Higgins and Maynard are shouldering the main burden, local volunteers being apparently rather thin on the ground.

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**A**CROSS THE GOOSE FAIR divide Spungin has been working hard on the quickest way to commit political hari-kiri.

He asked Crew-Gee to withdraw, would you believe, to "enable all the non-Socialist forces to unite at a time of great risk to Britain".

His letter added: "If it would be of assistance I would be willing to undertake to be answerable to your constituency Association during the lifetime of the new Parliament, as well as to my own."

"I know full well that this is an unusual situation but I am writing in these terms because these are desperately (misspelt) unusual times."

What a boob. Bra boy Crew-Gee dismissed the ploy as infantile.

Even Commie Peck was in the mood for overtures. From his Bulwell base he planned to freeze out the National Front novice by calling for a joint statement from the other three candidates on the race issue. It was Red Lion Square all over again.

Barker's best loser prize goes by a unanimous verdict to Broxtowe District Council's Labour Group leader Dennis Pettitt. For the second time

in seven months two worthy Socialists - the other was Georgie Jim Murray - have impressed as the underdogs.

Pettitt particularly deserves another chance.

~~~~~

A WORD OF SYMPATHY FOR the poor old Post this time round. The local reactionaries must be hard pressed to know how to cover such a dull campaign when compromise, sweet reason and national unity are the orders of the day.

No attacks on opponents, not even the much-hated Wilson. Softly, softly on the Liberals, no Thorpe-bashing. All so different from February's "Who-governs-Britain, Reds-under-every-bed" stuff.

Readers may like to cast their minds back to February 22's super-scientific opinion poll, carried out "using sophisticated sampling techniques".

The prediction was - surprise, surprise - a 15% lead for the Tories in the city. "Overwhelming support" for the Tories was the claim, with Labour trailing a miserable second with 28% of the vote.

Needless to say, February 28th saw the return of three Labour MPs with comfortable majorities.

To this day no word of explanation for this gigantic boob has come from the T. Bailey Tories. Readers are asked to send their own suggestions (not more than 120 words, please!) to the Evening Post, Forman St, Nottingham.

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**A**S LABOUR COUNCILLORS opened the fight to preserve the Nottingham Stronghold, County Finance Committee chairman Michael Cowan was sunning himself in Nairobi on East Midlands Airport business.

But this did not prevent the one-time Parliamentary contender from being involved in the sacking of the County's No. 2 officer, Henry Waring.

The Tories spilled the beans for a cheap political thrill, while the normally voluble Labour leadership stayed ashen-faced and tight-lipped.

Time was when local government was a haven for the untalented bureaucrat. But now money-hungry officers and power-crazed politicians have made it a jungle of intrigue.

Even Mr Rugby League Eddie Waring does not see play as dirty as this. Apart from a shattered career, the ultimate fall guys are inevitably you and I, losing a talented officer and footing the huge compensation bill.

**Barker**