

2p

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Nottingham Voice

SLIMMERS' CORNER

FRIED CHEESE SANDWICHES make a tasty (and quick) snack. Make cheese sandwiches in the ordinary way adding, perhaps, a sprinkling of cayenne pepper to give a bit of kick. Beat up one egg (to every two sandwiches) with a little milk, pepper and salt. Dip sandwiches in mixture and fry quite slowly in a little oil and butter for about 10-15 minutes or until golden brown, turning half way. Put a grilled or fried tomato half on each sandwich ●



How to survive in a council house

COUNCIL TENANTS HAVE recently been asked to do their own minor repairs. Obviously, this is the thin end of the wedge. With the City Council already pressing for Parker Morris standards to be relaxed, the day cannot be far off when council tenants will have to build their own houses too (think of the saving on the rates).

Clearly, it is time for the Voice "Do-It-Yourself Guide to Council Tenantry". This will be published in fortnightly parts, specially designed to be cut out and pasted into a scrapbook for easy reference.

Part 1: Repairs - the correct psychology

THE CITY HOUSING Committee, dividing on party lines, demonstrated two basic approaches.

(i) Cllr Ben Allsop (Lab) advised caution. Badly repaired floors can cause a fatal fall; carelessly held screwdrivers can slip and sever an artery; people standing on lavatory

seats to mend the chain can accidentally flush themselves away.

(ii) The opposite view was taken by Cllr Charles Borrett (Con), whose experiences with the handle of a bedroom door had convinced him that anybody could have a bash.

We agree with Cllr Allsop. Council houses are full of traps for the unwary. Before undertaking any domestic repair, lay in a good supply of elastoplast, bandages, antiseptic, slings, splints and crutches and make sure the nearest telephone is in working order.

When using a screwdriver, always wear heavy leather gloves, protective goggles and a safety helmet. When standing on ladders, stools, chairs or lavatory seats, always use a safety net.

Next week. Part 2: How to open a door without causing a fatal accident ●



PERHAPS THE POMPOUS

Michael Cowan's political ambitions did not lie, as we predicted, in the proposed new parliamentary seat of Sherwood. He and his cronies have told the Boundary Commission that they don't like the idea of an eleventh parliamentary constituency in Notts. And if there is one, it should be near greater Nottingham, they said.

Perhaps Michael knew Ashfield MP David Marquand was on

his way to join Woy Jenkins at the EEC - it'll certainly be a safer seat for Labour's human computer than Sherwood. Good thinking, comrade! ●



WHAT CAN LIE behind the impassive eyes of local newspaper baron Col. Tom Forman Hardy, CBE, ETC, ETC? Is there a gleam of desperation as he looks to the twilight of his life?

For it is an ill-kept secret in the black fortress of Forman Street that there is one prize that continues to elude his grasp. Many good things have come his way in life and legion are his benevolence and philanthropy - yet still there is no knighthood.

And since tootling about the county as Deputy Lord Lieutenant or playing soldiers with the South Notts. Hussars haven't done the trick, Col. Tom has turned to less subtle methods.

It is understood that no lesser person than good Queen Liz herself has been invited to Nottingham to crown, so to speak, the Evening Post's centenary year in 1978 - and if she doesn't bring her dubbing sword with her there will be mighty disappointment all round.

Tears too from that odious union-basher Christopher Gerald Pole-Carew, the EP's spindly Managing Director, who, as society watchers will have been tickled to observe, is following in his master's footsteps and has been nominated as Sheriff of Nottinghamshire ●

The continuing saga of Kendale Road flats

REGULAR READERS will be familiar with the story of the jerry-built council flats in St Ann's.

At the last Housing Committee meeting on November 8th, the Technical Services Department reported that brickwork on the roof is likely to slide off when the frost comes. After much righteous indignation, £45,000 was set aside for patching up.

And Cllr Harby revealed that when the flats were first built the building unions concerned had told the original contractors (Costain) that the roof was defective. Presumably, Costain chose not to pass this on.

Meanwhile, the Kingsthorpe and Kendale Tenants Association (KKTA) have discovered some interesting past history - in particular that an earlier tenants association had been formed in the late sixties by John Peck, now President of the Nottingham Trades Council.

John Peck suggested back in 1969 that the Council sue Costain for £100,000 over the defective workmanship. Shortly afterwards, in a settlement out of court, the Council accepted £26,000 from Costain with "no prejudice". John Peck also recalls that £25 compensation was paid by the Council to every tenant of the Kendale Court section of the flats. They were also given the option of moving to other council property of their choice with removal expenses all

found.

Forty out of fifty subsequently left, including John Peck himself. The tenants association promptly collapsed, and whether any of the remaining tenants got similar treatment remains a mystery. Any information will be gratefully received ●



Letters

Dear Sir,

Your article in the November edition of "Voice" implying criticism of national service and those who advocate(d) it contained a reference to the misconduct of a small number of the personnel of the "Ark Royal".

This reference is totally misleading as these personnel are regular volunteers in an environment where it is not possible to enforce the strict discipline which prevailed in national service days. Coincidentally or otherwise vandalism, delinquency and other methods of free expression mentioned in your article have increased since the abolition of conscription - apparently to such an extent that they occasionally manifest themselves in today's non-national service armed forces!

Yours faithfully,
K.C. Parkinson.
25A Pierrepont Road, West
Bridgford, Nottingham.

THE NEW system of "priorities" recently introduced by Social Services is alive and well and working, according to a report to the last Social Services Committee. The "priorities" system means that social workers place all potential clients in one of five categories arranged in descending order of importance and deal with them in that order.

The report notes that "a majority of Areas are coping with Priority 1 and 2 work, and that a

few Areas can also undertake some work in Priority 3."

Categories 3, 4 and 5 include, among others, preventive work of all kinds, work with those in residential care, work with families without children, work with isolated individuals, and work with drug addicts and alcoholics.

But the department is "able to cope with life and death situations and inescapable commitments".

Nice to know they're still in business!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, Britain is doing pretty badly at the moment. There is a simple explanation for this. YOU'RE ALL TOO BLOODY WELL OFF!

If you're poor, that is. In fact, if you're poor you're probably so well off that you can't be bothered to bloody well work. Idle sods.

If you're rich, it's a bit different, of course. You're not well off enough. And because you aren't well off enough, naturally you aren't doing any work either. Quite right too.

And that's why the country is so badly off. Nobody is doing any work. The poor aren't working because they're too rich. And the rich aren't working because they're too poor.

So the solution is obvious. The rich should be left to get richer and the poor to get poorer according to the natural laws of economics.

Take my own case. Some years ago I arrived in this country, a penniless Greek prince with no job and no advantages whatsoever apart from an introduction to a member of the royal family. Since then, I have hauled myself up by my bootstraps to my present position where my opinions on things I don't know anything about are taken seriously by newspaper editors all over the country.

The same goes for my wife, a career woman who started out with no more advantages than myself and reached the summit of her profession by sheer dedication and hard work.

So that's my message to all you Welfare State scroungers out there - "Pull you fingers out you idle sods! Nobody owes you a bloody living!"

ELLIS GUILDFORD SCHOOL has been having trouble recently deciding just who will occupy the chairs available for its 4th and 5th year assemblies. The problem is that there are 140 less chairs than pupils. The school originally thought of a system of rotation so that both boys and girls got an equal chance to sit down, but then "suggested" to the boys that they allow the girls preference. The only problem now is that a complaint has been made to the Equal Opportunities Commission alleging discrimination!●



MICHAEL ENGLISH, pin-stripe Labour MP for West Nottingham, has hit the footnotes again this month. Already under fire for his misguided filibustering of the Public Lending Right Bill, he has been further savaged in the Guardian by Eva Figs, and in Private Eye (the final accolade?) by Auberon Waugh, who not only pronounced a curse but also referred offensively to Mr English's bath-time habits. Soon afterwards, Mr English withdrew his opposition to the Bill - in the nick of time, it seems, as one of his comrades-in-arms in the sorry affair was the hysterical Ian Sproat, since revealed as Westminster's answer to Joseph McCarthy. Could it be that Mr English's latest ploy, a Bill to reform the House of Lords, is a desperate attempt to cover his tracks?●

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S AID announce that they have opened a refuge for battered women and their children. The refuge has an open-door policy of never turning anyone away, and women will be able to stay as long as is necessary to sort out their problems. Although there is a full-time worker and a strong support group, the running of the refuge is based on ideas of mutual help and responsibility by the women themselves. The refuge is an important first step, but help is still needed to tackle both immediate and wider issues. Anyone interested in helping or in using the refuge should phone Nottingham 624217 (for obvious reasons, the address is confidential)●



A FRESH ROW boiled up in the House of Commons today following allegations that 270 Labour MPs were Conservative and Liberal fifth-columnists who had joined the Labour Party for the sole purpose of subverting the socialist ideals of its founders.

Denying accusations that he was an agent for an alien political creed, the International Monetary Fund, Prime Minister James Callaghan said that high unemployment, low wages, rising prices, cuts in the living standards of the poor and massive reductions in public expenditure had always been accepted as socialist policies. "My goodness," he lashed back, "I'd like to see Margaret Thatcher do better."●

ONE THING TO BE said for foxhunting is that, while it may not be the most effective way of keeping down foxes, it certainly kills off a gratifying number of the gentry. Latest indication of this was the recent story about the careless horsewoman out with the Quorn who managed to crash-land her mount on top of a passing Renault. Not that she was unaware of the hazards of the hunt - her own mum had died while pursuing the harmless beast five years ago. A further curiosity of the affair is that, to indulge in the pleasures of the chase, 126 members of the managing classes had apparently had no difficulty in finding time off mid-week from the agonies of running the country ●

Dere Arts Council

My freind Eric says that poeple get money for doing daft things in the street. Has long as they say it is highly singificant Art and crammed choc-a-block with deep meaning and Truth.

Well, Eric and me are hobsessed with Art, day and night, ever since Forest got noked out of the Cup in 1975 and we beleive thatnow the poeple are ready for us and we are sur that you are to and you will give us some money to do Art with.

What we want is this (Eric rote this next bit):

A gang of ten or fifteen youths, dressed in rough work-ing clothes, rush around the City with arms linked, shouting.

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Nottingham.

This symbolises the rush and bustle of modern life and how we have to stick together and shout to be heard. From time to time they will take the piss out of Nietzsche by kicking an old lady over, or maybe slinging an ironical half brick through the over-stuffed shop fronts of materialism.

To show more unity, all the youths will wear the boots of honest toil and scarves with red and white stripes - signifying the red of blood and the white of peace - bad and good, yen and yang, peaches and cream, etc.

Hello, it's me again, Eric and me thinks that if it works good with 10-15 poeple we mite try it with 5 or 6 thousand, praps in a soccer pitch, say, Forest, O?K?

Right, then, O.K?

Gus and Eric

(P.S. Send the postel order to Eric's)

(P.J. GROB WORTH)

THE STRUGGLE of the Tennyson Street Adventure Playground Association to establish a playground in the area had a severe setback at the last meeting of the City Planning Committee. The Association had put in a planning application for work to go ahead - but this application was deferred by the Committee, even though the site had been offered by the City Council itself.

The Association had already gained planning permission for a temporary site in the area earlier in the year. They had also been promised a grant of over £2,500 by the then Labour Planning Committee - but this grant was axed when the Tories gained power last May.

After a fight, the Association

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managed to get a smaller grant of £550 - but only on condition that the playground would be permanent. The Council then offered the present site as the permanent alternative, and this was accepted.

Meanwhile, the Association were successful in a £6,000 application to the Job Creation Programme for work on the site - due to start on December 2nd.

But now the Planning Committee are having second thoughts on the site because of objections by two local factories (others support the plan) who fear increased vandalism. However, Bob Mayow, Chairman of the Association, points out that because the playground will be

supervised in the evenings and at weekends vandalism is likely to decrease if the playground goes ahead.

"We're trying to do something really positive in the area," Bob told the Voice. "We're very sick about it. Parents in the area are sick of being told that vandalism is their responsibility. Our experience over the past three years makes us sure that responsible parents can get nowhere in the face of an uninterested Council."

The Association are now worried that unless they get planning permission soon they may lose the Job Creation grant - this will be withdrawn if there is any "undue delay" in starting the project ●

FACT

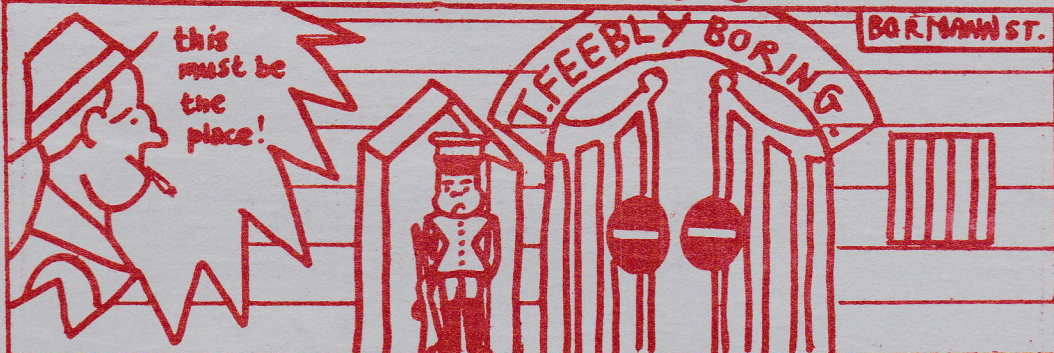
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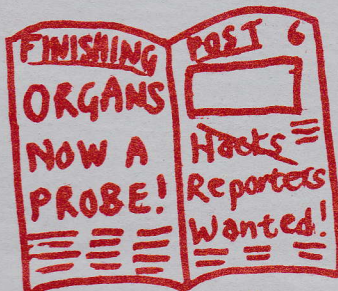


SUPERHACK by Steve



the previous day S.H. had replied to an advertisement:

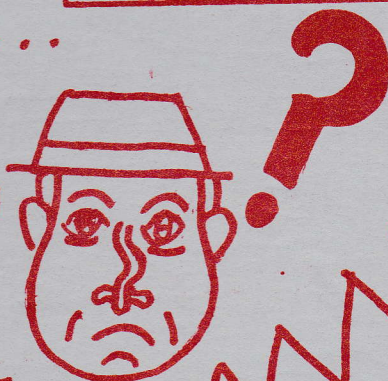
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Meanwhile S.H. goes for an interview with Mr. Polevault, the Manager...

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ON WEDNESDAY, 17th November, some 60,000 people marched on Parliament to protest against cuts in public expenditure. Nottingham was well represented - two special trains and several coaches took several hundred demonstrators.

This was certainly the largest demonstration in recent years with representatives from all the main unions in the public sector. It had an impact on London - traffic was delayed, office workers stared and bus drivers settled down for a long wait. There must have been effects throughout the country, with many public services short-staffed for the day. Yet what did the demonstration achieve?

If like me you queued at Hyde Park to wait for the start of the demo, if you walked three or four miles through streets lined with police, if you abandoned your banner at the Tate Gallery (no banners are allowed within a mile of Parliament), if you queued for the lobby queue, queued to be searched, queued to get into the Lobby, sat for twenty minutes listening to MPs who were already opposing the cuts (Frank Allaun, Ian Mikardo, Barbara Castle) and then staggered back to St Pancras to the train, Nottingham and bed, you might have expected wide coverage of the demonstration in the national papers the next morning.

Unfortunately England were playing Italy and the rest is history.

AB

BELIEVE IT or not, during the drought Mapperley Plains Junior School prohibited the drinking of water by pupils during the lunch hour in order to conserve water. Water glasses were removed from dinner tables and the school buildings were locked to prevent drinking from wash basins. After complaints, water glasses were restored but a maximum of one inch of water per glass was allowed. The school has now assured the Voice that all pupils can drink as much as they want! ●



THERE'S JUST no keeping Mansfield Social Services out of it these days. Following Labour's disastrous showing at last May's local elections, worried county councillors are looking for economical vote-catching ideas. Their latest ploy is a take-over (no, not a carve-up) of Mansfield Meals-on-Wheels service.

The County Social Services Department finances the service, which mainly benefits isolated elderly people. Up to now, the area office at Mansfield has used Women's Royal Voluntary Service drivers to deliver the meals. Now Head Office has come up with a plan to dispense with the voluntary drivers and employ full-time council drivers instead, probably at a cost of around £50,000 (cheap in local government terms!) - the somewhat bizarre theory being that people will transfer their gratitude to the ruling

party at County Hall.

Meanwhile, social workers in Mansfield are busily recruiting more lucky recipients of Meals-on-Wheels.

Miss Ferguson, WRVS organiser in Mansfield, refused to comment beyond confirming that the Social Services Department would be taking over direct responsibility for Meals-on-Wheels and that a press statement would be forthcoming in a week or two ●



THE SPECIAL AUDIT of Notts. County Council's smallholdings accounts has proved far from the shock-horror-scandal many opponents of the present regime would have had us expect ... more of a Guy Fawkes damp squib, by all accounts of the recent public hearing at County Hall.

And more a case of two well-pensioned former officers conducting a campaign to clean up the tarnished image the former County Land Agent's office has acquired this year.

The smallholdings account (the County has 3,800 acres of smallholdings dotted around) used to be administered by County Land Agent Oliver Lever and his sidekick Gordon Yallop - the man who actually brought the complaints.

The main complaint was that the County had not implemented rent rises which had been negotiated by the old Council. The Council argued that the delays had been caused by the govern-

ment rent freeze and the time it had taken to sort out the books.

So how much was at stake to justify a special audit of the books - only the second in the country since local government reorganisation?

Originally £2,000, according to Lever - all of which has now been collected except for £9.20. On the other hand, it has cost the Council £4,000 in officers' time to prepare for the hearing on seven complaints - four of which were dropped the day before the hearing.

The Council found themselves in this mess because they had opted for a private audit system instead of the more accepted district audit system run by the Civil Service. Under a private audit, any individual can petition Whitehall for a special audit if he is not satisfied.

The only point of serious interest in the awaited judgement is whether the County has to foot the bill or whether the Government will fork out instead.

Rightly, local government has been subject to much stricter scrutiny in recent years - that is largely how corruption in South Wales and the North East was blown apart. But this latest jamboree looks little more than an unnecessary, frivolous, expensive exercise in preserving reputations. Lever himself blew the gaff by asking the Council to agree that there had been no negligence on his part - an admission astutely avoided in the Council's summing up.

£9.20 is petty cash in anyone's book! ●