

THAT PAPER LINKING COMMUNITIES

NOVEMBER 5p DECEMBER

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ENTERTAINMENT PAGE. 10

Includes an interview with local group controlled chaos, a review of the film Quadrophenia, plus a crossword and diary for next month.



The nursery unit at Scotholme School, typical of the kind of nursery that Notts. Education Committee had intended to provide for all 3 - 5 year olds in the county, is to be badly affected by the cuts in education.

Built in October 1975 and opened in January 1976, at a cost of £25,846, it is at present staffed by one Nursery Teacher and two Nursery Nurses.

The 80 children (40 in the morning and 40 in the afternoon) enjoy painting, puzzles, building, stories, books, songs. All of these activities need a certain amount of supervision.

However, because of the cuts, one of the Nursery's nurses must go

at Christmas, and one of the schools's nurses has already received a redundancy notice, to take effect from April. This means that the staff - children ratio changes from 1-13 to 1-20 reducing the unit's role from educational to child minder. Alternatively, the number of children at the nursery could be reduced to 26 each session. Either way, the children lose.

They lose twice over, by reduced standards at nursery, and a lack of extra in-school attention at present supplied by the nursery nurses there.

Hyson Green is an area where nursery education plays a very important role in the community, with a high

incidence of one parent families, a lack of adequate play space, a high number of people living on or below the poverty line. There are also some homes where English is only a second language. The children who live in these conditions are the ones who benefit most from nursery education, and who will suffer most from these cuts. If the demands for cuts increase, these children could well end up without a nursery at all in the near future. The loss will then be the cost of the units, the cost of training the nursery nurses, the loss of the amenities, and most important of all, the loss of the best chance many children may get.

PRESS

WORKSHOP

Advertised in issue 3 and also advised to some 40 community contacts in and around Nottingham. The conference/workshop took place as planned, on Saturday 20th October.

While the organisers could not deny disappointment at the number of delegates at the conference it was both instructive and useful.

Thanks for these aspects of the proceedings are mainly due to the excellence of the invited speakers. These local speakers were: Nigel Lee - The essential spirit in the late Nottingham Voice (an alternative paper no longer on the Nottingham Scene.) Jeff Clark Meads, representing the Nottingham News and Fred Broad of 'Broadsheet Press', Mansfield Road.

Nigel spoke to an on some very comprehensive. "Notes on information gathering and writing for alternative papers." He had taken the trouble to draft for the workshop conference. These notes are required reading for would-be newsheet producers. (A very limited number of copies of the 'Notes' are available still, through 'ThatPaper').

Jeff Meads - Clark put forward the view of the professional operator. In an often witty but always sympathetic vein, Jeff laid bare the fallability of the experts. Thus encouraged the conference was taken further along the road of press and media influence and the understanding of attitudes which showed clearly the different game news-papers are often in.

comeback

The Gay Humanist Group was formed this summer, its inaugural meeting being held in late August, with the aim of uniting humanist gays and other members of humanist groups who have an interest in gay rights. It is a national organisation but hopes to set up local groups throughout the country who can monitor anti-gay activity, especially that by religious organisations such as the Festival of Light, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and other churches of this type, many of whom have strong connections with right-wing extremist parties and, in addition to their anti-gay activities are also known to be violently sexist and often racist. Such local GHG branches would also provide the opportunity to discuss humanism and ways of overcoming the religious bigotry which, even today, is largely responsible for the way this country's judicial system is run.

A good example of how much influence religion has in court is the fact that a person not having any religion is considered incapable of being honest to the same extent as one who swears on the Bible or other scripture. The anti-gay attitude is very strong in divorce cases where custody of the child/ren is sought by a gay parent, and there are probably about the same number of gay fathers and mothers despite the lack of newspaper publicity given to the former. The GHG intends to maintain contact, as it develops, with organisations concerned with matters such as custody and sexism in the judicial system.

EDITORIAL

DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE ARE:

15th Nov. for articles
19th Nov. for News items

All items & enquiries to 'That Paper' Church House St. Paul's Avenue, Hyson Green Nottingham TELEPHONE:: 787813

With his current 'Broadsheet Press' knowledge, leaving minor enthusiasts gagging at their own inadequacy Fred removed the veil from print techniques. In taking the mystery out of technicalities Fred let the conference glimpse the 'Fors' and 'Against' of various techniques. Through the entire range of material from duplicators to sophisticated long-run machinery, hints and cost information, he provided a precise and valuable contribution.

The group itself comprised delegates from Balloon Woods (by far the biggest contingent!) - Afro Caribbean (ACNA) - All Saints (ASRA) - Nottm Transport group - Hyson Green (HGD TA) - Phoenix (Radford) and of course, 'ThatPaper'

If a somewhat qualified success NUMERICALLY, the conference did establish an evident 'Need to Know'. It also demonstrated that there is a wealth of local talent prepared to fill that need. Given this it may well be worth staging a further workshop at some future date. It would be interesting to have readers reactions to this.

Finally, our thanks to all who participated in this workshop and particular thanks to Hyson Green community centre for providing accommodation and refreshment facilities on the day.

Reports of local attacks verbal, printed or physical on gays and feminists, especially by religious groups, in the Nottingham area are welcomed, as is information which may help to link religious sects with political organisations which are known to oppose women's rights or those of minority groups. Please send such information to the Sec of the Gay Humanist Group, Brian Parry, at 45 Telford Avenue, London S.W. 2 (If you would like to join the GHG, please send for details, enclosing an S.A.E. to the same address). If you are religious and would like to find a church, shul or equivalent that is non-sexist in its teachings and recruitment of staff, telephone National Gay Switchboard on 01- 837 7324 who have a list of such organisations which includes the Metropolitan community church, the Unitarians and the Quakers. Additions to this list would be welcomed by the GHG, especially groups that have broken away from orthodox Islamic teachings and other religions that assign an unnecessary servile role to women, which prevents them from contributing to any useful extent towards the community as a whole, and that are especially prejudiced in their attitude towards homosexuality. Non-sexist breakaway groups of this nature would be very useful to those of immigrant parents who cannot accept orthodox religions because of the bigotry they so often display when dealing with women and gays.

'DISABLED GAY WOMEN CONTACT' "GEMMA" BM BOX 5700 FOR DISCREET, FRIENDLY GROUP

DISTRICT PLAN

The District Plan contains proposals for one school and eleven car parks; seven areas of housing and two of open space. There are two other proposals: electricity sub-station, and a minor piece of road widening. No industry, and no community facilities, are proposed by the plan in the Hyson Green area. The only other proposal within Hyson Green is to allow flats above shops to be used as offices if there is no other use for them.

Family Centre

Just outside Hyson Green there are proposals for a Family Centre at Laurie Avenue: the conversion of part of Noel Street baths for 'social & community purposes', a Family Centre at Waterloo Promenade; a day centre for the elderly at Prospect St Radford; open space at Player St; housing off Beckenham Rd and a bus turning area on Hartley Rd. The nearest proposed industry is off Beckenham Rd. on Forest Rd, and Ward Rd near Wilkinson St.

Housing

The school which is proposed is on the corner of Radford Rd & Bobbers Mill Rd. It will take 1.8 hectares of land. The proposed housing is at Kirkstead St. Brushfield St. Denehurst Avenue, St. Pauls Avenue, Peveril St, and Belper Rd. It will take a total of 5.8. hectares. The car parks are mostly in the clearance areas of Belper Rd & Birkin Avenue, some to serve the new houses & some near the shops. The plan does not say how much land they will consume and it's not possible to work it out from the map. The open space is on Radford Rd opposite the flats (0.3 hectares); and at Bridlington St (0.5 hectares)

Are these proposals satisfactory? Well, they will provide housing in the area - and it may be that people being cleared from Belper Rd & Birkin Avenue will be able to get rehoused in the area. It's unlikely that anyone from the flats will get a house locally, but that's not the fault of the District Plan. There should be industry easily enough accessible - as long as they don't let it all go on warehousing, which employs very few people. The electricity sub-station had to go somewhere and doesn't take much land.

Reservations

Certainly, there are those who think there should be more play space; more facilities for young people; more social or community centres. Certainly there are people who don't want to see the whole of H.G. 'planned for', like the big council estates with no land fee for new schemes. The major reservations apply to the whole of the District Plan however, why should housing a industry be denser here in the inner city than on cheaper land outside? Why are we not given more assurances about planning and other controls to prevent industrial and other pollution? Why have the different authorities not got together to make more imaginative and interesting proposals? Why are we being asked to consider proposals that are already being built?

? ?



Playplot



A play area on the north of Robey terrace, is about to get underway. The original play area was abandoned, after residents who actually live on Robey terrace complained, about the 8ft mound of rubble, which was to be used as a massive slide. This the residents said would cause overshadowing, and would encourage kids to throw stones, and with the houses being so near, there could be a problem, of kids looking into the windows! So now it has been agreed, that the mound, will be evenly distributed around the area to make two slides one for toddlers and one for older children!

Radford



The Radford Phoenix Group have now moved to: 66, RADFORD BOULEVARD Regular advice sessions will continue every weekday evening (5-6PM) as before and the telephone number remains the same 702879

Phoenix

BILL OF RIGHTS

In a future issue That Paper intends to take up a problem of concern to many in the local immigrant community, that is, the effects of immigration laws on coloured people who have made their home here. That Paper interviewed Dr. Fazal, Principal Lecturer at Nottingham's Trent Polytechnic about one aspect of this, the lack of a BILL OF RIGHTS in Britain.

Dr. Fazal explained that the absence of a BILL OF RIGHTS had particular implications for local immigrants. At the moment in Britain, the power of the state could be used against a minority population. The state is the biggest employers, influences housing as well as social security, education and health provision. It could force coloured immigrants out of the country without them having any recourse to another body less swayed by temporary changes in mood in the country. Secondly, because of the sovereignty of Parliament any law could be passed, no matter how unpleasant. Dr. Fazal argued that a BILL OF RIGHTS would enshrine certain liberties and act as a safeguard against the sudden collapse of minority rights with the state's and parliaments connivance. But is this just a distant and hyperthetical threat? 'NO' explained Dr. Fazal "Certain practices are already commonplace which have very undemocratic implications".

Quoting the case of Chowday (Times Law Report, May 24th 1978) Dr. Fazal outlined how although English Law places the burden of proof on those who accuse, in the case of accusations of breaches of immigration law, the immigrant is considered guilty until proved innocent. Further despite the Magna Carta declaring detention without trial. (unlawful such that today 48 hours in custody with a court appearance is the maximum tolerated, immigrants can be and are being held for lengthy periods. For example an answer

to a question in Parliament stated that in April 1978 102 immigrants were held in prison without being charged, 51 had been there for a month or less, 22 for up to two months, 14 for up to three months, 6 for up to four months and 6 for over four months. One of those detailed had been held for eleven months. To add to this, figures show (March 1978) that more than 559 immigrants had been expelled from Britain without having had the right to argue, their innocence in court. The crux of all this is the discretion exercised by the Home Secretary who in the present situation, is a law unto himself. In the present climate where many are having to work very hard to maintain an atmosphere of racial tolerance and co-operation there is little wonder that many members of Nottingham's coloured population feel less than secure. To conclude, Dr. Fazal repeated his belief that a BILL OF RIGHTS would go along way to maintain minority rights and harmonious race relations.



WILL THIS HARMONY BE THREATENED?

FEAR OVER RACE QUESTIONS

At its recent open meeting, the Nottingham Community Relations Council held a discussion about proposed questions on race that are being considered for inclusion in the 1981 Census. During an often heated debate, what became clear were the real fears expressed by black people, not of ethnic record keeping itself, but of the social and political climate in which the current census were being framed.

The tone of the Conservative Party Conference during the debate on immigration, the treatment of Asian families during recent anti-National Front demonstrations, and rumours about the nature of a forthcoming British Nationality Bill are part of the backcloth to the Census. It is a backcloth which only serves to promote suspicion and unease amongst black people about their position in Britain, and which undermines the work being done to promote better race relations in this country.

It was in this light that the original discussions of the Census took place, leading the CRC to draw up proposals about the Census race questions.

The proposals now being discussed are to either completely reject any questions about race or ethnic origins in the 1981 Census: or propose amendments including:-
(i) deleting questions about employer's name and address, mother's usual address when child was born, usual address five years ago;
(ii) alter some questions about country of birth to whether born in the U.K. or not, refuse to supply the E.E.C. with information on race or creed.

Black people's fears rest on the possible use Census information could be put to for harassment or even repatriation.

For more details, phone 49861 Nottingham Community Relations Council.

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Rawson Street, Forest Fields has now opened a Youth Centre, for Indoor Sports. Tuesday & Thursday 6p.m. - 9p.m. Contact Avtar Singh 785985

A film is being shown at the Centre on 18th November from 6.00 onwards Called 'An Asian View' it is regarding the elderly and low to start a Luncheon and Drop In Centre.

A Cultural Programme takes place on 2nd December from 6p.m. - 10p.m. including Asian Music and Dance.

More information from Avtar who is the Indian Community Projects Co-ordinator and whose poem, PRIDE OF THE NATION, is printed on this page.

PRIDE OF THE NATION

Where is the art of my hands?
Hands that made shoes
in various shapes and sizes
Hands that sweated on days and nights
to make their 'star' bright.
Hands that protected
people from cold.
I am proud of my hands;
they are really bold.
Though often in a happy mood
my boss used to say,
Oh! they are made of gold?
Today being so strong and stout
I mutter and think of my hands.
What sort of that sword?
Which cut off my hands
Before the 'Unemployment Office';
Who cares my sorrow and despair?
Completely cramped
under the layers
of laughing chairs.
However wounded dignity
Feels hard to bear the bang
'Idle bug....' - burden on the land.
Through the windows
I saw skyscrapers
touching the sky
- a wonderful miracle of hands
on which a world may stand.
However the world is a story of
hands.
Being sunken in thoughts, as such
A painful voice came from my heart
'I want to work'
Meanwhile another voice
I heard, saying in sweat language
- Your hands are safe
in our shelves.

Avtar Sadiq

JAMACIAN PUNCH DRINK

INGREDIENTS:

Large tin pineapple juice
Tin of vanilla nutriment
Tin of Carnation milk
Nutmeg
Bottle of vanilla essence
Nestle's sweetened milk

METHOD:

1. Pour juice in large jug or bowl.
2. Add the tin nutriment and stir.
3. Add sweetened milk to own personal taste.
4. Add three drops of vanilla essence.
5. Carnation milk or bottle milk can be added.
6. To finish off, add a pinch of nutmeg, finally stir and leave over-night in the fridge.

RECLAIM THE NIGHT

Every woman should be able to walk about as she chooses, at any time of day or night without having to feel afraid of being attacked. However, women are vulnerable when out alone, especially in Nottingham, which has the highest rape figures in the country.

To draw attention to this basic right a group of women recently demonstrated around the city centre. They wanted to show their anger and frustration with the present situation concerning the safety of women, and to assert their collective power as women. However, the police stepped in as the women hadn't notified them of their intentions, one woman was arrested and the march was disbanded. The women hadn't notified the police as they felt that it would have made a mockery of the points they were trying to put across if they had police protection.

Feelings about what the demonstration achieved were mixed. Some women were obviously disappointed that the march couldn't continue, and felt that the police were more heavy handed than the situation merited.

MEN NEED EDUCATING

At present many women do not come forward to report rape. One reason is that rape is a total violation of the individual and some women are reluctant to relive the experience. As well as this, raped women are sometimes made to feel that they are the ones on trial, and that it's their fault they have been raped. Added to this is the fact that rapists often receive small sentences despite the seriousness of the crime they have committed.

Women will never be safe until men are educated to regard women as individuals in their own right instead of sex objects simply for their edification.

BASFORD SCHEME EXAMINED

70 residents of New Basford attended a Public Meeting to consider the changes in roads, the environment and housing planned for the area (as reported in That Paper 3)

The housing plans for the area include the building of 106 flats and houses to be built by Northern Counties Housing Association, a warden-aided complex for the elderly built by the Royal British Legion Housing Association and houses for sale to be built by Bridge Park Properties.

A Play Area with landscaped surround suitable for younger and older children is also planned.

As to the road closures general support for them was expressed at the meeting although some local shopkeepers had fears about the loss

of 'passing trade'.

One participant in the meeting was worried less his short cut through New Basford to work be stopped. "Quite right too!" came the reply from several local residents who didn't want the extra noise and danger from this traffic.

Birmingham HAAs

Representatives from Powa, Barta and the Hyson Green Project recently visited Birmingham to find out how the problems arising in Housing Action Areas (HAA's) were approached there. They had heard that Birmingham spends a lot more money in their HAA's than Nottingham does and they wanted to find out why they did so, what policies they had adopted and how it was all paid for.

The group found that Birmingham, like Nottingham, had a policy during the 60's and early 70's of demolishing all its worst housing and that, as in Nottingham, there was then a change in policy when it was decided to keep some of the remaining older houses and to improve them. Since the 1974 Housing Act, Birmingham has declared 40 HAA's mostly during 1975-76. Nottingham however only started declaring HAA's in 1976 and then only 2, the remaining 9 weren't declared until 1978-79. At first Birmingham seems to have followed the policy now adopted by Nottingham i.e. keeping Council activity to a minimum within the terms laid down by the 1974 Housing Act, and simply encouraging owners to take up grants to improve. Consequently few houses were improved and the HAA's continued to decline. Other areas, not declared HAA's were also declining and although Birmingham City Council approached The Department of Environment (DoE) they were told that, no other HAA's could be declared until success could be shown in those already existing. It seems that Birmingham City Council were able to convince the DoE that much more money needed to be spent in the HAA's to make them succeed and since then have been spending money from various sources, other than usual HAA finance. They have also played a much more direct role in the areas. The visiting group found that in Birmingham there are on average twice as many council officers to deal with each HAA than in Nottm. They also found that the Birmingham teams contained more housing specialists and that there were no social or community workers on the teams. They were surprised by the air of enthusiasm amongst the Birmingham HAA team members that they met. The group were told that Birmingham Council have used their powers much further than Nottm has in buying up blocks of houses for improvement where either owner-occupiers or landlords have been given a fair time to improve but have not done so.

Improvement costs in Birmingham HAA's are much the same as in Nottm i.e. upwards of £7,000 per house. However, in Birmingham a 90% improvement grant is available to all and the council pay all costs in excess of the £5,000 grant limit. The council also operates a scheme whereby it finds builders and does architectural work for owners, rather than leaving them to make all their own arrangements as in Nottm. This, combined with the councils policy of buying up more houses means that Housing Associations are less involved in HAA's in Birmingham than in Nottm. Birmingham has also been more forthcoming in the area of environmental improvements in the HAA's. Normally there is only £50 available per house for this, hardly going further than tidying up. To supplement this Birmingham have

been offering 'curtilage grants' - up to £1,500 per house - to improve the immediate environment of the buildings.

The Council also pays for 'envelope schemes' for re-roofing, new doors windows, rendering and painting. When this is complete, they move on to street alterations and closures, provision of car parks, tree planting and general improvement of the area. To do this the councils is prepared to declare HAA's General Improvement Areas even before 5 years are up meaning more money available from the Government.

The Birmingham HAA teams have also been involved in starting two tenants co-operatives. Both started out as tenants of the same private landlord who with the HAA teams' help, registered themselves as co-operatives, bought their landlords out and obtained public money to improve and manage their houses. Birmingham have also found money to improve shop frontages (on a shared cost basis with the owners, usually) and to provide community facilities. In the areas the group saw these included converting an old school into a community centre, providing all-weather football pitches and an adventure playground.

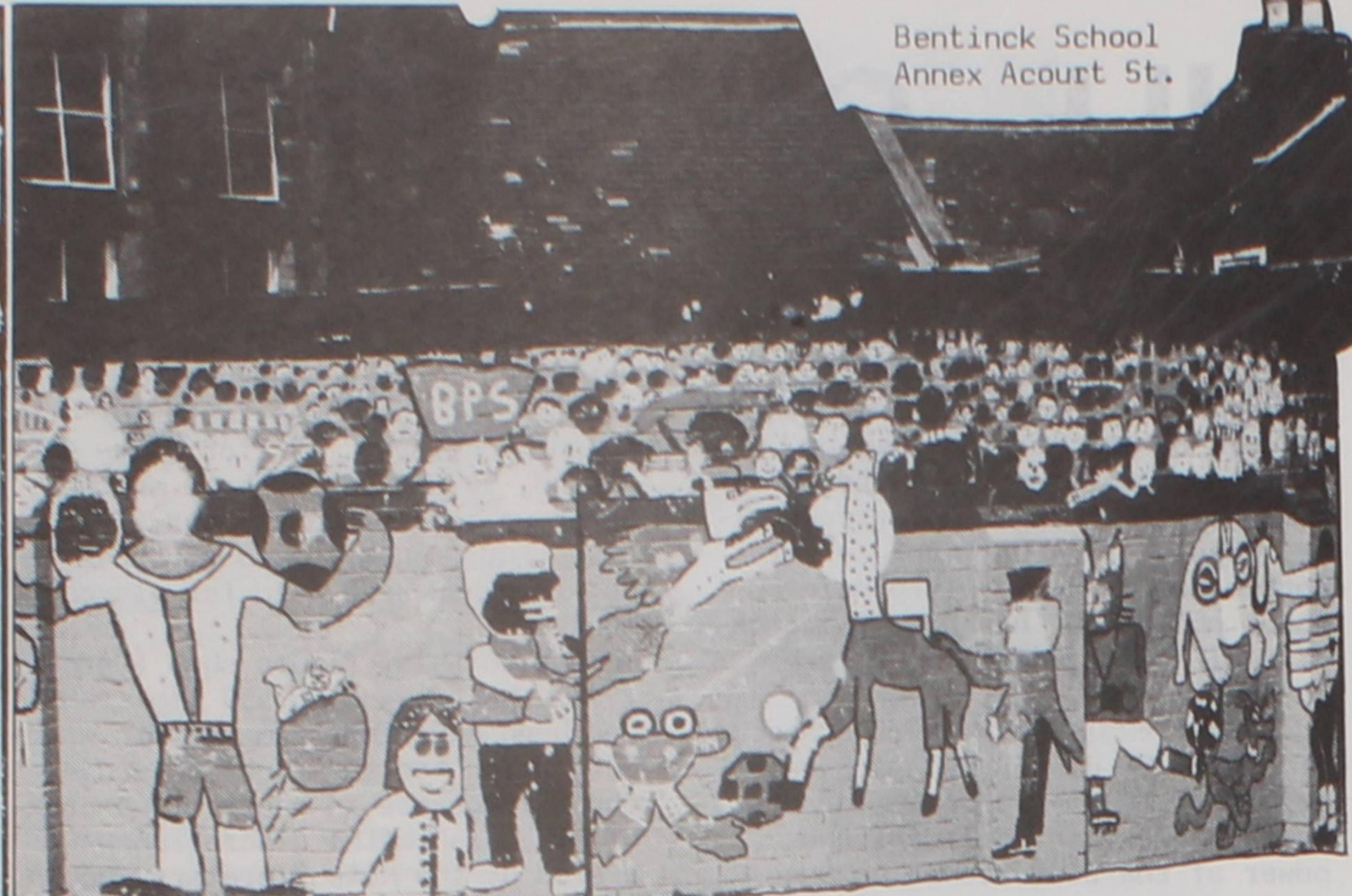
So where has the money come from? In addition to normal HAA finance and Inner City money, Birmingham has made use of other sources which are available but not normally used by Councils for HAA's. These include Housing Investment Programme (HIP) money usually used for ordinary council housing purposes and the extra money for the construction industry allocated by the last government ('Healey Money'). The present government have also allocated £6m to keep the policy going. It's true to that Birmingham has more money to spend but equally important is the fact that

unlike most cities, Birmingham has been prepared to stretch its legal powers to the limit and to use money not originally intended for HAA's.

The group had some criticisms to make in spite of the obvious good points described. Firstly they wondered if putting large amounts of public money into older houses is a sensible use of public funds in the long term. The areas will still only have a 30 year life. Also they wondered if Birmingham will ever have enough money to renovate all its decaying areas, or whether the HAA policy is 'the icing on the cake'. The group also felt that although Birmingham offered more than most other councils, they don't seem to have learned much about dealing with residents. It was a disappointment for the group not to have met representatives from any residents groups during their visit. The efforts of the HAA teams at forming residents' groups hasn't met with much success.

A final criticism made by HAA team officers themselves, was that while one branch of the councils is trying to make the areas successful, another branch still keeps allocating 'problem families' to them. This is causing residents to complain that although houses have been improved the areas are still going downhill.

Bentnick School Annex Acourt St.



Brightening

Have you been to see the murals painted this summer by children and adults from the Hyson Green & Forest Fields area? With technical assistance from the Community artists based at the Art and Crafts Centre, Gregory Blvd., those involved have been able to create colourful and often amusing murals which definitely brighten up areas in which they're placed. Some of

the murals are pictured here with their locations.

At present two more murals are being planned. One will be the Tenants Hall in the Hyson Green Flats complex and will be about work. The other is to be on one of the buildings on the forest and will be of four ethnic faces West Indian, Asian, Chinese and European.

up the Area



Boiler House Hyson Green Complex.



BIRKIN AVENUE

Reporters from That Paper recently discussed with a member of the City Planning Department the proposals for the area of Hyson Green bounded by Alfreton Road., Bentinck Road, Radford Rd, and Gregory Blvd. Already approved and scheduled to start in 1981 is the building of council housing on the biggest clearance site between Collinson St. and Gregory Blvd., although 1½ acres of this area is to be used as an open green space. Further Council houses will also be built on the smaller site between Holland St, and Gregory Blvd. Other clearance sites throughout the area will be used either as car parks to service industrial and shopping areas nearby, or as possible areas of extension for Bentinck School and local industry. Various road closures are also included in the plan in a effort to improve safety. It is proposed that Bridlington Thurman and Collinson St's be closed at the Alfreton Road end, and that Palin St. be closed at the Radford Rd. end. The closure of Birkin Avenue between Collinson and Palin St.s is also proposed, as is the closure of the junction at the Caulton St. end of Arcourt and Herbert St.s.

Originally included in the 1971 10 year clearance programme, the area was taken from clearance to improvement/clearance during the 1976 half way review. If the 700 odd houses involved only half are now to be demolished. Compulsory purchase orders on these were approved in March 1979 and the people involved are now in the process of being moved out. Clearance is scheduled to start in 1980. Of the 361 houses to be improved, 70% are owned by private landlords, the rest are either owner-occupied or council owned. Two Housing Ass. are now operating in the area, Metropolitan Housing Trust & Nottingham Housing Assoc. People living in the, houses to be improved face a number of problems. There is a reluctance amongst some private landlords to either sell to the Housing Ass's or to take up grants to do the necessary improvements themselves. The Council can enforce landlords to undertake repairs, but to a lower standard than that which the Council or Housing Ass's would improve to. Also the procedure of enforcing landlords to do repairs can be very lengthy, taking up to two years. Owner-occupiers, although they are able to get grants from the Council to cover part of the cost of improvements. (£ 3,750 or £ 5,000 in cases of hardship) are having to find approximately half the cost from their own pockets. This is a big commitment which many are unable to afford. For those who might wish to sell up either to the Council or the Housing Ass's there is the prospect of getting less for their property than they would on the private market. The Council usually pay two thirds of the District Valuer's Valuation, the Metropolitan Housing Trust around one third, although they are not bound by any rules, except that they should pay a 'reasonable' price for the property.

For those owner-occupiers who wish to stay in their houses and who have the money to improve, there is the additional problem of finding builders willing to do the work. Builders, apparently, prefer 'cash on the nail' work rather than work involving improvement grants where it takes longer for them to get their money.

Housing Action Area



Council tenants have the inconvenience of staying in their homes whilst improvements are in progress, as well as having to pay higher rents when the work is complete. Although the new Council policy is that any tenant can be temporarily rehoused whilst work is in progress, many tenants are being told that they must stay where they are. The Housing Assoc's prefer to rehouse sitting tenants permanently. This means it can move in, do the improvements, and relet the house immediately at the higher 'fair rent'. This avoids the gradual increase in rent, that would be necessary if the

tenant were to remain in the property. Housing Assoc. do give sitting tenants the option of moving back into the property after the improvements are complete, but the tenants choices consist to either be shunted about, or accepting housing in an area that they may not want to live in. Work is slow to get started, although there is evidence that some of the 11 properties owned by the Council are now in the process being renovated. The Metropolitan Housing Trust have now purchased 5 properties and are negotiation for a further 45. They have a



smart show house on Thurman St. but this is at present being used as an office for the trust, and people living nearby say that it has already had to have repairs done because of vandalism. The Nottingham Housing Assoc. are negotiating for 5 houses on Cope Street. Although both Associations have drawn up plans for these houses no work has yet started. Birkin Avenue Residents and Tenants Association (BARTA) have long been dissatisfied with the Councils improvement plan. They have recently been active in trying to get the Council to demolish more houses and build council houses. They say that after improvement houses in the area will have a life of 30 years. New council houses on the other hand have more than twice this life but cost less than twice the amount to build. BARTA say that the council improvement policy is simply throwing good money after bad. The group is also active in trying to get the council to speed up the programme, as well as trying to establish better communications between the Housing Associations and the local population.

That paper talked to several people living in the area, about their present situation and about their hopes for the future. Many said that vandalism is a problem, as well as opportunists who are stripping empty houses of anything of value and leaving them in a dangerous condition. A tenant on Old Know St. (a street due for clearance and on which only a few people now live) said, 'We were offered this house by Nottm Housing Trust on the understanding that we would be here for 6 months. We've been here for 17 months and during this time we've had windows broken, carpets and furniture stolen and even our dog pinched. Vandals think this house is empty like most of the others on the street and getting broken into is a regular thing. Besides this our drains are blocked. Although the Housing Assoc. have recently fitted a shower, all other repairs are at a standstill.' This man says that "hopefully" he is soon to be rehoused by the Council. Another tenant living in a house owed by the Council and due for clearance, said she is having problems getting rehoused and after repeated visits to the City's Housing Department she still hasn't been offered any alternative accommodation. She's also afraid that she's going to have to give up her dog, of which she is very fond. She said, "Recently I had to have my water turned off for three days whilst repairs were done in the empty house next door. Someone had been in there and had taken the piping and left water gushing all over the place." Other people said that they didn't yet know what was happening about their houses. They said they felt "unsettled" and that they were "disgusted by the state the area had been allowed to get into".

Being realistic, it will probably be between 3-5 years before the overall area will show visible signs of improvement. At present though, local people are fed up with the vandalism, rubbish dumping and vermin. They want to see a closer liasen between planners and themselves and most of all they want to see work progressing and some positive solutions to their problems.

THE STREETS OF NOTTINGHAM

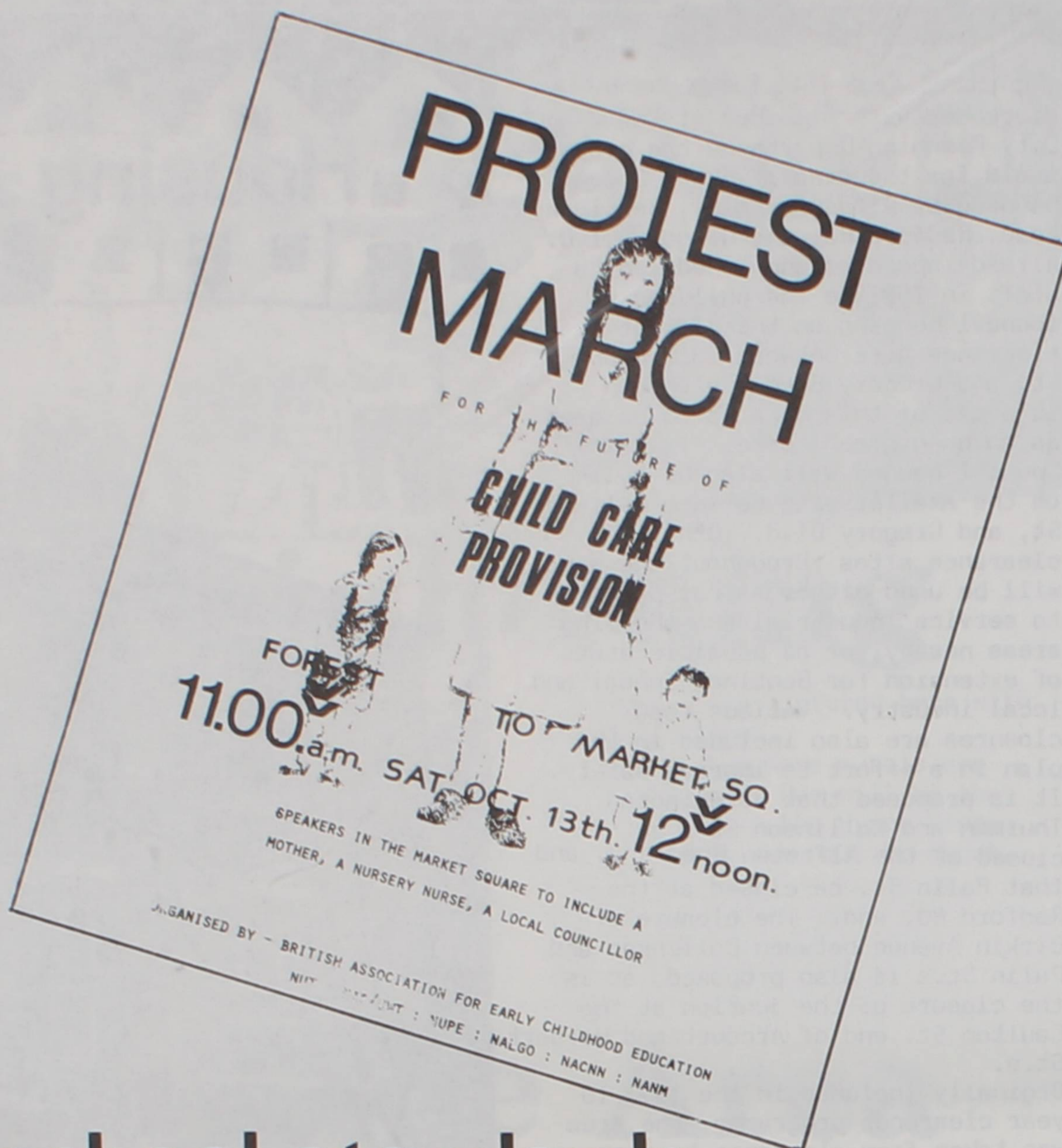
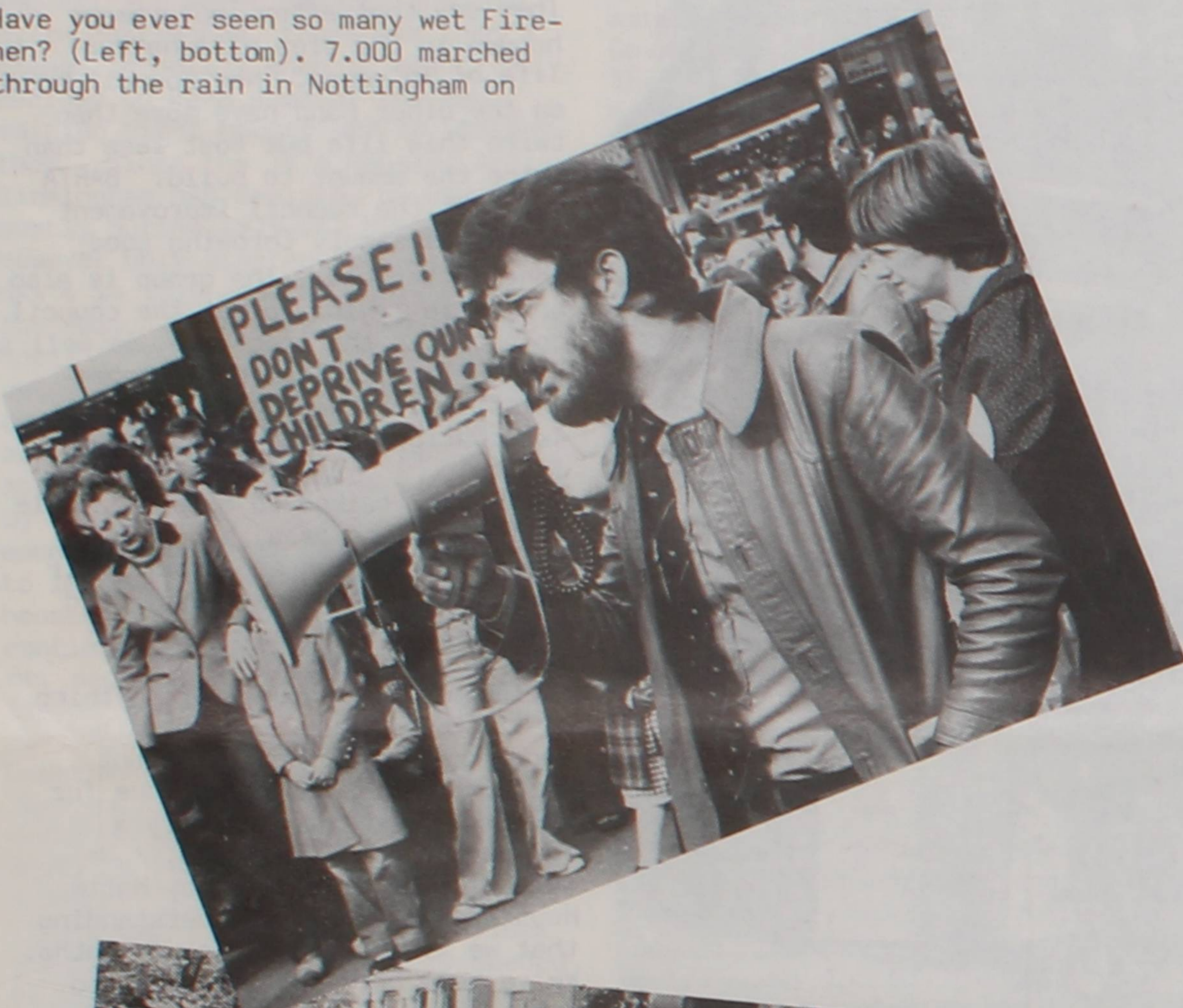
A PICTORIAL RECORD

THESE LAST FEW WEEKS THE STREETS OF NOTTINGHAM HAVE BEEN FULL OF PROTESTERS. A major Lobby of the County Council on October 16th was preceded by two marches against Nursery Closures. On the first (Left, top) 600 supported a call from NUPE Social Services branch and on the second (Right, top) 700 supported 'BASE'. We have an interview with Mr Dexter of BASE on this page.

Have you ever seen so many wet Firemen? (Left, bottom). 7,000 marched through the rain in Nottingham on

October 10th, stopping buses for several hours. The Fire Brigades Union had made our streets the scene of a national demonstration against the cuts.

Lastly, Hyson Green Police Station was picketed (Left, centre) on October 10th to draw attention to the re-opening of the inquest into the death of Blair Peach.



school standards to be lowered

The brain of a child grows almost to its full size and capacity during the first ten years of his life. The seeds that are sown during these years will determine the amount of development and achievement that will be reached both in comprehensive school and after.

Mr. Dexter, Headmaster of Bentinck Primary School, and a member of British Association of Early Childhood Education, discussed the effects of cuts in Education with a reporter from That Paper.

Of the 36 proposed cuts, eight have a direct effect on the school. The 10% cut in capital will mean less money to spend on everything. Books will have to be made to last longer, with the result that out of date material will be in use. Larger articles may well be put beyond the means of the school. Standards will inevitably be lowered, and as inflation rises, the real cut will be larger than 10%.

As from April, one of the two nursery nurses attached to the school will be made redundant. If the school were not classed as 'with special difficulties' both the nurses would have to go. As it is, the infant children will only see the nurse every four or five weeks. The nursery nurse's job is to aid the children to bridge the gap between home and school by giving time and attention in small groups, and on a one to one basis, (whilst the teacher is left to deal with the larger part of the class) helping to develop skills and build confidence.

The loss of the school pianist means that the children lose the enjoyment of singing. They also lose the opportunity to prepare and put on school concerts, and maybe the chance to learn a musical instrument.

Cuts in the lettings of school premises means that there is a loss of contact with the community. The chances of vandalism and damage to school property increase, which could in the long run cost more than it saves. It also means that the caretaker loses his overtime. The cuts in Adult Education facilities means that local Asian mums will not be able to carry on their english lessons, so that not only they, but their families, especially the children, lose out. This cut also lessens the bond between the school, parents and the community.

Swimming is to be cut by 50%. At the present, all children leaving to go to comprehensive school can swim at least a width, and some to Gold Award Personal Survival standard. With the cuts, it will become an achievement to be able to get the children to swim a width.

Cuts in the number of casual supply teachers means that children whose teachers are absent will have to be spread around other classes, causing overcrowding in the classrooms with the resultant drop in standards.

The school meals service cuts will affect Bentinck, but how much is not known at this time.

LESS WELL PREPARED

The overall effect of these cuts is obvious. The standards of education will be lowered, and the position of the school in the community will be demeaned. Staff and parents will have to work harder, under more difficult circumstances, to minimise the effects of the cuts. The children will be entering Comprehensive School less well prepared and able to cope.

They will stand less chance of doing well.

W E L L F A R E R I G H T S

Private landlords - repairs

I don't think I can face the winter in my place. The guttering needs repairing and the water pouring down the outside wall is making my bedroom so damp I have to sleep downstairs. The landlord keeps saying he'll repair it, but he never does.

You don't have to stand for that! Under the 1936 Health Act your landlord is obliged to repair dampness, defective windows, doors, sanitary fittings, rotten floors, plasterwork and general disrepair.

Yes, but how do I go about making him do the repairs?

The first thing to do is to contact the Environmental Health Officer and tell him your problem. He will come and inspect the defect and serve your landlord with an 'abatement notice'. This orders the landlord to do the repair. If your landlord still does nothing the local authority will serve him with a summons to appear in court. If it is proved that the defect exists the magistrate will make a 'nuisance order' which will order your landlord to do the repair. The magistrates can also impose a fine of up to £200.

What happens if my landlord still does nothing?

Under Section 99 of the Public Health Act 1936 you can go to the magistrates court yourself and declare that the disrepair on your premises is a 'statutory nuisance'. That means that it is in such a state as to be bad for your health or a nuisance. You can do this even if the local authority is already taking action but being a bit slow. The magistrate can either order the landlord to do repairs and hand over to you the responsibility to see they are carried out, or order the local authority to supervise the repairs.

I'm a bit worried about taking legal action myself I don't think I can afford it.

If you have to take legal action the best thing to do is to contact your local tenants group or community worker. They will be able to give you names of lawyers sympathetic to this type of case. They will also be able to give you support. To pay for general advice on preparing for court etc. you can get assistance under the green form scheme. It includes the cost of giving advice, writing letters and preparing for court appearances.

To claim F.I.S. you must have children have an income below the prescribed level and work at least 30 hours if you are a two parent family. For one parent families the number of hours that have to be worked has been reduced to 24. This gives one parent families the opportunity to work during school hours. If you are entitled to FIS get a form from the Post Office or DHSS. Remember claiming FIS entitles you to free school meals, rent or rate rebates plus free National Health services.

F. I. S.

Family Income Supplement (FIS) is available to all families with an income below a certain level. For a one or two parent family with one child, the present income level is £50, and for two children £54. Income does not include Child benefit, but does include pensions.

BUSINESS AS USUAL



Although many of the houses have been demolished in and around the Radford area, the local pubs are still standing. Unlike in the past when houses and pubs were demolished together. Apparently the reason for this is that it is cheaper for the Council not to have to pay Breweries compensation, for knocking down a pub. So where do these pubs get their customers, when they have been rehoused some as far afield as Aspley? The Landlords of the Jolly Higglers, a modern pub, with spacious vaults, and darts and pool, went on to explain, "Most of my regulars have come back, as we have a dart and a pool team. Most of my regulars are middle aged, but we get a few younger people in, and there are still one or two of my regulars living around the area." They do quite a lot of fund raising for charity too, and recently had pool matches to raise money for a bionic hand for little NEIL CAMPBELL. Now they are collecting money for one of their old regulars Vernon Mercer, who whilst away on holiday in America had to have his foot amputated. The landlord didn't seem to think the demolition of

houses had made much difference to his custom. My next interview was with Mrs Pauline Reed landlady of THE DOVER CASTLE facing the Croydon Road, a pub that used to be an old Coaching Inn about 100 years ago. In fact some of her old regulars remember the houses in the backyard. Mrs Reed and her husband have been landlord and landlady of the Dover Castle for 4 years and said that now trade is down less than half it was 2 years ago. This is due to her regulars being rehoused, although she said she still gets some of her regulars back, like the Higglers. They have a pool and a dart team and they too were involved in the raising of money for Meils bionic hand. This she said was raised by 12 landlords in the area meeting in each others pubs every tuesday and having pool matches but Mrs Reed, thought that the demolition of houses were the cause of trade going down in the local pubs.

It seems that the clearance programme has affected some land-lords more than others but hopefully trade will pick up as the area is redeveloped. Meanwhile I'm sure the money raised by their charity activities has been of much benefit to the community.

Council's Home Insurance

How many of you have your home insured? Did you know that the Council offer an insurance scheme? No to these questions? Well, the Council offer an insurance scheme which costs an extra 10p per week on your rent. In cases of flooding etc.... you can claim for damage caused. It has been the case on occasions, where a tenant has suffered damage and been unable to claim compensation because of no insurance.

Do think about getting your home insured. It costs a lot of money to get together, is it worth all the misery of seeing destroyed for the sake of 10p per week? For more details of the Council insurance scheme, ask for details at the City Treasury or your Local Housing Office.



what was it like?

an article by

The Nottingham Childbirth Group

In last month's issue we looked at what women thought about their pregnancy and labour. Now we look at the time after the baby is born and the overall feelings women had about NHS Maternity Services.

Afterwards

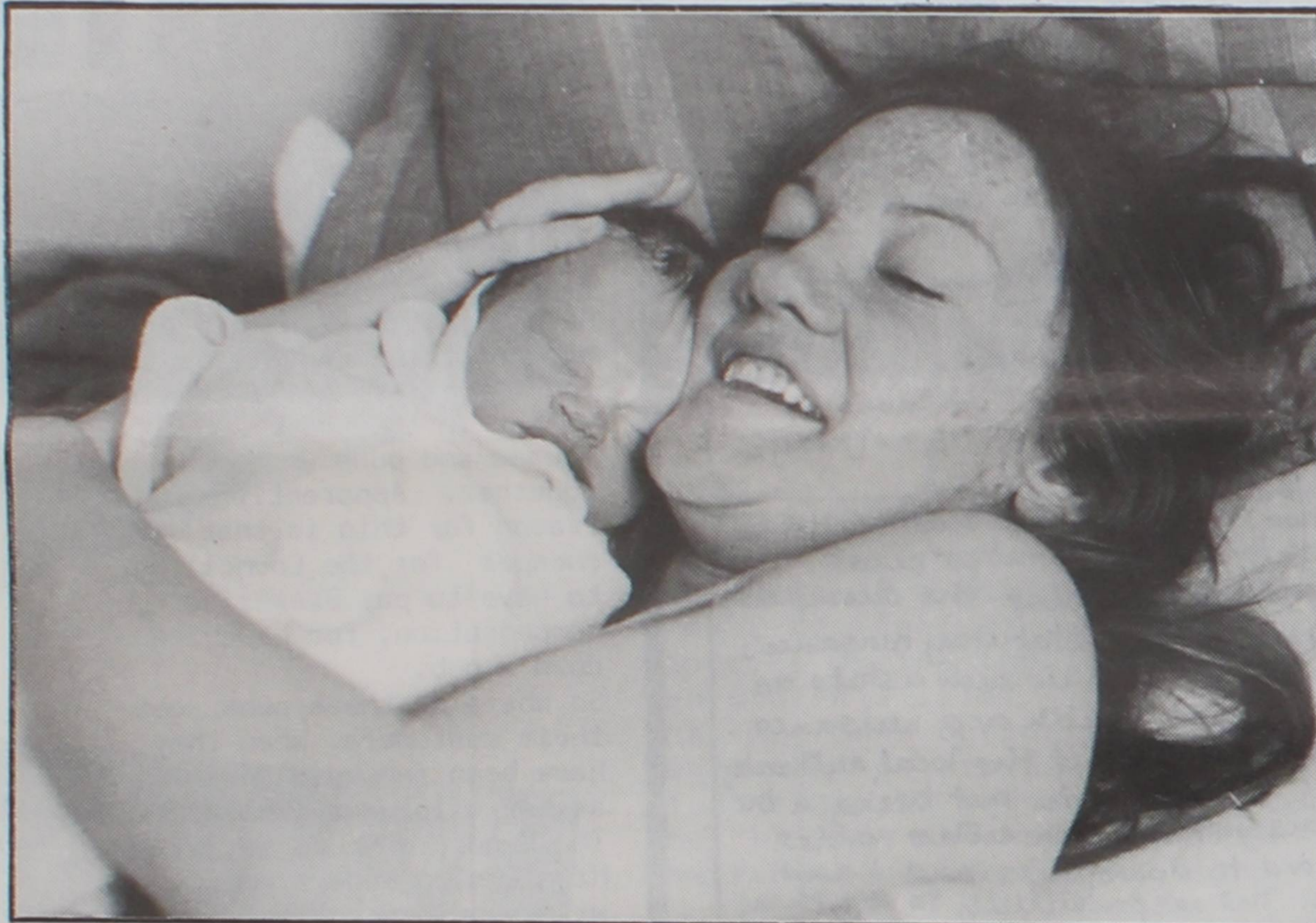
There seems to be some move towards allowing mothers more contact with their babies immediately after the birth. Most people who wanted to were allowed to cuddle their baby straight away (so we should hope!). The complaints we had on this point all relate to five years or more ago. However, all the babies in hospital were put in a nursery after this, for a few hours at least. Only one woman was able to insist the baby should stay with her. Quite a few women were happy with this situation, but many would have liked the baby to have been left with them from the beginning. At home this question doesn't arise, of course. Surprisingly, only two women wanted to bottle feed their babies from the start. All the others wished to breast feed, to begin with at least. Fewer than half of these found they were given active encouragement in hospital. Some found they were actually discouraged. Several mentioned rigid feeding times as a problem; trying to make a sleeping baby suck, and to ignore a hungry one! Staff attitudes also encouraged doubts among nursing mothers - e.g. is there enough milk, will the baby dehydrate? Attitudes to breast feeding vary from ward to ward, and it would help many women if they could go into a ward which matched their own ideas. Of course, at the moment they can't, neither do they have enough information in advance about the practices on the ward they're going to.

All those at home were encouraged with breast feeding and most women after leaving hospital found the district midwives helpful. However, one woman with her first baby did not find them very helpful, and would have liked more advice on how to build up her milk supply, rather than switch to bottles.

Almost everybody in hospital said they would have liked to have come home earlier, even those booked for just 48 hours. This suggests that once the actual delivery was over people generally didn't feel they were getting anything out of their time in hospital. A few mentioned that they liked the sound of the 'domino' scheme, where a woman delivers in hospital with her own midwife and is discharged about six hours later. This would probably be quite a popular choice if more widely available. When they returned home, every one was visited daily by the district midwives until the baby was at least ten days old. This was the service which had the praise from almost all the women; 'very good', 'marvellous' 'helpful' though also 'overworked' Several women mentioned that

they would have liked one midwife to have visited them as consistently as possible rather than having a succession of different ones. One woman found the district midwives very good but lacking in back-ups from her GP. Improvements

These were the most important points which women thought were in need of improvement: In Hospital the food could be better, visiting hour longer, fewer inflexible routines; less giving of conflicting advice by staff, particularly on breastfeeding; more choice about where the baby slept; earlier discharge where possible



At Home there should be more domiciliary midwives trained and given experience home births, better back up from hospitals for patients referred from home, including a more active flying squad to get them there, and a welcome from staff, instead of doubt and suspicion, which sometimes greets them now; greater use of the 'domino' scheme. One important point revealed by the widespread call for these improvements is the difference between official NHS policy on some matters, and what really happens, here in Nottm. The Department of Health & Social Security has, when pressed, given official policy on certain matters. Time and time again we heard how the practices of individual staff in individual hospitals, ran totally against this. For instance official NHS policy is choice for the mother between hospital and home confinements. Yet so many women our survey had no choice. NHS policy is against routine episiotomies, even if labour is prolonged. Yet all the women we know of who delivered in Nottm hospitals had one. Officially, breast feeding is promoted. Yet many women found a lack of encouragement to breast feed and a

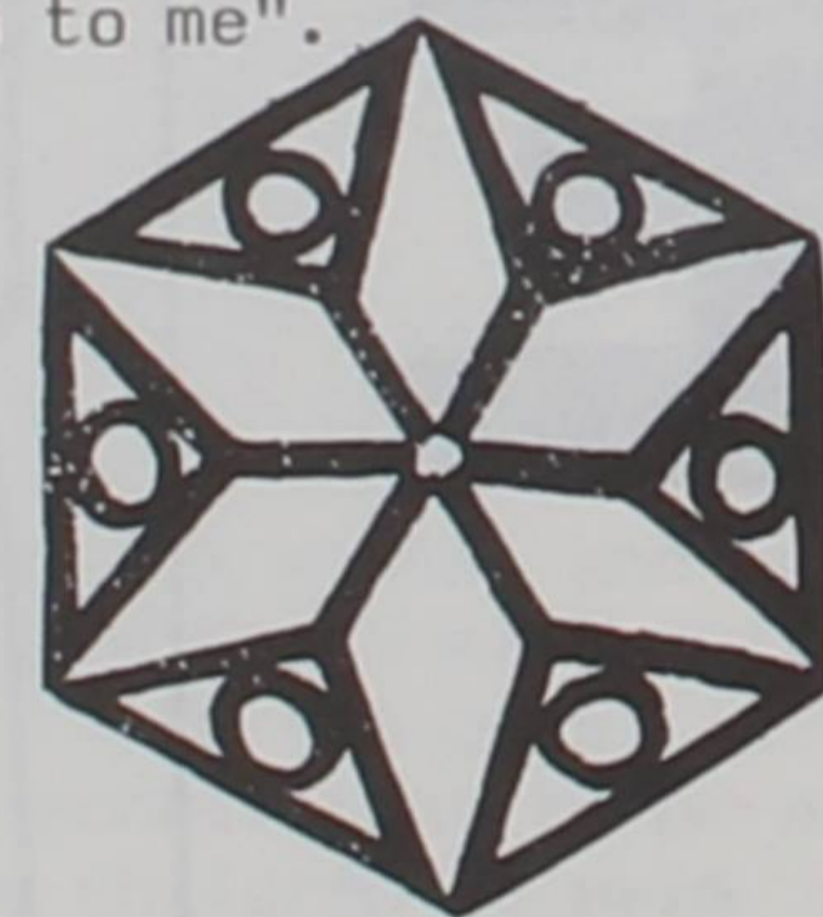
readiness to supplement with bottles which was detrimental to their success and confidence in breast feeding. Officially it is recognised that mother and baby should spend those crucial first hours together. Their relationship is strengthened and the possibility of battering reduced. But locally, all, except one babies were placed in a separate nursery during this time. A further point to emerge was that underlying all the comments and complaints women made, was a common theme - desire to be treated as an individual. Those at home had no problems. 'At home the midwives are in your house and can't shout at you like doctors in hospital', but in

hospital there was definitely room for improvement. Comments like this were frequent; 'Treat mums as people not bellies' 'Doctors had patronising attitudes' 'I disliked the hospital sisters, they were interested in the job not the people', 'I felt like a piece of furniture'. Women realised the pressures put on staff by the different demands of different women, long working hours and understaffing, but felt that there was an underlying attitude in need of change.

The women interviewed did not, however agree on how this change should be achieved quite a few wanted more politeness (Doctors should control their tempers) and more explanations of procedures. But basically they were happy to leave the management of their babies' birth to the medical profession. A sizable group of our sample though, felt that the answer lay in women taking a greater responsibility for their experiences and exercising ultimate control over the course of their pregnancies and labours. 'The whole emphasis should be moved away from illness and experts towards giving women more confidence in their knowledge and feelings'. Of course these women also favoured an increase in home births, because at home it is so much easier to be in control.

Our Maternity Services over the next few years.

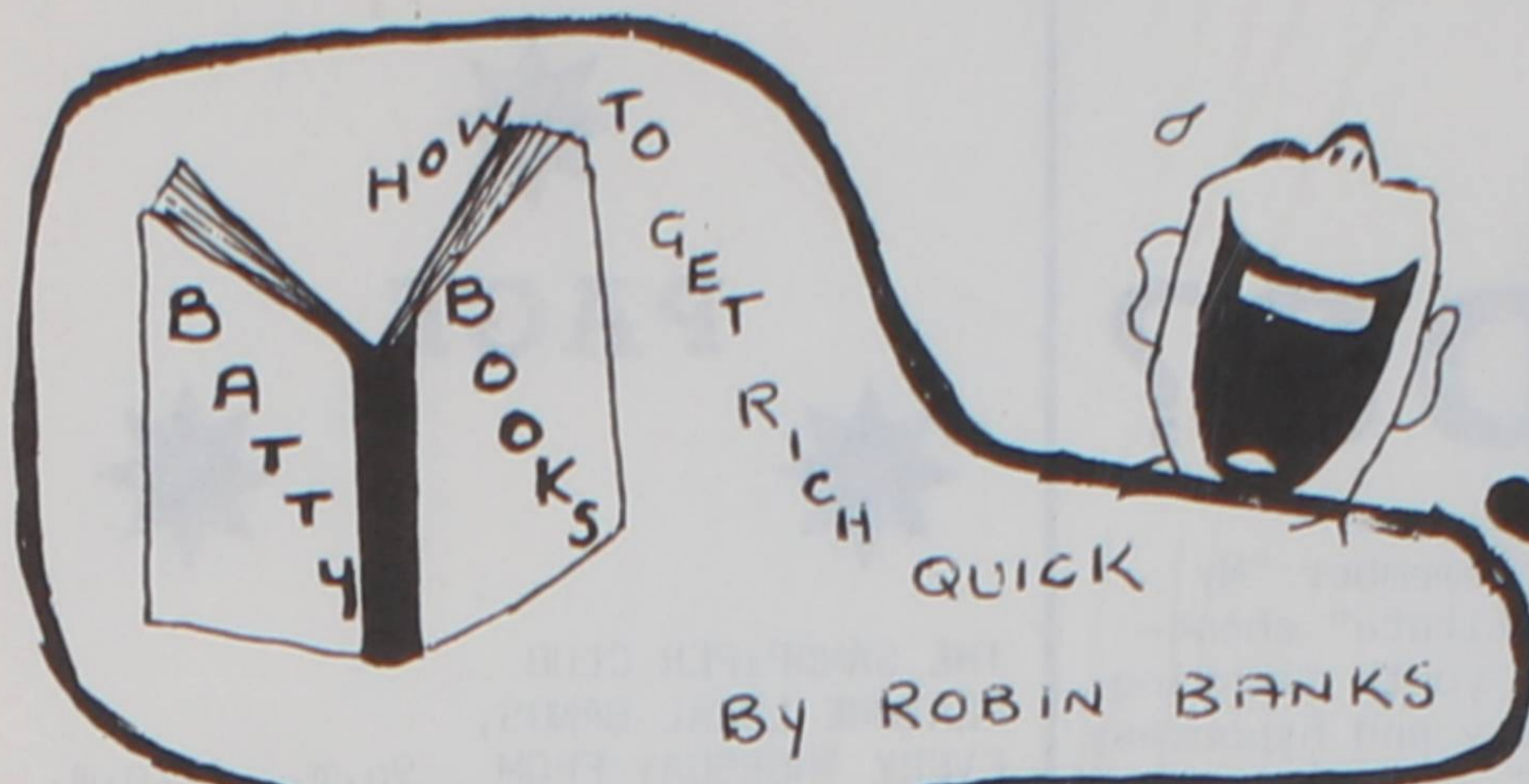
It appears from our survey that there are some areas of the maternity services that are needed and highly valued, eg preparation for labour, information, advice about breastfeeding and the district midwifery service. There are others that are given a 'no' by mothers eg. routine use of machinery in normal labours, and big centralised antenatal clinics. The ironic thing is that, at the moment, the aspects that women like are given less emphasis by the NHS planners and the thing that got a negative response are being established and used this is consistent with the overall emphasis within the NHS on high status, dramatic curative medicine at the expense of low level preventative and educative measures. There are funds for heart transplants and fetal heart monitors but none for geriatric care. Isn't it time that the wishes and needs of mothers and their babies were listened to? Isn't it time that nurses and midwives could work for and with their patients without having to think about pleasing their supervisors and consultants all the time. We need a change in direction towards a flexible, sensitive service in which women can choose the sort of birth they want, with the support and help of the medical professions. Perhaps when this happens, comments like this one, in which a woman described to us the birth of her daughter, won't be made so often: "I wasn't aware of it really. It was an alienating experience that I had nothing to do with. I look on it as if it didn't happen to me".



Having Your Baby At Home

The Nottingham Birth Group have recently printed a pamphlet entitled 'having your baby at home'. The pamphlet aims to encourage more women to have home deliveries and attempts to explode the myth that a hospital delivery is necessary and right for every woman. It discusses the practicalities and advantages of having a home delivery as, well as giving information on how to make the arrangements. It also contains a useful contact and book list. The pamphlet is priced 12p and is available from The Nottingham Birth Group c/o 15, Scotholme Avenue, Nottingham.

HI KIDS !



BY ROBIN BANKS

JOKE



WHATS ORANGE, AND RACES AT 120 M.P.H.?
"An 'E' Type Carrott".

ONE FLEA TO ANOTHER ON ROBINSON CRUSOE.
"Cheerio, see you on Friday".

Whats this?

A FAP dancer.

WHATS YELLOW AND JUMPS FROM CAKE TO CAKE?
"Tarzipan".

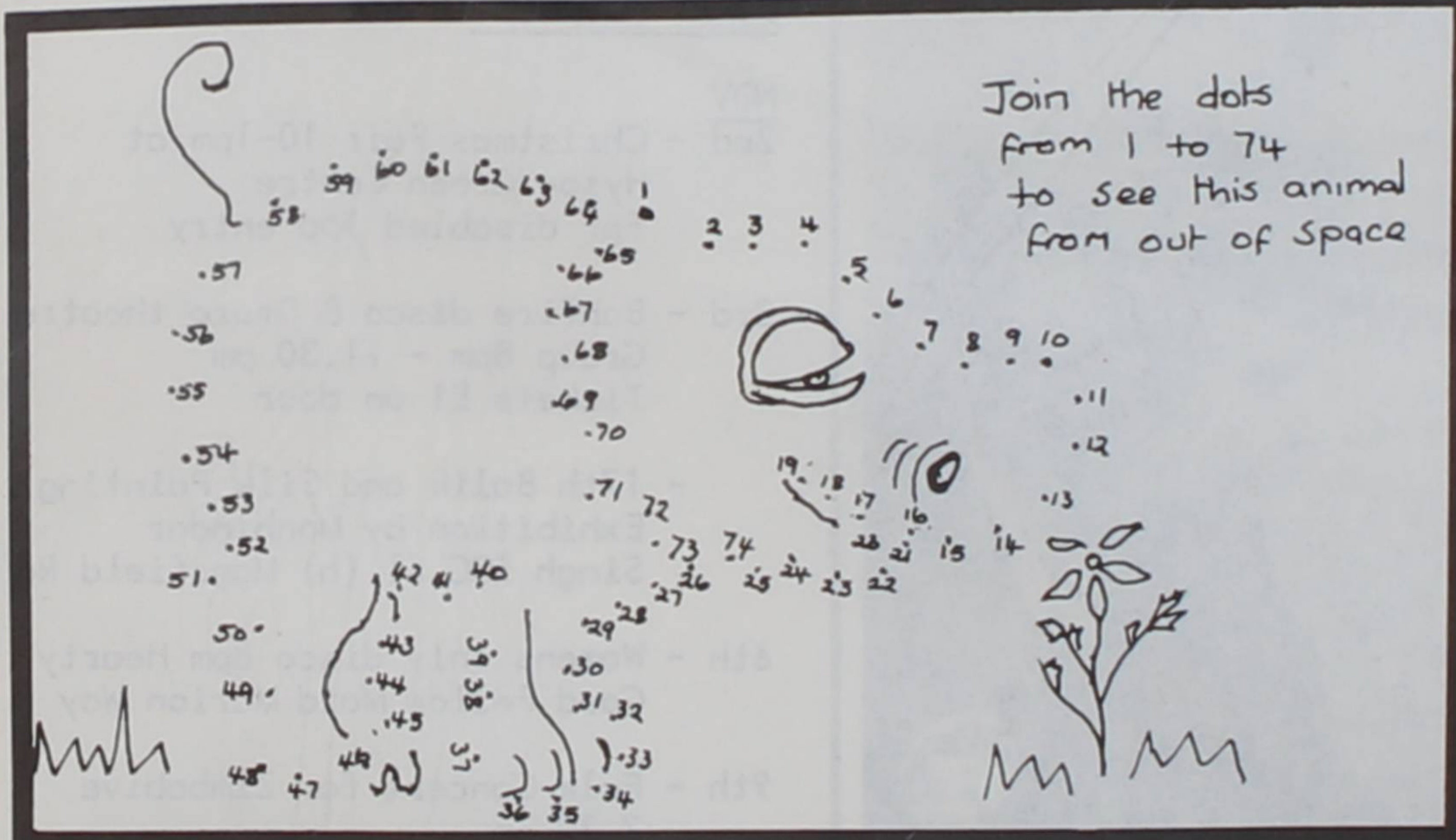
HOW DID YOU BEGIN THIS FLEA CIRCUS?
I just started from scratch



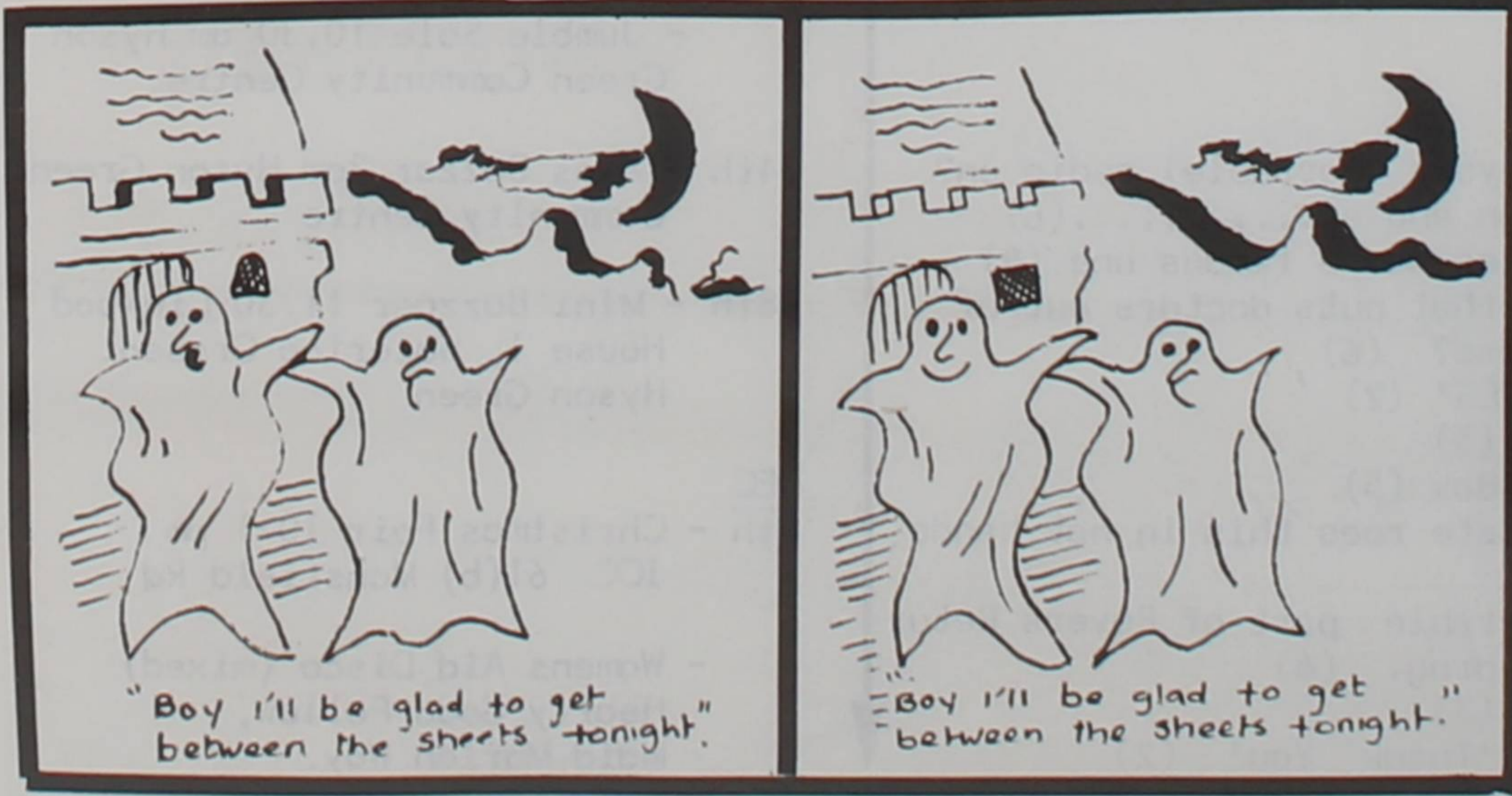
WHATS A MYTH?
A female Moth.

WHAT FLIES AROUND AND ROUND THE LAMP AT 180 M.P.H.?
Stirling Moth

Join The Dots.

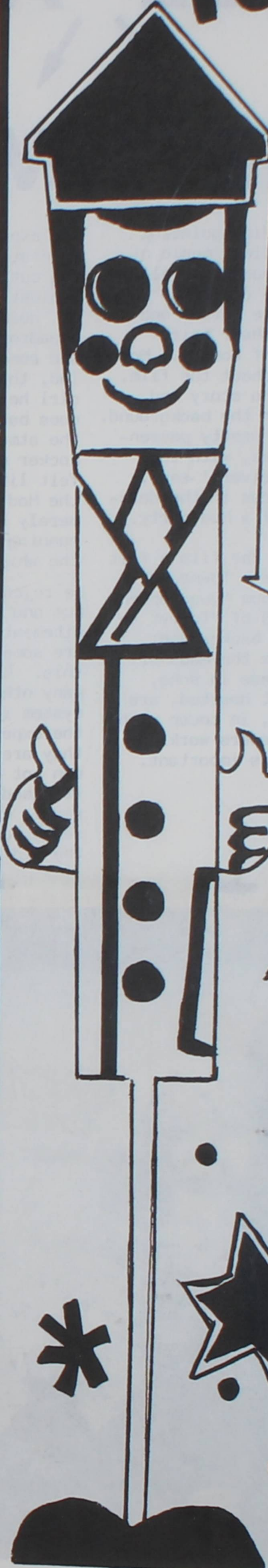


SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



NEVER FOOL WITH FIREWORKS!

FREDDIE FIREWORK SAYS..... REMEMBER



KEEP FIREWORKS IN A CLOSED BOX - take them out one at a time and put the top back at once!



Keep pets Indoors!

STAND WELL BACK!



FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON EACH FIREWORK CAREFULLY - read them by torchlight NEVER a NAKED FLAME!

BONFIRE PARTIES

GO ALONG AND ENJOY

Among the big parties this year are these at the following Adventure playgrounds

- * EDWARDS LANE
- * BROXTOWE
- * BALLOON WOODS
- * ST. ANNES
- * TENNYSON STREET

Also SPARTA (tenants group) are holding one behind the Old General Pub on Radford Rd.

All of these will be properly supervised and some will have mushy peas, baked spuds and the like.

YOURSELVES..... IN SAFETY

ON THE BANDWAGON

That-Paper reports on up and coming local bands, to find out what it's like, playing in Nottingham and trying to reach the top. The first band we interviewed was controlled chaos. If you are in a band and would like to be on bandwagon ring;

THAT PAPER 787813
NEXT MONTH ART FAILURE::

LOCAL BANDS

CONTROLLED CHAOS

Controlled chaos, comprises of 4 guys from the Carlton area. They first got together in April, 6 months after being influenced, said Pete Williams, by Sid Vicious. The band which consists of Dave Robinson, lead, Richard Hodgkins, drums, Pete Williams Bass, and Pete Moss, vocals, who incidentally was asked to play drums for the Nottm youth orchestra. After having Jamming sessions in Richards garage things 'Just went on from there'. They call themselves a dance band, and they say they like to see people dancing and enjoying themselves, and the last thing they want is to become superstars. They said it is tough playing as they all have full time jobs as well as playing with the band, and they get a bit disheartened when, promoters don't want to pay them for their gigs. They are now getting themselves established after one member of the band getting an interview on Radio Nottingham's 'Rock Show', and have already been to the studio to do demo tapes: When asked about the future, Pete Williams said "We would like to get a single out, then maybe an L.P. but we really just like to make music. To which Dave Robinson replied 'RUBBISH' I want to be a songwriter and who knows they write all their own stuff now, so is it such a long way to the top?"

WE ARE THE MODS?

"Quadrophenia" is a disappointing film. With the excellent music of The Who in the background it relive the time in the early 60's when Mods drove Lambrettas, wore Parkas and never had grease on their hair. That's the Mod Boys of course. Mod Girls are kept throughout the film, as in the original Who story and double album, well in the background. The girls are either pretty passengers on the Lambrettas, with the lads firmly in the drivers' sea, or bodies with no faces in the darkened upstairs room of a Mod party.

Is this criticism of the film a fair one? I think so. Pete Townsend wrote the concept album "Quadrophenia" after the success of "Tommy" to recall The Who's own background, built on support from the Mods of the time. Pete's ideas in song, although always light hearted, are usually serious ones, in touch with what problems and answers working class young men see as important.

For example, do you remember "My Generation" or "Substitute" shouting out the anger of youth fighting against the conformity and hypocrisy of 'normal' society? The plot of "Quadrophenia" is all about that, and comes to a crunch when a Mod lad, thrown by the rejection of the girl he really felt something for, goes back to Brighton to recreate the atmosphere of the Mod versus Rocker punch ups where he'd really felt like a man, only to discover the Mod leader - the Ace Face - is merely a hotel porter or Bell Boy, running around like a pet dog to the whims of the rich guests.

He rejects boring bosses and mindless mum and dad to join in with the excitement of being a Mod - and there are some nice scenes connected with this. But the estrangement he, and many other Mod lads, feel about the system is continually expressed at the expense of women. The way out they are looking for in the film can not be found with realising this. It's sad to notice that the Mod Revival, encouraged by this film, seems to copy the worst aspects of the old Mods in this respect.



POP PAGE

THE SANDPIPER CLUB
FEATURE LOCAL BANDS,
EVERY THURSDAY FROM 9p.m. - 12p.m.
ADMISSION 35p for members
ALL DRINKS PUB PRICES
SEE ABOUT GETTING YOUR BAND TO
PLAY THERE??
Tel: 54381 - Lunchtimes.

FUTURE EVENTS AT THE BOAT

- 10th Nov - Wild Horses.
- 17th Nov - Limelight
- 24th Nov - Lone Star and Angel
- Dec 1st - Roy Swindholme.

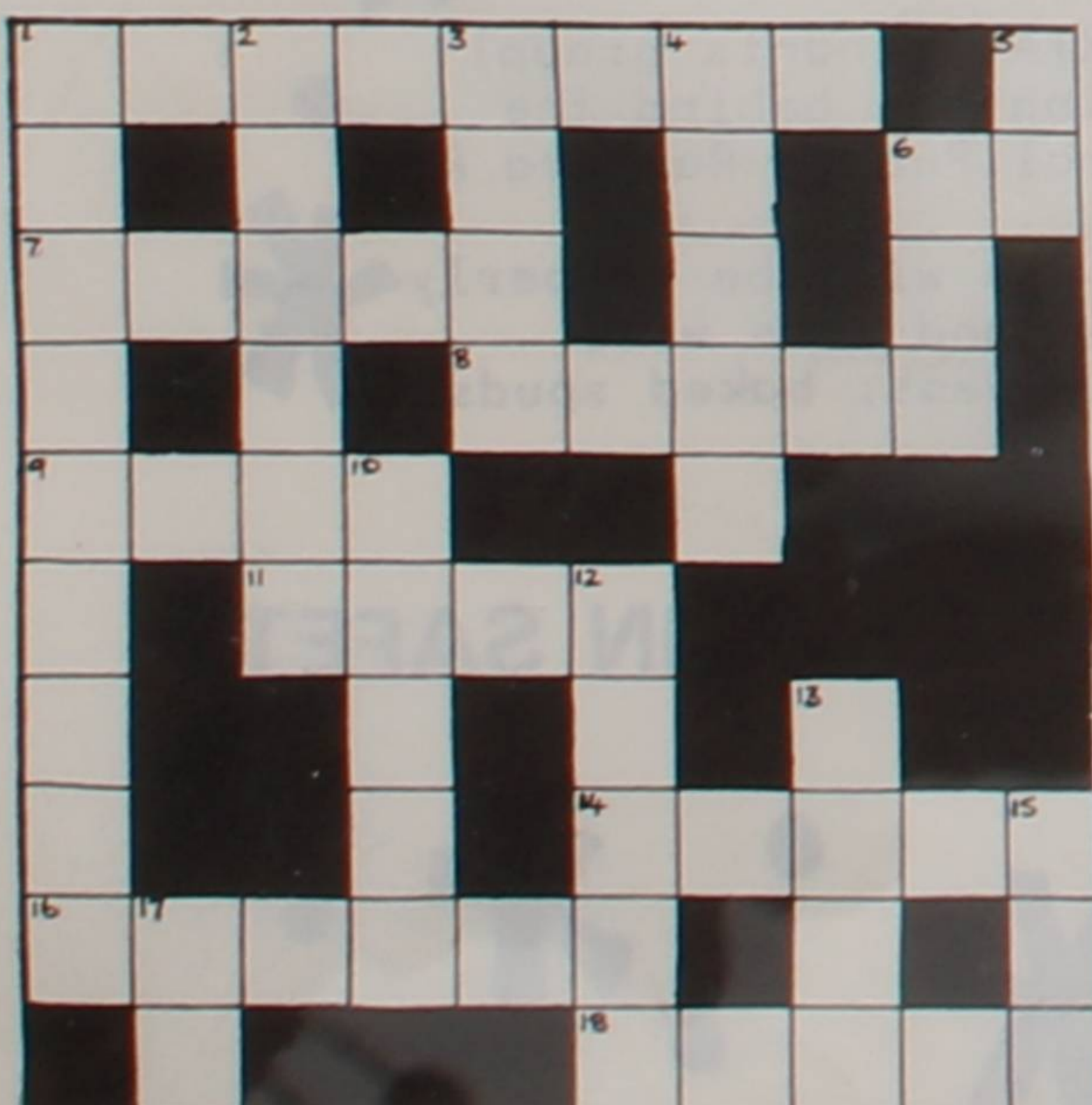
P.S If you are into Folk music, even if you don't play an instrument, but like to get the old vocals going. The Boulevard folk club which get together every Sunday. Invite people, to get on stage to either play or sing, doesn't matter what it sounds like, and if you do have an instrument, I hear it gets you in FREE!!

DIARY

DIARY NOV/DEC.

- NOV
- 2nd - Christmas Fair 10-1pm at Hyson Green Centre for disabled 15p entry
 - 3rd - Bonfire disco & Omoro theatre Group 8pm - 11.30 pm Tickets £1 on door
 - 17th Balik and Silk Painting Exhibition by Monhindar Singh ICC 61, (b) Mansfield Rd
 - 6th - Womens only disco 8pm Hearty Good Fellow Maid Marion Way
 - 9th - Folk Concert for Zimbabwe 7.30 pm ICC 61 (b) Mansfield Rd.
 - 10th - National Abortion Campaign Jumble Sale 2pm Queen Walk Community Centre Meadows
 - 17th - November Fair (proceeds to Cancer Research) 10.30 am YWCA Shakespeare Street
 - Country & Western Cook-up 7.30 pm 61(b) Mansfield Rd
 - Jumble Sale 10.30 am Hyson Green Community Centre.
 - 24th - Xmas Bazaar 2pm Hyson Green Community Centre
 - 28th - Mini Bazaar 11.30 Linwood House 1, Waterloo Crescent Hyson Green
- DEC
- 8th - Christmas Fair 10-1 pm ICC 61(b) Mansfield Rd
 - Womens Aid Disco (mixed) Hearty Good Fellow, Maid Marion Way.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Yearly celebration (8)
2. Post office initially (2)
7. Nottingham for 'Ear' and French for 'The' gives you something to have meals on! (5)
8. Kojaks favourite sweet? (5)
9. Hatti Jaques inventor brother on TV (4)
11. Still runs on rails in blackpool and the isle of man (4)
14. Country roads (5)
16. City Roads (7)
18. Sweetener (5)

DOWN

1. Turns your (Portable) radio on?
2. Talk on and on.....(6)
3. Achilles had a famous one (4)
4. Fruit that puts doctors out of business? (6)
5. Not 'YES' (2)
6. Wages (3)
16. Large Box (5)
12. Chocolate roes this in hot hands (5)
13. Comfortable part of Rovers Return in TV prog. (4)
15. Title (3)
17. Short 'Thank You' (2)