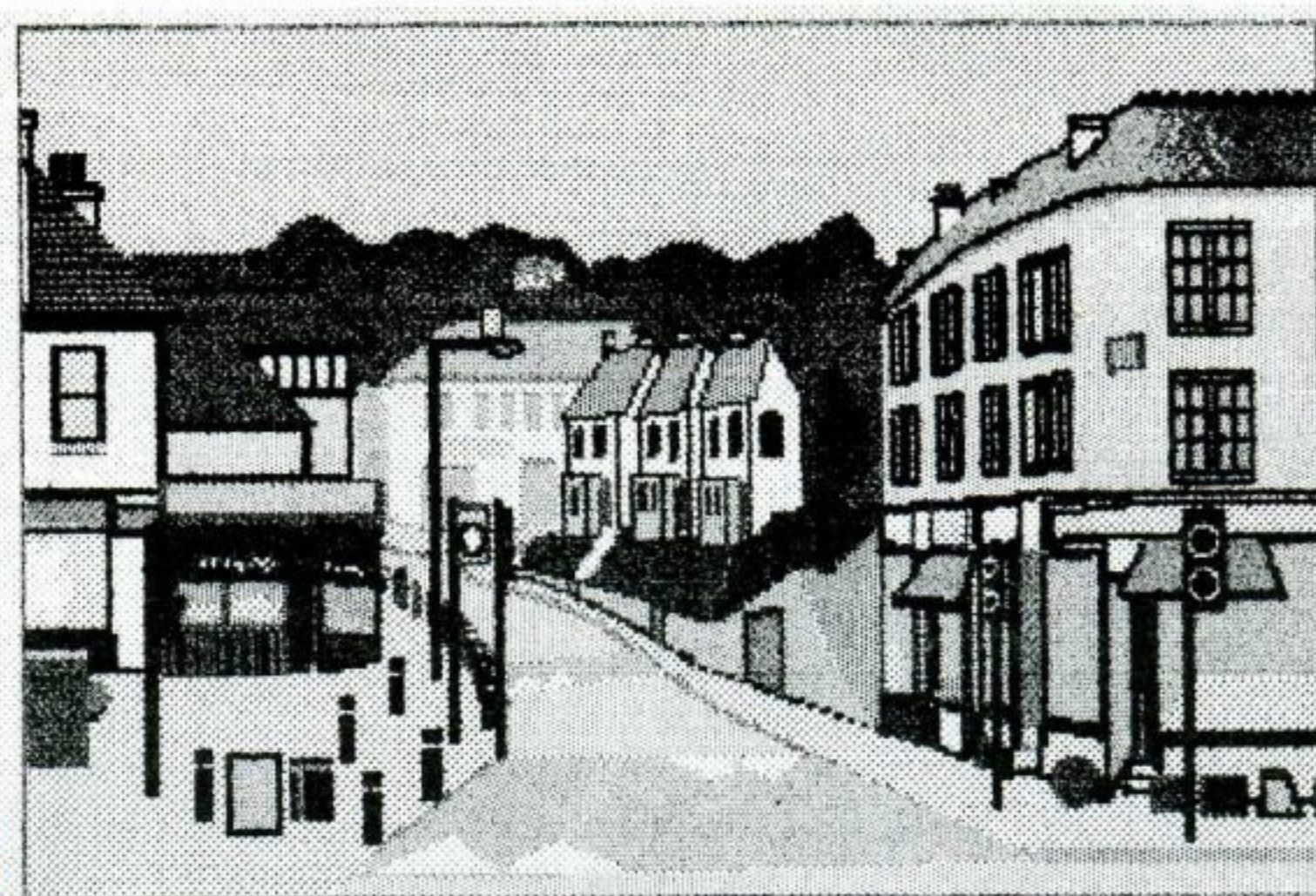


EDGE 25



Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group

Registered Charity No. 502817

June 1998

NENG IS 25 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR !

Joan Flett and Shirley Meek

Not only is the Group 25 years old but it is as active as ever and has as many members as it has ever had. To mark the occasion a bumper edition of 'EDGE'

has been prepared giving a brief summary of just some of the items which have appeared over the years. We

hope that these snippets will revive memories for long-term members and give newer members some idea of the multitude of issues and activities in which the Group has been involved over the years.

THANKS

The Group could not have existed at all these years without the help and support of *all* its members. However, we

would like to thank particularly the distributors of 'EDGE' and all those who served on the various committees and gave so much of their time to the Group.

Thanks are due to two people for their help with the production of 'EDGE' – Ann James (formerly Howard) designed the delightful headings, used for many years before the days of computers, and Harry Peck printed 'EDGE', at minimum cost, for a long time.

Thanks are also due to various outside organisations. Right from the inception of the Group the police and departments of the Local Authority, particularly the

Planning Department, have co-operated with the Group. More recently Community Health Sheffield, Sheffield Health Authority and Central Sheffield University Hospitals NHS Trust have been willing to talk to us about the future of the Nether Edge Hospital site.

Finally, we thank Psalter Lane Methodist Church (now St Andrew's Psalter Lane) for allowing us to use their attractive rooms at Shirley House for the Luncheon Club for the Housebound.

HOW DID WE START ?

At the beginning of the 1970s the Council announced that Nether Edge and Sharrow were to be 'Study' Areas. No-one knew what this would mean and some concern was felt that it would mean more industry and busier roads etc. The local branch of the Townswomen's Guild organised a public meeting at which the speaker was a senior planning officer.

Continued overleaf ...

This special anniversary issue has been jointly edited by Joan Flett and Shirley Meek.

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25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Continued from previous page ...

There was standing room only at that meeting and afterwards a small number of residents got together to form a 'Steering' Committee of a new residents group. Very wisely it was suggested that this should not be just an 'action' group but a 'neighbourhood' group covering a wide range of aspects of life in Nether Edge.

The first meeting of the Group took place on a snowy evening in early 1973 and the first AGM was held in May at the old Nether Edge Hall. This building later became Turn-Ups night club, which caused many years of distress to nearby neighbours until the Group successfully fought for its removal to a City centre location. Birchcroft now occupies the site on Nether Edge Road.

At that first AGM there was again standing room only and 800 members joined in the first year. Initially three subjects were covered, namely Planning, Welfare and Recreation. The aims of the Group were stated in the Constitution to be: *'To improve the conditions of life of the community within the area of Nether Edge, Brincliffe and Sharrow, without distinction of sex, race, political, religious or other opinions, but associating the local authority, voluntary organisations and residents in a common effort to improve the environment, to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social, welfare and leisure time activities.'*

In the first few years the various subcommittees were bubbling with enthusiasm. Scrap metal drives and newspaper collections were held to raise funds; children's fêtes were held each year in Chelsea Park; 'Good Neighbour' schemes were created; and members got to know each other through pea-and-pie suppers and barn dances.

OUR LATER YEARS

Gradually these activities ceased through lack of enthusiastic help and the only remaining activity of the 'Welfare' subcommittee is the continuing

extremely successful Luncheon Club for the Housebound. However, new interests and activities emerged, sometimes being only ephemeral. There was a Chelsea Park Users group, a Conservation working party, a Retired Neighbours club, Edge Women's group and a youth club. The Local History Group produced two very successful books and the Poetry Group still meets today.

The subcommittee which gained the most publicity was the Anti-Nuisance subcommittee, which was formed to deal particularly with Turn-Ups but also with other worries which residents had. In addition we co-operated with the Nether Edge Wildlife Group and continued to support the Playgroup and the Mother & Toddler Group, which NENG had started in the early days.

The strongest thread running through the work of the Group – and probably the one that attracts most interest – is the continued and dedicated work of the Planning Subcommittee. All planning applications submitted to the Town Hall are examined and neighbours are notified of any which might affect them. Neighbours are offered advice if they wish to query any application but the Group, as a body, does not oppose plans unless they seem contrary to the guidelines laid down in the District Plan.

The District Plan was the outcome of the Council's decision to make this a Study Area. The Group took part in many discussions and members made suggestions which were incorporated into the Plan; this lays down guidelines for the development of the area, which should be for housing, open spaces, industry etc, together with certain restrictions such as multi-occupancy and hotel and office expansion.

THE FUTURE

We hope that the Group will continue for the next 25 years. It can only do this with *your* help !

Chairman: Tony Lowe, Vice-Chair: Judith Green, Treasurer: Harold Turner, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

MAY 1973

This was the very first issue of 'EDGE'.

The steering committee set up at the public meeting earlier had outlined the main skeleton of what was to become

the body of the Group for the next twenty-five years. Four subcommittees had been set up — General Planning of the Environment; Welfare of the People; Publicity, Advisory & General Resources; and Community & Recreational Facilities. A Public Meeting was held on May

9th at the old Nether Edge Hall, later Turn-Ups and now the site of Birchcroft on Nether Edge Road.

Even in that first issue of 'EDGE', concerns were raised in letters which are still voiced today, namely dog fouling, the poor condition of pavements due to gas main work etc, together with traffic dangers.

A Nether Edge Study Group was set up under the tutor Roy Darke, of the University of Sheffield Town Planning Department, and members of the

Group surveyed a cross-section of residents to obtain their views of the current and future issues in Nether Edge. Asked to define Nether Edge, interviewees almost unanimously said "It's where the trees start." Eight hundred members joined the Group in the first year.

A Hallowe'en Party was held and the first carol singing round the streets took place. Money was raised by a jumble sale and paper collection.

Memories: A resident moving back to Nether Edge after 37 years remembered the bus fare of 1½d to Town.

Shops: The editorial in September expressed concern about the loss of local shops. Holgate's, a hardware shop, was closing and Orme's, the provision shop on the corner of Nether Edge Road, had been closed since August. The importance of local shops to the elderly and

those without cars was noted. We are reminded that we used to have a local chemist (now Café No.9) by an interesting note:-

"THE WRONG SPIRIT ?

Having bought some methylated spirit at Cook & Dale, the local chemists, I noticed on the label '*Cannot be sold between 10 pm on Saturday and 8 am on Monday*'. The chemist told me that it was first law in Scotland and Liverpool, but was eventually made the law of the land, and remains so to this day, as an attempt to stop people drinking it at the weekends or on Sundays."

1974

In September the first Chelsea Park Fête was held and this was a huge success.

Asked to define Nether Edge, interviewees almost unanimously said "It's where the trees start."

The new South Yorks County Council appealed for public participation in the development of its Structure Plan for the

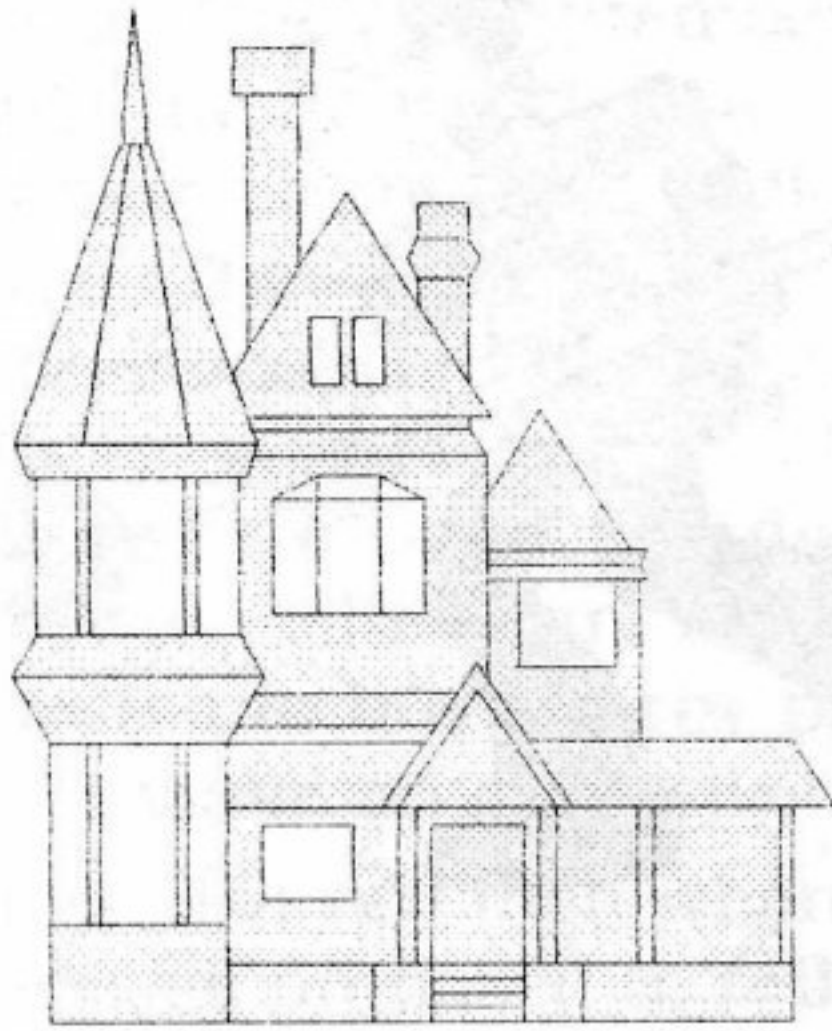
planning of South Yorkshire in the foreseeable future. A series of public meetings was held on specific topics: work, movement, shopping, home and local environment, and leisure. The lively meetings were attended by planners and Sheffield councillors. Many of the topics raised continue to be discussed today — traffic, bus services, play facilities, balance in types of housing. Some local concerns such as a community centre & a branch library have been abandoned.

It now seems unbelievable that for years 'EDGE' was produced on a hand-operated duplicator and that we stood around someone's dining room table to collate all 800 copies !

Notice Board: Our first notice board was erected at the top of Sheldon Road, with a paved area and a seat, which proved popular for a few years. Planning applications were posted there. ❀

Chairman: Ted Oldfield, Vice-Chair: Jackie Hamilton, Treasurer: Robert Adkins, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

Housing Use in Nether Edge was, as always, a matter of concern. It was estimated that about 50 houses in the area were standing empty and unused. At the same time, more were being turned into student accommodation. NENG supported Sheffield City Council when the university appealed against the rejection of its application to convert houses in Raven, Briar and Violet Bank Roads for student use, but the university won its case and got its bed-sits.



Waste Paper prices collapsed! The newspaper collection scheme was halted and the Group lost a steady source of income. The annual Jumble Sale, master-minded by Dorothy Orton, continued, however, and flourished.

Talks and social events were still numerous: Local History; Gardening in Nether Edge; Chelsea Park Fête; coffee mornings; Art & Craft evenings ... We seem to have been much more sociable then.

In April, NENG organised a meeting of all prospective councillors for Nether Edge ward in the **local government elections**, at which residents could meet and question the three candidates. This useful event continued for several years.

The **Playgroup** was now running three morning sessions each week and the Mother & Toddler Group met on one afternoon.

The Group was still without any **Community Centre** or permanent meeting place. Nether Edge hall had now become Turn-Ups nightclub and the manager — maybe seeking to avert some of the criticism this change of use had already provoked? — offered us the use of the lower hall on three mornings a week. The Retired Neighbours and the Mother & Toddler Groups did meet there for a while, presumably until relations with Turn-Ups became even more strained.

In September, at the **Wine & Cheese Party**, a Committee member complained: "I think meetings are getting too formal. In the old days people used to sit on the floor darning socks." (YES !! 22 years ago socks were still being mended when holes appeared ...) ❀



From EDGE, February 1978

Some Thoughts On Nether Edge

Linda Evans

... So far, in Nether Edge, we have several networks, loosely connected through NENG. The Luncheon Club, one playgroup, one babysitting circle, one register of helpers, are all valued by those involved. The planning group can speak for the neighbourhood on matters affecting our environment and we can all help to resist local nuisances. If we are to become a new sort of community, though, it would help if we became conscious of this direction and tried to see new ways of acting together. For example, do newcomers find it easy to reach any relevant groups? Are we prepared to have a group policy about minor vandalism and litter? Can we offer a new sort of support to neighbours under stress?

I think we have evolved here something new, where the ruling spirit is to face problems together. One begins to realise what a rare and new attribute this is.

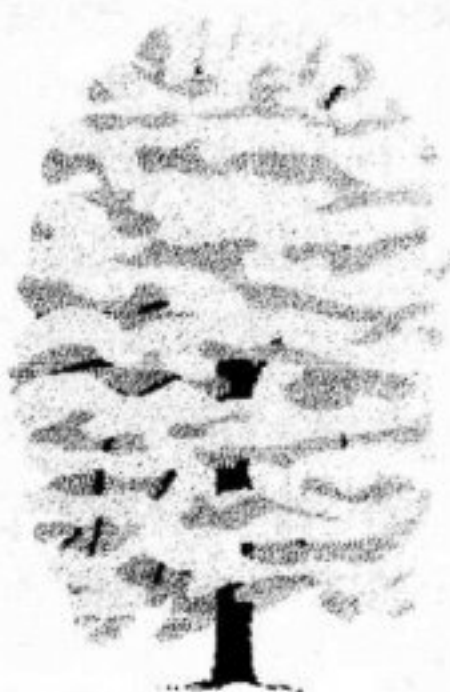
Chairman: Joan Flett, Vice-Chair: Ian Howard, Treasurer: Robert Adkins, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

The Mother & Toddler Group and the Playgroup were now meeting at St Andrew's Church Hall and the former Mother & Toddler Group, which met in each others houses, became the **Edge Women's Group**.

Anti-Nuisance Subcommittee: This had been set up in response to the distress caused to neighbours by the *Turn-Ups Night Club*. One hundred residents attended the first meeting to express "outrage at the regular disturbance of their sleep and amenities until 2 am six nights a week." £550 was raised by well-wishers and NENG guaranteed £200 to make an appeal at the Crown Court after appealing to the Licensing Authority for help. A probationary licence was granted to a new owner.

There was still talk of acquiring a **Community Centre**. The premises on Union Road, previously part of Granville College (and now the Education Department's resources centre) was one suggestion. Orme's shop, now Nether Edge Home Improvements, which had stood empty for three years, was another suggestion.

At the fourth **Annual General Meeting**, the motion that "NENG should oppose any plans to remove trees" was passed unanimously. At the installation of the new Lord Mayor, which took place shortly after this AGM, the new Lord Mayor said: "Let the branches sprout blossom, but let the roots stay firmly in the ground" and he went on to say "In times of depression publicity is most important and I am far better to climb a tree and holler than to whisper down a well" !



Dogs: Still a nuisance and a source of letters. A 'dog toilet' in Chelsea Park was suggested !



The District Plan was published and a Public Meeting held to discuss its effect on Nether Edge.

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Chairman: Tony Stering, Vice-Chair: Sacha Sablovs, Treasurer: Iain Gray, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

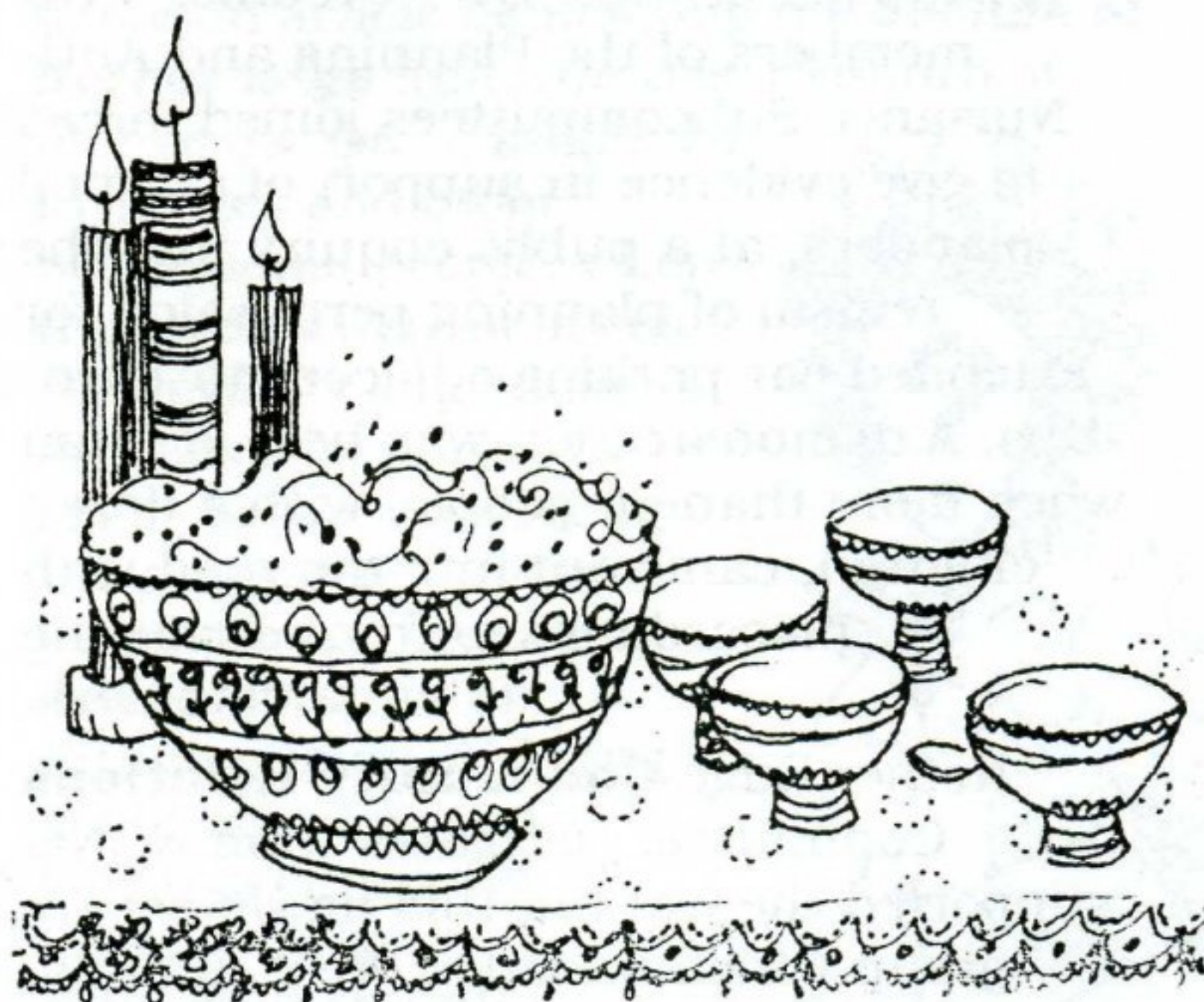
The **Turn-Ups** saga continued ... In February the new management appealed against the Licensing Magistrates' decision to cut the hours of opening. The Crown Court dismissed this appeal, awarded costs to the objectors, and upheld the Magistrates' opinion that entertainment centres could *not* be allowed to disturb residential areas.

The Group was still looking for a **Community Centre** and, with other local organisations, it supported the idea that Turn-Ups might be acquired for this purpose. But, in September, Watney Manns sold the premises to a new owner and, in December, its licence was renewed. The Magistrates had apparently reversed their earlier decision in spite of repeated complaints from local residents about late-night disturbance and rowdy behaviour. Turn-Ups was now trying to buy nearby property to make an extensive car park!

Feelings also ran high when Sheffield Social Services proposed to **fell 19 trees** in the course of alterations to Sharrow Industries, the workshops on the old Blind School site on Sharrow Lane. NENG alerted local residents, organised a petition, ensured press and radio coverage and stood guard over the trees to see off the chain saws. There were rapid second-thoughts about the site and finally only five trees were lost. Even more important, procedures were changed so that the Council's decision-making committees could see clearly where trees were being threatened.

Illegal pavement parking and excessive speeds of vehicles on Nether Edge and Brincliffe Edge Roads concerned the Group and meetings were held with both Council officials and police. Very little came of this.

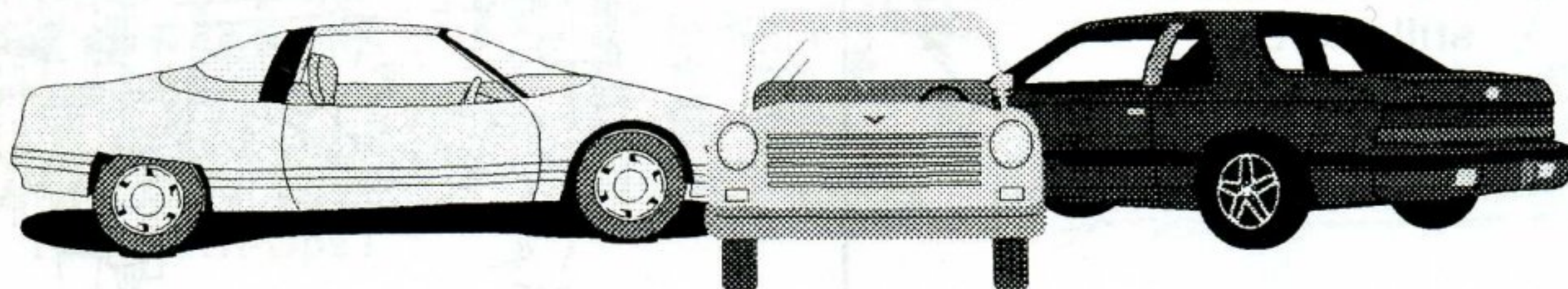
NENG member **Roger Green** became *Women's Realm* Cook of the Year for 1977 and gave a cookery demonstration evening, culminating in a sumptuous Victorian Trifle. He subsequently took up a successful catering career in Bakewell.



The annual subscription to NENG had now soared to 40p !

On Sundays in November, up to 14 people could enjoy a **45-minute tour** of Nether Edge in a carriage drawn by a pair of 14-hands-high greys. This started at the Stag Inn and cost £1.00.

And just in case you think we were all active, socially-concerned paragons in those days: only four adults and eight children turned up for a widely-advertised **Clean-Up Day** in Brincliffe Edge Wood. And the Junior Youth Club folded for want of adult helpers (though other noble souls started up a **Junior Makers Club** for 'creative activities.' ♦



Chairman: Sacha Sablovs, Vice-Chair: Geoffrey Goddin, Treasurer: Iain Gray, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

Subscriptions (again): Collecting subs was always a problem over the years. (1998 is a record year — in March there was only *one* outstanding subscription !)

Turn-Ups: An attempt was made by the proprietors to use the site of 21/23 and the garden of 11 Nether Edge Road as additional car parking. The Anti-Nuisance Subcommittee objected to this and to the renewal of the Music, Singing & Dancing licence. On November 14th members of the Planning and Anti-Nuisance Subcommittees joined forces to give evidence in support of Council planners, at a public enquiry into the refusal of planning permission for extended car parking adjacent to Turn-Ups. A demonstration was held at 1 am when more than 50 people, with a dozen children, came out into the road with placards to confront departing customers.

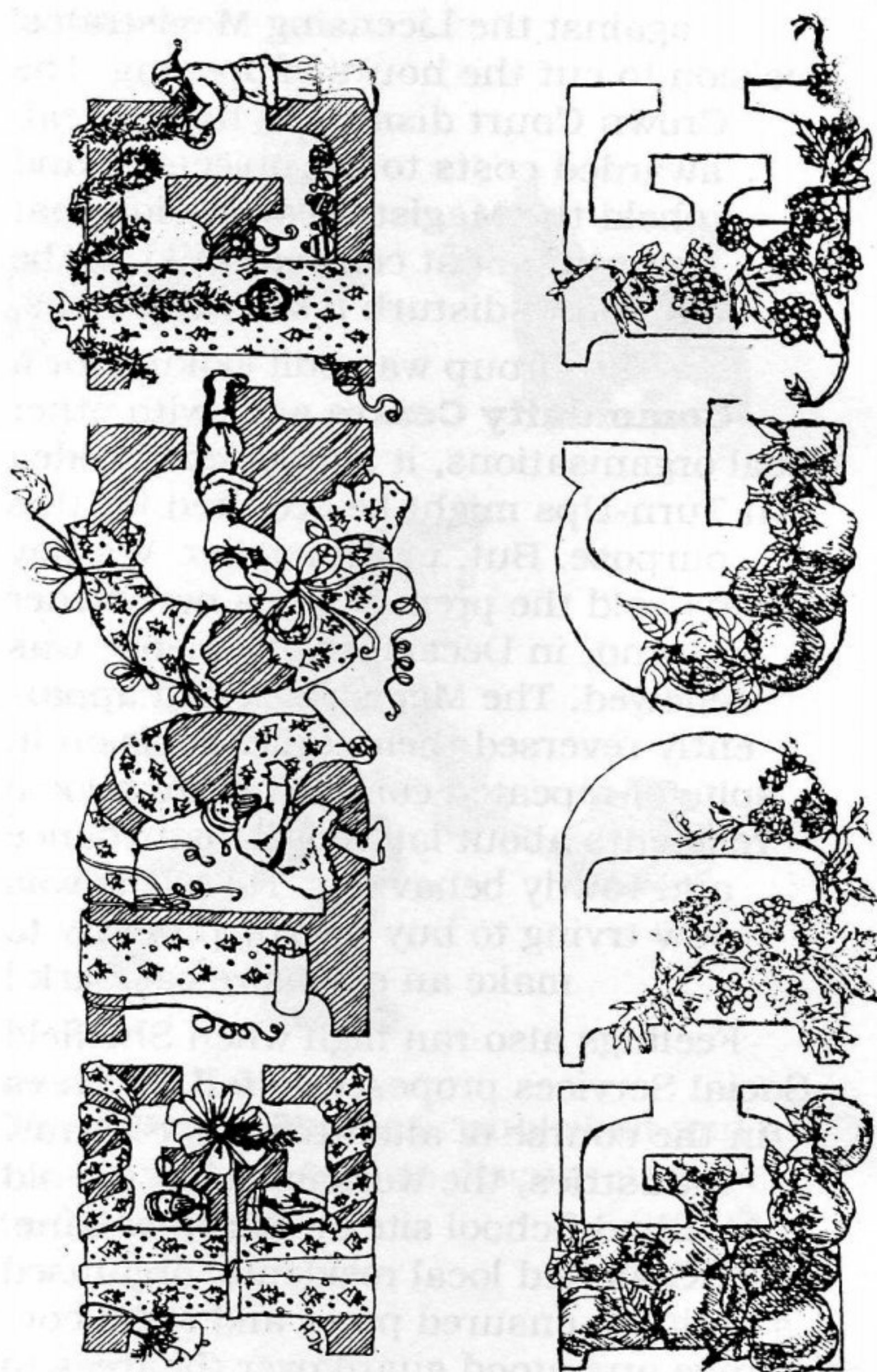
Nether Edge **Community Relations**

Committee: Delegates from NENG supported the work of this newly-set-up group which included West Indians, Pakistanis, police and representatives of local churches. One of the projects set up was the reclamation of derelict land between Broadfield Road and the River Sheaf for a play area.

Chelsea Park: Another successful Fête.



Trees: A correspondent noted that there was a wild fig tree on Brincliffe Edge. "I used to take leaves to work to put on the pin-ups" !!! Does anyone know if it is still there ?



Two of the many beautiful EDGE banners drawn by Ann Howard



Chairman: Edith Fawcett, Vice-Chair: Joan Flett, Treasurer: Iain Grey, Secretary: Pat Rodgers



Landscape design students from Sheffield University put on an exhibition of **studies of Nether Edge**, and once again the Group voiced its concern for the green environment of this area. The need to replace trees was raised, and there were the first proposals for the management of Brincliffe Edge Wood. The idea was floated that NENG itself should organise and carry out the work if the Recreation Department lacked resources.

A few pieces of good news for once, from the **Planning Subcommittee**: some multi-occupancy premises were being converted back to family houses, and the semi-derelict 18th century listed building on Ladysmith Avenue, *The Edge*, was to be converted into four flats.

The great **Turn-Ups** battle moved into its final stages. The manager undertook to move to a City centre site in 18 months time, after which the Magistrates would grant no further licence for the premises.

In return, NENG agreed not to object to opening until midnight on Thursday, and 1.00 am on Friday & Saturday (though reserving its right to object to disturbances if they occurred).

Numbers 11, 21 and 23 Nether Edge Road had been saved from becoming car parks.

The Anti-Nuisance Subcommittee now shifted its attention to the perennial nuisance of **dog dirt**. This has proved an even longer-running and more intractable problem than Turn-Ups!



Chelsea Park Fête was a more multi-racial event than in previous years, involving the Community Relations Committee and the Asian and West Indian communities. Funds raised went towards the new Broadfield Road Playground project. Two local councillors volunteered themselves as wet sponge targets on the Aunt Sally ... now there's an idea worth resurrecting!

Mr J. Edward Vickers, the local historian, wrote an article bemoaning the **decline of Nether Edge** from the select suburb of fifty years ago — inhabited by judges and other professional people, where the streets were spotless, the gardens immaculate, and little servant girls could be seen scrubbing the door-steps — into a litter-strewn, pop music deafened haunt of drunken louts. This triggered off responses which accused him of viewing the past through rose-tinted glasses and pointing out that, while the Good Old Days were good only for the select few, Nether Edge was still a very pleasant place to live. ✿

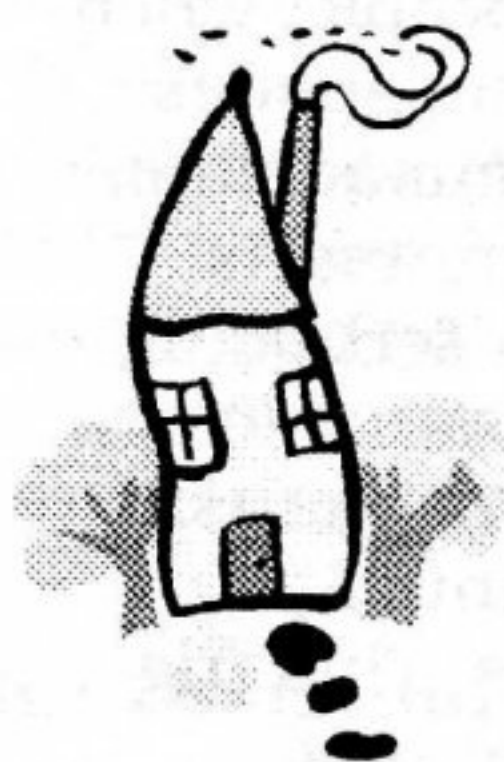


Chairman: Edith Fawcett, Vice-Chair: Joan Zunde, Treasurer: Iain Gray, Secretary: Pat Rodgers

Sharrow & Nether Edge District Plan:

The Council had published its plans and a public meeting was held on December 8th to discuss the proposals.

Washington Road: Regret was expressed in a letter at the demolition of the houses in Washington Road. The Planning Subcommittee explained that the area had been declared a Housing Action Area in 1975 after it was made clear that the houses were deemed to be beyond redemption. The residents apparently had shown no desire to rescue their homes.



Turn-Ups: The licensee offered the use of the Lower Room to the Group for use as a meeting place for the Retired Neighbours Group. The premises were not regarded as suitable!

Local Shops: Mr & Mrs Bromley's corner shop on Machon Bank/Cherry Tree Road closed after twenty years.

Participation by members: There was a general feeling of apathy and an appeal was made to NENG members to take an active part in the various activities. Queries were raised as to whether NENG should have (a) discussions about local issues, (b) social occasions, whist drives, wine & cheese evenings, dances, etc.

Chelsea Park: The last Chelsea Park Fête was held. This annual event had been a great success, thanks to the many helpful volunteers who manned stalls and arranged games etc. ❀

From EDGE, June 1980

The Roads of Nether Edge

J. Edward Vickers

Have you ever wondered how your road acquired its name? Here are just a few notes on interesting names of our district:-

Kenwood Rd; Kenwood Park Rd; Kenwood Bank and Kenwood Avenue are all named after 'Kenwood', the home of George Wostenholm (see page 12), and is now the Kenwood Hotel [now, in 1998 the Swallow Hotel - Eds]. He took the name from a suburb of Boston, Mass., USA, where he frequently went to obtain orders for his cutlery. He found Boston, with its stately homes set in large grounds and its streets all lined with trees, so much to his liking that he built the Nether Edge Estate on the same pattern. He also gave the name of the US capital to *Washington Road*. *Montgomery Rd, Drive and Avenue* were named in honour of the poet, hymn writer & newspaper publisher, James Montgomery.

One of the oldest roads running along the boundary of Nether Edge is *Psalter Lane*, which was originally Salter's Lane, the old track down which salt was brought into Sheffield.

Another ancient way was *Nether Edge Rd*, which was the road to the farmhouse called Nether Edge. The remains of this house, badly mutilated, are now the Brincliffe Oaks Hotel. *Oakdale and Oakhill Rds* are named after some very fine old oak trees known as the Brincliffe Oaks (!).

Edgebrook Rd, another ancient way, was called after the Edge Brook; a little of this pleasant brook can still be seen in the gardens of Fountside, the modern block of flats which stand on the site of the old Manor House.

The Sheldon family's estate gave its name to *Sheldon Rd*. Joshua Spooner, owner of the Machon Bank Estate, gave his name to *Joshua Rd* and Emily Spooner is remembered by *Emily Rd*.

Sharrow Lane is another of the ancient tracks in this district and is called after the 'sharrow' or shared fields.

Meadow Bank Avenue is named after the field called Mow Meadow Bank, over which the avenue was laid.

Priory Rd, Place and Terrace were built on land belonging to Worksop Priory.

Chairman: Ted Oldfield, Vice-Chair: Peter Babb, Treasurer: Iain Gray, Secretary: Joan Flett

Turn-Ups had more recently been re-named 'Happy Nights' (!). Despite this change of name and after well over six years of struggle —

in August, Turn-Ups finally closed !

The Anti-Nuisance Subcommittee did not become redundant but now dealt with disturbance from the Priory Lodge Hotel. Some of the original stalwarts are still in the residents group concerned with recent trouble at the Brincliffe Oaks.

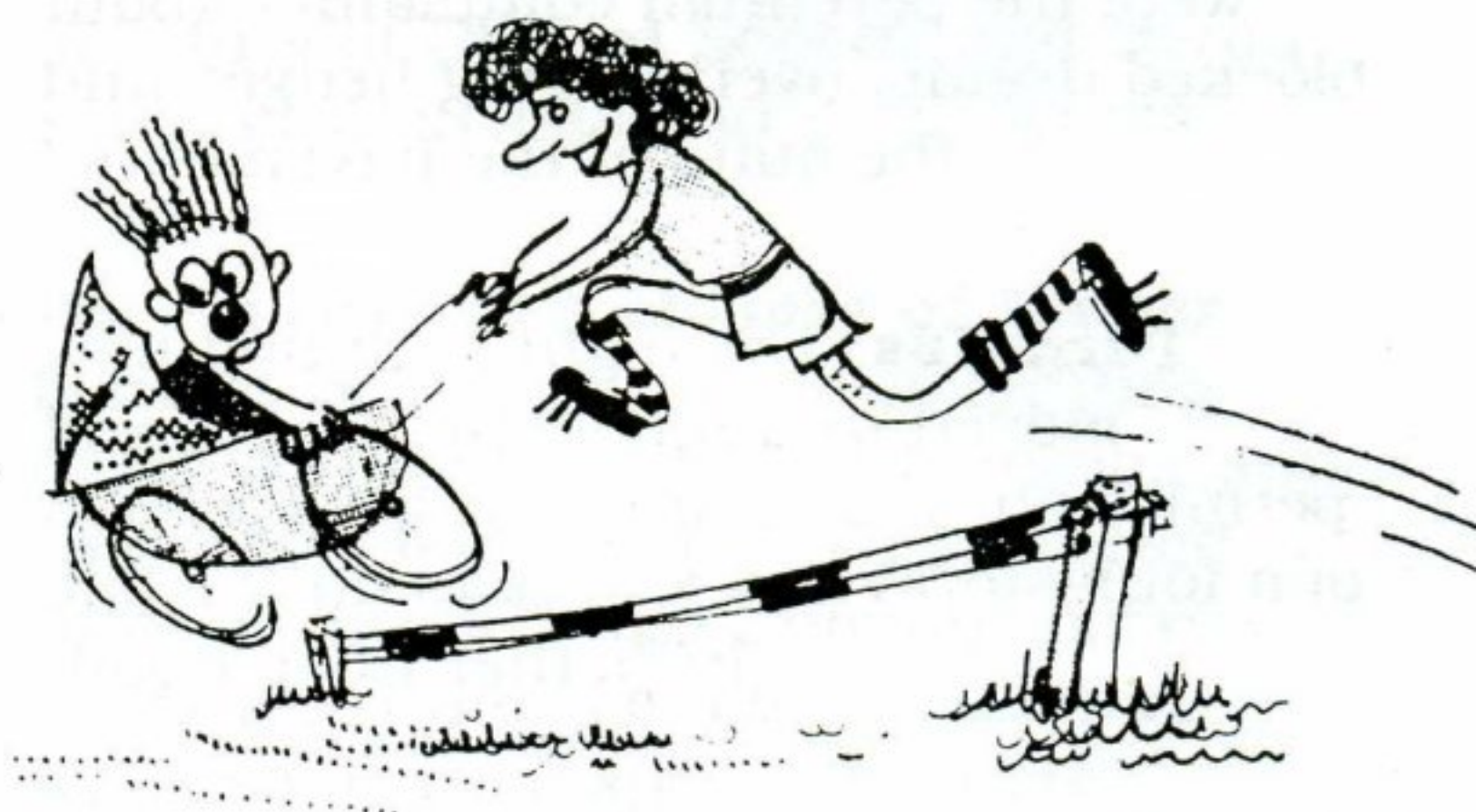
The Sharrow & Nether Edge Draft Plan appeared. This predecessor of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) set out planning guidelines for our area. The NENG Planning Subcommittee refused to believe the Council's claim that traffic on Nether Edge Road had diminished and called for immediate experimental closing of Archer Lane. This was agreed by the Council — but local residents protested.

In April the **Planning Subcommittee** resigned *en masse*, feeling there was unnecessary duplication of their work by the General Committee ! They resumed duties later, after negotiation ...

The Chelsea Park Fête this year became the **Broadfield Road Fête**, held in the new playground, and proceeds went to buy trees, seats and play equipment. But far fewer NENG members attended, and were castigated by the 'EDGE' editor for "not descending from their lofty heights to where the real problems of the world exist."

A local mother wrote: "As one who pushes a pram to our local shops every day, I am battle-hardened but frustrated at the unequal contest between my pram and the many **vehicles** that use the pavement to park. Why should I push my baby onto the road because I cannot negotiate the pavement ?"

... and possibly as one way of getting her fitter for the battle, a joggers' 'Trim Track' was suggested for Chelsea Park:



NENG members were castigated for "not descending from their lofty heights to where the real problems of the world exist."

Andrew Robinson, aged 6, wrote his comment on a perennial Nether Edge autumn problem:-

*"The leaves are falling,
Falling to the ground.
Dancing gaily up and down
In the town
Scrunching, rustling, rattling too,
I say shoo, shoo, shoo.
These leaves, these leaves will not go.
They will be here tomorrow."*



Chairman: Peter Babb, Vice-Chair: Helen Ward, Treasurer: Geoffrey Meek, Secretary: Joan Flett

Subscription: The annual subscription is still 50p. The Treasurer pointed out that this was equivalent to a pint of beer, half a packet of cigarettes or half a gallon of petrol !

Local History: The inaugural meeting of the Local History Group was held.

Leaves, hedges and pavements: There were the perennial complaints about blocked drains, overhanging hedges and the state of the pavements !

Turn-Ups: The night club had now moved to Commercial Street and permission was granted for the erection of a four-storey block of flats on the site in Nether Edge Road.

Fête: The second summer fête at Broadfield Road was held in conjunction with the Nether Edge Community Relations Committee.

Traffic: In March there was a meeting to discuss the closure of Archer Lane.

Elections: For several years, pre-election meetings were held. As the Group is non-political these were dependent on *all* the major party candidates attending.

Luncheon Club for the Housebound: Members celebrated the 100th birthday of Miss Hall of Cherry Tree Court. ❀

From EDGE, November 1982

Nether Edge Past & Present

Geoff Meek

32 Kenwood Park Road

When George Wostenholm, of 'IXL' cutlery fame, had made his pile out of knives and razors and so forth, he decided to set up in the business of being a gentleman. So he cast about for the most delectable site he could find that was not already occupied by His Grace of Norfolk or one of the other landed gentry. Not so easy — but where should he light upon but Nether Edge ?

So he bought up all the land he could lay hands on from Brincliffe Edge to Sharrow. Here he erected his stately home, *Kenwood House*, but being still of commercial mind (in spite of his new status of gentleman), he decided to augment his already tidy fortune by leasing off plots of land so that others, less favoured than himself, might erect their own (rather lesser) residences.

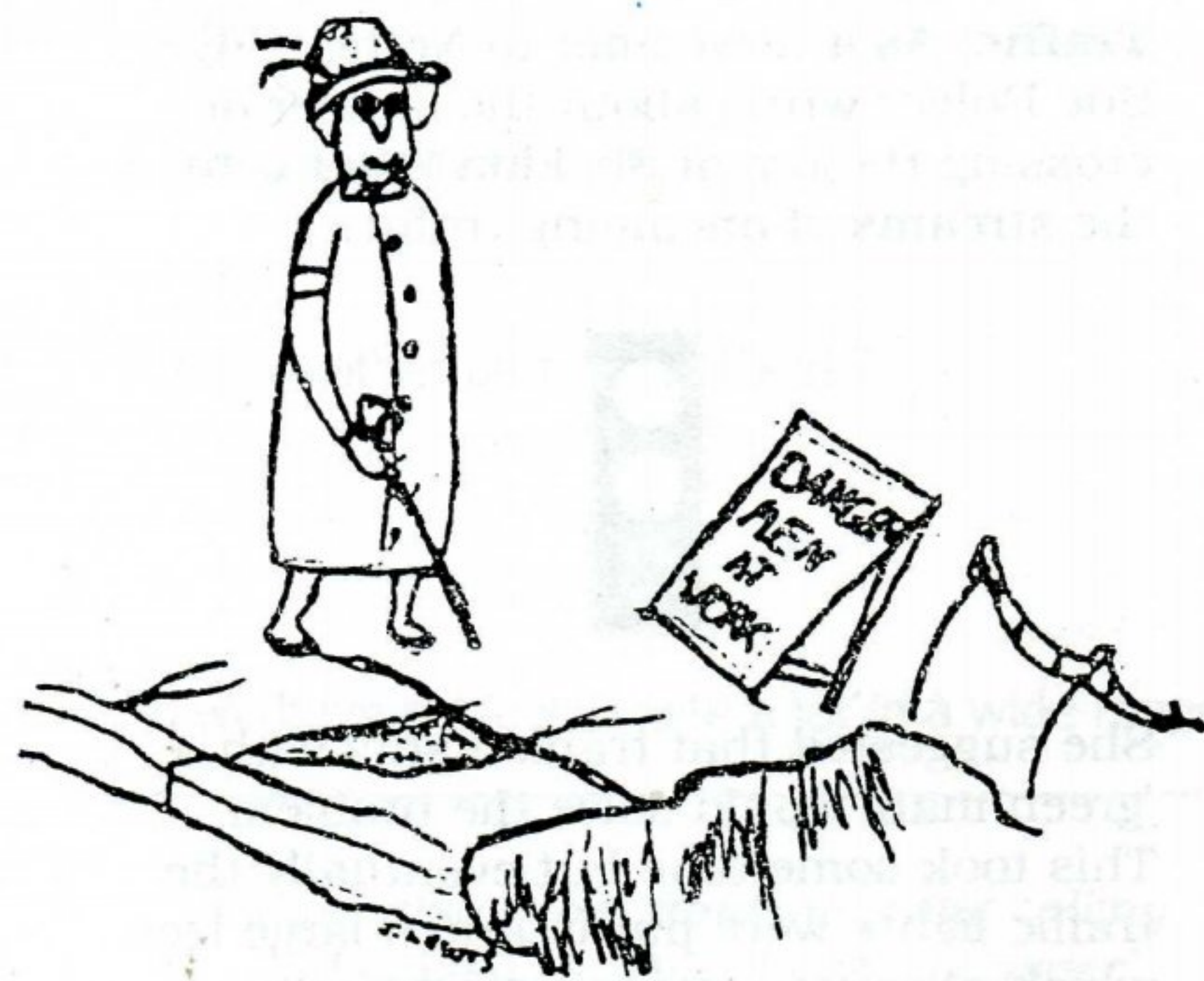
So it came to pass that the parcel of land, being part of the meadow known as Gibb Knowle and now designated as number 32 Kenwood Park Road, was leased to one Arthur Gregory for 300 years at a rent of £13 per annum. Hereupon he might be permitted to erect "one good and substantial messuage or dwelling house suitable for a gentleman; not less than two storeys high (attics in the roof not to be counted as a storey); with rock faced stone exteriors, to the value of at least £800." Once installed, the said Arthur Gregory was enjoined by covenant "not to use, exercise or carry on the business of soap boiler, sugar baker, distiller, dyer, glass maker, brick maker, tripe boiler or melting tallow chandler; or to use as a public house or otherwise for the sale of malt liquors or spirits; or to use as a temperance hotel, bowling green, public tea gardens, engine house, slaughter house, retail shop or workshop; or for the making of gas, tempering saws, casting iron or steel or for any other foundry; or for manufacture of any kind or for any other trade."

Well, that's what we got landed with when we bought the freehold in 1963, as the sixth owners. Clearly G. Wostenholm Esquire no longer regarded himself as sullied by "trade" and would have nobody on *HIS* estate sullying themselves thereby either. But I've got a workshop in the cellar where I make steam engines and mend my venerable motor car. And I brew beer and my wife makes wine, bakes sugar, boils soap (or the washing machine does) and dyes clothes ...

Chairman: Peter Babb, Vice-Chair: Edith Fawcett, Treasurer: Geoffrey Meek, Secretary: Joan Flett

Building developments: There was now a large hole in the ground where Turn-Ups had once provoked fury among local residents. Nether Edge Hall had been demolished and a block of 32 flats was to be built; we know this as Birchcroft.

The state of our **pavements** still caused concern: "For the elderly and/or arthritic they are extremely dangerous. From Cherry Tree Road to Sharrow Vale Road one walks with risk to life and limb. I think that, for the exorbitant rates we pay, we might expect to walk in safety."



Another correspondent wrote: "After attendance at hospital following two accidents to my legs, I am convinced that many accidents could be avoided if the very necessary repair work were done. Could it be that this would save pain, including shock? and unnecessary time and expense to the National Health Service? It wouldn't put the NHS out of work, for there would still be lots to do healthwise.

... and dog dirt, that hardy pavement perennial, still made blood boil ...

The **annual subscription** to NENG remained at 50p and there were 558

members on the books. Since this sub only just covered the basic cost of producing 'EDGE', it was as well that the actual average paid per household was £1.05.

The **Local History Group** flourished. During the year members gave talks on such diverse topics as the Nether Edge Workhouse; collecting clay pipes; George Wostenholm and the Kenwood Estate; the story of Clifford School; and Byron Road, local artists and horse trams.

The experimental **closure of Archer Lane** to vehicles went on generating much controversy. NENG Planning Subcommittee felt that this had diverted through-traffic away from our narrow roads and onto the main roads but, while some correspondents were delighted with the decrease in rush hour traffic on Nether Edge Road, others complained about the lengthened journey times and warned that local shops were suffering a disastrous loss of trade. ❀



Dogs and pavements: Complaints ...

General Committee: From 1980 the Group had been somewhat in the doldrums. There was an appeal for new ideas and new members for the General Committee. With one exception *all* the members of the Committee were founder members of the Group and long-time members of the Committee (note the names of the Officers at the top of the page for each year).



MIND: Lawton Tonge House on Wostenholm Road was opened to provide help for people under stress.

Traffic: The experimental closure of Archer Lane during rush hours continued.

Local History Group: The publication *Old Sharrow & Nether Edge in Photographs* was in course of preparation by members and Joan Flett's *The Story of the Workhouse and Hospital at Nether Edge* was published.



Neighbourhood Watch: A meeting was held with the local police to set up schemes.

Clean-Up Campaign: Janet Hartley organised a clean-up of various areas of Nether Edge, and campaigned for the provision of litter bins at the shopping area. Letters were written to the Cleansing Department about rubbish and vandalism. An appeal was made not to let the shopping area decline.

Traffic: As a newcomer to Nether Edge, Sue Bolger wrote about the danger of crossing the top of Sheldon Road with the streams of oncoming traffic.



She suggested that traffic lights with a 'green man' would solve the problem. This took some time but eventually the traffic lights were put in and a large tree which obscured vision was removed.

Here is a piece written by Edith Fawcett, who was Vice-Chairman at the time. She describes the advantages that have flown from the setting up of NENG:

"WHAT USE IS OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP ?

Recently an old friend made another visit to 2 Sharrow View. With his wife, he helped me to choose my curtain material when I was settling in in 1959. Now he comes alone. He is an active member of Purbeck Arts Club. These facts set the scene.

On his recent visit he asked three members of the Group, over a cup of tea, what difference it had made to Nether Edge residents to have a neighbourhood group. You might be interested in the resulting discussion. Here are some of the 'befores and afters' which emerged.

Continued opposite ...

Chairman: Peter Babb, Vice-Chair: Edith Fawcett, Treasurer: Hugh Lapage, Secretary: Joan Flett

Continued from opposite page

BEFORE NENG

- 1 Anyone could build anything in any material.
- 2 Multi-occupancy was rife and there were no controls.
- 3 Proliferation of hotels, extensions, annexes and car parks.
- 4 No control on use of houses as offices.
- 5 No control over the felling of trees or the use of unsuitable substitutes for existing trees.
- 6 No local body to voice complaints.
- 7 Just another part of Sheffield ?

AFTER NENG

Now all planning is vetted and it is known that we are vigilant.

The South Yorks District Plan stipulated a certain ratio to check this. There are now more family homes.

Now joining of houses is controlled to limit the expansion of hotels.

Now there are limitations and some houses have returned to family use.

Watchful eye — remember the deputation outside the Blind Workshops ! However, it is also understood that there can be problems with roots, restricted light and vision for drivers.

Now these channels exist through the General and Anti-Nuisance Committees. At the moment we are acting on the state of the pavements and rubbish.

Now a feeling of community and caring for residents. More people know each other, there are opportunities to make friends. The Luncheon Club has run for twelve years. There is a growing number of special interest groups.

So we have achieved quite a lot in a wide range of aspects of life in Nether Edge."

A letter also came from someone calling themselves 'The Phantom Jogger':-

"Not until one has narrowly avoided falling in an undignified panting heap does the importance of a cleanly swept pavement leap to the top of a list of personal priorities.

Williamson Road is a short road, comparatively little used. Most of the litter is natural rather than man-made, i.e. leaves. Leaves are supposedly biodegradable. On Williamson Road they do it in slow motion, without the aid of worms, presumably. One day they are a glorious golden carpet; a few drops of rain and Whammo! the glorious gold carpet has transformed itself into a treacherous squelchy goo. None of the sports magazines seem geared up to deal with the squelchy leaf factor. There are column inches of advice on how to choose a training shoe — how light, how heavy — but nothing about the terrors of the slippery leaf. No-one it seems has developed a rubber sole expressly designed to keep the

runner upright whilst skating on wet leaves.

Of course, it may be that the chaps at Adidas don't know about the wet leaf factor. Perhaps they live in treeless deserts; they certainly don't live on Williamson Road. You see, having to watch one's feet does concentrate the mind on this business of street sweeping. It's not that the street isn't swept, but there is a kind of eccentric irregularity about the business.

Last year a sort of motorised elephant appeared during the autumn and snorkled up the leaves. The street was swept the day before the Council elections in May; this provoked cynical and unkind thoughts in some residents ... If there is no election due and your street is dirty, try to get the pavement dug up. Tell the Gas Board there is a leak or complain about the water pressure. Resurfacing seems to require a sweep first.

It leaves you pondering a bit ... "

Chairman: Peter Babb, Vice-Chair: Dorothy Orton, Treasurer: Don Parrish, Secretary: Joan Flett

Much controversy was sparked off by a planning application by Methodist Homes for the Aged to build 43 flats on land at the Psalter Lane church.

Residents of Cherry Tree Drive were concerned that their homes would be overlooked, and NENG also objected. There were some modifications to the plans and, in the end, permission was granted and **Southcroft** was built.

A **Family Arts & Crafts Day** for parents and children was a great success. Joe Scarborough opened the show, and over 100 people took part in activities from Animal Bread Making to Weaving.

The **Local History Group's** first book '*Old Sharrow and Nether Edge in Photographs*' was published and quickly sold out.

This stimulated older residents to record their **memories of bygone days**.

Mrs Jarman remembered Paxton greenhouses full of orchids at Westbrook

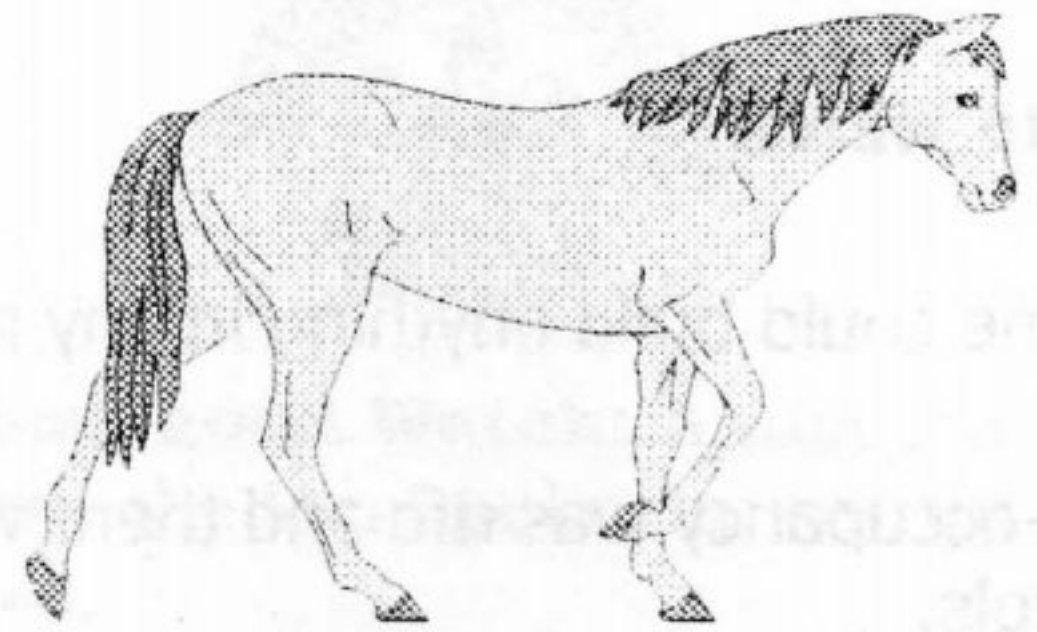
House on Sharrow Vale Road;

Mr Knowles remembered seeing Halley's comet in broad daylight in 1910;

Mrs Hinds remembered going to the Workhouse and watching mugs of tea and slices of bread being prepared for the inmates (but *she* got a special little fruit cake ...)

And here is *Mrs Jackson*:

"My parents lived in Brincliffe Edge Road when I was born in 1905 and my mother acted as unofficial midwife/nurse. They came to Sheffield from Lincolnshire and my father, whose name was Cranidge, was a descendant of one of the Dutch engineers who were brought over to work on the drainage schemes there in the 17th century. When the work was finished, some of the engineers returned to Holland and some were given or bought land here and my ancestor was one of those. My father inherited some land and he used to break horses



brought over from Ireland for fox hunting. He later came as a groom at Abbeydale Grange and I remember him wearing white buckskins, bottle-green coat with many capes and silver buttons and a top hat with a cockade. He earned a pound a week. Later he worked for the Mappin family at Fulwood and was in charge of the food and grain for the men and the horses. My mother had been cook to a gentleman farmer in Lincolnshire before she married. She was the eldest of fourteen and was in service when she was 12 years old. Breakfast for the men on the farm was prepared by half filling a pillow slip with eggs and boiling them in the large clothes boiler ..."

Finally, *Miss Gregory* wrote:

"Another childhood memory was a visit to Upperthorpe, to see an aunt and uncle there. The road to Upperthorpe was too hilly for the usual top-deck tram. Only a one-deck tram was used and my brother and I called them 'the little trams'. It was quite a thrill to go on these — even more enjoyable than a ride in our uncle's pony and trap."

The South Yorkshire Chief Highway Engineer, in reply to complaints about the dangers of crossing the road at Machon Bank/Sheldon Road lights, wrote: "*I have to inform you that this site is one of the safest signal-controlled junctions in Sheffield*"! NENG did not agree with him.

Chairman: Irene Clegg, Vice-Chair: Dorothy Orton, Treasurer: Don Parrish, Secretary: Joan Flett

Playgroup: This was flourishing and meeting three days a week at St Andrew's Church Hall. Members had a summer outing to Clifton Park and a Christmas party. The Playgroup and the Mother & Toddler groups met together for coffee mornings to introduce new parents and for fund raising.

Southcroft: After several years of discussions about plans for sheltered housing in the grounds of Psalter Lane Methodist Church, an amended scheme from the Methodist Homes for the Aged to build 32 flats and two wardens' flats was accepted.

City Centre: A meeting was held to discuss the Sheffield Central Plan called 'A City Centre for People'. It is now 1998 — have we got it yet?

Traffic: A scheme was launched to improve safety at the Nether Edge shopping area.

Dogs: A new Bye-law was passed by the Council about dog fouling: no fouling of pavements or grass verges or else a fine not exceeding £100. Difficult to enforce and this is shown by the continued stream of letters to 'EDGE' about dogs.

Social evening: A social event was held at the Builders Exchange Club at 19 Kingfield Road (now the University of Sheffield Press). Shirley Meek talked about the history of Nether Edge and Sharrow. The number of social events had decreased by this time.



Planning: An indication of the massive and excellent job done by the Planning Subcommittee over the years can be gleaned from the report at the AGM that 4,686 planning applications had been reviewed over the past year.

Annual General Meeting: At the AGM Joan Flett and Shirley Meek put the motion 'That the Group has fulfilled its purpose and, in view of declining participation by members, should be wound up in April 1987.' Neither Joan nor Shirley wished to see the demise of the Group; the motion was put deliberately to shock, to make the membership sit up and realise that, in order to maintain credibility, both in the area and with the Local Authority, it must be seen to be representative of everyone one in the area. The motion was overwhelmingly defeated (!) and a Membership Committee was suggested to look into the ways of gaining new members. The overall impression gained at the meeting was that there was a shortage of ideas and the people to carry them out. The structure of the Group may well have to change in order for it to survive.



Ecclesall Community Forum:

This comprised representatives of groups working in the district — social workers, health visitors, doctors, ministers, teachers and representatives from LINK and Trinity Day Care Unit. Joan Flett attended the monthly meetings on behalf of NENG, in particular of the Luncheon Club.

The **Local History Group** took part in the first Local History Fair at the Town Hall, with a display based on books produced by the group.

General Cemetery: Gravestones were dug up and used to make edging for paths. This was vandalism by the Council not yobbos !

Chairman: Irene Clegg, Vice-Chair: Edith Fawcett, Treasurer: Don Parrish, Secretary: Joan Flett

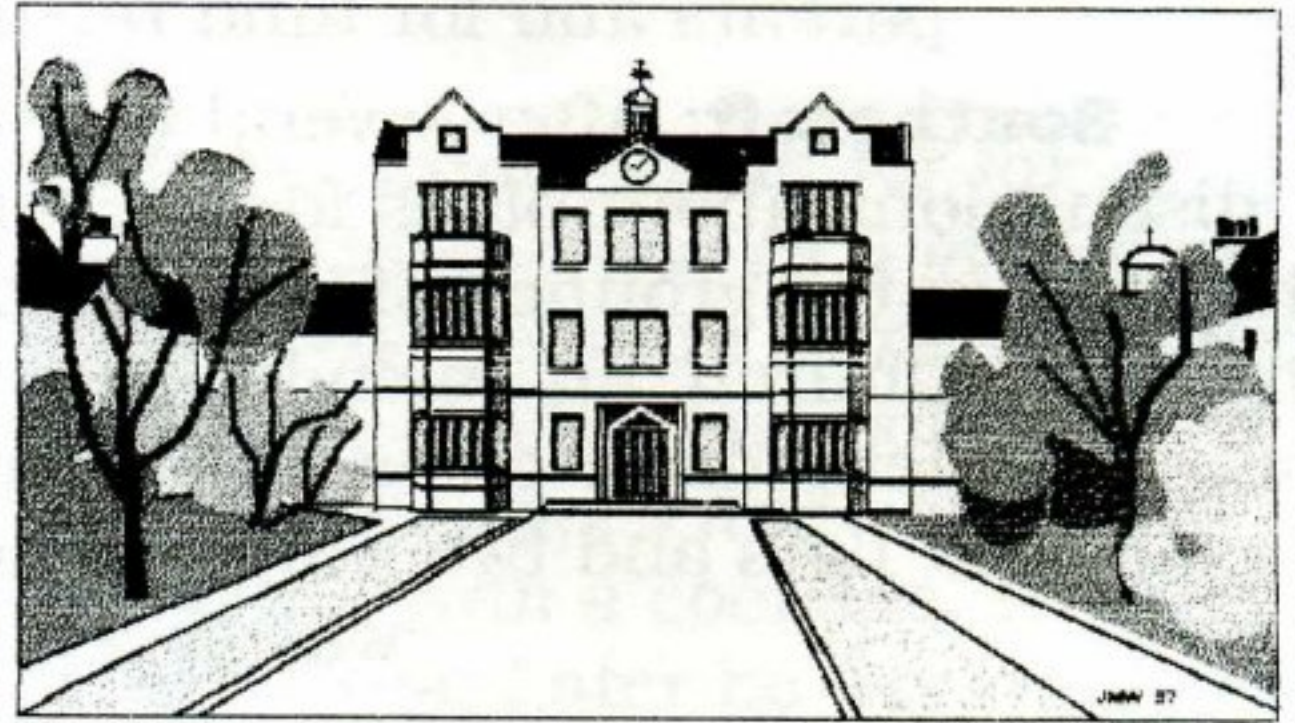
In January **it snowed**, and it snowed ...
The sledges came out straight away in
Chelsea Park, but the gritting lorries
took a good deal longer to appear and
the steeper parts of Nether Edge
suffered.



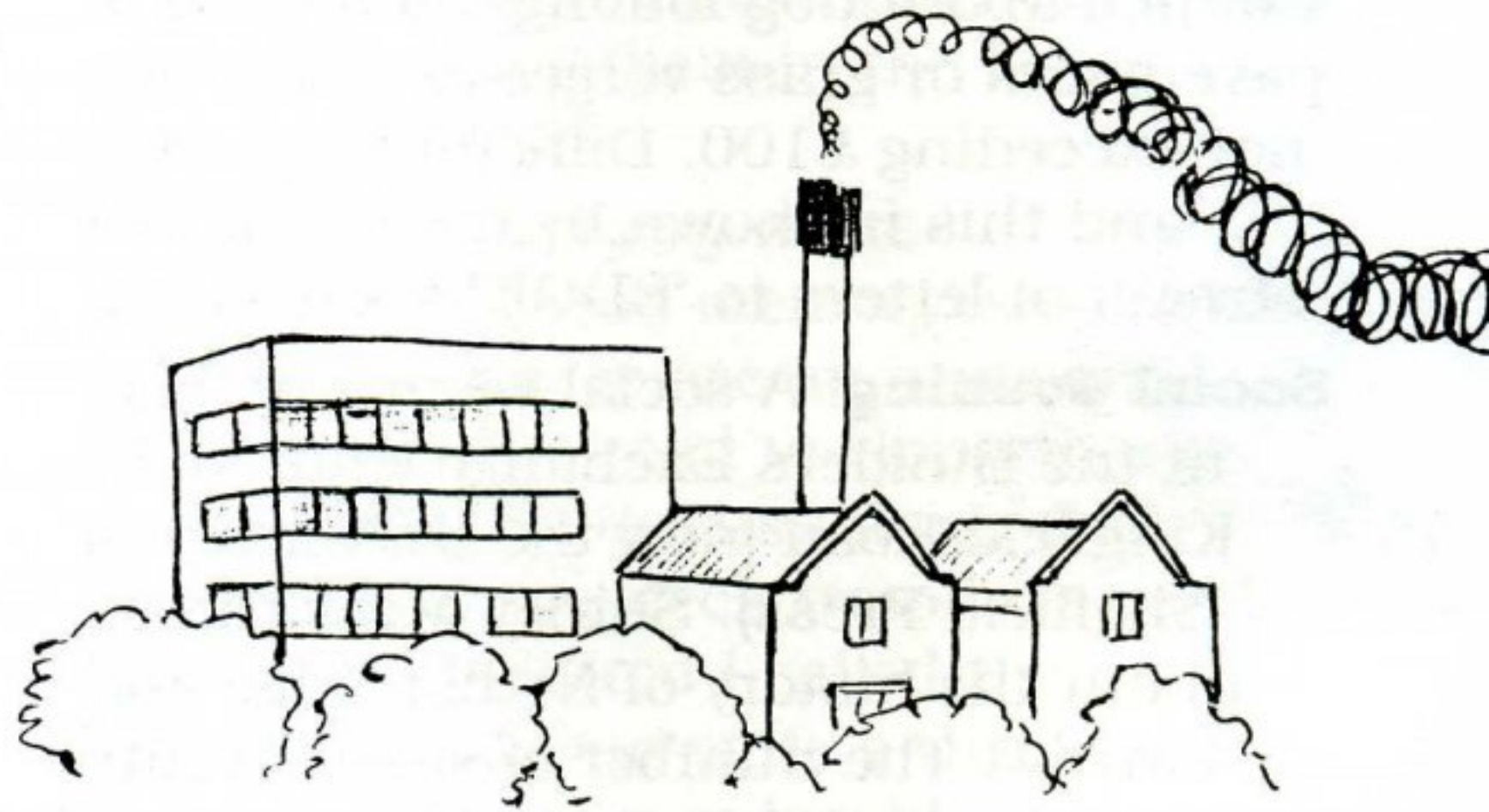
Nether Edge Wildlife Group was very
active. It launched a tree planting
campaign; arranged talks on Sheffield's
ancient woodlands and on badgers; and
drew up an ambitious plan for Chelsea
Park which included a dog-free area, a
pond and a wildflower meadow. This led
to something of a clash with other Park
users, who like it the way it was!
Finally, a Chelsea Park Users Committee
was set up to represent all interests.
Out of all this came plans to improve the
children's play area and to provide better
equipment.



The Local History Group started work
on a new publication. This time it was a
real group effort with fourteen active
participants, fired by the course put on
by the University's Division of
Continuing Education.



Nether Edge Hospital had one of its
periodic fits of belching black smoke
over the neighbourhood, to the fury of
the residents. (As a Crown establishment
it could not be prosecuted for contra-
vening the Clean Air regulations).



Listing: NENG started a campaign to get
more buildings 'listed' and to make at
least part of Nether Edge a Conservation
Area. This is something we have still not
achieved — an Area of Special Character
is very much a second best. ❀

Chairman: Shirley Meek, Vice-Chair: Peter Vaughan, Treasurer: Don Parrish, Secretary: Elizabeth Strevens

Pavements and hedges: The state of these was once again an issue and Shirley Meek and Edith Fawcett met with representatives of the Cleansing and Works Departments. An appeal was once again made to householders (particularly car drivers who do not walk past their frontages) to cut back overhanging trees and shrubs.

Chelsea Park: Following the setting up of the Chelsea Park Users Group, the group met with the Community policeman to discuss complaints about graffiti and vandalism in the Park.

Local History Group: All 1500 copies of 'Old Sharrow and Nether Edge' had been sold and the new publication 'They Lived in Nether Edge & Sharrow' was advertised 'for your Christmas list'.

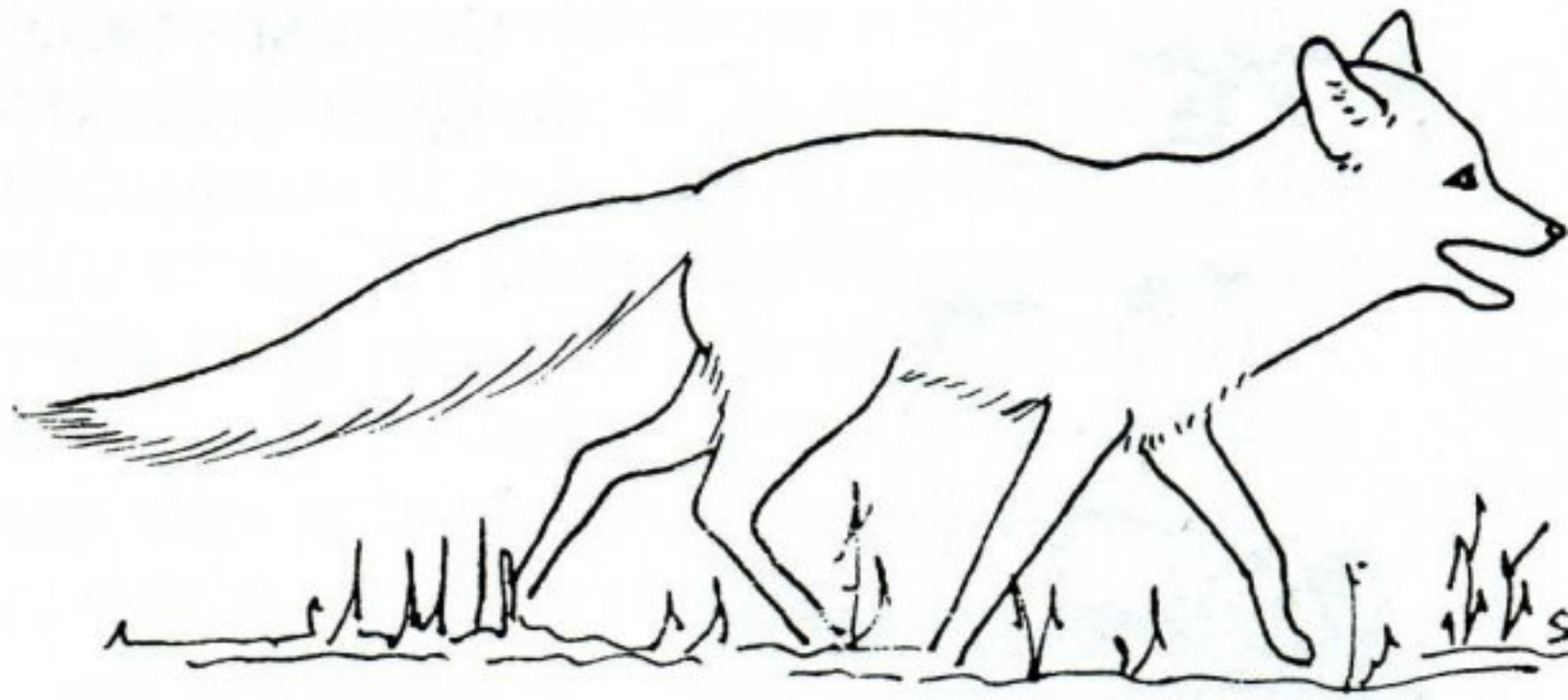
Ecclesall Library: The closure of the library was mooted and members joined in a petition and campaign against the closure.

Nether Edge Hospital: There was a campaign to keep the Maternity Unit open. It was announced that a new unit would be built at Stonegrove in 1994 — the first stone was laid in March 1998!



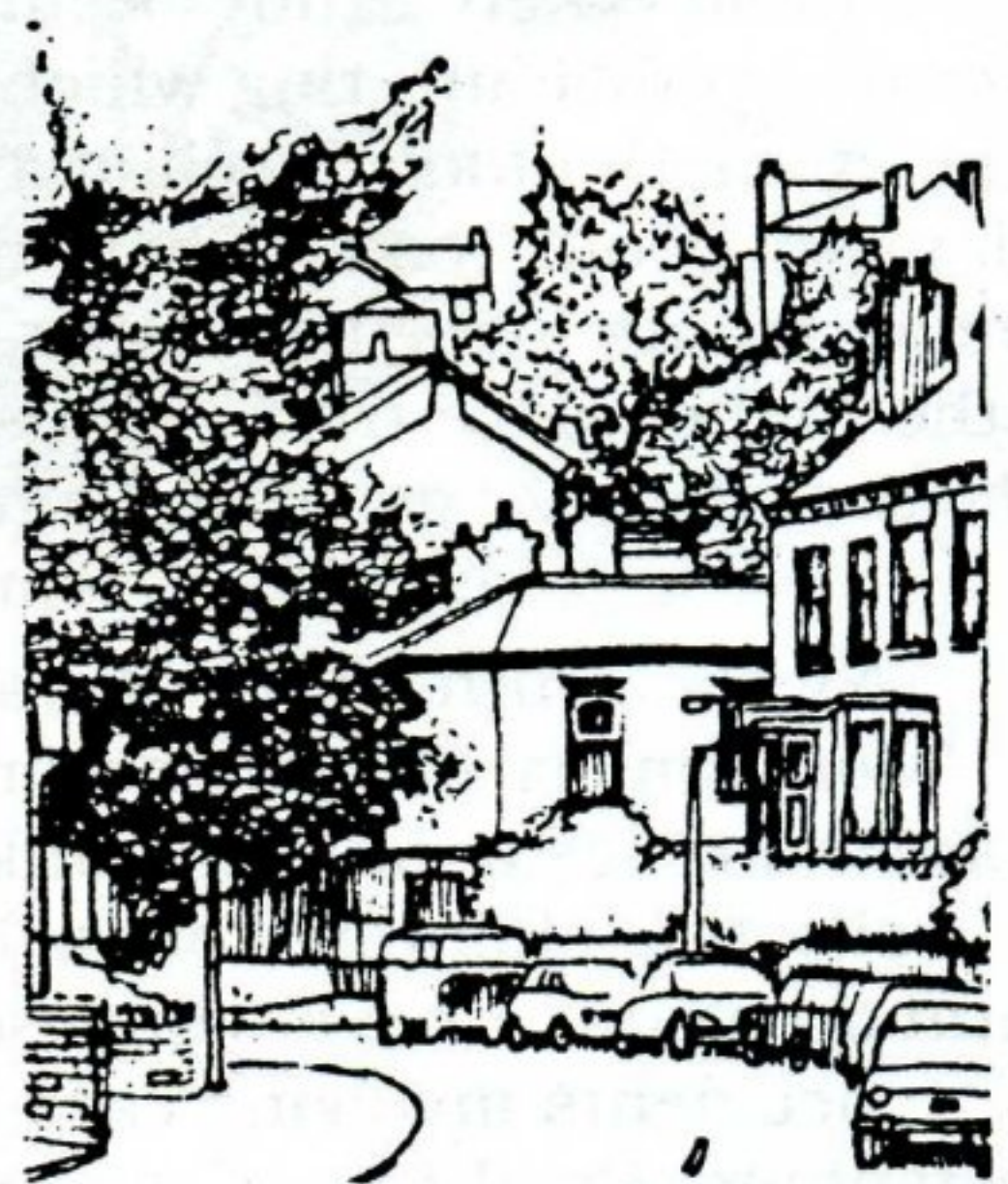
Nether Edge Wildlife Group: The group was very active, holding a Barn Dance to raise funds. A tree nursery was set up.

Conservation Area: At the AGM a working party was established to consider whether Conservation Areas could be set up in Nether Edge. Walks were arranged to survey sections of the area and to make notes.



Wildlife: Foxes were reported in Brincliffe Crescent, Edgebrook Road and Chelsea Road.

Traffic: Phase One of the Road Safety Project was outlined (see later). ❀



Chairman: Shirley Meek, Vice-Chair: Peter Vaughan, Treasurer: Tanya Schmoller, Secretary: Elizabeth Strevens

Listing: The Conservation Area working party finished its perambulation of the district, suggested buildings for listing and tentatively put forward two separate Conservation Areas, one on the Kenwood Estate and one on Brincliffe Edge. This gave rise to dissent, since it might cause even more pressure for development in the rest of the neighbourhood.



24 Brincliffe Edge Road

Good example of **old buildings** being restored and refurbished were highlighted.

NENG still had no success in its campaign to stop **pavement parking** at Nether Edge shops. But, in June, the

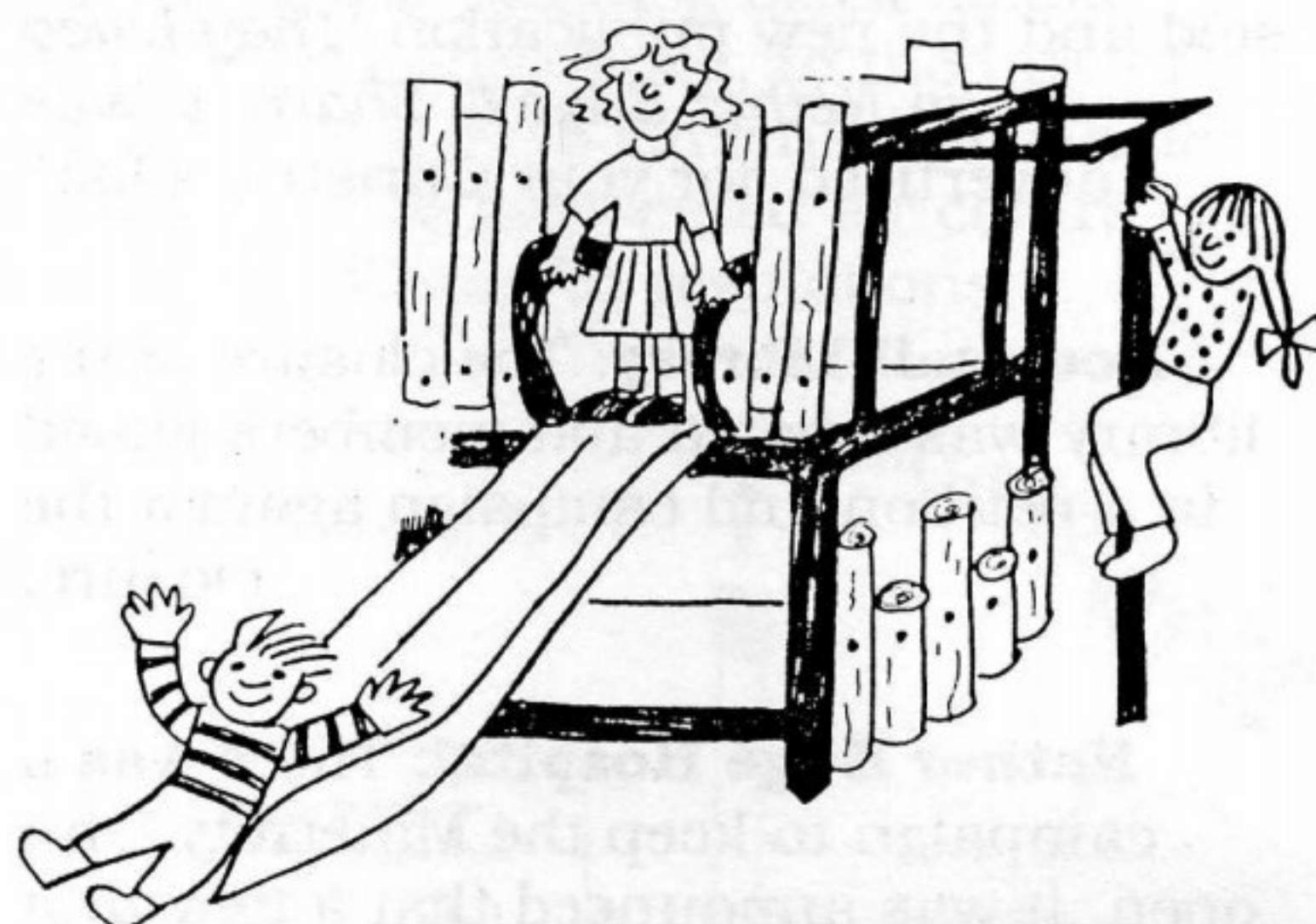
Road Safety Study began, with a crowded public meeting which showed the strength of local feeling about the dangers of our roads. There had been five accidents involving young children at the Nether Edge traffic lights — *“one of the safest signal-controlled junctions in Sheffield”* ... remember?

Nicola Smith wrote: “I walk along Montgomery & Wostenholm Roads several times a day while taking and collecting children from school. On several occasions I have witnessed near-accidents involving cars entering Wostenholm Road from Crescent Road. A major cause of these incidents is that their view is obscured by parked cars. As more and more of the houses here have been converted to offices, this problem has increased and I think something will have to be done to

regulate parking in this area. It makes it extremely difficult for pedestrians to find a safe place to cross and also causes problems for the buses. I would also like to mention the difficulty of crossing at Nether Edge shopping centre ... ”

Chelsea Park Users Group focussed on dogs, and the need to clean up after them. Dog bins and notices to owners were installed. The Wildlife Group planted trees with local children.

The Play Area Action Group started fund raising for play equipment, with a kids' sponsored Fun Run, coffee mornings and aluminium can collection.



And the ghost of George Wostenholm's sister-in-law, **Miss Ann Moncrieffe Rundle**, appeared at Kenwood:

“Mr Lowis was Director of Sheffield Refreshment Houses who bought Kenwood after the death of Miss Rundle. She had lived there alone for a number of years. One evening, as he wound up the grandfather clock in the Hall, he became conscious of an odd feeling and, looking round, he saw the figure of a tall, elderly lady in the doorway. She was wearing a long black dress with a maroon ruffle round the bottom. For several seconds she stood there looking at him, then gradually faded away. Later, the gardener's description fitted this ghost perfectly: he had only ever seen Miss Rundle in the one dress ... ”

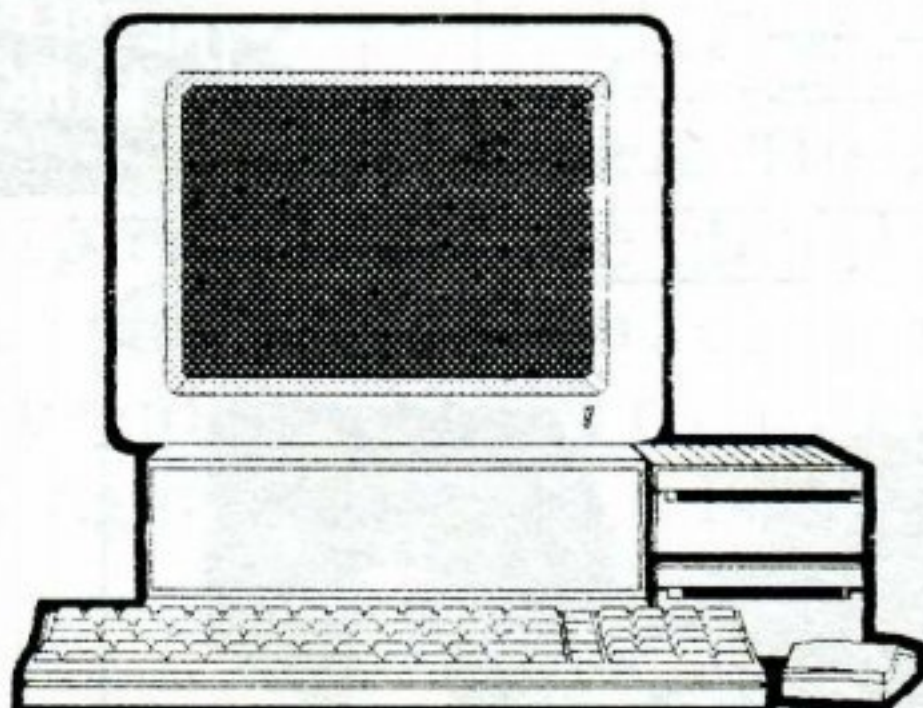
Chairman: Margaret Ward, Vice-Chair: Janet Hartley, Treasurer: Tanya Schmoller, Secretary: Peter Boden

Conservation Working Party: English Heritage was currently carrying out a survey of listed buildings in Sheffield. The Working Party submitted a list of twenty buildings in Nether Edge for consideration. Concern was expressed about the possible demolition of Shirle Hill on Cherry Tree Road.

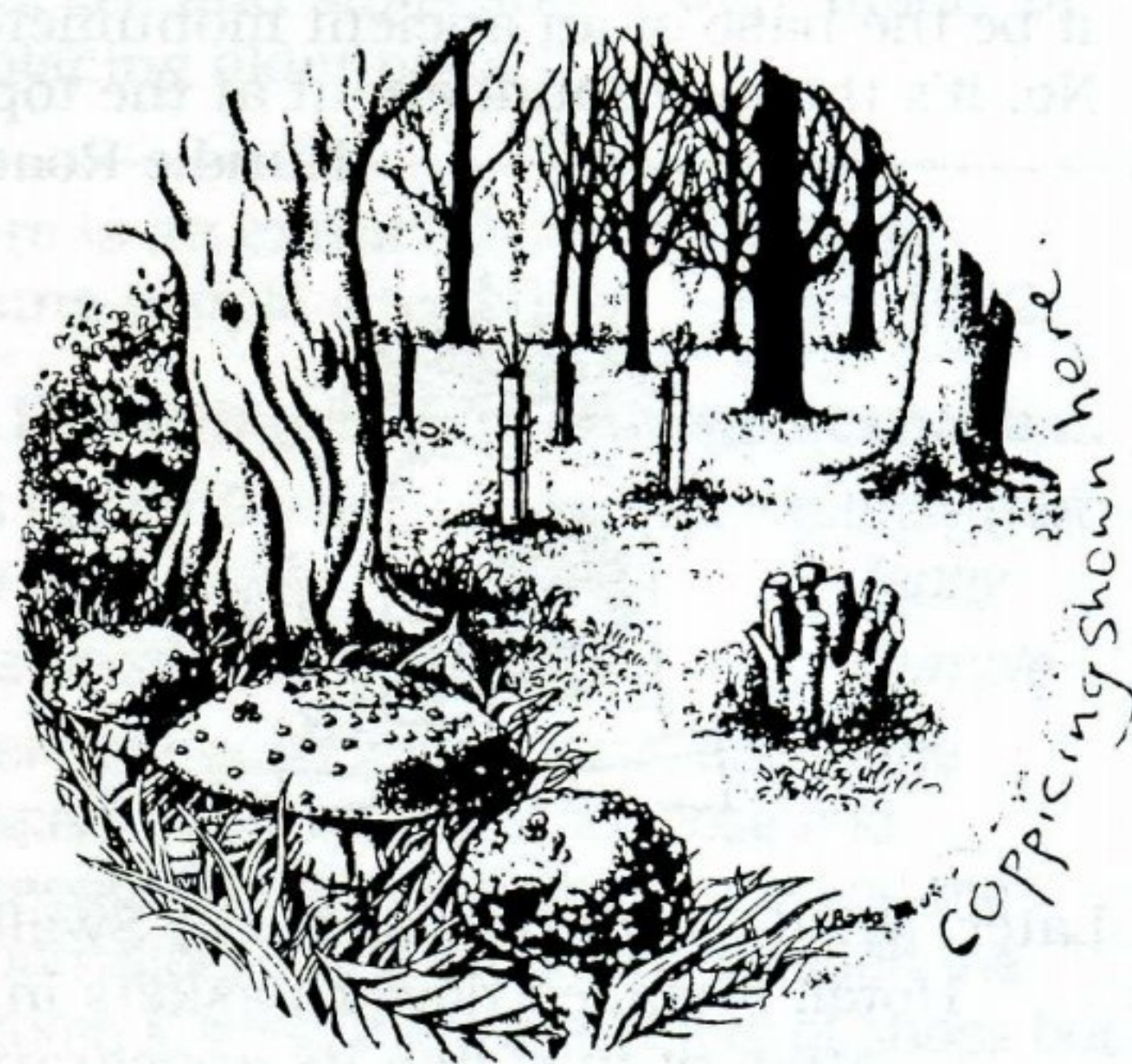
Chelsea Park: There was an Open Meeting to discuss concerns and suggestions about the play area and seats. £1500 was raised for the play area. Eventually, after 18 events held during the campaign, £5000 was raised and in July new equipment was installed following a very successful May Day festival.

Traffic: In July a Public Meeting was held to enable residents to be consulted about *'Through Roads in Nether Edge'*. The meeting was well attended and a note of concerns and aims was sent to the Traffic Department of the City Council.

EDGE: In May, new technology hit 'EDGE' — the first desk-top published edition. (For the technically-minded it was an Apple-Macintosh. Nowadays it's all IBM-cloned PCs and Windows.)



Brincliffe Edge Wood: A brief history of the woods noted that a map of 1817 shows the western end of the Edge belonging to the Murrays of Banner Cross Hall and the trees in that area have been confirmed as 165-175 years old. The rest of the Edge was pasture. By 1974 the allotments on the lower slope and the woodland were in Council ownership. There is no record of management other than removal of dead elm trees. A Public Meeting and a guided walk took place and proposals for the future were drawn up with the help of the City arboriculturalist (a local resident and member of NENG). ♦



Chairman: Margaret Ward, Vice-Chair: Janet Hartley, Treasurer: Tanya Schmoller, Secretary: Peter Boden

This was the year Nether Edge started to export houses to Japan! Well, that's what they told us when the old house on **Sharrow View** was demolished, and the stones were carefully numbered and removed one by one.

The time-honoured **No.97 bus** was replaced by the No.22. Unwary Nether Edge residents were last seen wandering helplessly round Totley.

A rock concert in the car park of the **Brincliffe Oaks Hotel** rocked the neighbourhood one summer Saturday. As a result of vehement protests Whitbread's Area Manager assured us it would not be allowed to happen again.

A correspondent wrote: "Is it a gun emplacement? Is it a tank trap? Could it be the base of an ancient monument? No, it's the new roundabout at the top of Rundle Road!"



Later, NENG, with the aid of the Swallow Hotel, installed flower baskets in an attempt to soften its appearance.

The **Sharrow & Nether Edge Road Safety Project** held open days and consulted residents on different options for traffic calming in Phase I of the scheme.

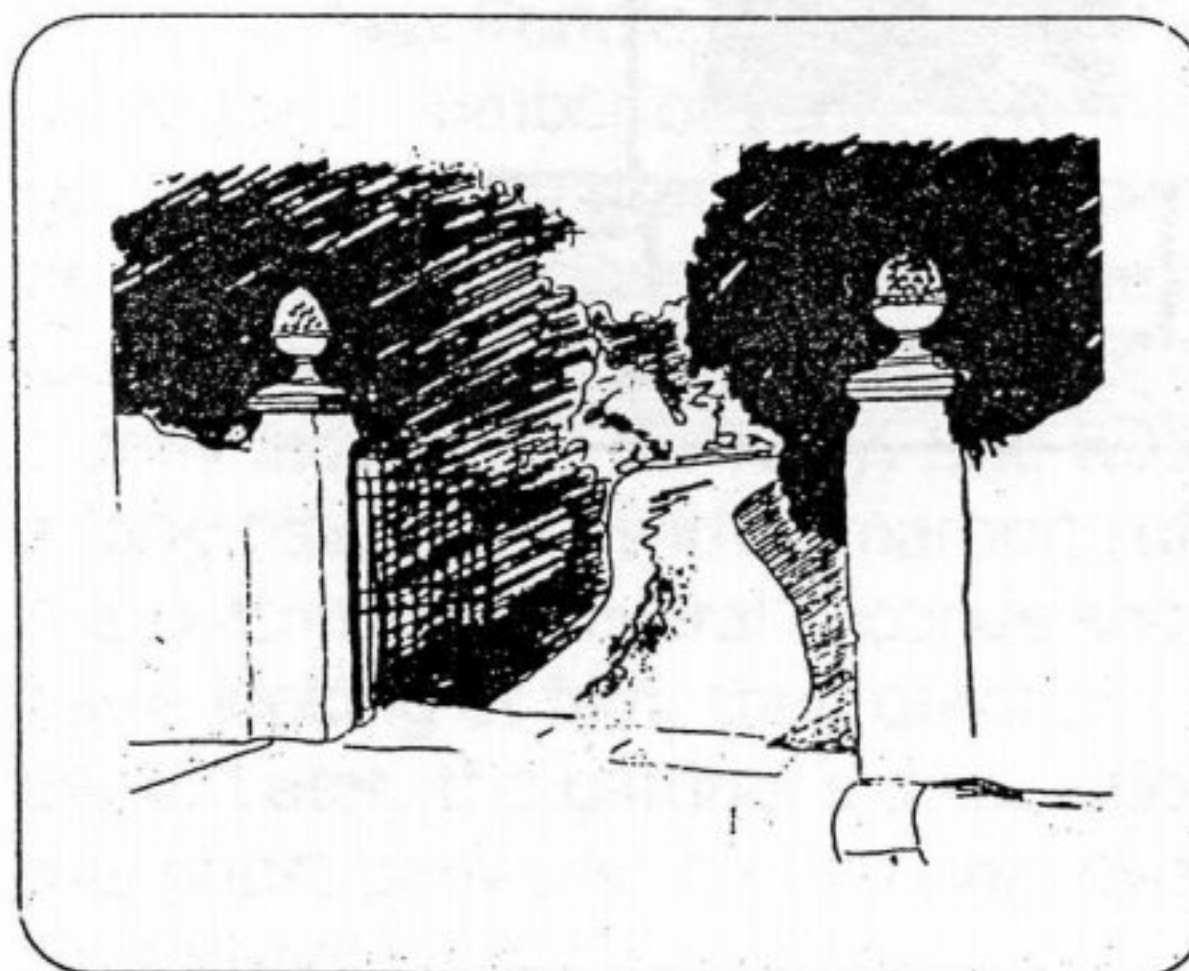
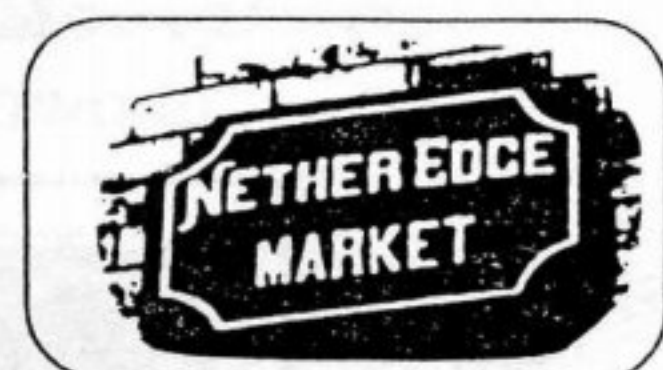
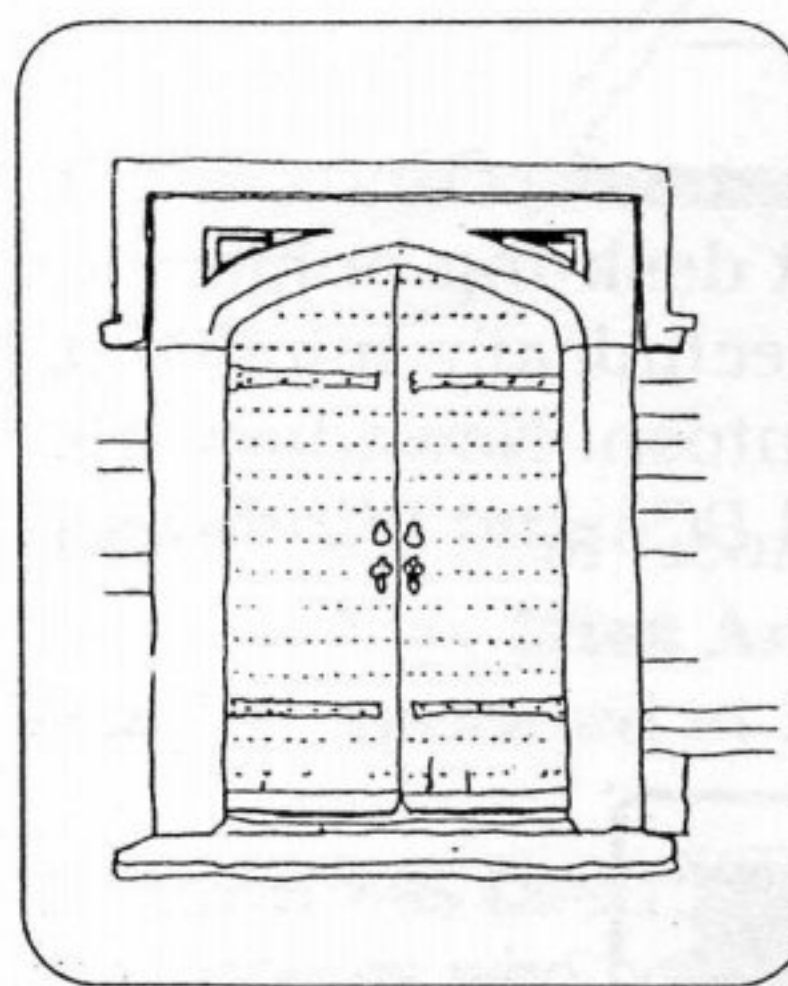
Ecclesall Library was to close, as the Council could not afford the cost of repairs to the building.

Brincliffe Edge Wood: NENG contributed £450 to the cost of replanting trees in the wood. This was unfortunately carried out late in the season and many saplings died in the hot dry summer.



The Group held a most successful **Summer Outing** to Bridgemere Garden World and Quarry Bank Mill at Styal in Cheshire.

A PICTURE QUIZ



Do you recognise any of these Nether Edge buildings?

Chairman: John West, Vice-Chair: Pat Sleath, Treasurer: Dilys West, Secretary: Peter Boden



Traffic: An Exhibition of Phase I was held, involving humps and 20 mph limits in the Sharrow Lane area. Phase II involved traffic lights at Sheldon Road and the removal of a large tree to improve visibility (*see Sue Bolger's 1984 letter on p.14 !*). Concerns were expressed about Kenwood Park Road becoming a 'rat run'.

General Cemetery: A two-year campaign was launched to tidy up the Cemetery. The Council announced a government grant of £67,500 to be spent on the project.

Wildlife: A badger was living in a garden in Rampton Road !

St Andrew's Church: The hope was expressed that the church building could be saved. However, some members were beginning to feel that "the present building may become a bottom-less pit to pour money into" ...

Brincliffe Edge Wood: The Group received a grant from the Environmental Chest of £4000 and a programme of work was drawn up. In October, fencing was erected opposite Chelsea Park. And in November 450 trees were planted !

Clifford School: This school became Grant Maintained, following an attempt by the LEA to close it.

Trees: These were still a matter of concern and suggestions were made for replacing older ones.

Here is an extract from what some young people wrote in November 1992:-

" I like living in Nether Edge because ...

It's not far from town. It's not too busy (not too much traffic).

Jenny

The people are friendly.

Rumple

There are good bus services due to the hospital being here and its close and accessible to both the city centre and the countryside; I love crunching through the autumn leaves; there aren't lots of shops but there are the ones you need.

Lucy

The location is quite good for things, but there isn't much for the younger generation, e.g. youth activities, apart from guides and scouts etc.

Kirsty

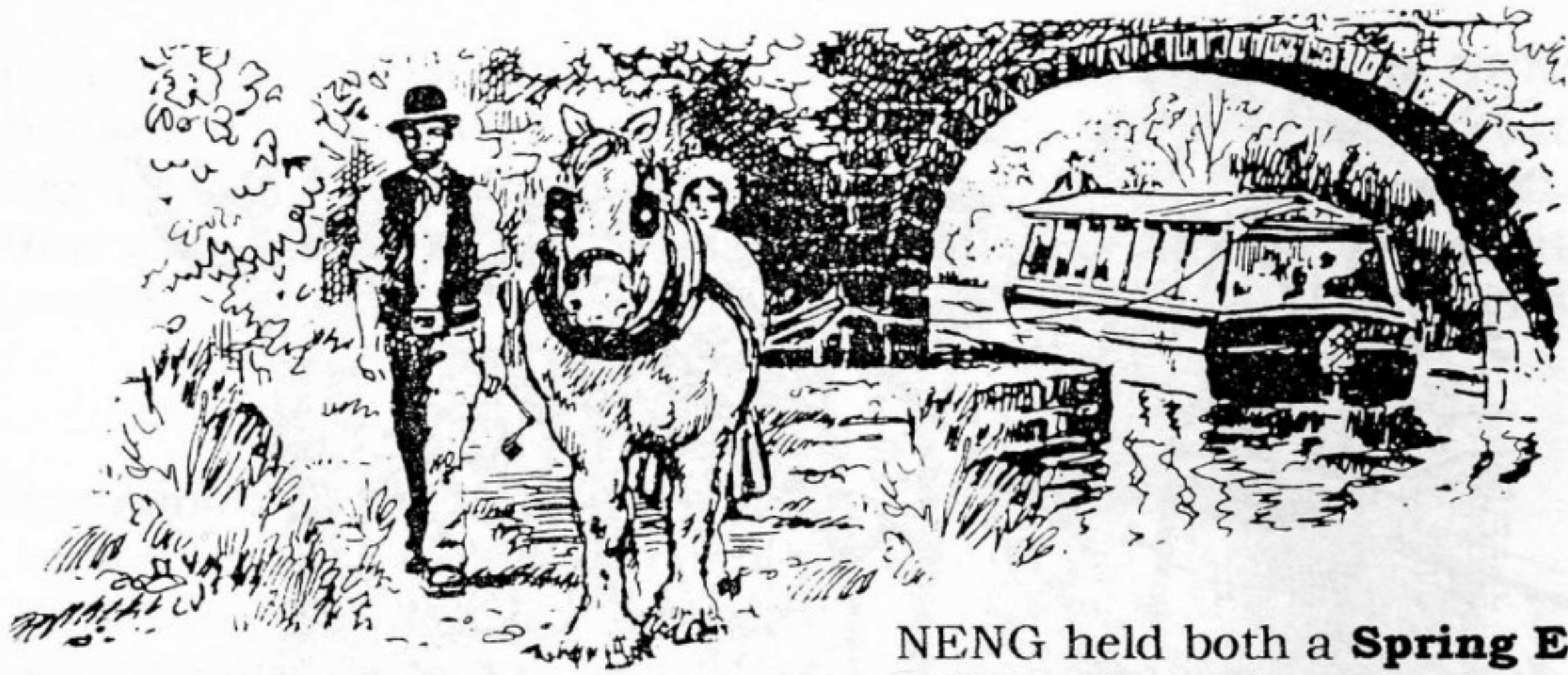
Not everybody has the right impression of things like Guides, so they don't get involved; the people who live here are really friendly.

K9

It's a nice setting and friendly, nice houses.

Fiona

Chairman: John West, Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Albrow, Treasurer: John Brooke, Secretary: Don Parrish



Road Safety Project: The road humps of Phase I were now in operation and had cut peak-hour traffic by 60% on some side roads — but on Sheldon Road it had increased. Phase II, involving safety measures at the main junctions, was considerable delayed (blame the Supertram !) but finally we got pedestrian-friendly traffic lights *and* a new paved sitting-out area at Nether Edge crossroads ... though without the toadstool seats at one time threatened. Phase III road humps were started at the end of the year.

Brincliffe Edge Wood: Torrential rain saved the newly-planted trees; local Venture Scouts did a magnificent job on repairing the foot-paths; and, with a grant from Shell Better Britain, our schoolchildren planted 1000 snowdrops and 3000 bluebell bulbs.



A **Grand Spring Fund Raising Event**, in aid of Oxfam and Save the Children, was held in the Swallow Hotel grounds. Its organiser, Thildy Lowe, is using her expertise in 1998 to help in running our 25th Anniversary Event in Chelsea Park.

NENG held both a **Spring Event**, with a talk on 'Animals in Ancient Woodland' and a **Summer Outing** to Hebden Bridge. This included a visit to a clog-making factory and a horse-drawn trip on the canal.



Concern about crime in Nether Edge, mostly burglary, loomed large this year. Local **Neighbourhood Watch** coordinators put forward a 41-point plan to combat crime and prevent its causes, and this gave rise to much correspondence and controversy.

The long-term future of **Nether Edge Hospital** began to seem in doubt. We were assured that "The Hospital is treating more patients" and, perhaps ominously, that "the processes of service development and site rationalisation are progressing." ❀



Chairman: John West, Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Albrow, Treasurer: John Brooke, Secretary: Don Parrish

Traffic Calming: 20mph zones and traffic humps appeared around the district. Here is what the March editor wrote about them:-

NOT ONLY CAMELS HAVE HUMPS

Derek Allen

Cast your mind back a few years to when the Council sounded us out on their proposals aimed to make our roads safer to use and to negotiate. The 'Nether Edge & Sharrow Road Safety Project' took off, we all had a chance to say our piece on the details of the proposals, representatives were chosen, a monitoring committee was formed, and off we went.

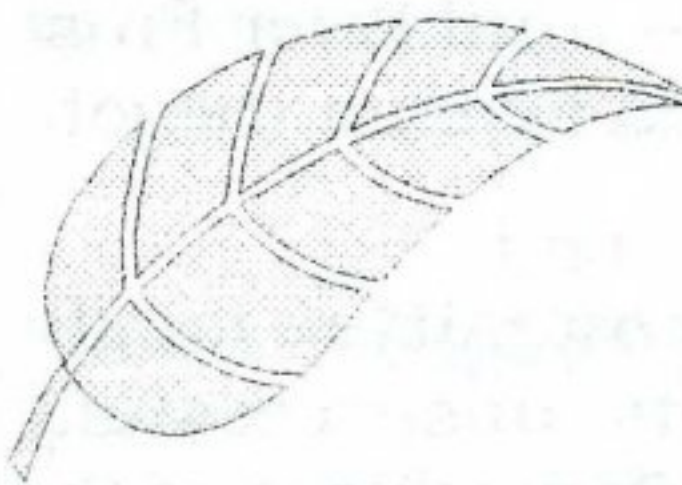
Quite recently, along with other stalwarts of the NENG Committee, I assisted the Council in bringing the neighbourhood up to date with the progress of the project. The Council produced a newsletter which, on their behalf, we very kindly stuffed through your letterbox. And now we have men-at-work signs up and down our roads. The Council representatives are not so naive as to believe that, since very few objections or comments have appeared so far, the various phases of the work are going along smoothly and we are happy. They are well aware that the appearance of artisans with drills and lorries full of asphalt will stir memories, and suddenly we are not happy.

As one of your representatives I can assure you that we have at last reached Phase III, which is due to be completed about now. This comprises mainly a 20 mph zone in the residential area between Sheldon Road and Abbeydale Road. Signs will appear at the 'gateways' to the 20 mph zone and almost all the roads within will have road humps.

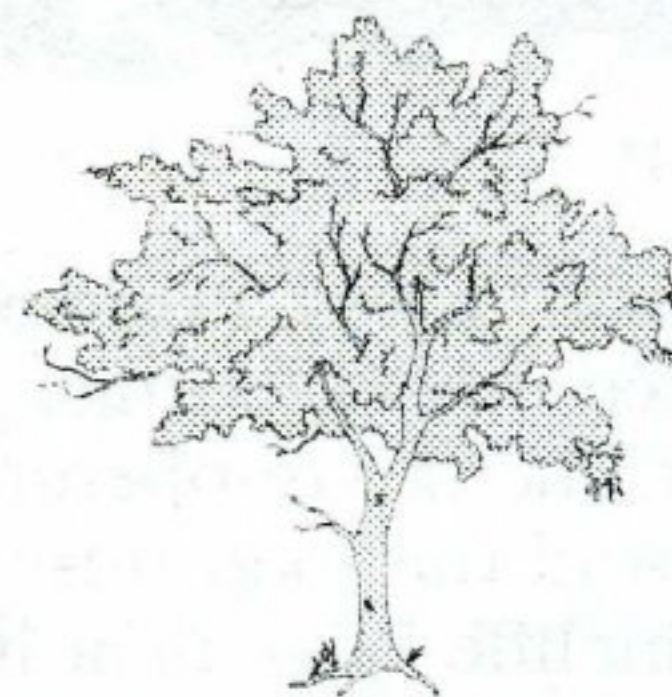
Do not be concerned that the area covered by Phase III will be shut off completely from the outside world while the work is being done. When it is the turn of your road, you will be able to get in and out, but those who use your road to get to some other road or place will find that they have been diverted. Each road should only be affected for a few days. Weather permitting then, we should be set up for safer roads in time for Spring.

Brincliffe Towers: The Brincliffe Towers Old Peoples' Home was threatened with closure.

Brincliffe Edge Wood: On 23rd January another Working Day was held, with volunteers clearing scrub and coppicing. Wild flowers were ordered for planting.



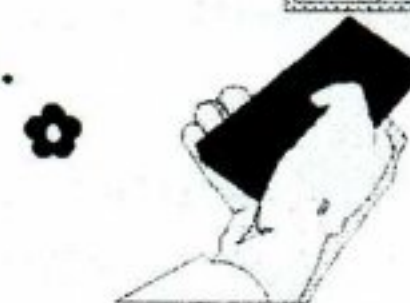
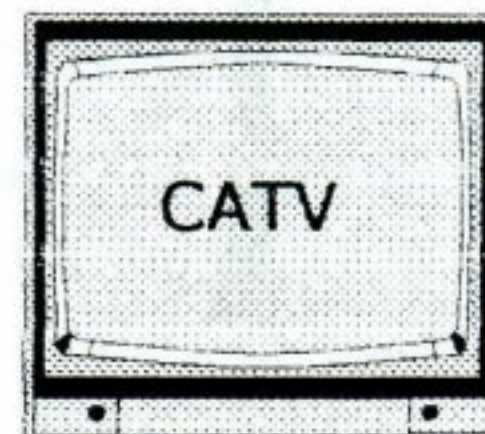
Restoration of the General Cemetery: Friends of the General Cemetery, members of NENG among them, had been working hard and had received a £500 'Urban Life' grant from Barclay's Bank to improve the main drive. The University of Sheffield and Forgemasters gave grants to restore the grave of Mark Firth and the 'Egyptian' gate had been restored.



Trees: There were talks about surveying all the street trees in Nether Edge and their planned replacement. Where will the money come from? It is still a constant issue in 1998 ...

Nether Edge Hospital: Rumours were flying about its closure. Are the old buildings to be demolished? Their fate isn't yet known. The changes involved would entail the provision of mental health facilities. NENG was in consultation with Community Health Sheffield.

Cable TV: This arrived with disruption to streets and worries about possible damage to tree roots.



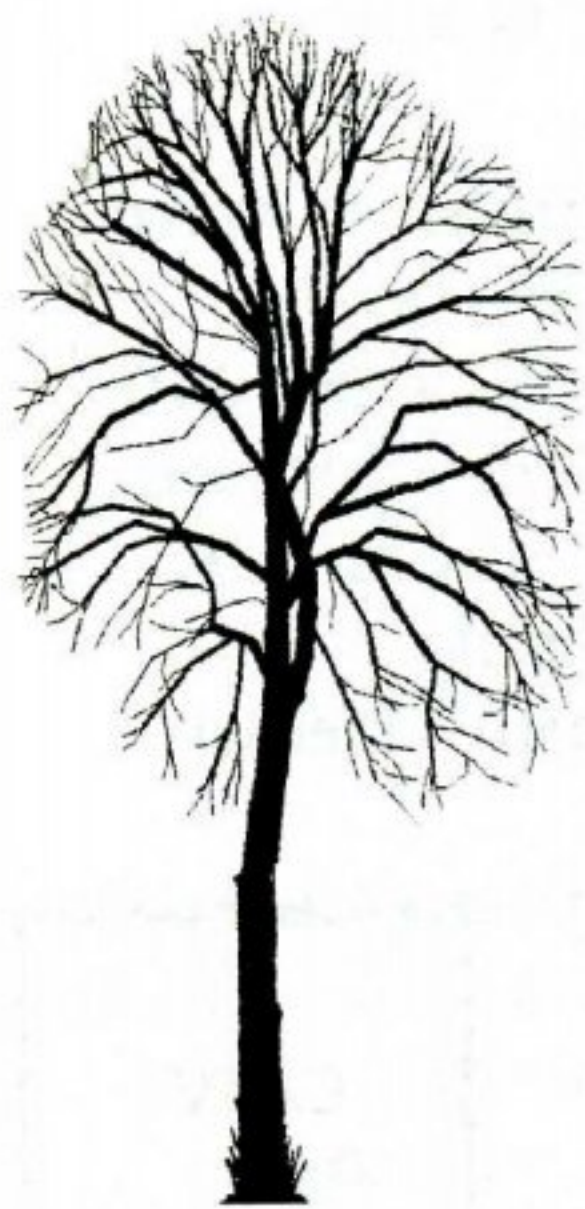
Chairman: Peter Frost (c), Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Albrow, Treasurer: John Brooke, Secretary: Don Parrish

After John West's term of office ended in May, NENG was for a short while without a **Chairman** — until Peter Frost nobly volunteered to take on the job.

The **Planning Subcommittee** fought battles on two fronts: unsuccessfully against the Department of the Employment, which used Crown Exemption to get planning permission for a day nursery on Kenwood Park Road; and, rather more successfully, against the Council which had axed any further Tree Preservation Orders, just when it was selling off much of its land.



The **Road Safety Project's** Phase III produced mixed feelings. In terms of volume of traffic the re-opening of Archer Lane and the road humps installed round Brincliffe Edge meant there were losers as well as gainers. But at least the cars had been slowed down.



Trees, as always, were in the news. Overgrown street trees were not being pruned — unless they caused subsidence, when they were ruthlessly pollarded. A diseased beech tree crashed down across Brincliffe Edge Road in a gale. And, on a rather smaller scale, coppicing and clearing continued in the wood.

'EDGE' features: Jeremy Surr went to Armenia, Jack Potter remembered wartime Nether Edge and, in the Local Lives series, our own artist Joe Scarborough was featured.

And when the Playgroup edited December's EDGE, Becky Boulton (aged 8) wrote:-

The Sad Snow Man Story

I made a snow man
Big long carrot nose
hands made of twigs
tennis Ball eyes
What a lovely Snow man
and did you know
he supports
Man United But
one sad day
my Brother
knocked him down so
I made another
one Just the same
But my sister knocked
him down so no
more snow men all Bang Dead.

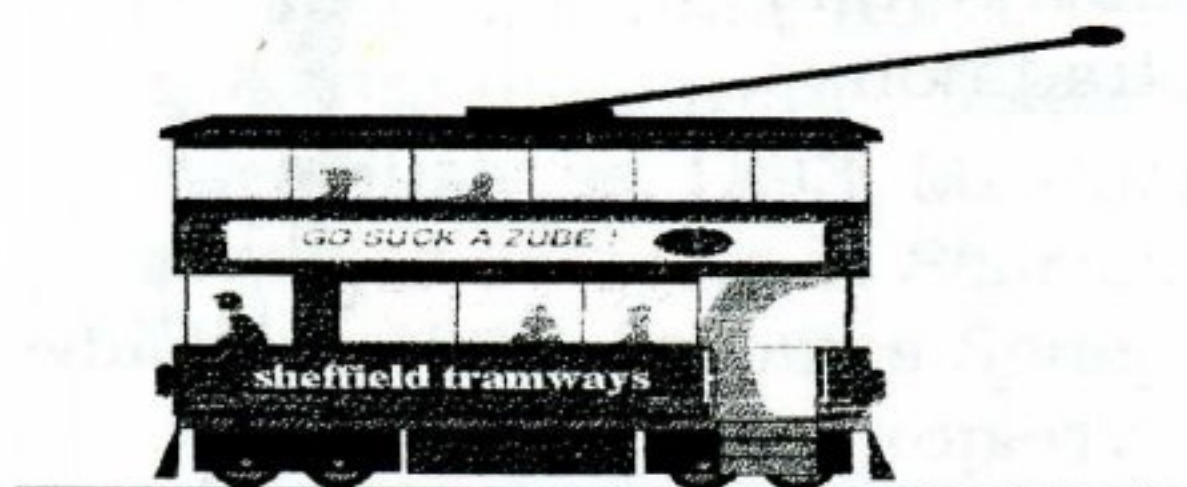
End of Story



Chairman: Peter Frost, Vice-Chair: Margaret Jakubowska, Treasurer: Tony Venables, Secretary: Christine Stubbs

Luncheon Club: The Club celebrated its 21st birthday this year and a history of Shirley House where it meets, together with short biographical notes of current members, was printed in 'EDGE'.

Brincliffe Towers: This is now a private 'Residential Care Home'.



Trams: "After conversion to electric power, electric trams ran to Nether Edge from 1899 to 1934."

(From an article in April 'EDGE')

Nether Edge Hospital: The proposed plan for the alterations was published. The Planning Subcommittee commented on the great importance of the whole site and its integral part of Nether Edge. An Open Day was held to enable members to meet and talk to clinical and management staff.

St Andrew's Church: Demolition of the structurally damaged building came closer. Building repairs and maintenance had become too big a burden and various choices were being considered by the congregation.

Meadow Bank Avenue: Now 100 years old, this attractive development was first planned in 1896 by a former resident of Nether Edge, Miss Elizabeth Newbould of Sharrow Bank on Psalter Lane (the site now occupied by the newly-built houses). At first the plots 'did not go' and it was only after Miss Newbould's death in 1909 that the development was completed.

Dogs: The perennial problem. A letter to EDGE suggested a fenced playing area for children. ❀

LISTED BUILDINGS

IN THE NETHER EDGE AREA

from December 'EDGE' 1996

All the following buildings are Grade II listed, with the exception of those marked with an asterisk, which are Grade II*.

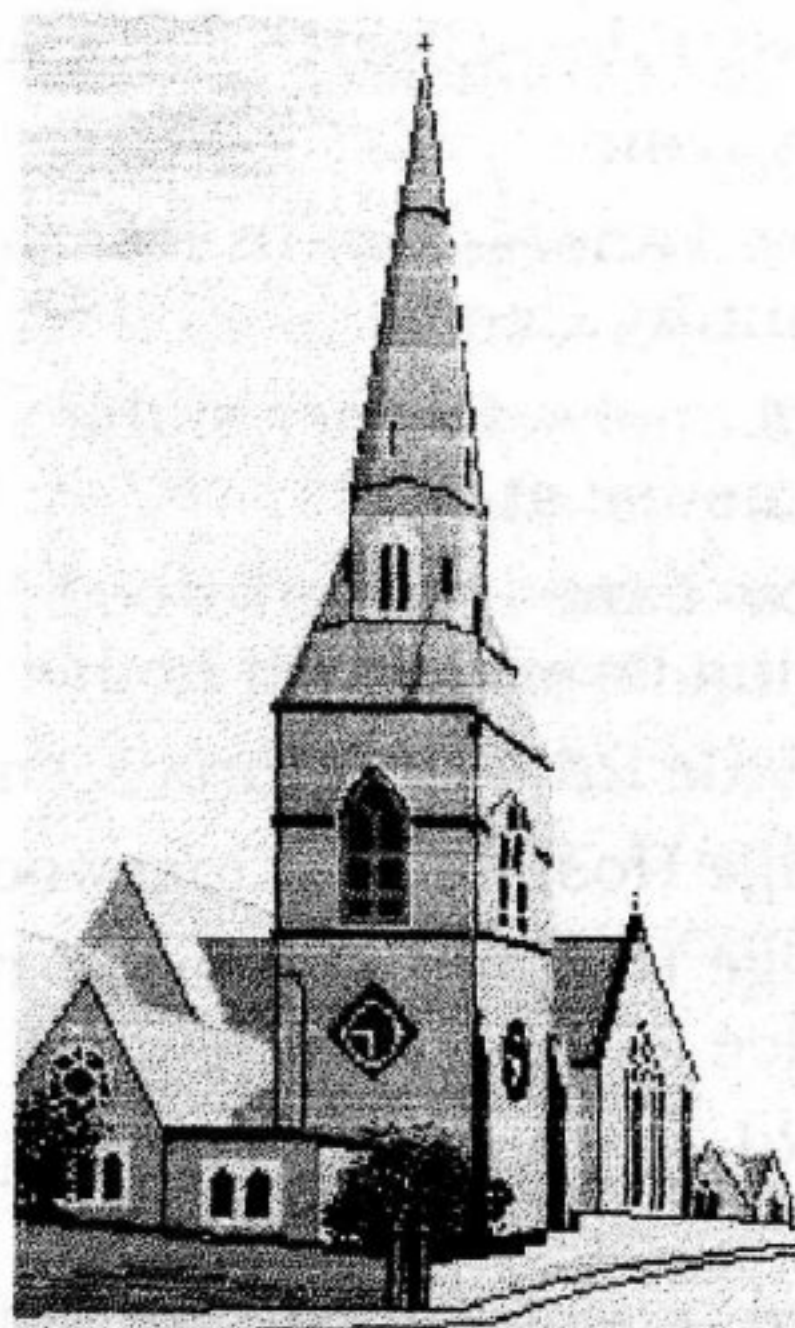
- 6 Brincliffe Cresc — The Towers
- 4 Brincliffe Cresc — Lodge to the Towers & adjoining boundary wall and gate piers
- 178 Brincliffe Edge Rd — Woodside House
- 102 Brincliffe Edge Rd — Sewer gas lamp
- 294 Cemetery Rd — Montague House
- 311 Cemetery Rd — Sharrow Head House
- General Cemetery — Gateways, chapels, lodges and monuments
- Cemetery Rd — Sewer gas lamp at top of Frog Walk
- 18 Kenwood Park Rd — Lantern theatre
- 14 Ladysmith Ave — The Edge
- St Andrew's Psalter Lane — church and adjoining steps, walls & gate piers
- 1 Rundle Road
- Rundle Rd — North Lodge to Swallow Hotel (not included), bound'ry wall & gate pier
- St Andrew's Rd — Church of St Andrew (!)
- 1 Sharrow Lane
- *3 Sharrow Lane — Mount Pleasant Community Centre
- *Sharrow Lane — Former stables and coach house at no.3
- 10 Sharrow Lane — Charnwood Hotel and adjoining former coach house
- Sharrow Vale Rd — Westbrook snuff mill
- Nether Edge Hospital — Kingswood b'ldng.
- Nether Edge Hospital — left and right entrance lodges
- 1 Union Rd — Union Hotel and adjoining boundary wall
- Vincent Rd — Haqqani House Sufi Centre and adjoining boundary wall and gates

Chairman: Peter Frost, Vice-Chair: Margaret Jakubowska, Treasurer: Tony Venables, Secretary: Christine Stubbs



Nether Edge Hospital: The Council announced its Planning Brief for the part of Nether Edge Hospital which was to be sold off. It was introduced at a packed public meeting and was welcomed by NENG. Its guidance to prospective developers followed very closely the Group's own views on the best future for the site. (One year later, no developer has yet put his head above the parapet !)

Another local landmark came under threat of demolition. The cracks in the fabric of **St Andrew's Church** were now so bad that the building was no longer safe to use, and was later declared redundant. The congregation and the vicar moved a short distance and formed a united Anglican-Methodist church, now to be called St Andrew's Psalter Lane.



The **Nether Edge Fun Run**, conceived and organised by Jasper Soul of the Post Office, attracted a crowd of runners and spectators and seems set to become a Nether Edge tradition.



A campaign to refurbish and relight three local **Webb's Patent Sewer Gas lamps** was opened and waged enthusiastically by our Chairman.

... but one of our resident poets, Bernard Callan, was trying to get some light turned off !

"In Chelsea Road the lamps stay light
All through the day and through the night,
But no-one cares in Sheffield Town
Where tax goes up & ne'er comes down..."

And once more the plight of our highway trees was news. They are beautiful, they are useful, but they cause subsidence ... and they are getting old. The Group started a determined campaign to get the Council to undertake a planned replacement scheme.

A BIT MORE FROM THE ARCHIVES

Spring Leigh: Many readers will be familiar with the large Victorian villa on Rundle Road. In the March 1994 edition of 'EDGE', Tanya Schmoller reported some "illegal goings on" there in 1909, where a certain Wm. Buckley was suspected of carrying on some business in Rundle Road, namely "The Universal Specialities Supply Company, at the Crescent Works, Rundle Road: Patentees & Manufacturers". Sixteen years previously, in 1893, Mr Buckley is recorded as living in *Sharrow Leigh* which, in 1896, becomes *Spring Leigh*.

He occupied this property until it appears under Leonard Slater, a metal broker, in 1916. Wm. Buckley & Co. are recorded as patent piston manufacturers at the Patent Piston Works, Mill Sands.

The 1910 directories list some auspicious neighbours of Mr Buckley during his residence in Rundle Road.

They include Charles Flockton, architect, *Kenwood Knoll*; James Mirfin, general turner, *Coniston*; Wm. Thomas

Wright, brewer, *The Hawthorns*. A decade earlier, Sheffield's post master, George Edward Eldridge Noble, was a Rundle Roader.

The **Group's officers for 1973** are listed at the top of page 4. The Christmas edition for that year lists also the following:-

Newsletter Editor — Ann Kirby

Press Officer — Malcolm Weston

Assistant Press Officer — Susan Grossman

Chairman & Secretary, Community & Recreational Subcommittee

— Tony O'Donnell and Jacqueline Hamilton

Chairman, Fund Raising — Dorothy Orton

Chairman & Secretary, Planning

— Harold Howe and Chris Rodgers

Chairman & Secretary, Publicity

— Barry Cummings and Jenny Ryalls

Chairman & Secretary, Welfare of People

— Ted Oldfield and Susan Beal



**25th anniversary issue of
Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group**

If you are not already a member of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group and wish to support the Group's activities, please complete the payment slip below and return it, with your cheque or postal order, to:

Alan Hartland, NENG Membership Secretary, 27 Kenbourne Road, Sheffield S7 1NJ.

I/We wish to support the work of the Neighbourhood Group and receive its newsletter 'EDGE'.

Name(s)

Address

Post code Telephone

I enclose cheque/postal order to the value of £..... made out to 'NENG'.

**Current annual subscription is £3.00 per household (£1.50 OAP/unemployed/student).
Please make an additional donation if you wish to do so.**

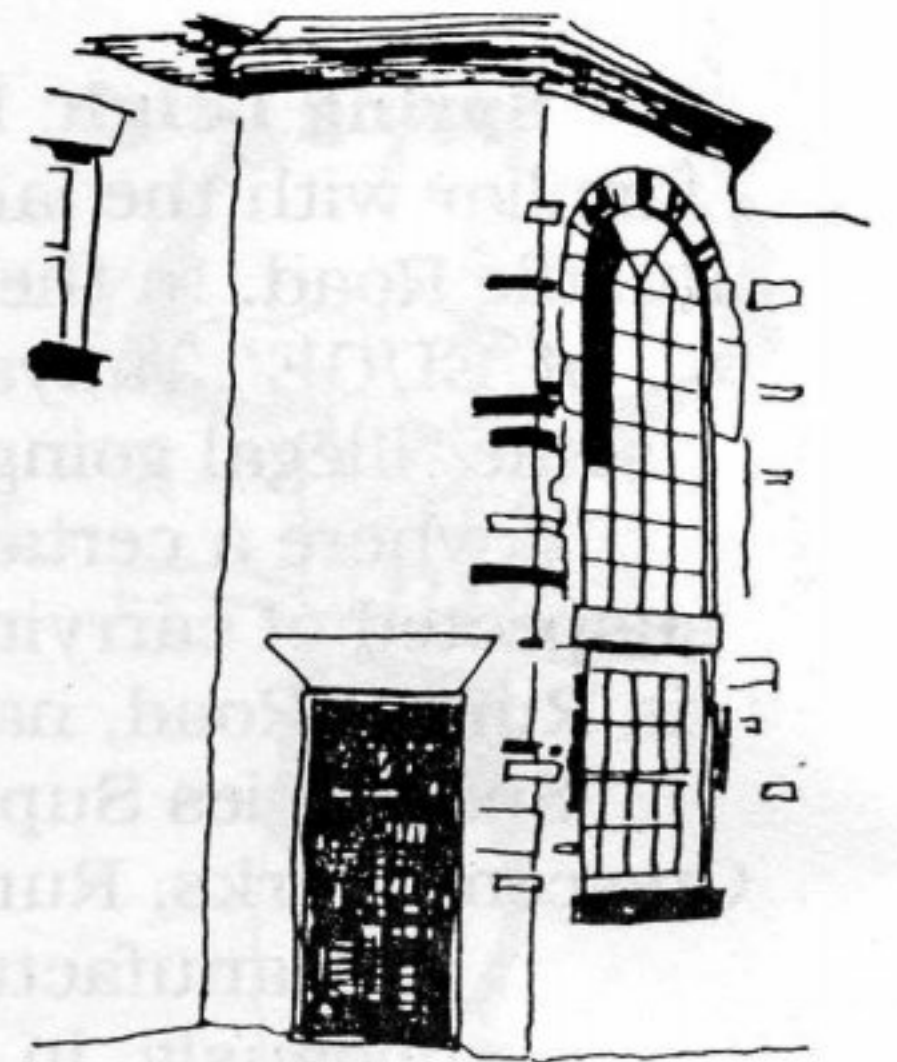
**Some
local buildings**
pen & ink drawings



The Knoll



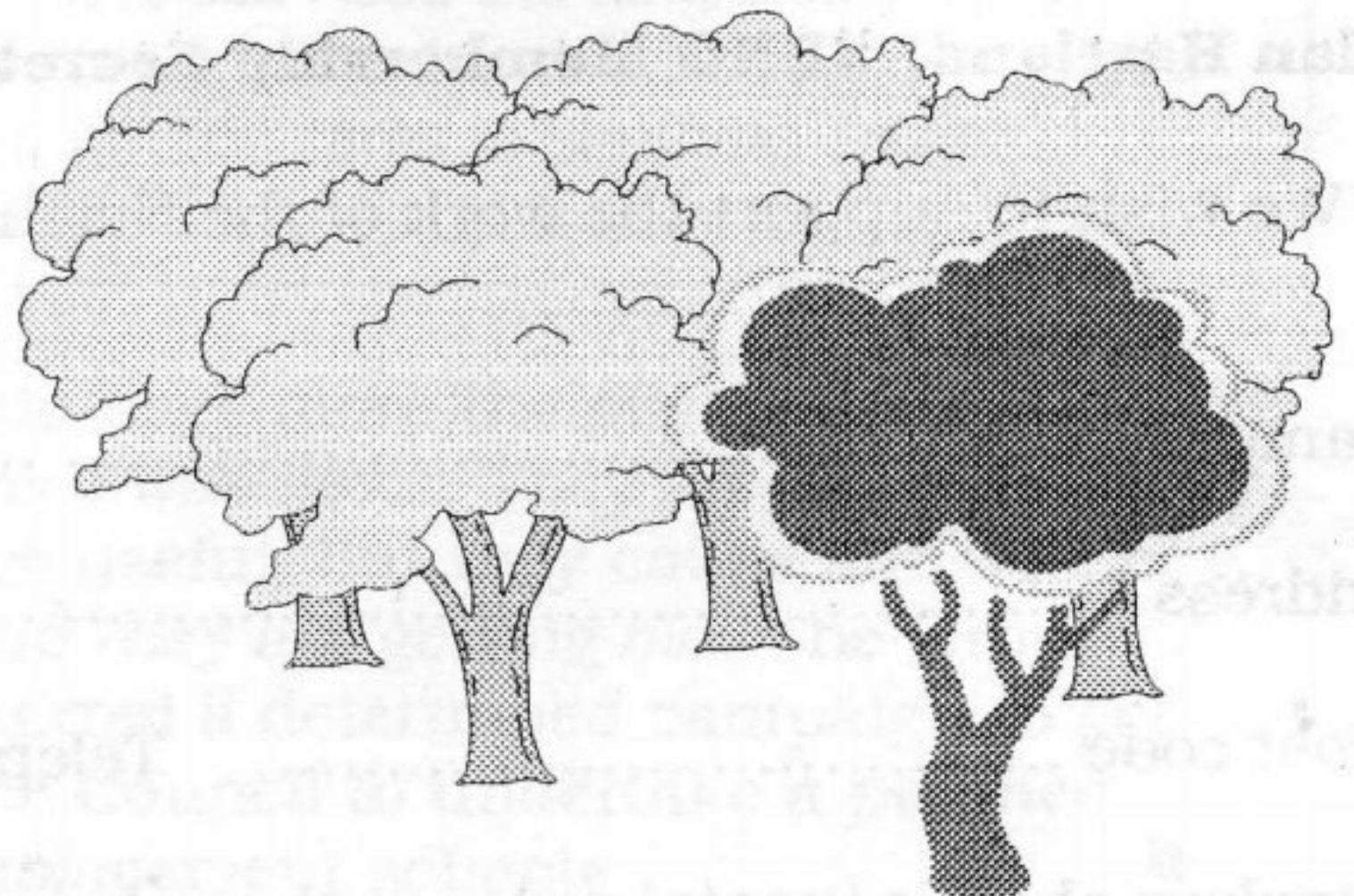
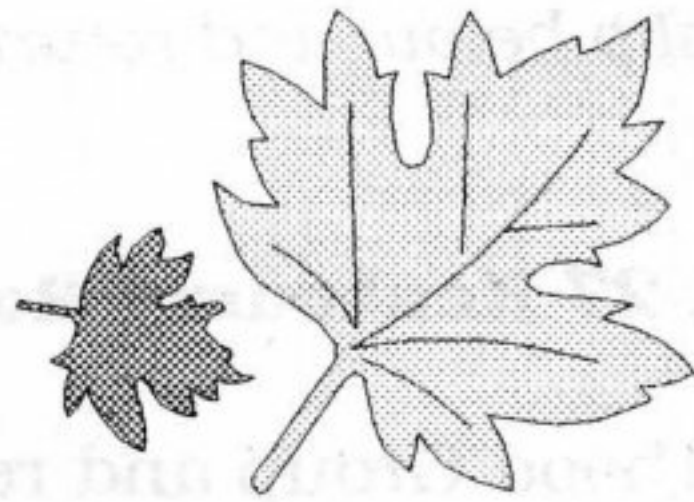
Edge Bank Cottages



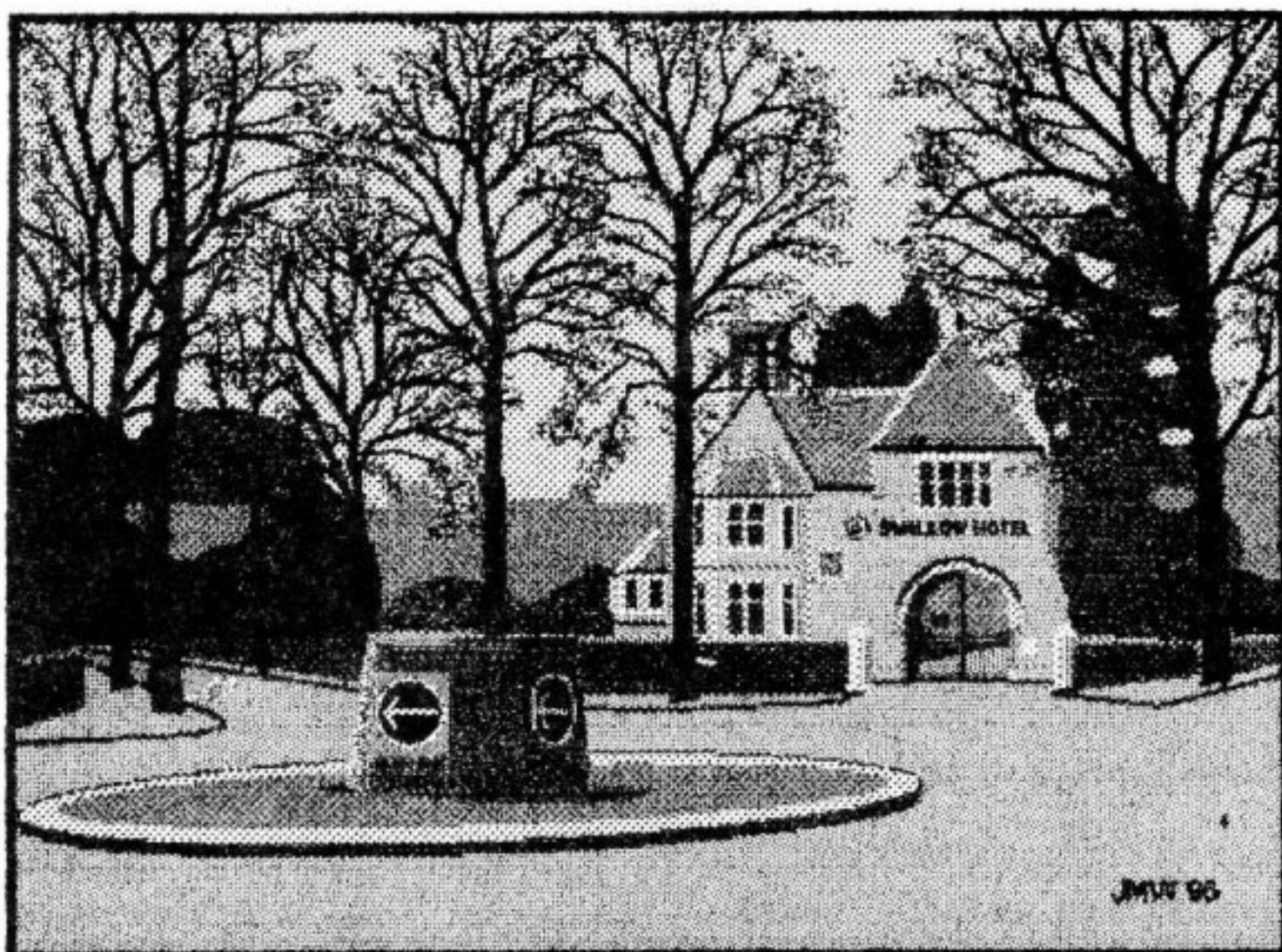
The Edge



The Charnwood Hotel



Some local scenes of Nether Edge



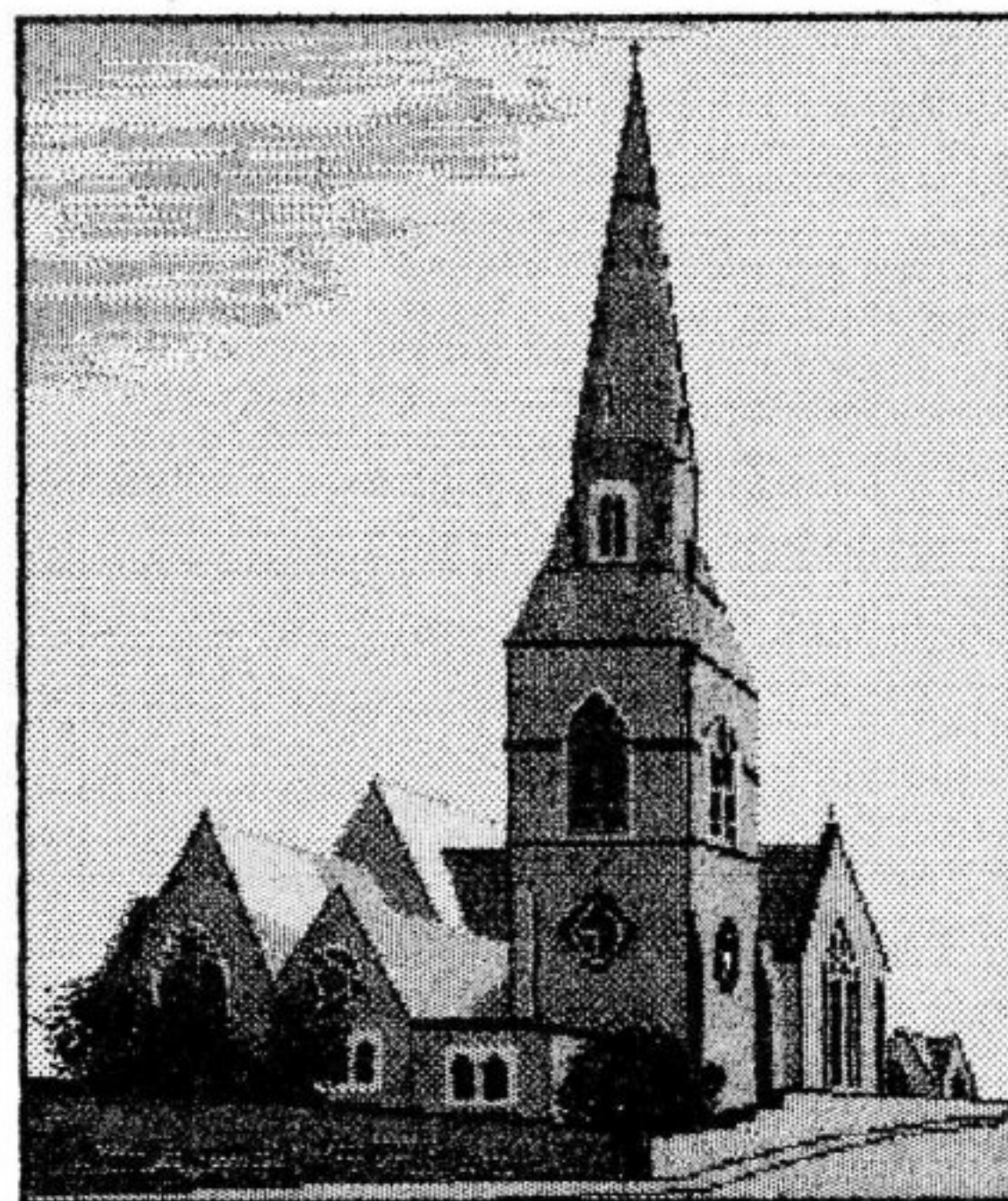
The rather horrid roundabout at the top of Rundle Road and the splendid entrance to what used to be the Kenwood Hotel. For several years NENG contributed to the supply of flowers on the roundabout, supplied by Norton Nurseries.



The pretty little roundabout at the bottom of Rundle Road. The original bright yellow, which was so successful, was in fact a mixing mistake. Sadly the roundabout now gets vandalised and is no longer what it was.



Nether Edge is blessed with two theatres. This is the Lantern Theatre in Kenwood Park Road. EDGE regularly publishes the theatre programmes of both theatres when available.



St Andrew's Church, redrawn from the photograph in Mary Walton's splendid booklet. The clock tower is still safe — even if the clock itself is now stopped. Regrettably the nave is doomed to collapse and the ministry and congregation have now splendidly merged with the Methodists in Psalter Lane.

All these drawings were prepared on a computer, copied from photographs. It is interesting to compare the quality with the line drawings opposite.

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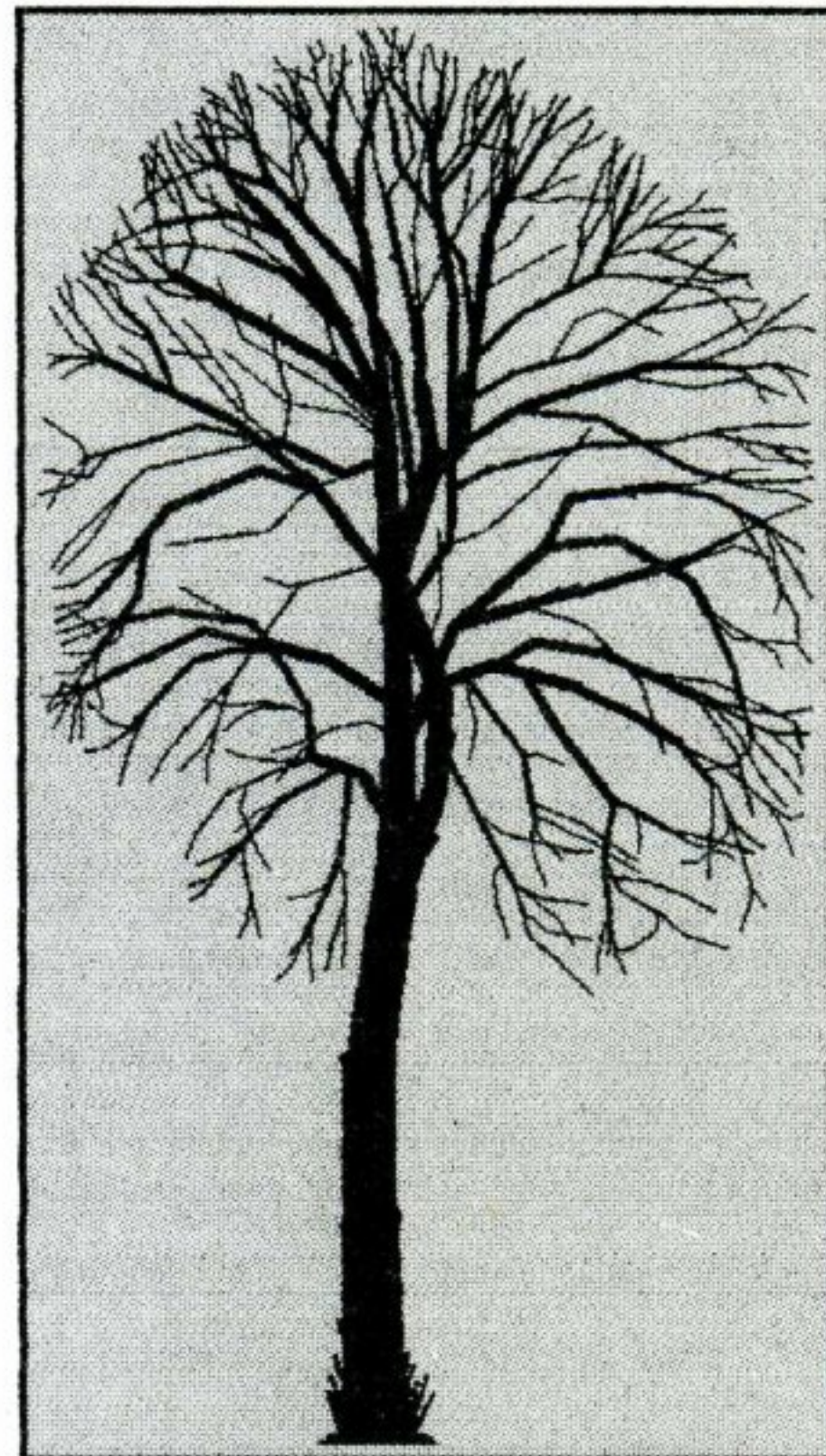
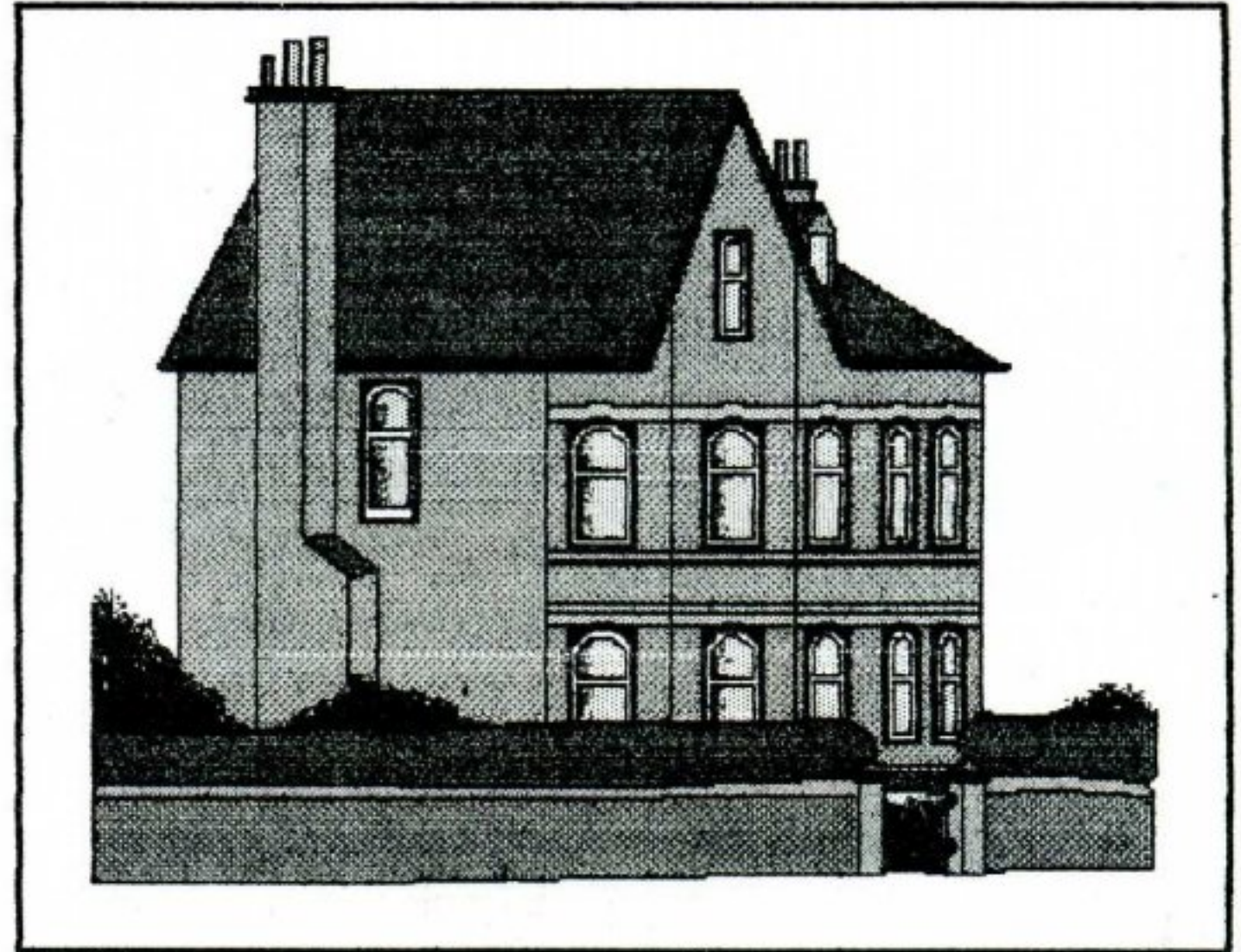
28 1997

29 A bit more from the archives

Application to join NENG

30 Some local views (pen & ink)

31 Some local views (computer)



These are just two more computer-drawn pictures available to the artworker today.

Some readers feel they cannot compare in creativity or appearance with the pen-and-ink drawings of Ann Howard in earlier days.



The artwork for this special edition of 'EDGE' has been prepared by John West using Microsoft 'Publisher 97' software. It was first printed on his colour printer by Tony Venables and then printed by offset lithography by Trade Print Ltd.