

# NEWS FROM THE FORUM

The Newsletter of the Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum No.13: April 2001

## Council Scheme to Improve Student Housing?

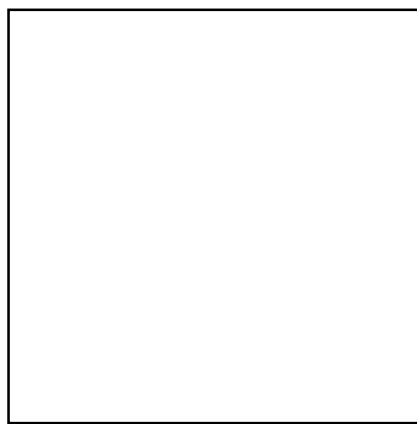
The City Council is planning to introduce a new scheme to register Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and their landlords.

The government was planning to introduce legislation for the whole country, but this wasn't mentioned in the Queen's Speech so it will not go ahead in the near future. As a result, the City Council have decided to put their own scheme in place.

Anything which has the potential to affect HMO's is important to Dunkirk and Lenton because of the large numbers of student houses that we have in our area.

The government's scheme could well have allowed greater controls on the number of HMO's in an area, which might have enabled areas like Dunkirk and Lenton to maintain a balance between student residents and families and other groups within the community. The scheme would also have forced landlords to provide good quality accommodation, with a good standard of repairs, fire safety provision and adequate facilities for washing and cooking, as well as giving tenants a responsibility to look after the houses they were living in.

The government sent out a paper to local authorities asking for views on the proposed scheme, and Nottingham City Council, local MP



Alan Simpson, and the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum, among others, responded in favour of the proposals. The City Council's response to the scheme shows that they are aware of many of the problems created by large numbers of HMO's, and in particular student houses, in one area. They said:

"Certain parts of this city are experiencing problems as a result of a marked influx of students, for example. This is altering the character of some areas and making it increasingly difficult for local residents and their families to purchase houses in those areas. There is also the impact that large numbers of students can have on the social structure of a neighbourhood and the fact that houses can stand empty for over four months of a year while the students are on holiday."

*Story continued on page 9*

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### The Next Forum Meeting

**Thursday 26 April  
2001, 7 pm**

Dunkirk Community Centre,  
Montpelier Road, Dunkirk

#### Invited Speakers:

Cllr Dave Trimble, Housing & Social Services Board  
Barrie James, Development & Environmental Health Dept

*The main topic for the meeting is Houses in Multiple Occupation, but there will be time to raise other issues that concern you*

Creche places available  
Tel **941 9525** to book a creche place or for more details

**Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum**, c/o Lenton Leisure Centre,  
Willoughby Street, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1RQ. **Tel/Fax:** 0115 9419525  
**Email:** forum@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk **Website:** www.dunkirkandlenton.co.uk

## 3000 and Still Counting

Since the last issue of *News From the Forum*, Lenton Care Link has delivered its 3000th prescription, and continues to provide this very valuable service to the community. The photograph shows Prescription Co-ordinator Michael Clarke making the landmark delivery to Lucy Dudley (photograph courtesy of the Nottingham Evening Post).

Michael collects prescriptions and delivers medicines to anyone who is housebound or elderly, aiming to make delivery within 24 hours. You can contact Michael on 07901 682779 if you need to use this service.

Our Monday (Dunkirk) and Thursday (Lenton) Over-60's Centres have a full programme of activities planned for Spring including trips to Ruddington Museum and Spalding bulb fields, music and movement, quizzes and guest entertainers. Contact Diane Maloy at Lenton Care Link for more information.

Our Asian Lunch Club meets on Wednesdays at Unity House, Church

Street. Come and enjoy home-cooked curries, Asian music and films in a friendly, chatty atmosphere. Contact Gurcharan Kaur for further details.

We recently welcomed new team member Jill Anderson. Jill has taken over from Veronica Bhattachargee as our Visiting Scheme Co-ordinator. Jill knows the Lenton area well and has already settled into her new role.

We are always looking for volunteers to support our work in the community. Just a couple of hours of your time could make all the difference to an isolated or vulnerable person in the Lenton or Dunkirk area. Volunteering could make all the difference to you as well. Students are always very welcome – and it's a great

opportunity to put something back into your host community, as well as having something to write on your CV – or you could get rid of that exam stress or that hangover by doing a spot of gardening! The benefits are almost endless!

Contact Lenton Care Link on 9412499.

### Radford and Lenton Toy Library

All welcome to borrow toys for their children.

**Unity House**, Church Street, Lenton  
Monday 10 am – 12.30 pm

Friday 10 am – 12.30 pm

**Dunkirk and Old Lenton Community Centre**, Montpelier Road, Dunkirk

Wednesday 10.15 am – 11.15 am

**Garden Street Family Centre**, Garden Street, Radford

Thursday 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

**All Souls Community Centre**, Ilkeston Road

Friday 10.30 am – 11.30 am

20 pence per toy, £1 for life membership

## Lenton Flats Tenants' and Residents' Group

As from 8 March 2001, the Lenton Flats Tenants' and Residents' Group has disbanded.

Bernadette Lawley, Lenton Neighbourhood Housing Manager, told *News From the Forum*:

"I would like to thank them for their hard work and their commitment over the past few years to improving the local environment.

"They have been very supportive of the various improvement schemes in the flats, such as the replacing of the windows, the internal redecoration and the building of the perimeter wall.

"The Group has also been instrumental in our recent

application to the Home Office for funding for a new CCTV system for the Lenton Flats and Church Square area.

"The dedication and enthusiasm that they have shown is very much appreciated."

*Lenton Flats*

## Support for African Caribbean Children and Families in Nottingham

The African Caribbean Family Support Project provides emotional and psychological support for young black and dual heritage people aged up to 19 years and their families.

This includes children who may be experiencing behavioural and learning disabilities, or social and communication difficulties and other problems.

This service has been set up to provide culturally sensitive and practical support and advice that was much needed within the community.

Four members of staff have been committed to the project which has been up and running since early

December 2000.

Although we are based at the Croft Family Centre, we offer a flexible service throughout the city.

Young people or families who have concerns can refer themselves in confidentiality and with confidence to any of the staff members at the following address.

Contact Laney, Katie, Caroline or Ken at The African Caribbean Family Support Project, The Croft Family Centre, Albert Road, Alexandra Park, Nottingham NG3 4JD, telephone 0115 9620772, fax 0115 9112090.

Look out for our launch at the end of March!

### QMC Forum

A **public meeting** will be held at The Function Room, Rose and Crown, Derby Road  
**On Tuesday 8 May at 7.15 pm.**

This meeting, part of a regular series, will be jointly chaired by the QMC and local residents.

Representatives have been invited from:

*University of Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire Police  
Nottingham City Council*

Everyone welcome.

If you would like to include a topic in the agenda, please contact Sandra Clifford at the QMC on 9249924 ext 42107.

Tropical Foods advert

# LOCAL SCHOOLS

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## Lenton Primary News

### After School Club

Lenton Primary School offers after school care for children aged 5 to 11 years. This is available to all parents in the local community with children at any school. Our qualified and experienced staff can collect children from Edna G Olds school at the end of the school day.

The 'First and Last' After School Club is open from 3.20 pm to 6 pm from Monday to Friday. Further details, including information about financial support for after school care, are available from Lynn Faulkner at Lenton Primary School, telephone 9151793.

### Computer Classes

The school continues to run computer classes that are free to local residents. Classes ranging from beginners to the more advanced are currently available. Further details are available from the school.

### Other Classes for Adults

These range from aerobics on Wednesday nights to Interior Design on Tuesday mornings and English as a Second Language on Wednesdays and Thursdays. All are free.

### Rose Cottage

Work is soon to start on Rose Cottage, the school building adjacent to the pelican crossing on Lenton Boulevard. On completion, Rose Cottage will become the new office for the Forum.

### Mid-Day Supervisor

The school has a vacancy for a Mid-Day Supervisor to work for one hour a day. The basic job description is to help with the supervision of children at lunchtime. Further details from Rob wood, Head Teacher.

## Edna G Olds and the Radiant Model

Two members of staff at Edna G Olds Primary and Nursery School, Mrs Ireland and Mrs Khan, have recently returned from a highly successful trip to Pakistan.

They were able to visit the Radiant Model School in Mirpur, the area where many of our families have relatives. This personal contact will enable us to build international links, giving our children an increased understanding of other cultures.

Staff in Pakistan and at Edna G Olds will gain professionally over the next few years by sharing good practice, ideas and resources.

The Principal of the Radiant Model School will be visiting us within the next couple of years and we will be helping develop ICT links. This should be an exciting project for all concerned.

Mrs Ireland and Mrs Khan have also visited Lahore, Islamabad and



the archaeological sites at Taxila. They brought back many photographs and artifacts to broaden and enhance our teaching of the National Curriculum, particularly in history, geography and RE.

They were overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality they received and look forward to sharing their experiences with staff, pupils and parents.

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## Fun in Dunkirk

Dunkirk Fun Club is a new and exciting out-of-school provision for 4 to 11 year olds.

It is available to all parents and carers who live, work or study in the Dunkirk locality, and operates within Dunkirk Primary School.

Children are cared for by experienced staff, in a secure and stimulating environment.

Activities include arts and crafts, pool, television, sports, face-painting, board games and lots more.

The morning session is from 8 am to 9 am, costs £1.50 and includes breakfast. The afternoon session is from 3.30 pm to 6 pm, costs £3.50 and includes tea.

For more information, contact Teresa or Julia on 9153273.

## Friar Tuck Credit Union - Making Saving a Habit

A credit union is a group of local people who have joined together to create a form of community banking which brings financial control back to the community. In this way, they encourage one another to save and give each other easy access to credit.

Unlike a bank or other commercial money lenders, a credit union protects its members by only lending money the members can afford to borrow – so no spiral of debt. Also, unlike commercial organisations, a credit union allows its members to build up their own credit worthiness – irrespective of past mistakes.

If you live, work or study in Dunkirk, Lenton or Lenton Abbey,

and you would like to get control of your money, you can join the credit union and gain easy access to credit you know you can afford.

If you are interested in joining the credit union, telephone 9412422 or drop in at a collection point:

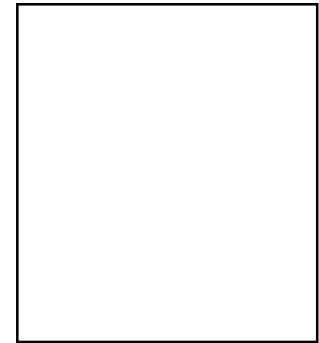
Dunkirk and Old Lenton Community Centre, Montpelier Road, Dunkirk, Monday 10.30 am – 11.30 am.

Thomas Helwys Baptist Church, Church Street, Lenton, Wednesday 12.00 – 2.00 pm

Lenton Community Shop, Osmaston Street, Lenton, Thursday 10.00 am – 11.00 am

Unity House, Church Street, Lenton, Friday 12.00 – 1.00 pm

Lenton Community Centre,



Willoughby Street, Lenton, Friday 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

### Can You Help?

Friar Tuck needs volunteers to help run and manage the credit union. There are lots of things you could do to help – you could help run a collection point, help out with administration such as taking minutes of meetings, or even join the Board that oversees the success of the credit union.

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PD Rees Advert

# LOCAL ACTIVITIES

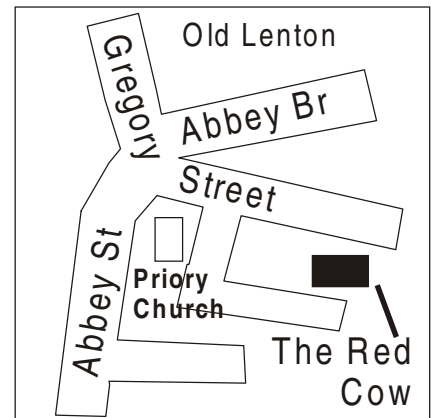
## The Red Cow: A Traditional Local Pub

In the last issue of News From the Forum, we reported that our consultation with elderly residents revealed that many people felt that there was a lack of 'real local pubs' in our area. One pub that can be described as a 'real local' is the Red Cow on Gregory Street in Old Lenton, and News From the Forum spoke to the landlady, Pat Davies-Coote, about what the pub has to offer.

Pat said, "We pride ourselves on being a traditional local pub. Our activities and entertainment are aimed at the more senior community and our traditional two-roomed operation allows us to entertain our customers in the comfort of the

lounge, while sometimes quite lively games such as pool or darts go on in the public bar. We also have a social fund which finances Christmas parties for the customers and, for the first time last year, for their children and grandchildren. We collect for charity and organise regular, sometimes free, trips to the seaside. This is financed through things such as raffles or fundraising cards, and while the management do their bit, much of the fundraising is done by customers themselves, who work very hard to make these events a success."

There is something going on most nights at the Red Cow, with free pool



on Mondays, Bingo starting at 9 pm on Tuesdays, and a piano-accordionist and traditional sing-along on Wednesdays. Friday is Bingo night again, with a few other games thrown in, and there is live entertainment on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Why not go along and give them a try? The Red Cow is on Gregory Street in Old Lenton.

## EASKA Karate Club

We have been teaching karate at the Dunkirk and Old Lenton Community Centre since 1992. Although the personnel have changed, and many students have come and gone, we continue to offer a safe and well-run art and sporting activity which has a lot to offer to young and old alike.

Although many students, especially young kids, are slightly disappointed when they realise that what we do hardly resembles martial arts in the movies, they do come to appreciate the finer arts of self-defence. We offer a means by which students can defend themselves, if the need arises, in the real world. We also offer a good (and cheap!) means of keeping fit and healthy.

But karate is about more than keeping fit and defending yourself. We find that students who come and train with us achieve certain characteristics which will put them in better stead for the future. They learn

self-confidence, a key requirement for looking after yourself in the big, wide world. They learn discipline and respect. Commitment is another key factor – learning a martial art needs a certain degree of commitment and patience. Finally, students get the opportunity to better their communication skills, by interacting with other students. Karate, then, is a mixture of sports and character building.

Our club has always been open for adults to join. Four of the adults who started doing karate a couple of years after we started at Dunkirk have since become black belts. The minimum age for students is seven, and there is no maximum age. We offer a steady progression through the art, from the very basic moves and techniques right up to advanced techniques and katas (sequences of moves). The club is run by Chief Instructor Duhaney Simmonds, who has been teaching karate for more

than fifteen years, and is now a fourth degree black belt.

The club runs every Monday and Thursday night from 6 pm to 8 pm, although it is worth turning up a little earlier. The cost per session is £2.00 for children and £3.00 for adults. If you are interested in joining, or want further information, contact Duhaney on 9625326 or on 07855030840, or Gary Hillyard on 9149289.

*News From the Forum* is produced by the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum. Editing and layout, Clare Littleford. Printed by Parker and Collinson, Lenton, Nottingham. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum.



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Produced with financial assistance from the National Lottery Charities Board.

## Leap Into Leisure at Lenton's Local Centre

Right in the heart of Lenton, the Leisure Centre's swimming pool, sunbed and fitness suite are great facilities for getting fit, learning to swim or simply enjoying activity.

The fitness suite is open until 9 pm on weeknights, and from 7.30 am Tuesday to Friday, so there should be a time that suits most people's lifestyles.

There are plenty of opportunities to get into the pool, too, with early morning swimming from 7.30 am Tuesday to Friday, a whole variety of different swimming sessions, including ladies only, lane swimming and fun sessions, and swimming

lessons for groups or individuals aimed at all ages and all abilities.

The pool can be hired out for the ultimate in children's parties most Saturday evenings – the kids get a whole hour in the pool with the security of a lifeguard on duty.

You can find the Centre on Willoughby Street in Lenton, near the high rise flats and Church Square shopping precinct.

For more information, call in at reception or phone the Centre on 9150095.

Lenton Leisure Centre,  
Willoughby Street, Lenton,  
Nottingham NG7 1RQ.

## Community Festival

Keep your eyes and ears open for details of the community festival to be held on Saturday 2 June. The main venue for the festival has not been finalised yet but all will be notified as soon as we get an answer to our request to using the Lenton Recreation Ground.

There is a very small group working with Forum staff and other interested people to put the festival together and we would welcome anyone who is interested and can spare the time.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Forum Office on 9419525 or pop in and see us.

PMS advert

## Criminal Facts

It can seem as if crime is a major problem in our area, blighting the whole community. We all hear about people whose homes have been burgled, or who have been mugged in the street, and these stories can make us worry that our neighbourhood has become a dangerous or insecure place to live.

However, the problem, while genuine, is not as bad as it seems from the anecdotal evidence we all hear about.

Crime figures for the year 2000 show that the crimes we fear the most, such as rape or street robberies, are actually very rare in Dunkirk and Lenton.

As always seems to be the case, statistics collected do not exactly match our area, and this makes it difficult to be exact about the extent of the problem. The statistics covering New Lenton also cover the Castle Marina area, while the Dunkirk

and Old Lenton figures on car crimes are distorted by the high level in the QMC car parks.

Burglary, attempted burglary and car crime are the most common crimes in our area, and we can take steps to reduce the chances of becoming victims of these crimes.

Burglary, for example, is quite high in our area because student houses make attractive targets for burglars. The houses are often not as secure as many private homes, and with four or five people living in a house there is a good chance there will be more than one television, video recorder, stereo or computer. Fitting window locks and good door locks will make burglary less likely, but sensible precautions such as shutting accessible windows when there is nobody in will cut down a lot of this type of crime.

Car crime is high in our area, although much of this occurs at the

QMC. Again, sensible precautions can help to reduce this kind of crime – making sure a car is left locked with the windows closed, keeping valuables out of sight, and not leaving bags in cars which might tempt a thief to see what is inside.

If you have any concerns about crime in the area, talk to your local community police officers. PC 1711 Mick Barratt covers New Lenton, while PC 454 Paul Moore covers Dunkirk and Old Lenton. To contact them, phone the police switchboard on 9482999 and ask for them at Canning Circus Police Station.

PC 1711 Mick Barratt's Advice Surgery

PC Mick Barratt runs an advice surgery every other Friday, 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm, at Lenton Community Centre, Willoughby Street. To check the dates he will be there, phone 9482999 and ask for PC 1711 Barratt at Canning Circus.

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## It's Time to Surf!

The Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum has been awarded an internet-ready computer and one year's access to the internet by BT Community Connections, a UK-wide award scheme helping to connect local communities to the web.

The Forum was one of hundreds of groups that entered the East Midlands region of the scheme and impressed judges with their ideas on how an internet-ready computer would benefit their community.

We plan to use the computer to allow community and voluntary groups and organisations in the area to access information on the web to

promote the life of the whole community. We also hope that members of the Forum's committees and Working Groups will be able to find out about campaigns or policies, or contact groups and individuals elsewhere to further their interests. In this way, the Forum's computer can allow the whole community to benefit from the information and resources that are now available online.

The Forum is also continuing to develop a website for the communities of Dunkirk and Lenton, and we intend that local groups and organisations will be represented on this website, which will provide

information on all aspects of life in the local area. The address for Dunkirk and Lenton Online is [www.dunkirkandlenton.co.uk](http://www.dunkirkandlenton.co.uk) - have a look to see how the site is developing!

If your group or organisation would like to use the Computer Access Point, simply phone the office or pop in to book a time, telephone 9419525. We will give a basic guide to the internet to all new users.

Groups or individuals can still enter BT Community Connections by logging on to [www.btcommunityconnections.com](http://www.btcommunityconnections.com). The deadline for Round Three is 10 August 2001.

# Will Shared Houses be Registered by the Council?

*Continued from  
Page One*

When it became clear that the government scheme was not going to become law soon, the City Council decided to create their own scheme. However, the scheme they propose would not cover the majority of shared houses in our area because of a legal wrangle that has left a loophole for unscrupulous landlords to get away with not maintaining houses to a proper standard. This loophole exists because of the way that a House in Multiple Occupation is described in law.

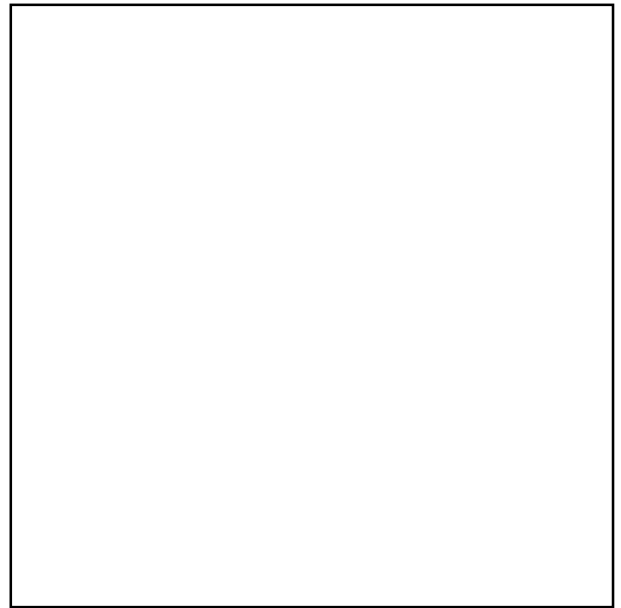
Between 1969 and 1995, the phrase 'HMO' included shared houses, which traditionally make up 56% of student accommodation across the country. However, in 1995 a landlord took Sheffield City Council to court over this, and the judge ruled that shared houses did not count, meaning that legislation already in place no longer protected students.

Under the current law, the legal definition of an HMO is 'a house which is occupied by persons who do not form a single household', but the law does not define what is meant by a 'single household'. Sheffield City Council had ordered the owners of a terraced house occupied by five students to install fire escapes and other fire precautions. The owners refused, arguing that their property was not an HMO so the council had no powers to insist on the improvements.

Despite the fact that the students lived completely separate lives, the court decided that it was a single household and not an HMO, because the students shared the facilities, had signed similar tenancy agreements, shared responsibility for cleaning and did not have locks on their doors.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the vast majority of local authorities with large populations of students, including Nottingham City Council, saw the judge's ruling as an unscrupulous landlords' charter and condemned it, but because this is now a legal precedent, landlords can use this to get away with providing sub-standard accommodation.

However, in 1999 another case brought by Islington London Borough Council shows that this is not clear cut, and the judgments in any future court case might not go in favour of the landlord. In the Islington case, a landlord tried to claim that a house let to nine former



*Student lettings: big business*

students was a residential club, but the judge decided that it was in fact an HMO and was subject to safety regulations.

One thing that is certain with all the legal arguments is that a registration scheme covering shared houses would be difficult to enforce. But that does not mean it is impossible to introduce one. A local authority which takes the first step towards this kind of scheme might be introducing something that would benefit the whole country. This would not be easy for the City Council, however, and the scheme they finally introduce may still not cover shared houses.

There are many issues that affect Dunkirk and Lenton when it comes to Houses in Multiple Occupation, and housing policy in general, and as a result, the next Forum meeting will focus on housing issues. The next meeting is on **Thursday 26 April at 7 pm at Dunkirk Community Centre, Montpelier Road, Dunkirk.**

We have invited Councillor Dave Trimble, Lead Member of the Council's Housing and Social Services Board, and Barrie James from the City Council's Development and Environmental Health Department to talk to us on this issue, and we hope that local residents, whether they are students or not, will come along and put their views across.

BUILD advert

## Keeping Communities Safe

Following a Community Planning session, the Area Seven Committee team directly responded to local concerns over a community safety issue in their area.

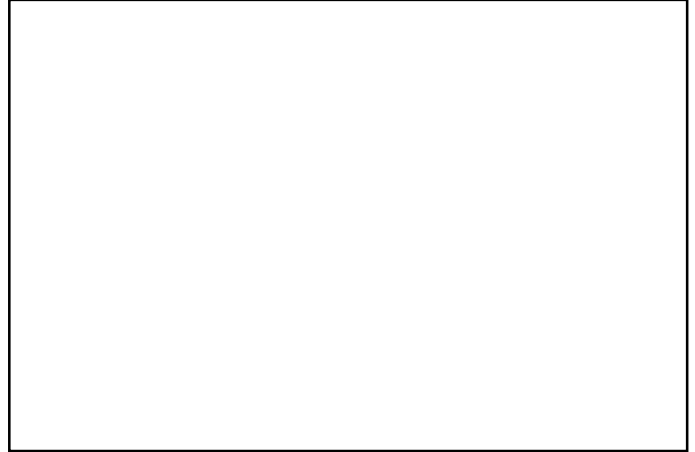
The footpath / cycle route between Gregory Street / Lenton Lane and Grove Road currently has no street lighting, following the closure of a neighbouring warehouse that had previously provided adequate lighting.

The pathway is part of the National Cycle Network route, and as such, it is used by many people. Lighting is a real issue for these users.

Area Seven Committee invited the Highways Maintenance team to put together a report on the work required and the costs involved.

From this report, Local Transport funding for walking and cycle schemes was secured and the Committee added £6000 from their own budget to ensure that the work is carried out.

Works to the footpath / cycle route are now on the agenda. This shows that Area Committees do have the power to get things done, and the time to listen.



*The route due for improvement*

If you are looking for more information on Area Seven Committee, or their Community Safety initiative, please phone Chris Cutland, Area Co-ordinator, on 9155555, extension 55230, or Dorothy Holmes, Assistant Co-ordinator, on extension 55249.

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## Cleaning Up the Streets

The City Council organises 'Clean-Up Campaigns' across the city at various times of the year. This is a chance for people to get rid of unwanted bulky items such as old furniture or mattresses, which are taken away and disposed of by the City Council.

Area Seven Committee has set aside some funds for two extra days in our area, timed to coincide with the annual changeover of tenants in the student houses.

**The dates for these collections will be:**

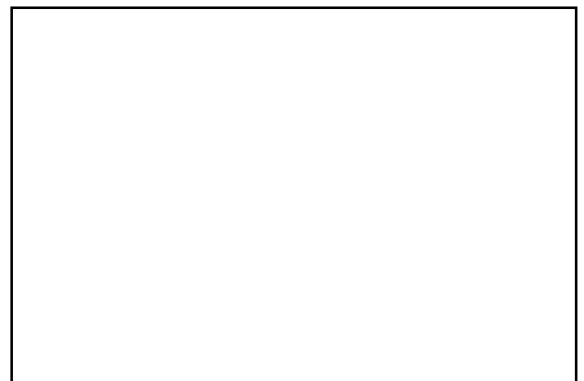
**Sunday 1 July 2001**

**Sunday 9 September 2001**

Streets involved will be leafleted in the week running up to the

collection. The streets covered are as follows:

Cecil Street, Chippendale Street, Castle Gardens, Alderney Street, Petersham Mews, Grove Road, Broadholme Close, Hungerton Street, Harley Street, Osmaston Street, Hart Street, Mettham Street, Chilwell Street, Arthur Avenue, Willoughby Street, Gregory Avenue, Henry Road, Gloucester Avenue, Devonshire Promenade, Rob Roy Avenue, Frederick Grove, Maxwell Close, Church Street, Trinity Avenue, Church Avenue, Albert Road, Louis Avenue, Castle Boulevard, Lenton



*If this bath was left in the street, the extra collections could pick it up*

Boulevard (Derby Rd to Castle Blvd), Sherwin Road, Midland Avenue, Mulberry Mews, Lenton Manor, Church Grove, Sherwin Grove, Forsythia Gardens, Penn Avenue, Prospect Place.

# Inforumation

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## Working Groups

### Housing, Environment and Community Safety

This group meets regularly and has been looking at parking, lighting, rubbish, wheelie bins and more recently issues relating to Church Square. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00 pm at Dunkirk Community Centre. We hope to have a member of the Nottingham Express Transit team present to talk to us about the tram, future lines and its impact on the Forum area.

The next HEC meetings will be held as follows:

Tuesday 22 May, 7 pm at Lenton Community Centre

Tuesday 19 June, 10 am at Dunkirk Community Centre

Wednesday 18 July 2 pm at Lenton Community Centre

How can you help with the work of the group? Let us know of any problems by ringing the Forum office on 9419525.

### Education

The Amber Project is now up and running in Edna G Olds and Dunkirk Primary Schools. Both schools have appointed workers whose main job purpose is to encourage parental involvement in school. It is hoped that a worker will be in place at Lenton Primary School in the very near future.

The group has now started to look at the development of a local Lifelong Learning Plan and its first task is to map what is currently taking place in the Forum area. If anyone is interested in contributing to this project please do not hesitate to contact the Forum office on the above number.



*Last year's health consultation*

### Health

Last year the Forum held three consultation events on health which only gave us a snapshot of the issues in relation to health in the area. After the consultation during the community planning process some interesting statistics were identified:

- The Forum area is
- Ranked 4th in the under 65's for hospital admissions for breast cancer
- Ranked 11th in the mortality rate in the under 65's for breast cancer
- Ranked 10th in all ages for heart disease
- Ranked 11th in the mortality rate in all ages for strokes
- These are quite startling statistics

and the Forum is currently working in partnership with Area 7 Committee, and City Central PCG to address these issues. As a result, there will be two Mini Health Conferences for the area – 26th April, 12.30 at Lenton Community Centre and 10th May, 12.30 at Dunkirk Community Centre. The Conference is open to those who work in the health profession and cover the Forum area and to residents in the area. It is hoped that from the conferences a Health Action Plan can be drawn up and implemented through the Health Working Group.

If you are interested in attending the Conferences please contact the Forum office.

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## Community Manifesto

If you attended the last Forum meeting you will have had sight of the draft Community Manifesto.

The Manifesto will outline what local people would like to see in their area, covering aspects of life varying from nuts and bolts issues such as litter, street lighting and wheelie bins to broader goals around issues such as health, education and employment.

A small group is meeting to work on this document further and it is hoped that we will be ready to collect wider views on the ideas we have so far at some point in May.

After this consultation, we hope we will be ready for a formal adoption of the document by the whole Forum at the July quarterly meeting.

## All Change in Church Square

The Church Square working group is officially up and running. Interested parties such as shop owners, tenants and residents plus Council officials are regularly meeting to discuss the improvements to Church Square and plan what will happen next.

Projects currently underway are New security doors to the rear of shop units

New rear door lighting to shop units  
Improved signage to publicise Church Square

Relaying of slabs to concourse area  
Presently the group are discussing Improved security measures to the shopping centre

Provision of a secure bin store for shop owners

Removing the loading bay in Willoughby Street to allow more

direct access to the shops  
Cycle racks, seating and robust planters

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding Church Square please contact Janet Kmiecik, Project Co-ordinator, 24-30 Castle Gate, Nottingham NG1 7AT, telephone 9151472.

## Meet Margaret

The Forum's newest recruit is Margaret Carruthers, who has taken up the post of Projects Officer.

Margaret says, "One of the most important parts of my job is to help people in Dunkirk and Lenton to overcome barriers to employment. These barriers might be a lack of confidence, or uncertainty about handling interviews, or poor body language. I can also offer practical support to find suitable training opportunities and jobs. I can help individuals to get work, and I would be delighted to hear from anybody who would like assistance. If I can't help you myself, I'll do my best to put you in contact with someone who can. The service is totally confidential."

The Forum has already taken a step towards promoting job opportunities by putting a selection of vacancies on its website, which can be found at [www.dunkirkandlenton.co.uk](http://www.dunkirkandlenton.co.uk). This facility will be developed over the coming weeks. The recent award of a computer under the BT Community Connections scheme means that job seekers will be able to use a

computer at the Forum office to look at the vacancies on the Forum's website and to search other websites for job vacancies.

If you are a local employer and you have vacancies, please contact Margaret, as there may be a local person who can fill the post quickly and easily, and we can include adverts on our website.

Margaret will be holding job-finder surgeries in both Dunkirk and Lenton, and further details of these will be announced in future newsletters. But you can contact her immediately at the Forum's offices. Post the tear-off slip below to the Forum office, telephone 9419525, or email [mcarruthers@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk](mailto:mcarruthers@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk).

I'm interested in discussing job and training opportunities in strictest confidence with Margaret.

Your name

Address

Phone number

When would you like to be contacted

Return this form to Margaret Carruthers, Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum, c/o Lenton Leisure Centre, Willoughby Street, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1RQ

# HEALTHY HOUSING

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## Grants to Keep Warm and Stay Healthy

The Government is providing free grants to help people keep warm and stay healthy.

If you live in a cold house and this affects your health, this scheme could well help you.

The Health Housing Referral Project is working to inform people living within the City of Nottingham about the Government Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) Grant and other help available to improve the warmth and comfort of your home.

Grants are available to families with children under 16 who receive income-related benefits (or up to 19 if in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit), people who receive disability benefits, or people aged over 60 who receive an income related benefit.

HEES is available whether you own your own home or rent it.

Depending on the heating system and the construction of your home, the measures available under HEES may include

- Loft insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Hot water tank jacket
- Heating improvements
- 2 low energy light bulbs
- Draught proofing
- Energy advice

Installation of central heating (only under HEES Plus, for over 60's in receipt of an income related benefit)

Under the HEES scheme, the grant is worth up to £700, or up to £1000 in some cases if the home is heated by expensive fuels. This rises



to up to £2000 under the HEES Plus scheme for over 60's in receipt of an income related benefit.

For more information or to apply for the scheme, contact the Healthy Housing Referral Project on 0115 9151425 or 9151485.

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## Sell Yourself Through Us

This newsletter comes out quarterly and is delivered to every home and many businesses in the area.

If you provide services such as plumbing, gardening or academic support, or run a shop or food outlet, you could put a small ad in the newsletter and tell around 4000 households what you do.

The next issue will come out in July and the deadline to place an advert in that issue is Monday 4 June.

Prices start from £15 for a 15cm square box, £25 for half a column, or from £40 for larger adverts.

We also deliver flyers with the newsletter.

Contact Clare Littleford on 941 9525 for more details.

## Include Your Story

If your organisation would like to include an article in the next issue of the newsletter, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Or If you have an opinion about the local area, send us a letter and we will try to include it in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit letters or articles for reasons of space.

The copy deadline for the July 2001 newsletter is Thursday 7 June 2001.

Contact Clare Littleford on 941 9525 to discuss anything you would like to include, fax it on the same number, email [forum@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk](mailto:forum@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk), or post it to *News From the Forum*, c/o Lenton Leisure Centre, Willoughby Street, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1RQ.

P&C advert

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# HEART HEART

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## News from Lenton Community Centre

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### Annual General Meeting

Lenton Community Association's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 21 June 2001 at 7.00 pm at the Centre

After the short business meeting, Jennifer G will share some ideas on 'Art in the Community' and Valerie Bullin from the Crime Prevention Unit will speak on 'Neighbourhood Watch, Personal Safety and Burglary prevention'.

All who live or work in Lenton are welcome. Refreshments will also be served!

### Lunch Club

Our Lunch Club for over 50s has room for more members. Lunches are cooked on the premises every Tuesday at a cost of £1.20 for a two course meal, plus tea and coffee. Excellent value!

### Out of School

#### Activities

These are continuing, with the Computer Club and Internet Café on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the Pythons' Football Club on Mondays for 5 to 11 year olds, 4.00 to 5.00 pm at Monty Hinds Youth Club.

#### Poetry Evening

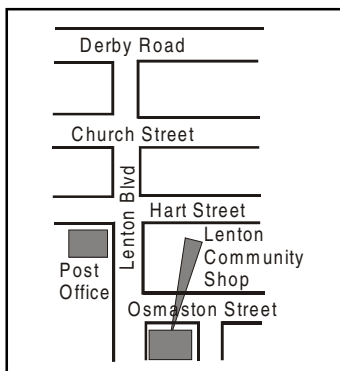
Wednesday 30 May 2001,  
7.00 pm onwards

Listen to a selection of poems – humorous, thought-provoking, romantic. Bring your favourite poem to read.

### Lenton's Aladdin's Cave

The Lenton Community Shop on the corner of Osmaston Street and Lenton Boulevard is run by volunteers on behalf of the Lenton Community Trust, a registered charity formed to provide help to the people of Lenton.

All goods are donated – you never know what you might find in the shop; a pair of skis, an academic gown, a harmonium, a canoe and a Russian uniform are some of the things we have been given, as well as good quality clothes, household goods, books and furniture, all of which are very reasonably priced.



If you haven't visited the shop yet, make sure you do; you never know, you might just find what you are looking for.

We are open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm regularly, with occasional Saturdays for special events such as our Christmas Fair and our May Day event, which includes the popular plate-smashing competition!

The one thing we are short of is volunteers; the workload falls on just a few (mainly elderly) people. An ideal volunteer would be a strong young man with the use of a van! – but anyone with a couple of hours to spare at a regular time during the week would be most welcome. Call in at the shop or telephone 9509545.

### Current Activities at the Centre

#### Monday

NWRS (Welfare Rights Session) 10 am – 12 noon

Girls After School Club 4.15 – 6.15 pm

Choir Practice 7 – 9 pm

Games Workshop Italia 7.30 – 9 pm

#### Tuesday

Luncheon Club 11 am – 2 pm

Councillors Surgery (2nd Tuesday) 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Park Labour Party (2nd Tuesday) 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Martial Arts 7 – 9 pm

#### Wednesday

Park Day Club (Carers & Toddlers) 10 – 11.30 am

LICK Computer Club & Internet Café for 11s and under 3.30 – 4.30 pm

Homework, Computer & Internet Club, 11 – 16 yrs 4.30 – 6.30 pm

Choir practice 7 – 9 pm

Choir practice 7 – 9 pm

#### Thursday

Lenton Parents and Toddlers 10 – 11.30 am

Swing Into Shape (over 40s) 7.15 – 8.15 pm

New Leaf (stop smoking group) 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

New Leaf (stop smoking group) 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

#### Friday

Musical Funtime (under 3s) 10 – 11 am

Musical Funtime (3 – 5 yrs) 2 – 3 pm

Credit Union Collection Point 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Police Surgery (fortnightly) 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Muslim Welfare House 7.30 – 10 pm

#### Sunday

Pentecostal Service 11 am – 2 pm

Martial Arts 5 – 7 pm

The Centre also takes bookings for parties, cultural celebrations, clubs, public meetings, wedding receptions etc. Ring for prices and details, 0115 9412422.

