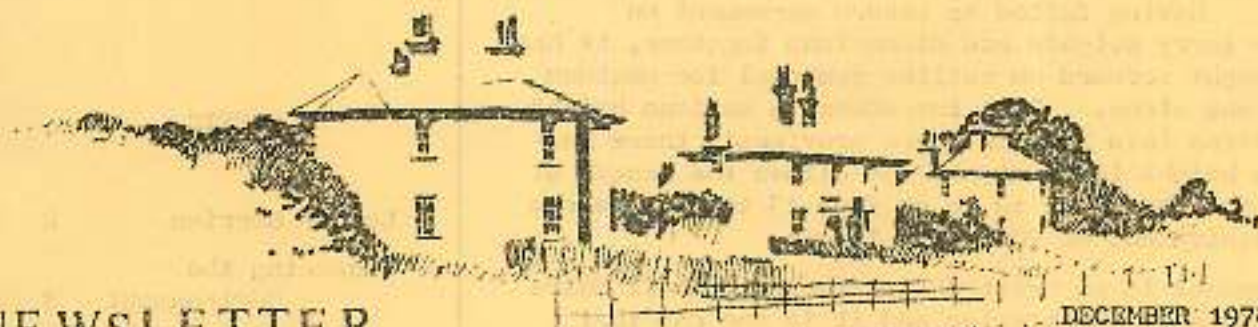


# Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1978.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting was held in the Tudor Barn of the Parish Centre, Warsop. The Trust returned, for a second year, to this very attractive venue, which had been restored in the past with substantial help from the Trust. In recognition of this help the Management Committee, in a most generous gesture, permitted the Trust the free use of the Tudor Barn.

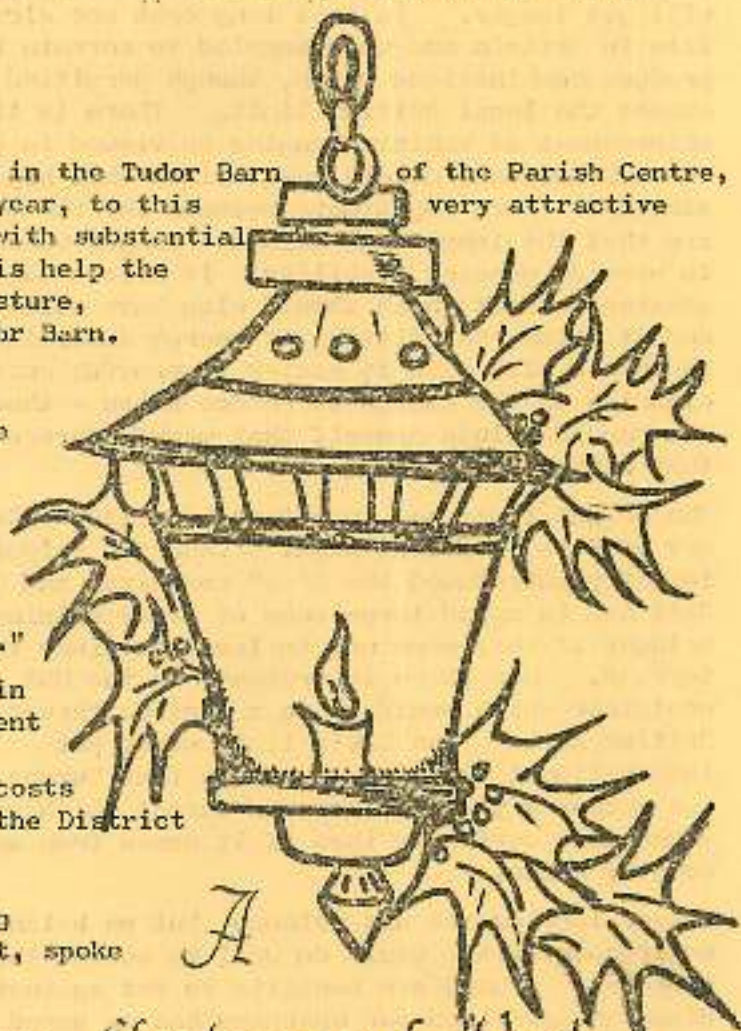
Apart from the routine business of the AGM there was a most interestingly argued debate about the Resolution

"that the present central role of the Department of the Environment should not be weakened by transferring to local authorities the appropriate powers or any greater part of them than they now possess."

The Resolution was ultimately carried, but in the debate the point was made that the present system could lead to a situation where a decision could be taken by the DoE yet the costs of that decision would have to be borne by the District Council and not the DoE.

Following the formal business of the meeting Professor N.W. Barley, Chairman of the Trust, spoke on "Discoveries in the City and its Suburbs", which was illustrated by an excellent collection of slides.

The evening was rounded off as a pleasant social occasion over a glass of sherry.



*Merry Christmas and all best  
wishes for a Happy New Year*



The Civic Trust has advised us of the following proposals :

The Commission of the EEC is taking two bites at the cherry. Having failed to secure agreement on maximum lorry weights and dimensions together, it has now brought forward an outline proposal for maximum dimensions alone. This introduces a maximum height of 4 metres into Britain where previously there had been no height limit at all but allows the length of an articulated lorry to go up from 15 to 15.5 metres - the equivalent of 20 inches longer.

The proposal is so written that the extra half metre cannot go onto the trailer and it is the cab that will get longer. In fact long cabs are already on sale in Britain and when coupled to certain trailers produce combinations which, though permitted abroad, exceed the legal British limit. There is little enforcement of vehicle lengths so viewed in one way the EEC Proposal merely regularises what happens already. More legitimate reasons for the proposal are that the longer cab allows a longer wheel base to provide greater stability; it allows the driver greater comfort which should also have safety benefits; and it allows the fitting of energy absorbing bumpers. It should also make it easier to provide extra cladding on the engine to reduce noise - though no-one should delude himself that manufacturers will do that without compulsion.

The height limit has important benefits. Containers used to be 8 feet high. Then the shipping industry introduced the 8' 6" container and British Rail had to spend large sums of money raising their bridges if they were not to lose container traffic to road. Now there is pressure in the USA for a 9' container which would prove a serious threat to British Rail. The EEC's limit would put international shipping on notice that Europe will not accept a 9' container - a threat which will be taken more seriously than if it comes from one country alone.

Longer lorries are not welcome, but on balance environmentalists would do well to accept this proposal. There are benefits to set against the disadvantages, and our energies can be saved for the real battle - HEAVIER LORRIES - if and when the EEC decide to attempt a second bite. The Secretary of State should be on notice that acquiescence on length indicates no weakening of resolve on weight. He should also extract from the EEC faster progress on noise and policies to reduce long distance road freight.

You may share the view of the Civic Trust that this proposal is not one to be resisted but, knowing how strongly societies feel about lorries, we are notifying you straight away to give you time to make your own views known.

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If you wish to make any comment, letters should be addressed to your IP, or to the Rt. Hon. Wm. Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 3EB, or to Richard Burke, EEC Commissioner for Transport, Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, immediately.

Please send copies of any correspondence to:  
NIGEL HAIG,  
CIVIC TRUST,  
17 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE,  
LONDON, SW1Y 5AW.



## ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

Some achievements of the Civic Trust - born twenty one years ago

It seems a long time ago since I threw off the cloak of anonymity of the publicity man and, for a moment, addressed a large and distinguished gathering in the romantic and splendid grandeur of the Guildhall, London. Speaking on the subject of publicity for Part III of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, which was to contribute greatly to clearing the streets and beauty spots of the menace of the dumped car and bulky refuse, I suddenly became aware of the quiet strength and efficiency behind the campaign.

Of course, the inspiration for it all was the Civic Trust and its President, Duncan Sandys (now Lord Duncan-Sandys), who introduced the Civic Amenities Bill in Parliament with all-party support. The other parts of the Act, which also won universal approval once they appeared on the Statute Book, deal with the preservation of areas and buildings of architectural or historic interest, establishing the idea of the Conservation Area; and the preservation and planting of trees.

As Michael Middleton, director of the Trust, wrote recently: "It requires a certain effort of imagination, now, to think back 20 years. The great developers' spree had not yet got under way, though 'urban renewal' was an exciting term which had just crossed the Atlantic. There were only eight miles of motorways; no 32-ton lorries. Government grants towards the upkeep of outstanding buildings in private hands had been in existence for only five years. There were no Conservation Areas..."

oGo

So what has the Civic Trust achieved? Considerable results - not only by bringing pressure to bear on central and local government, but also in helping to change the public attitude so that there is an awareness that the beauty and grace of our buildings, of our environment generally, are as important to preserve and cherish as are manuscripts, music and all those other refinements of the mind that make for a sensitive civilisation.

By LAURENCE EVANS

With acknowledgment to  
the Local Council Review

The challenge to the Trust is a mighty one, for the educational campaign can never flag; there are always new generations to be won over, new ideas to be considered, imaginations to be nurtured and the erosions of time itself as well as the worst excesses of man to be fought.

The results that have been achieved are spectacular when it is realised that the Trust is a charity, financed by subscriptions and donations from business and industry. It does not have an individual membership and it does not own property. Its role is an advisory body - "an initiator and a 'pressure group'," as Michael Middleton says.

When the Civic Trust was founded in 1957 by Duncan Sandys, then Minister of Housing and Local Government, to promote the protection and enhancement of the environment, there were perhaps few who were able to visualise how quickly it would develop and how soon it would establish world-wide links.

Its first attack was on ordinary shopping streets, showing how they could be brightened up and made more attractive by a united effort of local authorities, traders and householders.

Outstanding among these schemes were those at Norwich, Windsor and Burslem. The Queen launched the Windsor plan, and since then hundreds of other towns have initiated 'face-lifts' to give their citizens a greater pride in the surroundings in which they live, shop and often work.

I saw the difference in Windsor when the idea had just been implemented there, and although that charming town, with the grey eminence of the castle and its delightful theatre as companionable neighbours, has more to offer than many, nonetheless the co-operation between individuals and different groups has shown that environment can be improved wherever there is determination. ....

Continued on page 10



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

### CONSERVATION

#### VOLUNTEERS



Drawing by J.L. Eaton

Members may be aware that the Nottinghamshire Branch of the Conservation Corps has recently been formed.

The Corps is particularly interested in nature conservation work in the countryside and can provide a facility to carry out schemes which otherwise could not be undertaken, e.g. :

- tree planting
- clearing village ponds
- woodland management
- general landscape conservation.

Membership now totals 100 and is made up of people aged 18-40, most of whom are from urban areas and would not normally have the opportunity to be involved in conservation work.

If you have any suggestions for projects on which you consider the Conservation Volunteers could help, or if you would like to join - subscriptions: Ordinary Member £1.50; Student/Unemployed 50p; Family Members £2.00; Corporate Members £3.00 - please contact :

JOHN DUFFIN,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS,  
110 MANSFIELD ROAD,  
NOTTINGHAM,  
NG1 3HL.

Telephone: Nottm. 53681.

Cheques/postal orders to be made payable to NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS, please.



## SAVE THE COMMONS

### - A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

A three-pronged campaign to save the one and a half million acres (2,300 square miles) of common land in England and Wales was launched earlier this year by the Commons Society, Britain's oldest national amenity organisation.

The campaign's three aims are to safeguard commons against development, to ensure a right of public access to all commons and to secure suitable management agreements for them.

Key to the campaign is a programme to heighten public awareness of the tenuous legal protection of much common land.

Opening the campaign at a press conference Mr. Carol Johnson, Chairman of the Society, said:

'In 1953 the Royal Commission on Common Land declared that "as the last reserve of uncommitted land in England and Wales, common land ought to be preserved in the public interest" and that "all common land should be open to the public as of right" subject only to reasonable bye-laws.

'Nearly two decades later - and despite the passing of the Commons Registration Act in 1965 - these reasonable goals remain very distant.

'Few of the millions who walk, ride, picnic and play on our commons realise that on most commons there is no right of public access.'

Mr. Johnson explained that a common is land over which certain persons (the commoners) have - or have had - rights (e.g. to graze animals) but which nevertheless belongs to a single owner.

Commons include the open glades of the New Forest, urban lungs such as Hampstead Heath, the uplands of the Lake District, the Welsh mountains, Dartmoor and the Surrey Heaths. Also counted as commons for the purposes of legal registration are hundreds of town and village greens varying in size from pocket handkerchiefs of land to gorse and bracken-covered playgrounds of hundreds of acres.

With acknowledgment to -  
The Commons Open Spaces and  
Footpaths Preservation Society

+ + + + +

The law doth punish man or woman  
That steals the goose from off the common  
But lets the greater felon loose,  
That steals the common from the goose.

Anonymous 18th century  
comment on enclosures.

+ + + + +

Less than a third of all commons (about 400,000 acres) are subject to a legal right of public access. These are town commons, those managed by local authorities, a few rural commons and those owned by the National Trust.

Mr. Johnson went on:

'Of the Royal Commission's three principal recommendations only one - the registration of common land - has been enacted. Their other proposals for management agreements safeguarding all interested parties and the right of public access still await legislation.'

Pinpointing the immediate problem Mr. Johnson said: 'Registration - the essential pre-requisite for adequate protection and public access - is proceeding at a snail's pace.

'There are only three Commons Commissioners to hear the 26,400 disputed registrations which remain. At the present rate of progress it will be at least 1990 - perhaps well into the next century - before the process is finished.

'The Commons Registration Act was a measure approved by both main parties but its operation is being grossly impaired by the slow rate of hearing disputed cases. Witnesses to the true status of commons die or move away and the case for the commons they knew is lost by default for all time. Land which ought to be preserved as common is enclosed or cultivated. ...

continued on page 10



+ + + VILLAGE + + +  
VENTURE  
+ + COMPETITION + +

Organised by the Community Council for Nottinghamshire  
and sponsored by Shell

In its first year the Village Venture Competition, which is intended for schemes which produce some direct community benefit, has attracted twenty two entries covering a wide range of schemes, and we list these for your information :



Bleasby	Bleasby Village Hall Man. Committee	Village Hall Improvements
Bleasby	Bleasby Parish Council	Village Study
Burton Joyce	Burton Joyce Local History Group	Book - "Burton Joyce & Bulcote, Studies in the history of two Trent Valley villages"
*Collingham	Collingham Museum Committee	Collingham Museum (Local History)
*East Drayton	East Drayton Village Hall Man. Committee	Schoolhouse Conversion
*East Markham, Askham & Headon-cum-Upton	Mrs. N. Julian	"The Gazette"
Lowdham	Village Hall Playing Fields Committee	Lowdham Adventure Playground
Misterton	Misterton Parish Council	Windmill Garden Project
Newark	Notts. Federation of Women's Institutes	Renovation of Trent Bridge House
*Nuthall	Nuthall Parish Council	"A Study of the Village of Nuthall"
Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe-on-Trent Parish Council	The Grange Community Centre
*Radcliffe-on-Trent	Home & School Assn.	Jubilee Sports Pavilion
*Ravenshead	Rotary Club of Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Talking Newspaper for the Blind
Southwell	Southwell Women's Institute	"Clean up for the Queen"
Sutton Bonington	Mrs. C.L. Crawford	Jubilee Quilt - Communal Wall Hanging

Continued on page 7



# VILLAGE VENTURE COMPETITION

continued from page 6

*Sutton Bonington and Normanton	Sutton Bonington and Normanton Social Service Association	Swan Court (Community for the Elderly)
Tollerton	Tollerton Fellowship	Conversion of derelict stables to meeting room
Trowell	Trowell Parish Council	Trowell Village Study Report 1976
Upton	Upton C. of E. Primary School	Modernisation of school toilets
Watnall	Greasley Parish Council	The Holy Well, Trough Lane, Watnall
Westhorpe, Southwell	Westhorpe Conservation Group	Restoration of Toptom Pond, Westhorpe
Woodborough	Mrs. J. Taylor	Woodborough Car Pool

\* INDICATES THOSE SCHEMES SHORTLISTED

FINAL JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE EARLY DECEMBER  
AND WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE GIVEN IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

A local craftsman-made trophy, together with a cash prize of £50 and a commemorative certificate, will be presented to the Winners, and the two Runners-up will each receive Certificates of Merit. The top six entries will all receive two copies of the Shell Guide to Rural England.

The trophy will be competed for annually, so why not make a note to enter your scheme in 1979 - for further information contact John Duffin, C.C.N., 110 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3PL. Telephone: Nottm. 53681.

## PUBLICATIONS

### THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL -

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

This is a well produced, illustrated booklet, giving a good deal of information, in a concise and readable form, about this canal. a brief but very adequate look at its history; a description of what you will find today, and the aspirations of the Chesterfield Canal Society for the future, all add up nicely to the title of the booklet, while for good measure, there is a map of the whole

canal, more detailed plans of certain key areas, a lock and distance table, and several photographs.

The Society will welcome your interest, so why not drop a line to John Wickstead, 53 Raymoth Lane, Worksop, Notts., enclosing 50p, and I am sure he will be delighted to send you a copy.



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## LEGEND OF A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHURCH

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By Arthur Sharp

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Reprinted from Nottinghamshire Countryside : October 1948

Holme-by-Newark lies on the east bank of the Trent, beyond Winthorpe. You might think it a forgotten place - remote, quiet, cut off from the busy world, with an abiding peace about it that charms one, in these hectic days. You may also decide that nothing could ever happen here; yet several things did occur, strange things. The River Trent changed its course here at the end of the 16th century, so that, in a night, as it were, Holme found itself almost on the brink of the water instead of being well out amid fields and marshes. Now the short spire of the parish church overshadows the brown swirling current. The villagers of that long-ago happening must have stood amazed on that morning when they found themselves living on the east side of the river instead of on the west.

The Plague came to Holme in 1666 and frightened a poor old woman into seeking lonely refuge in a queer hidey-hole. And there is a tradition that Dick Turpin, the famous highwayman (like Queen Elizabeth, Turpin seems to have been everywhere) used to visit a cottage here, stopping to give Black Bess a drink and a rest before hastening on to the security of the Trent Marshes. You may search for that cottage, but find it you won't, and your imagination must suffice. Yet it is possible that the notorious Dick - who was no gentleman if you ask me - really did make his temporary headquarters in this remote spot.

The most interesting legend or tradition associated with Holme is the story of an old woman named Nancy Scott. Arriving at Holme you will be impatient to visit her strange hiding-place to which she fled in time of the Plague, for the scene of this tragedy is intriguing to all who delve into the old and the romantic.

Briefly, the story is that Nan Scott was so frightened lest she contact her neighbours and catch the dreaded disease that she fled to a small priest's chamber over the porch of Holme Church - an upper room that may have been used for various purposes in its day. With a supply of emergency rations she retired to this small room overlooking the fields to the river, and refused to leave it.

Nan had lovely views of the flat countryside towards Newark, but the sight that too often arrested her attention was far less charming. Day by day she witnessed the burials of first one friend and neighbour, and then another. It was a terrible condition for the poor old body to live in - fear, stark and real, was her companion during her lonely vigil.

When hunger obliged her to leave her refuge - the sanctuary of the holy building, she found only one person that she knew alive in the village. Horror-stricken, well-nigh demented by fear, she returned to the cell-like apartment and never left it again.

Continued on page 9



continued from page 3

Here we noted an old oaken chest, lid-less; it is said that Nan made her bed on this chest. You may sit uncomfortably on its edges and ponder over many matters connected with this most attractive old church, meanwhile gazing through the window at the view poor Nan must have known only too well; below are the graves of the folk who died when the dreaded Plague ravaged the district.

For that matter, even if Dick Turpin never saw Holme, and even if Nan Scott never existed at all, Holme Church will repay anyone for a visit to this little village, for it has been wonderfully restored. It is unique, this small Church, with its battlemented porch and the row of escutcheons above the entrance, the Barton Arms and the Staple of Calais being prominent. The small window in the turret has angels supporting similar emblems. And who can fail to be intrigued by the bulging walls, the old oaken pews, the carved benches of sturdy, roughly-adzed timber, the ends embellished by figures representing angels, birds, and beasts resembling dwarf lions of some kind? The oak screens are rough-hewed; the rafters and beams in the roof likewise. Viewing the interior for the first time you literally gasp with pleasure - here is the unique Church you have been seeking for years!

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This Church, the Church of St. Giles, is mentioned in the new PEVNER book - more of this in the next issue.

Answers to Puzzle		Down	
4. Access	23. Hurt	1. Agent	13. Archway
7. Grant Aid	24. Warm	2. Panel	17. Air
8. Polite	26. Rod	3. Stay	19. Human
10. Needy	27. Tear	4. Ade	20. Cud
14. Ice	29. Avid	5. Coin	21. Alter
15. Tale	32. Very	6. Return	22. Tar
16. Area	33. Snore	9. Orator	23. Hoopoe
17. Arc	34. Explore	11. Bar	
18. Thin		12. Decor	
20. Coach Tour			



Buildings alone, however, can appear barren. It is the natural background which is so important to set them off and bring softness, even to architectural gems. What better than campaigns for tree planting? The Trust encouraged the development of new techniques for transplanting of semi-mature trees as much as 30 feet high. Housing estates in London and other parts of the country prospered, environmentally, as a result of this policy, and the National Coal Board followed the pattern when restoring open-cast mining sites.

oOo

From the beginning the Trust has stimulated the creation of local amenity societies - with a remarkable degree of success. There are now on its register more than 1,250, with a combined membership of 300,000.

In pursuit of its aims, the Trust presents awards for environmental improvements; on behalf of the Historic Buildings Council it also administers an annual conservation grant from the Government to help finance restoration and improvement schemes in conservation areas.

Internationally, the Civic Trust is involved in Europa Nostra, which is a federation of the principal conservation organisations from 20 European countries. It has consultative status within the Council of Europe.

And not least important is the Trust's work in spreading information through its publications and films, such as 'A FUTURE FOR THE PAST', which have won many awards. The information services are a boon to local authorities, schools, universities, the professions, and ensure that the media - press, television and radio - do not neglect what is going on.

oOo

The cynic might say that the founding of the Civic Trust came almost too late.... yet there is much to save. The Trust is

well aware of the gloomy side of the picture. As Michael Middleton said: "The hearts of historic towns have been torn out....8000 listed buildings have been demolished; our inner cities lie in decay. In the countryside there is probably more industrial dereliction than in 1957; the disposal of toxic wastes creates a mounting problem; mass access to beauty spots is endangering their very existence."

Yet as an antidote to all this there have been two impressive campaigns - 1970 Conservation Year and Architectural Heritage Year, 1975; and among many advances is greater financial support and more protective legislation for historic towns and villages.

Michael Middleton poses this question: "Does the design and quality of the built environment really matter that much in a world rent by such serious economic, social and political problems?"

What better answer is there than the one he provides himself? "I believe that it does. A society as delicately balanced as our own can all too easily find itself in a vicious circle of declining values. Our towns are the highest physical expression of our corporate life. They not only reflect the sort of people we are but, in some degree, mould us and our outlook."

oOo

'Historic buildings provide something familiar in our surroundings, perhaps satisfying a human need for some reassurance of stability in a time of rapid change. They are a visible reminder of the continuity of human society - a place without old buildings, it is said, is like a person without a memory.'

Quote from Proposals to Demolish Listed Buildings: Notes for Local Amenity Societies (Civic Trust).

+ + + + +

#### SAVE THE COMMONS : continued from page 5

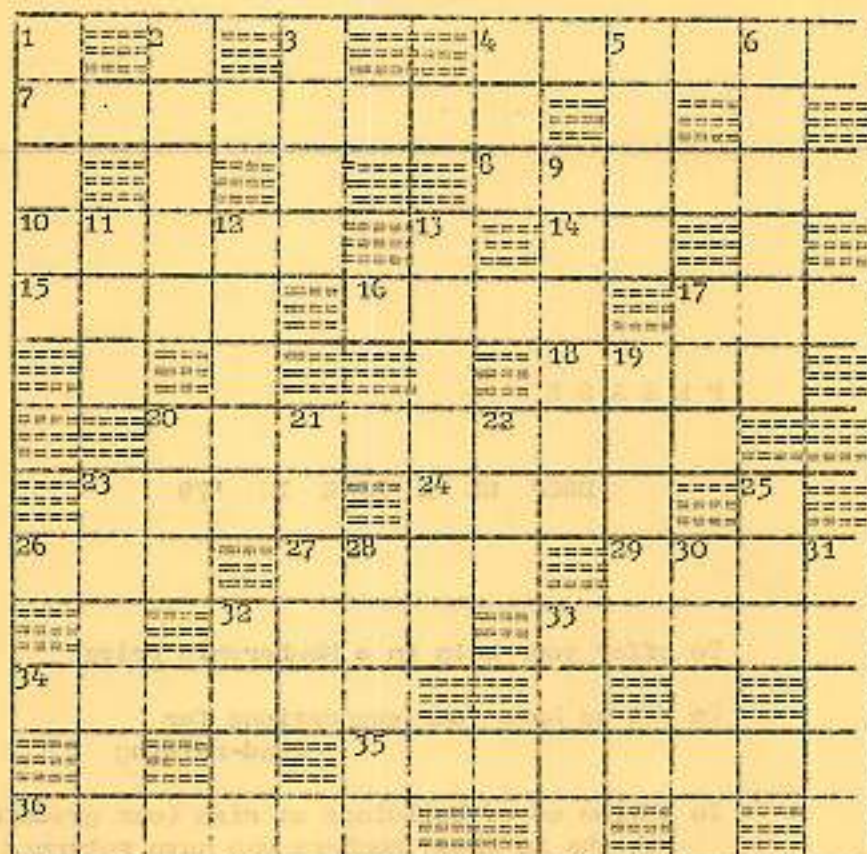
'We call upon the Government to appoint more Commissioners now. Some 2,300 square miles of land - an area as big as Berkshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire combined - representing our countryside in all its variety and desperately important for the enjoyment and refreshment of a crowded urban nation are at risk.

'The cost of safeguarding the common is small, the stake great.'

A campaign booklet, Our Common Heritage, 35p, and a leaflet, free, are available from the Commons Society, 166 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JH.



# CHRISTMAS - EASY PUZZLE



## CLUES ACROSS

4. Admittance (6)
7. Financial Support (5 & 3)
8. Kind of Limestone (6)
10. Poor (5)
15. Concerning - office jargon (2)
15. Narrative (4)
16. Tract
17. Circumference of a Circle (3)
18. Of Little Density (4)
20. Annual Trust Event (5 & 4)
23. Fling Violently (4)
24. Enthusiast (4)
26. A coalscuttle - for carrying bricks? (3)
27. Bend (4)
29. Greedy (4)
32. True (4)
33. Breathe Roughly (5)
34. In Scotland - a spree (6)
35. Song (8)
36. Fault (6)

## CLUES DOWN

1. Authorised to act for another (5)
2. Technical one, perhaps (5)
3. A Prop (4)
4. Fuss (3)
5. All Sorts of Cabbage (4)
6. Planet (6)
9. Spokesman (6)
11. Plough or Till (3)
12. Scenery (5)
13. Cottage at Newstead Abbey grant-aided in 1970 (7)
17. Melody (3)
19. Hankind (5)
20. Chewed again by cattle (3)
21. Modify (5)
22. Sailor (3)
23. Crested Bird (6)
25. Conifer (3)
28. Build (5)
30. Express one's opinion (5)
31. Discourage (5)
32. Rodent (4)
33. Satisfy Fully (4)

Answers page 9



P L E A S E -

DROP US A LINE IN '79

To offer your help in a Membership Drive

To let us have your suggestions for  
fund-raising

To advise us of buildings at risk (our grateful  
thanks to those Members who have returned Fact Sheets)

To let us have items for the newsletter

MANY THANKS

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