

Racing against Kirkby bookies

Connor's betting shops in Kirkby could well be blaring out a new theme tune on their loudspeakers this Christmas.

Bearing gifts we travel afar," might be an appropriate choice.

For it was two of King Connor's men who came bearing gifts to the housewives in Kenmay Walk who had opposed the betting shop that now sits on their front doorsteps next to the Peacock pub.

The men from Connor's offered to hold a Christmas party for the local children, distribute hampers to the old people and donate money to a local boys' club - if it would make it easier for the housewives to live with the betting shop.

But the soft-soap techniques didn't work. The housewives weren't having any of the smooth "call us by our first names" patter.

"They said they'd come back and see us the following Wednesday to see if we'd made up our minds about their offer. But they never turned up," said Mrs Joan Bramhill, one of the housewives.

"They said we might as well take up the offer, because we had no chance against power or money. They told us we were fighting a losing battle."

Mrs Sadie Edwards, another housewife on Kenmay Walk opposed to the betting shop said:

"They asked us if there was any friction between us and our husbands, we told them right away our husbands supported us.

"We had a petition signed by 500 local people, husbands as well, opposing Connors betting shop. And we took a coach load of more than 40 people down to the court earlier this year.

"But the man on the bench gave the go-ahead for the licence application. It was him and Kirkby council who are responsible for us having that betting shop there.

"We'll be opposing the licence when it is reviewed next April."

The women of Kenmay Walk are particularly concerned about the rear of the betting shop - which directly faces their front doors - being used as a public toilet and the constant crowd of people flocking to use the betting shop

If anything Connor's persuasion techniques have made them more determined to resist.



Women get no never-never at the tailor's

John Temple's the tailors, in London Road, are discriminating against women by refusing to allow them to stand as guarantors for people under 21 who want HP terms.

Temple's advertisements on Radio Luxembourg offers HP terms to people under 21, as long as they can get someone to stand as guarantor - but they don't advertise the fact that they regard women as second class citizens, and won't have them as guarantors.

Recently, Tony, aged 17 who lives in Garston, went to Temple's to choose a suit and took with him a letter of guarantee from his foster-mother Mrs A.

The letter stated that he was in her care by arrangement with the Social Services department, and she would be willing to stand as guarantor.

The shop manager told Tony that the letter could not be accepted, as Mrs A was a woman and a widow. Tony was asked to name a male guarantor. Eventually, Mrs A's son was substituted.

Page on M62 participation

If Mr Graham Page - Minister for Local Government, MP for Crosby and one of the men mixed up in the Parliamentary Question rigging scandal - had had his way the M62 participation farce would not have given local residents any choice over the routes.

Her son later received a duplicated letter, (beginning Dear Sir), asking for name, age, occupation etc., etc., to be sent to the firm's head office at Castleton.

Mrs A returned the form with out anyone filling it in and said she would still like to stand as guarantor

The Liverpool manager rang up a few days later and insisted to Mrs A that the guarantor must be male.

Taylor Woodrow labour dispute

Continued from Page 1.

to work on the site So Taylor Woodrow thought up a neat trick to try and get work going again, claiming the excavations had left a dangerous hazard because earth on one side might cave in.

The workers feared this was just a clever way of getting more men from distant areas onto the site, so they volunteered to shore

up the earth themselves. But Taylor Woodrow refused to let them - so much for the dangerous hazard!

Throughout the struggle the "outside" workers joined with the lads from Merseyside to provide complete solidarity.

One of them, Brian Pritchard, travelled 40 miles from Malpas, to work as a chargehand. He was being paid just £23 a week.

Labourer Clifford Roots, from Crewe, was only picking up £17-£18 a week.

Taylor Woodrow have chosen their time well. They hope to break the men as Christmas approaches. The labourers' dole has been stopped and the men urgently need financial assistance. Please send all contributions to: Bro. T Ledgerton, 67 Davenham Ave, Oxtou, Birkenhead.

Kids' answer to schools that didn't care ...



Pictures: Dick Langley

A free school for the gipsy children

Father Bill Maxwell doesn't need to whistle any Irish tunes on a flute when he wanders through Everton's gipsy encampment.

He just calls out "Hello there. Are you coming to school today?"

And the effect is the same. Trailer doors open, children appear and run excitedly clamouring and laughing their way to Liverpool's second free school - the Gipsy Free School.

Thirty kids join Father Maxwell and a group of students every afternoon except Friday and Sunday.

Like their parents, the kids have found themselves harassed at the local council schools. Those that did attend lessons soon found themselves discouraged.

"Some of the local kids fear the gipsy kids. They think they'll cast spells on them or something," said Owen Hagan, a third year economics student at the university, who helped to get the free school off the ground on a full-time basis.

Last year the school was a part time idea that arose out of some students looking after the kids while their parents were up in court facing Wattleworth, the Public Health Inspector, who wanted them done

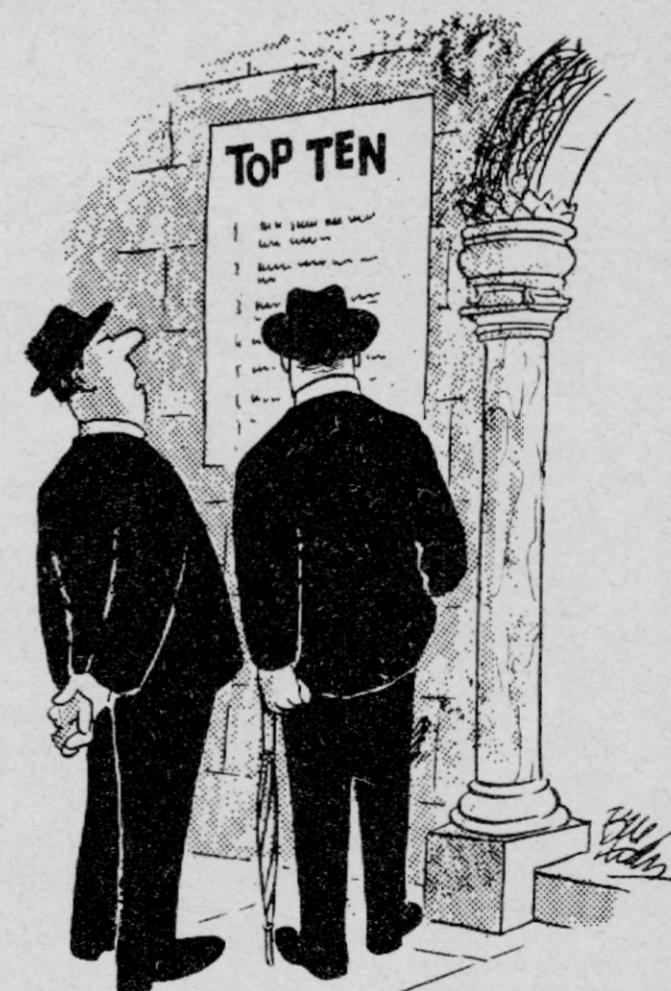
for "committing a public nuisance"

At the time it was never mentioned that the luxurious new Everton Conservative Club was being built on a site adjacent to the gipsy encampment in Fitzclarence Street - which explains why some local politicians were so keen to whip up local feeling against the gipsies.

The Gipsy Free School uses a back room in the Simon Community on Shaw Street, opposite the encampment. There the kids have a sort of studio-cum-gymnasium - tables and benches are their easels and a pile of old mattresses used by dossers at night come in handy as a makeshift trampoline.

Sixty local students take it in turns to come and help out at the school, and the school starts after they've walked through the trailer encampment rounding up a posse of kids.

"They're a great bunch. When they go to the museum they love it. It's like a game. The porters are the baddies, out to stop them climbing over everything, and we are the goodies, proecting them," laughed Owen.



"I SEE 'THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY' 'S DROPPED TO EIGHTH...."