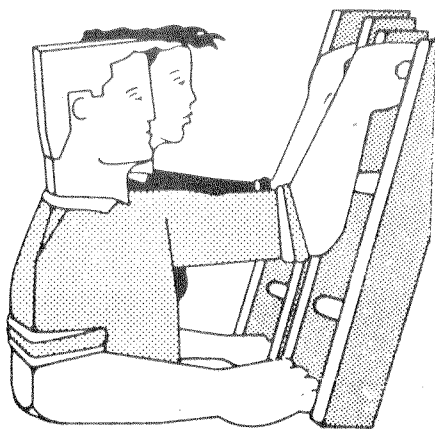


# THE NEW WOODS YOUTH CENTRE

THIS FEATURE HAS BEEN WRITTEN,  
CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED BY THE MEMBERS  
OF THE WOODS PROJECT —  
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE SENTINEL!



## POST OF TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

FOR THE WESTER HAILES OPPORTUNITIES TRUST

Salary £10,569 p.a. (under review)

The Opportunities Trust is a project led by the people of Wester Hailes, which has as its aim the improvement of the personal, social and employment prospects of the people of the area.

The Training Co-ordinator will play a leading part in fashioning the Trust's response to the community's training and learning needs.

An innovative and creative trainer is required. Background might include industry, education or community projects.

Further details - Jeannie Rocks on 031 - 442 4252, or write to the Wester Hailes Opportunities Trust, Unit 20d, Wester Hailes Shopping Centre, Edinburgh EH14 2SW.

## Introduction

The Woods will be a multi-purpose youth centre. On the one hand there will be open access of 11 to 18 year olds every night of the week.

Young people, perhaps in difficulty, can come to the Woods and we're sure we will be able to help them out.

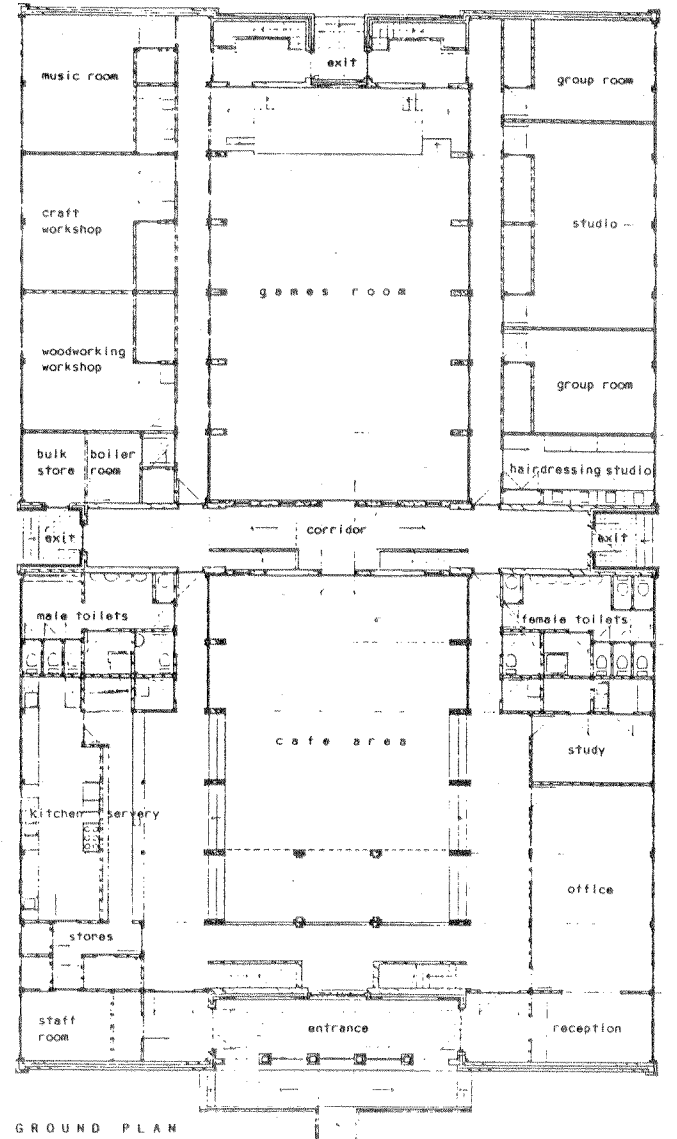
Hopefully the Woods will be a centre where young folk can come and find sympathetic adults to help them if needs be.

In some cases social workers will be working with groups of young folk on some evenings.

As well as this, there will be a group of children who attend a small school during the day.

**Something for, everyone - that's our idea!**

## INSIDE THE



## SUPPORT FOR THE WOODS

Hello, My name is Peter Bernard. Together with Gary Norquay and Lesley Sargent we have the task of writing letters to Football Clubs, Pop groups and stars, also television companies, asking them to lend us their support - moral support that is.

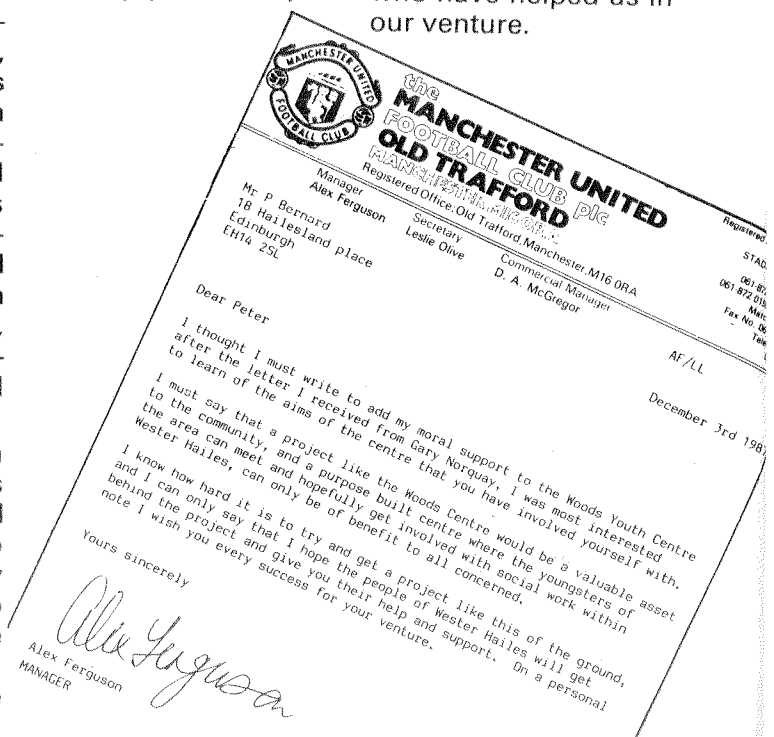
So far we have written to Football clubs, pop stars and groups and all T.V. Stations in Great Britain. The response we have had back for the Woods Project is very heart-warming. We have had replies from Grampian T.V., Scottish T.V., giving us signed photographs of stars and casts of programmes.

Also replies from Elton John, Genesis have given us a signed photograph and two plectrums which they say we can auction to help our cause, but the most favourable response so far has come

football clubs. Here are a few replies - Arsenal Manager, George Graham said "On behalf of everyone at Arsenal F.C. I would like to wish the Woods Project the very best of luck for the future". The same response came from Fulham and Chelsea F.C. but the one reply that really hit

home is the letter I received back from Manchester United Manager, Alex Ferguson.

The letters are still coming in for support on which we shall be sending out a standard letter offering our thanks and gratitude to all those concerned who have helped us in our venture.



**Help Us To Make It Happen!**

# THE WOODS THE STEERING GROUP

by Tim Shields

The time has come folks! Wester Hailes is getting a new youth centre. It'll have a soundproof music room for doing your own thing (or learning to play an instrument).

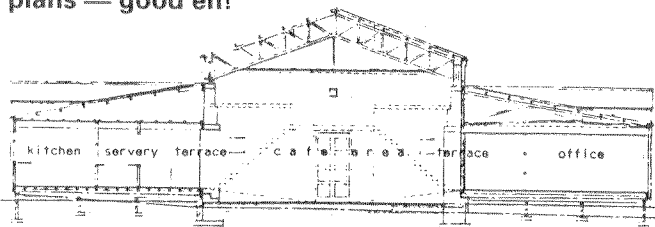
There'll be a cafe for meeting old and new friends and at the same time you can have a coffee or a coke on the balcony.

Down below you can watch people play pool or badminton.

Everyone between 11 and 18 will be welcome.

Activities? Come down if you're into painting or cooking for the budding chefs. There's even a library for the quiet sort who want to do some reading.

Now, down to business. The centre will be over 1000 square metres, which is about half the size of a football pitch and that big as you can see from the plans — good eh!



CROSS SECTION

At the end of March 1987, 5 people from Wester Hailes discussed the idea of a big youth centre. Once again the people of Wester Hailes were showing the way in the development of their community. There arguments were taken from life: kids on the streets with nothing to do, young folk stuck in the house because parents were frightened of older kids bullying them, local clubs struggling to cope with young folk in trouble.

What was needed was a well staffed centre where parents could get involved as well and see what was happening.

The Steering Goup as it was called, wanted to make as many adults aware of the project as possible. We wanted local folk to actually



help the project get off the ground, helping to plan and run it.

This meant a lot of work — work which was perhaps new to people.

### So What Happened?

Well, with a questionnaire we asked you if

You were interested. Obviously people would have to learn new skills — like talking to groups of people, meeting other folk regularly and working as a team. And that's where we are just now. Naturally people want to know more before they jump in, but here at the Representa-

tive Council offices we're only too ready to talk about the project to anyone who wants to drop in.

Make it your new year resolution to find out about the Woods. There's room for anyone who wants in.

## The Questionnaire

We wanted everyone to know about the Woods so we printed 6,000 questionnaires and posted them through your letterboxes. People certainly seemed interested in projects in Wester Hailes and we got a variety of replies.

Unfortunately we didn't leave time to call round for all the replies but there's still time to hand your questionnaires into the Representative Council offices next to the Venchie Cafe.

Just one more thing...we'd like to thank the dogs in Wester Hailes who added to the pleasure of delivering leaflets in the area!!

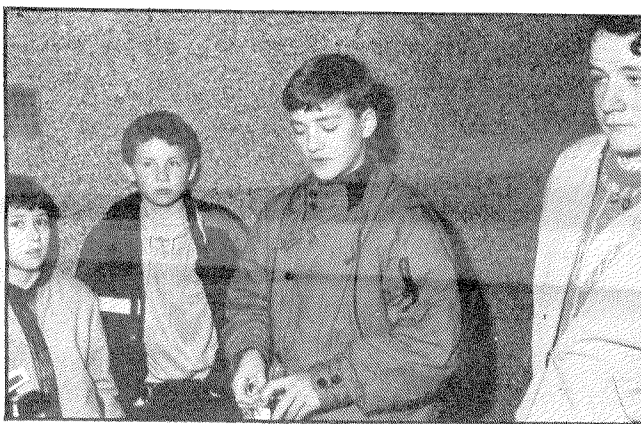


## STREET WOODS

—3° and Nicola and Julie have risked getting freeze dried by giving us a word. Certainly Nicky and Julie would come to the Woods.

Apart from pool and snooker, which are all time favourites, they'd be using the hairdressing salon "I cut her hair" explains Julie "getting your hair cut costs between £3 and £5" so you can see why! "There are hairdressing students at Das Haar" says Nicky "and they might come along" We hope so.

Looby, birthday girl on the night we met her, gave us an interview out-



side the shopping centre. "there's not much to do at weekends," she explained. Looby's friend Karen added "we could do with more discos," but more important both girls would be willing to help organise them.

As for the Laddies, Alec Munro, a Hailes United player on his way to training gave us a wee word. Football is Alec's main interest "but sometimes I draw in the house". He hasn't done any pottery yet but when we asked if he thought he'd be good

at it he replied "Oh Aye."

With the temperature falling, and ice forming on my moustache, Sandra, the photographer and myself got a word in with four local lads: John, Steven, Mark and Malky.

These four were ready for anything "We've already been camping" said John and Steven and along with Mark and Malky were ready for more!

Thanks to all those who took part and when the centre opens.

## INTERVIEW WITH BETTY MCGILL —our newest member

- Sheila — Betty how long have you lived in Wester Hailes?
- Betty — I have lived in Wester Hailes for 4 years.
- Sheila — Where did you live before?
- Betty — I lived in a multi-storey block in Firhill.
- Sheila — What did you do as a teenager?
- Betty — I was working at 15 but we went dancing or to the pictures.
- Sheila — Why did you join the Steering Group for Woods?
- Betty — I responded to the questionnaire put through the door. My first reaction was what could I do that I would enjoy and would be useful. My second thought that it was time I was getting out and meeting new people.
- Sheila — How do you feel being part of the group?
- Betty — I am very happy to be part of the group.
- Sheila — Once the centre opens can you see yourself being able to help in any way?
- Betty — I would like to see myself helping as much as possible, maybe on outings or in the cafe or even working with some of the kids in some way.
- Sheila — Would you prefer to be on the committee side of things or doing practical work?
- Betty — I feel doing both practical work and committee work would be very good for me.
- Sheila — Do you think the centre is much needed in the area?
- Betty — I think a centre like this is just what this area needs. At the present time a centre like this could solve a lot of problems that some young people have to go through.
- Sheila — Can you see the centre as a place where things can be resolved and achieved?
- Betty — I would like the centre to be successful and hopefully gain recognition and good will.

I would like to thank Betty for her time and for participating in this interview.

Sheila Bunt

## HANDY ANDY...



IT TAKES ALL SORTS TO MAKE A STEERING GROUP