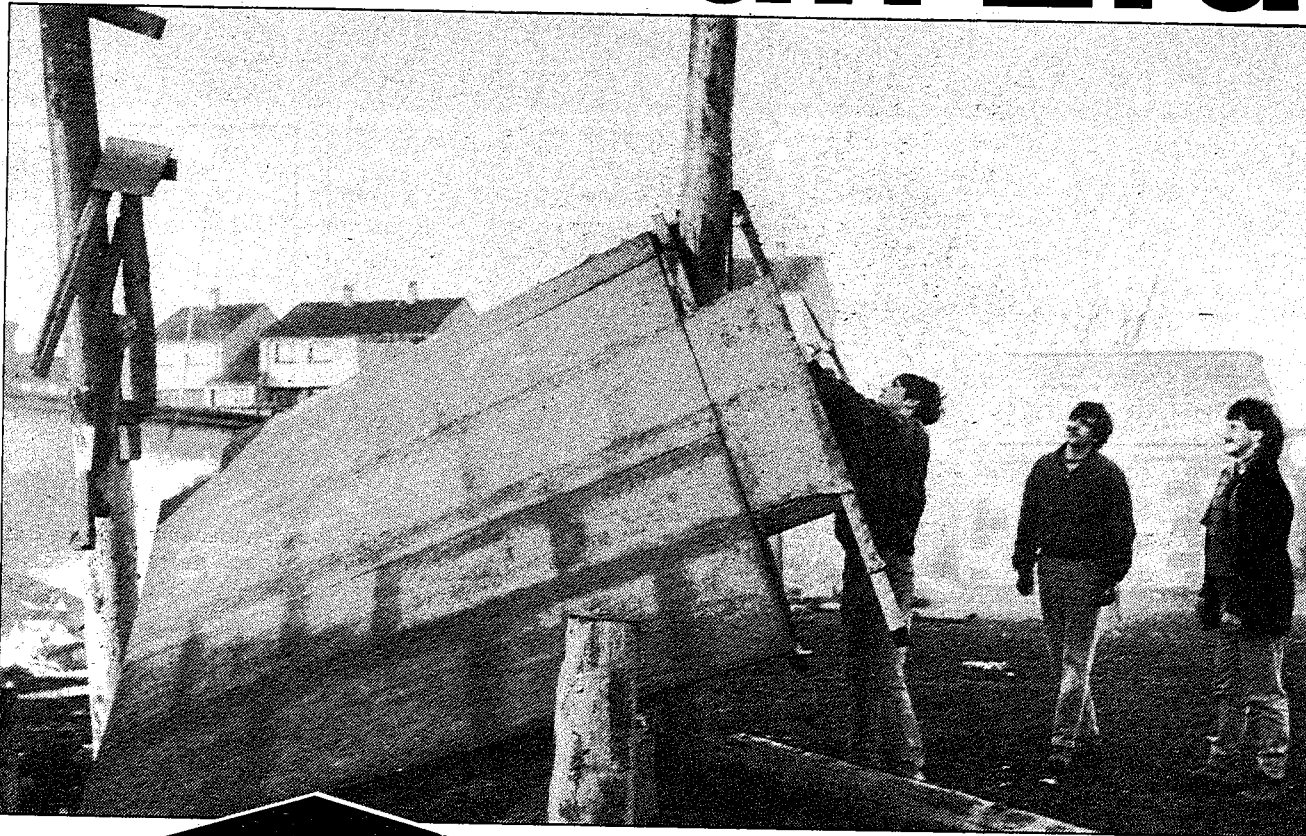


End of an Era

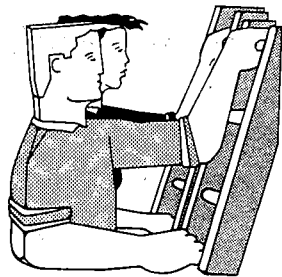


The 9th of January 1989 marked the end of an era in Wester Hailes.

The Wester Hailes Adventure Playground, The 'Venchie', was finally dismantled and burned. Lack of funds has made the maintaining and upkeep of the equipment impossible and some of the structures were unsafe.

Story: Diana Sinclair
Picture: Sandra George

The death of The 'Venchie'



GET 1989 OFF TO A GREAT START

The Wester Hailes Opportunities Shop will be starting the following courses in the New Year

OFFICE SKILLS
30 January - 17 March

GETTING STARTED FOR WOMEN
from 30 January for 7 weeks
1.30 - 3.30pm every Monday

If you are interested in any of these courses then speak to one of our Link Workers at the Wester Hailes Opportunities Shop, Unit 20d Shopping Centre, Edinburgh EH14 2SW.

Open from 10am - 4.30pm on weekdays except on Wednesdays and Saturdays when we are open from 10am - 12pm

PHONE 031 - 442 4252

The end of the 'Venchie' has come at a time when the closure of so many community bases has already made a great change in Wester Hailes for many people.

The 'Venchie' was first opened on 3rd June 1977 at a time when community projects in Wester Hailes was mushrooming. Murrayburn Tenants Association first acquired the site, which was earmarked for an old peoples home, from the Department of Social Work.

In its hey day as many as 100 youngsters could be found there at any one time. The 'Venchie' was built by people on job creation schemes with the help of local people, including youngsters. Funding was provided by the Manpower Services Commission and Lothian Regional Council.

NEAR MISS

The Playground had survived many near disasters in its infancy including being partially destroyed by a fire on one memorable occasion a jumble sale was brought to an abrupt halt when the wind blew the roof off the hut.

Stan Taylor, one of the original committee members can still remember the first structure. "It was a car (still with M.O.T.) which had been provided for a gang hut." It had to be removed several days later when its roof was flattened by continual jumping.

The future use of the site is still to be decided but it will remain in the hands of the people of Wester Hailes.

Westburn Pupils show true spirit of Christmas



Pupils from Westburn Primary School (see pic above) were just some of the people who helped the Wester Hailes Good Neighbourhood Scheme (F.I.S.H.) bring Christmas joy to local families.

Every pupil at Westburn gave a small present, which F.I.S.H. then distributed to children in need. Other schools who took part in the scheme were Dumbryden and Hailesland.

The workers at F.I.S.H. would also like to say a big thank you to the anonymous donor of £200. Thanks too, to the Caldors project, which helped with the distribution of the festive goods, and to Currie Round Table who, for the third year running, donated a huge selection of groceries.



Christmas Surprise from Post Office

Well known local resident, Jeanette McCurdy, is seen here giving Mr William Kidd, manager of Wester Hailes Post Office, a big hug.

Jeanette is saying Thank You for the bumper Christmas Hamper which she received from the local office a few days before Christmas.