

NEWS

COUNTRY RETREAT PLANNED



Wester Hailes community groups may soon be able to enjoy their very own home from home, out in the beautiful country.

Wester Hailes will find out later this month whether or not the Forestry Commission will be giving them the lease on a small holding down on the Borders which will allow community groups to get away from it all.

A working party has already been set up to look into ways of utilizing the

building and its surrounding ground and they met for the first time last month and decided to set up a group of volunteers to go out to the premises, 6 miles outside Penicuik to at least start cleaning the place up.

The Wester Hailes Representative Council will be the lease holders of the property.

Jim Brown, play co-ordinator said: "Having a facility like this would be great for the community, it would mean we would be able to get out to the country away from it all and for many it could be their first stay in the country."

Although plans are not yet finalised there is a possibility that at least 15 people would be able to sleep at the retreat.

WORLD HAGGIS EATERS

Wester Hailes is tops again — in the haggis-eating stakes as two locals plan to take on the world.

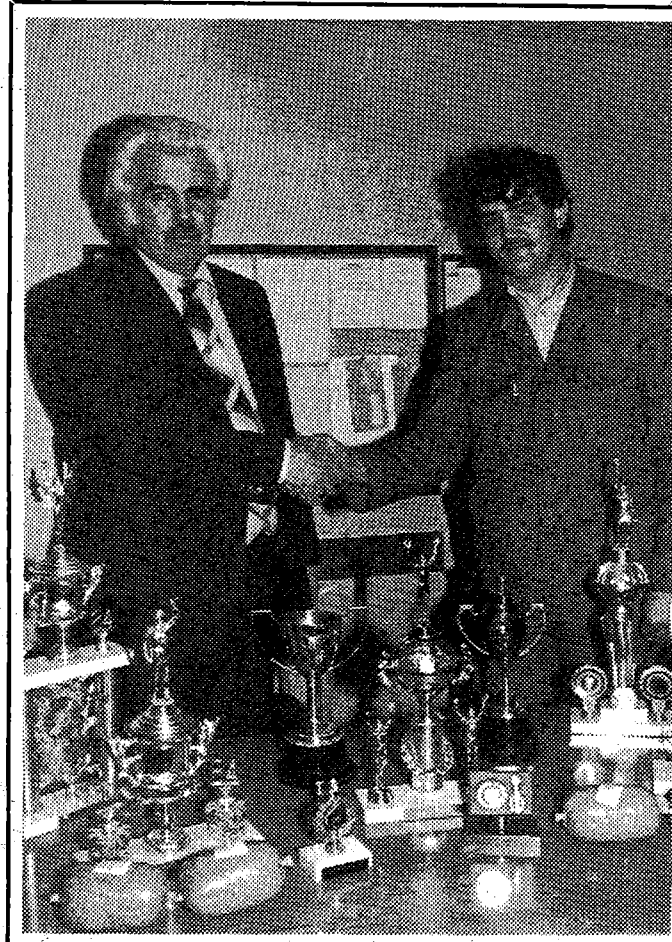
Michael Garrow and Tom Sinclair who both work at the Wester Hailes Shopping Centre have both qualified to compete in the World Championships for Haggis-eating at Corby in England on July 19th.

Michael is a novice to haggis eating compared with the veteran Tom who has been world champ 3 times and is still eating.

Michael has qualified to take part in the World Championship after becoming East of Scotland champion. On devouring 1½ pounds of haggis Michael told the *Sentinel*: "I just did it for a laugh!"

Laugh or no, the champion haggis eaters not only swell their tumms with all that good Scottish fare but it is estimated that charities and other organisations have benefited by about £3,000 a year just from Tom's diet preferences.

Left: Haggis eaters waiting to take on the world: Tom (left), Michael (right).



PRAM IN A JAM

Many young mothers have problems getting out of the house because of the "wee anes" but Calders mothers can't get INTO their houses!

A Calders mother of two young children found herself in a dilemma trying to

negotiate her way into the block of flats where she lived armed with shopping and a pram plus baby.

Eleanor Whitson, Cobbinshaw House, found her pram minus a wheel when she attempted to gain entry into her home. She told us:

"There used to be sliding doors at the main entry of the block but the council in their wisdom removed them because of vandalism in favour of the more traditional heavy doors that are on hinges. When I tried to push my pram through the doors the door swung back and removed a wheel of the pram nearly knocking my daughter who was sitting in the pram on to the floor."

Eleanor's distress started over a year ago when the new doors were installed and she has yet to receive any compensation from the Council for her damaged pram. She said: "It was like an obstacle course just getting into my flat and I have had to buy a new pram which I could ill-afford at the time."

Local Councillor Mark Lazarowicz has taken up Mrs Whitson's cause and has now received a letter from the Director of Housing, Mel Wilson, assuring him that the doors will be in fact widened to accommodate prams. However, as Mrs Whitson explained: "It is not a case of the doors being too narrow it is the fact that it is almost impossible to hold the heavy doors while pushing a pram through."

The council may ask young mothers for their advice on what sort of doors should be installed in the flats in the future.



CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

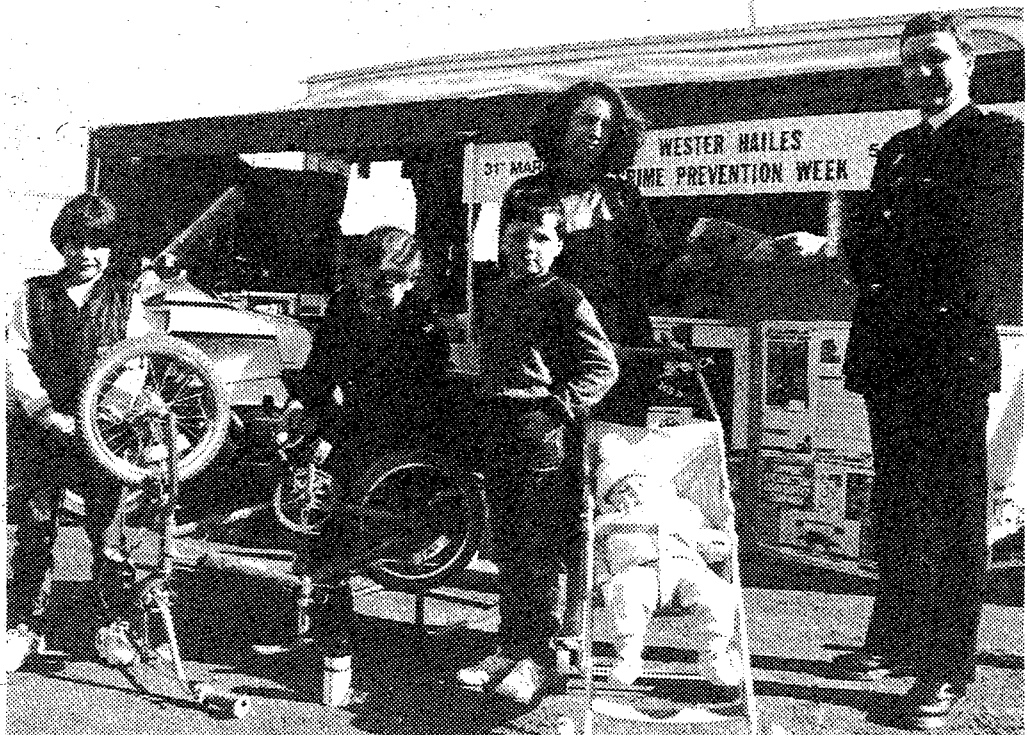
All in all the callers to the resident advice caravan were fairly poor during the week, but nearly 200 kids now have the security of their bikes being coded, an excellent assurance against theft.

During the week there were talks given to schools and community groups in addition to freely available advice so we hope that fore warned is fore armed.

They say the proof of the pudding is in the

eating and in terms of crime prevention it's success can only be measured by the number of crimes it prevents.

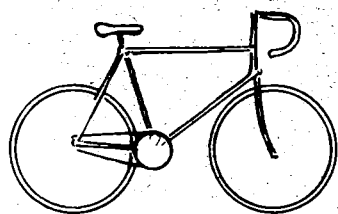
Directly due to the success of Wester Hailes Crime Prevention week at least 3 flats in Wester Hailes avoided break-ins. People obviously took note of the timely words of wisdom offered by the police during that week.



J.R CYCLES

NEWLY OPENED

UNIT 50
FORUM /W.H.S.C.



NEW BIKES AT BARGAIN PRICES
SECOND HAND BIKES BOUGHT
AND SOLD, REPAIRS AND SPARES
TO OLD AND NEW BIKES.
BMX, VIVI, TOWNSEND, ETC.