

# NENE SCENE

The Magazine of Nene College Students' Union

Volume 10. Issue 1.

January/February, 1990.

## CUPID IS A MARTIAN !

### A NENE SCENE WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Evidence obtained **EXCLUSIVELY** by NENE SCENE (yes by **this** magazine and absolutely no other in the **whole** world because you all know this is the **best** one in the world because that's what we tell you and of course you believe everything you read because its easier to take that approach to life) reveals that loveable Cupid, adored by millions for habitually shooting arrows at the nether regions of lovey-dovey people all over the world, is secretly an alien sex-fiend.

The horrific truth came to light when we discovered that we had nothing to put on the front page, and the NENE SCENE team set to work to fabricate the most inane piece of drivel they could. We hope that, as usual, we succeeded.



**REVEALED:** The face of evil which lurks behind the mask.

## 'Flash' Gordon the Gopher to Investigate

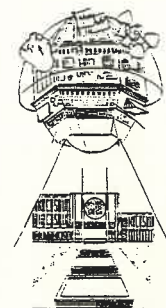
As NENE SCENE goes to print, reports are coming in of a fiendish alien plot to compress the College's entire summer examination period into the space of half-an-hour.

According to the finalised examinations timetable, posted this week in the foyer at Park Campus, the whole exam' schedule is to take place in the early hours of Sunday 27th. May, from 4.30-5.00am, in order that "...staff and students can return as quickly as possible to a normal daily routine." A new venue, the main staircase at Park, will be used, reportedly to "...minimise unnecessary use of resources.." in line with Nene's emerging Green policy.



'Flash': "Only he can save us now!"

Keep Watching the Skies



**N.C.S.U. RAG WEEK**  
February 10th.-17th.

# Calling All Mature Students

Well, Christmas, like 1989, is well and truly over, and as I welcome you to the start of this new decade, we're already a month and a half into a new year.

Are you keeping an eye on the Student Union noticeboards for meetings? The first of these should be history as you read this. Plans for this term? First of all, to have regular get-togethers. I hope to have a guest speaker from the Mature Students' Union at one of this term's meetings, so be on the lookout for further announcements. I have also asked M.S.U. to forward me any information they might have that might be relevant to the problems we face here at Nene (contact me for further details).

On the subject of M.S.U. again, there will be a mature students' conference taking place from 23rd.-25th. March. Childcare facilities will be provided if you'd like to go but have children and no-one else to look after them. It would be great if a number of us could get along there for the weekend. Contact me if you think you might be interested and/or you'd like to put a motion forward to the conference.

For those of you who might not know how to get hold of me

1. Put a note in the piggyholes in the Dining Hall under 'T' for Towers.
2. Put a note in the Mature Student Officer piggyhole in the S.U. Office.

All of this refers to Park Campus; if you're a mature student at Avenue, please give me a ring at the S.U. Office here. I expect you think you are forgotten, but you aren't. Remember, if you need me, I'm here.

Jane Towers

## A Step Forward for Disabled Students

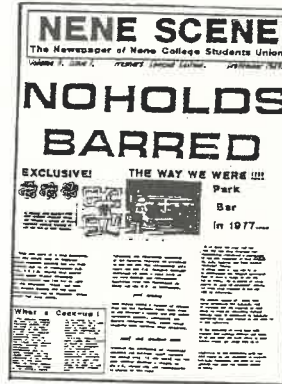
The Students' Union has finally been given the go-ahead for the installation of a computer facility which will provide access to library index-catalogues for disabled students at Park Campus.

This will be situated in the area designated the Students' Union Welfare Room, which is behind the Dining Hall at Park, adjacent the Computer Centre.

Hopefully, the provision of such a facility will alleviate some of the current problems disabled students face in gaining access to library information. The room will also provide communication with the library by means of an internal telephone, as well as offering an alternative study area.

With typical business acumen, the College has asked the Students' Union to contribute towards the cost of furnishing the room, so watch out for publicity on fund-raising events, and collection-boxes in the Bar. Please help as much as you can.

## The Changing Face of NENE SCENE



September 1989; Freshers' Edition. A bit scruffy; printed on 60% recycled, chlorine-bleached paper.



October 1989; first, limited, use of computer typesetting. Exit the 'Sports Page' to make way for 'Green Scene'.



Nov./Dec. 1989; increased use of computer typesetting, and the use of screened photos. Still printed on 60% recycled, chlorine-bleached paper.



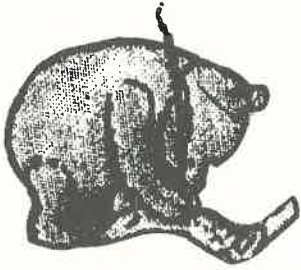
Jan./Feb. 1990; switch from tabloid to 'magazine' format. Computer typesetting throughout. Now printed on 100% recycled, non-chlorine-bleached paper.

An at-a-glance guide to the process of change which NENE SCENE has undergone since this academic year's first edition back in September. Change for the better, it is hoped.

## SNOWBALL WINNER

Steph' Keens was the lucky winner of NENE SCENE's draw for two Snowball tickets (genuine ones), for an article she wrote as the former Campaigns Officer, in the Freshers' Edition of NENE SCENE. The draw took place at N.C.S.U.'s Annual General Meeting at the end of last term.

Speculation that Jevon R. Corbett, Park Campus' Academic Affairs Officer, would be the one to walk away with the tickets proved unfounded.



## EDITORIAL

Welcome finally to 1990, and to the third full edition of NENE SCENE that I've been responsible for. Yes, this one is a little different, isn't it.

With the transition to computer-typesetting now complete, and the introduction of a reduced page format, NENE SCENE will hopefully look a lot cleaner and tighter than before, and be both easier and more attractive to read.

Additionally, the use of 100% recycled non chlorine-bleached paper from this point on, will make NENE SCENE's production more acceptable in environmental terms. On the assumption that we continue to be given any articles worth printing, this makes the continued production of a newspaper/magazine by the Students' Union a reasonable course of action in this sense. Certainly, NENE SCENE, like any such venture, is potentially of great value both as a source of information and as a catalyst for debate. But 'potential' isn't a lot of use unless you utilise it. It's up to **all of us** to decide where it goes from here...

The views and opinions expressed in NENE SCENE are not necessarily those of the Editor or of N.C.S.U.

Reasonable care has been taken to avoid the inclusion of errors in the magazine, but no responsibility can be accepted for any errors which may occur.

Finally, any similarity between NENE SCENE and a professionally produced magazine is a bloody miracle.

**LOGICAL**  
**CAPTAIN**

nene college rag week 1990

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas...

A sentimental recollection of the Yuletide celebrations.

*'Twas the night before  
 Christmas,  
 When all through the bar,  
 Not a creature was stirring,  
 No sheep did baa.*

*'Cos all of the students  
 had gone home for the  
 hols;  
 They'd finished with  
 discos  
 And were full of noels.  
 They'd had one last party,  
 'fore they were done  
 And they'd invited all and  
 everyone.*

*The Director was there,  
 and all of his staff  
 Even the lecturers were  
 having a laugh.*

*The beer was a-flowing,  
 Wine came out of ears,  
 And for the S.U. Exec'  
 The students gave  
 cheers.*

*The night, it got colder,  
 And most fell down  
 drunk,*

*So the D.J. started playing  
 some '70's punk.*

*But over the roar, they  
 heard a little jingle  
 That made their floppy  
 spines a-tingle.*

*And then an old man, in  
 red, with white beard,  
 Strode into the bar,  
 showing he was n'  
 afeared.*

*He ordered a drink,  
 He knew wouldn't stink;  
 A bottle of Newkie  
 Brown,*

*Raising ne'er a frown.  
 With a gulp he did down it  
 Declared he to all,  
 That he was Santa;  
 And over did fall.*

*Wuth a rush, they were  
 on him,  
 Hauling him up.*

*"Join our party!" the  
 host did urge,*

*When he realised just  
 what had occurred.  
 So with a twinklin' of his  
 bright button eye  
 The music was blarin',  
 Christmas was nigh.*

*Santa and students... all  
 of Nene College Corp.  
 Were dancin' away, doing  
 the Time Warp.*

*Much singing of carols,  
 More drinking of booze,  
 It wasn't 'til morning  
 They stopped for a  
 snooze.*

*And the last night of  
 term,  
 When Santa bade farewell  
 All were crying and  
 weeping,*

*At the last jingle of the  
 bell.*

*Then 'twas goodbye to  
 each other, for the break;  
 Three weeks isn't too  
 long, though our hearts  
 will so ache.*

*Cases in hands, cars full  
 of boxes,*

*T.V.s and stereos, essay  
 titles and socksies,*

*The students departed,  
 '89 was done...*

*Nene College was empty,  
 all had gone.*

*But in 1990, it's a sure  
 bet*

*Lest old acquaintance be  
 forget,*

*They'll be back for more  
 work and play;*

*Students of Nene, "they  
 work all night and they  
 sleep all day."*

*While '89 will be fondly  
 remembered*

*1990 is still but a  
 bud*

*And as it grows on,  
 memories will be born.*

*To be with us forever,  
 whether happy, or  
 forlorn.*



# record review

The REVIEWER (2)

## Belinda Carlisle: "RUNAWAY HORSES"

Following on from her first solo album, "HEAVEN on EARTH", this album carries on in the same style. The tracks are more up-beat, as in the case of "Leave a Light on", the first single to come off the album, and other pieces like "(We Want) the Same Thing".

The music, though, does seem to get lost to some extent; one track, "La Luna", is an example, sounding like a take-off of Madonna, sung without much conviction. Some might say that this is a repetitive album as a result, but although I have the feeling that this may be correct in part, it seems balanced on the whole.

In short, then, this is a good album, but if there's another one you want on the shelf at the same time, buy that.

## The Beautiful South:

### "WELCOME to the BEAUTIFUL SOUTH"

If you liked The Housemartins, this is right up your street! Based around Paul Heaton, their ex-lead singer, they still manage a style of their own; the closest I can come to it is Fairground Attraction, and their album "FIRST of a MILLION KISSES".

The songs vary considerably, from the up-tempo "You Keep it All in", to the slower "I'll Sail this Ship Alone". A good mixture, then, which can be enjoyed alone, or with a loved one. In my view, this is one of the best albums to come out of 1989, from one of the best 'new bands' of 1989.

If you've got the money spare, buy it!

## Fish: "VIGIL in a WILDERNESS of MIRRORS"

The first solo album to come from the ex-lead singer of Marillion shows us a different side of Fish. For one thing, there are a larger mixture of songs than in the past, ranging from a slow love-song, "A Gentleman's Excuse-me", to the anti-American "Big Wedge".

Some things don't change though; Fish is still as political as ever, if not even more so, as in "Family Business", which revolves around the theme of domestic violence.

On the whole this is a great album, and much better than Marillion's last album, "SEASON'S END".

I say go out and get it.

# The Campaigns Column.

N.C.S.U. Campaigns Officer, **Ivor Rees**, writes about the impending arrival of Student Loans:

Over the Christmas period, the major banks pulled out of the scheme because they could see students (ie. future wage-earning customers) being drawn away from them over the loans issue. This meant that the Government has had to take over, and finance the project on its own.

We are just seven months away from the Government's proposed introduction of loans, but there is still time to stop it if we act now.

If introduced, the system will freeze grants at their current level, and loans will be used to make up the difference, as the real value of the grant decreases over time. You

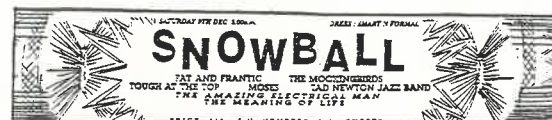
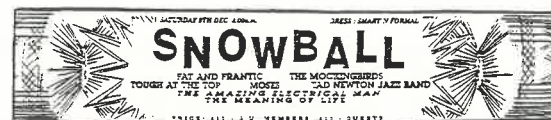
don't need a qu...  
in higher mather...  
see that in the fu...  
grant will e...  
disappear!

With this access to higher e...  
will become fa...  
limited than it is...  
not in theory,  
practice. Mature s...  
for example, may...  
think twice about...  
back into educa...  
they're more like...  
most to already be...  
to greater f...  
pressures.

What can we d...  
you could join me...  
national demo' in...  
on 15th. Februa...  
express our oppos...  
loans; the Governr...  
backed down on th...  
before, in respo...  
public pressure. Yo...  
also join in activitie...  
will be taking plac...  
around the College...  
Northampton.

For further infor...  
come to meetings...  
Campaigns Con...  
which are held regu...  
both Avenue and...  
Campuses. Remem...  
all need to supp...  
another.

## SPOT the DIFFEREN Which Snowball ticket is the real Which Snowball ticket is the forge



NOTE: The real Snowball ticket has an S.U. on it.



# Science-fiction and the Fate of Life on Earth (or: How We're Succeeding Where the Daleks Went Wrong)

"Forget rocket-ships, super technology, moving sidewalks and all the rubbishy hope of science-fiction... we are stuck with this mildly-poisoned planet and its smokey air..." wrote Paul Theroux.

And the more the years pass by, the more he seems to have had a point. But we trundle on, waiting for the next new technological fix, and clinging to the ideal of some scientific utopia, as if awaiting a kind of this-worldly salvation from all our ills. As we trundle, the air gets smokier, as the motor-cars puke their exhaust gases and the rainforests are turned to charcoal, and we continue to poison this 'mostly harmless' little planet we live on.

The Daleks would be shaking themselves apart in a fit of grating electronic laughter, at the irony of it; if they were pre-disposed to laughter, (and if they existed). The fact of our existence, upon this increasingly poisoned planet remains, however; at least until we finally succeed where the Daleks continually failed in the world of fantasy, and destroy ourselves... utterly.

If you shit on your sofa, you can probably clean it up fairly well the first time. If you carry on shitting on your sofa, it will become so shitty that pretty soon it will simply be too late to do anything with it. You'll want a new one, and of course, there'd be nothing

to stop you buying another, apart from the limitations of a student grant.

What we can't do though, is nip down to the second-hand shop and buy ourselves another planet, no matter how appealing such a course of action might seem in a few years' time when we discover that we've left it too late before trying (literally) to clean our act up.

But we trundle on, as the air gets smokier, as the motor-cars puke, as the rainforests burn.. and our great scientists fill their heads with science-fiction dreams of using the Greenhouse Effect to colonise Mars; a contingency against impending earthly disaster?

Like drug-addicts who don't know when to stop, we propel ourselves ever nearer to self-destruction at increasing speed. Consider the point to which we've already brought this planet in the space of a few hundred years... our 'achievements' would be impressive, if the consequences weren't so very tragic.

It's not difficult to slip into the belief, of course, that

we've at last seen the light, and are all set to (comfortably) avert global catastrophe. Perhaps, if we're truly honest with ourselves, this could have as much to do with the psychological burden of admitting we really have cocked it up, as the apparent progress which has occurred since the 'arrival' of green issues over the past couple of years; progress which ever more smacks of too little, too late.

We can't go back and change things that have already happened (another common science-fiction theme); that much is obvious. We can only do all we can to limit the damage we have yet to do to this planet, and this means in many respects, more than simply exercising a little 'Green Consumerism'.

We must learn to question whether or not we really do need certain things in our lives and/or whether the environmental implications which they carry with them can be truly justified; it's no longer enough just to ease our consciences by buying 'recycled this' or 'phosphate-free that', without first considering whether a different course of action might be more desirable in environmental terms.

There is a chance for us, then, but there will be no magical solutions. One thing is sure however, if we continue to cling to our current lifestyles with all the vision of lemmings sprinting towards the cliff's edge. We will find ourselves still grasping at the 'rubbishy hopes' of which Theroux writes, whilst staring extinction in the face. And extinction is forever...

**Chris. Munsey**



# Bastard Landlord: Feedback

The article "Can You Save Us from a Bastard Landlord", which was featured in the November/December issue of NENE SCENE, produced the following pair of responses:

**Colin Bradbury**, Dean of Students, gives an official response to the article:

Your story picked on an unfortunate incident, and gives a bad press to the Accommodation Office.

The national picture shows an increase in H.E. students. When attending a Student Services meeting recently, I discussed the nationwide problem of student accommodation with colleagues from other institutions

At one polytechnic, 100 students were on camp beds for half a term. At another college, the sports hall was unavailable for half a term,

because it was being used to house 65 homeless students. Another polytechnic had to ask 114 students to stay at home because there was still nowhere to house them by travelling day; the backlog took five weeks to clear.

Nene accommodation problems then, are far less serious than the national norm. We endeavour to visit all first year placements; some institutions do not visit potential accommodation, and simply compile a list which they issue to all students some three weeks before the start of term.

We have approximately 1,500 students living in the private sector during term-time, and the Mr. Xs are thankfully in the minority. But such characters do slip through slip the system when it is under pressure in the short timescale between the issue of 'A' level results and travelling day for Freshers.

The success story of Nene, and its good record for placement of students in the private sector over the years takes a knock in the light of isolated cases such as that cited in the "Bastard Landlord" story.

You can be sure that the Accommodation Office staff are striving constantly to acquire the

best of housing at a realistic rental charge for our students. It only has available what is offered though, and does in fact reject many placements as unfit or too expensive.

There were many placements used in the private sector which were not used in August/September because of their distance from the two College campuses. The town has grown in tandem with the growing size of the institution, but its housing increase has been to the extreme east and south-west of the town centre, and this is not students' advantage as it involves a travel distance of up to 5 miles.

To reiterate, the Accommodation Office staff are dedicated to student service, and to bettering the service offered in terms of quality of placement, and quantity of availability. They aim to provide more choice, better and more frequent monitoring of existing on-going accommodation, and to improve relationships and liason between landlord, tenant, and College authorities.

The College's commitment to the housing situation is further shown by its current negotiations for some extra 200 on-site hall placements at Park Campus, to be available in 1991.



Here, **Jevon R. Corbett** describes his feelings about Accommodation, the Universe and Everything:

As I read "Bastard Landlord", I found myself relating in many ways to the story of the Semilong Six. Before I saw the story though, I'd already formed my own criticisms of the manner in which the Accommodation Office conducts itself.

The first of these revolves around the fact that, contrary to my belief that all first year accommodation was scrupulously checked, my landlady received only one 'phonecall prior to my arrival as an innocent young Fresher. No visit; no examination of living conditions.

I was lucky; for my first year, I lived in luxury.. others weren't as fortunate. I was to realise just how lucky I had been however, when it became necessary for me to find a new home in the last fortnight of the summer term.

I went to the Accommodation Office for help. I was given one or two names and addresses, but not a

lot of moral support or encouragement. There wasn't any frantic 'phoning .. and no reassurance that I would find somewhere to live.

Once again, it seemed, I was lucky; I found some accommodation, though without the help of the Accommodation Office. In my panic though, I missed the obvious somewhat; my new home was a dump.. even by student standards.

Within a month of the start of the autumn term, all of us in that house had moved out; I was the first.

I had waited a week before going to the Accommodation Office, as I knew they'd be busy dealing with Freshers. Once again, they offered a couple of names and addresses, but little hope. I was lucky again, though, and now reside at one of those addresses; a decent place, which all my friends seem to think is a palace. The Accommodation Office thought otherwise, describing it as a bit of a mess; they didn't seem to know that it had been redecorated.

Leaving that aside, though, it's thanks indirectly to the Accommodation Office that I may be forced to move yet again. It has

become apparent that they have advised not only my landlord, but many who student houses, to charge full rent during the Christmas and Easter holidays. Due to my relatively high rent, I will probably not be able to afford this.

That the Accommodation Office has advised landlords thus with respect to what is, during these periods, often unused accommodation, enrages me. Surely the Accommodation Office is supposed to represent students' interests, as opposed to those of the landlords, who own the housing market in the literal sense of the word. They can already afford to pick and choose.

We're told so many times how student welfare is of major concern to the College authorities, and then we're thrown to the wolves of the accommodation market by the very people who we assume to be representing our interests.

When will we be able to see a housing situation where there are no homeless students, no poor living conditions, no extortionate rents? When will students receive full measure of help and protection? That's what we all want, isn't it?

**A Few Words from Kenan.**



"Captain's Log, (still floating), Star Date: Rag Week, February 10th.-17th., 1990.

"I hope all clubs and societies are taking part in what should be a great week. A logical assumption, surely?

"So far this term, several clubs have held discos to increase their funds.. (Trust your feelings, Luke). I hope to see more of this... You only have 24hrs. to save your membership!

"I'm sure Chris 'Big' Anderson, and Steve 'Fun' Kelly are available for discos, barnmitsfers, etc.; even Kieran 'I've No Friends, Take Me to your Leader' Dundhy might be able to help / hinder (delete as applicable).

"I was glad also, to see SPLATT finally get off the ground. If you too want to learn the ways of the Force, contact Steve Kelly.

"If you have any ideas to raise funds for the fitting-out of the new disabled-access computer terminal, on the other hand, please contact me."

**Your friendly / ish alien,  
Kenan 'Flesh' Osborne  
lost in space / Budgets  
(delete as applicable).**

Christmas Cracker  
Jokes from the  
N.C.S.U. Executive  
Yuletide Knees-up

**NO. 1:**

A child who has a digital watch wants to know which way is anti-clockwise.



*Nene Scene Valentine Classifieds.*

*809 days together!  
Well, all I can say is that I love you... Here's to the next 809.*

E. XXX

S.J., the Gorgeous Reptile;

*I love you to the bottom of your legs.*

L.O.M.L.

Kylie;

*I love you.*

Dennis.

Chris, (number 466?!);

*Fancy sharing another cold?*

Number !?!

Dennis;

*I love you.*

Kylie.

'Ello 'Arry;

*Lasagne at my place?!?  
(with loads of cuddles)*

Garlic Breath.

Alex;

*You can put a  
burger in my  
seeded bun  
anytime!*

I.

Alex.



# GREEN SCENE

## The College is Banking on Bottles

With an attempt to formulate plans to make Nene a 'Green' college now at committee stage, one of the first of its successes is soon to become apparent at Park Campus.

The College has bought a **Bottle Bank**; not cheap, at an asking price of about £1,000, but certainly a step in the right direction.

The Bank, a large skip like the one adjacent Kingsthorpe's SAFEWAY superstore, is set to arrive at some time between now and the end of February, and will probably be situated to the rear of the Medical Centre at Park, for easy access from the rear car parks; of course, this would also mean that you wouldn't have to go very far to fetch a plaster if you happened to cut yourself when you were dropping off some bottles.

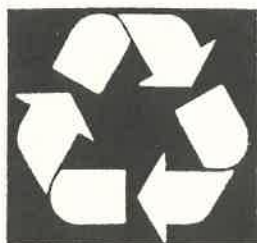
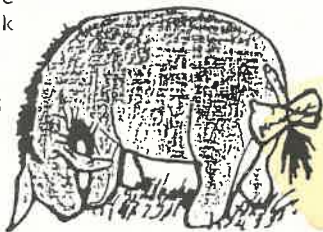
Meanwhile, keep your eyes peeled for publicity on the Bank's arrival, and keep saving those bottles!

Whenever he goes to change his linen, 'e always takes his waste paper and empty cans over to the 'Dutch Barn' for recycling.

(The 'Dutch Barn' is to the rear of the Linen Hut at Park Campus.)

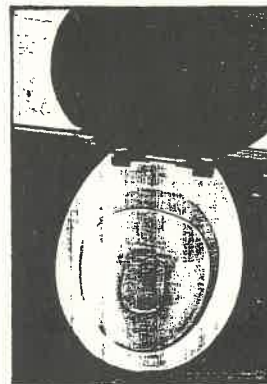
-Please rinse out food cans and squash; it only takes a second.

-Drinks cans need only be rinsed, if at all.



Save & Recycle  
( 'e always does ! )

## An APOLOGY: The 12, Bective Road Loo



In the last GREEN SCENE a photograph of the toilet at 12, Bective Road, Kingsthorpe, was used to underprint the page. Inadvertently, no acknowledgement of the picture's source was given.

NENE SCENE would like to apologise to the occupants of 12, Bective Road (and one frequent visitor) for this oversight.

We have also been asked to point out that the loo is **open to the public** until July 31st., 1990:

Since August, 1989, the 12, Bective Road loo has been used jointly by:

**Rachel** 'I've moved out now, so it doesn't affect me' **Boyce**;

**Andrea** 'I moved in before I knew how cold the toilet was' **Giles**;

**Jo** 'that fuckin' toilet's frozen over again' **Huxley**;

**Susan** 'I crap in the garden 'cos it's warmer there' **Melican**;

**Chris** 'I do it on the compost heap anyway' **Munsey**;

and frequent visitor,

**Barbara** 'weak bladder' **Bogbrush**.

Asked to comment, Ms. Bogbrush, recently 21, said: "The toilets in Semilong are much warmer."

## Recycling Success

The aluminium cans, weighing in at over a hundredweight, which were deposited in the two collection bins at Park last term, have been sold as scrap for recycling, raising £25.50.

The money has been given to the charitable fund administered on behalf of the College's Education Support Staff by Barbara Tebbutt.

Last term, the fund raised £800 for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice, to enhance facilities for its terminally-ill residents.

The steel cans, unsaleable, because of their low scrap value, have simply been recycled for the sake of it.

