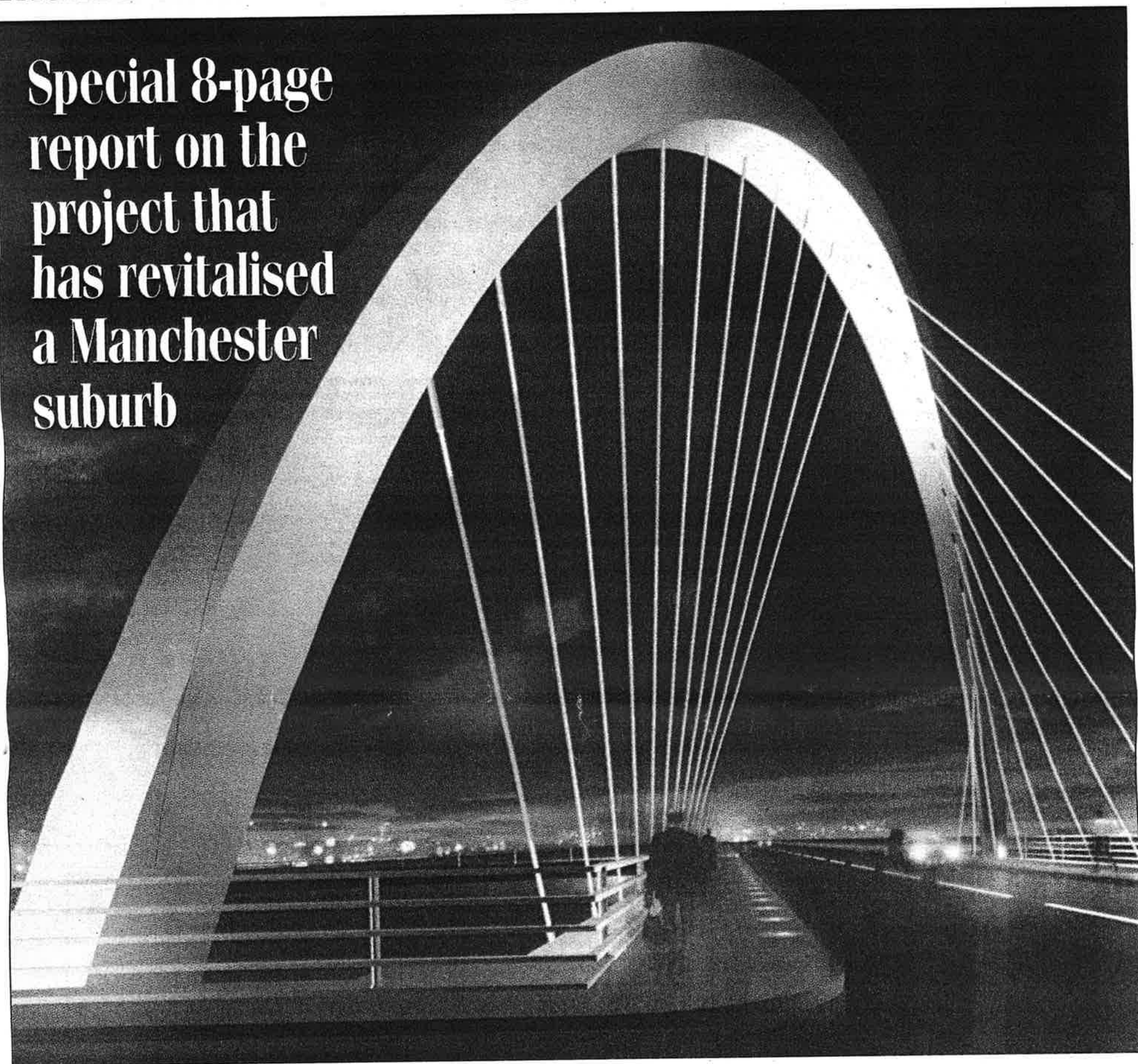


Manchester Evening News

Special 8-page
report on the
project that
has revitalised
a Manchester
suburb



HULME

easons to be cheerful!

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
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REGENERATION
LIMITED

HULME REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL!

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Setting a shining example

HULME Arch, seen on the front cover, is a shining symbol of renaissance in the once run-down city suburb.

Its soaring steel reaches 25 metres (82ft) into the sky, creating a stunning landmark above one of the city's main arteries — Princess Road.

Pedestrians and traffic will use the new bridge to travel from one side of Hulme to the other. It will also draw in visitors to shop and stroll along Hulme's new High Street.

And it will provide a vital connection to the busy areas around Manchester university, the hospital complex and the planned Commonwealth Games swimming pool.

The £1.5m arch will be illuminated at night, and through the day will reflect sunlight to catch the eye of visitors arriving in the city from Manchester airport.

The design was chosen after an international competition which attracted more than 200 design teams.

Architect Chris Wilkinson, engineers Ove Arup and Partners, and quantity surveyors Bucknall Austin put forward the winning solution, which was the unanimous choice of the judges. The arch has been built in three sections by Henry Boot.



■ WHEN IT ALL STARTED: Jackson Crescent bulldozed in 1991

Rebuilding streets of smiles



■ BARBARA McLOUGHLIN: "Remarkable story"

Reports by
JANINE WATSON

"WHEN you walk around the streets of Hulme, you see people smiling. You see families walking together, on their way to school, enjoying their daily lives.

"Hulme is now an ordinary place, and that's what is so very special."

In just three sentences, Barbara McLoughlin can sum up the impact of the multi-million pound regeneration of Hulme, once one of the most notorious housing estates in Europe.

Its former reputation for crime, drugs and poverty is now consigned to the history books.

Instead, new Hulme is a thriving community with well-designed modern homes, increasing business activity and wonderful health, education and recreation facilities.

Barbara, chief executive of Hulme Regeneration, believes that in the last five years, partners and agencies have pulled together a firm foundation for a new neighbourhood and community.

"It has been remarkable the way different agencies and different partners — the private sector and statutory agencies — have all come together.

"Sometimes it has been difficult. But no one ever closed the door and walked away. People almost forget how dreadful Hulme was, and how much work has been done. It is truly remarkable story."

The transformation started in 1991 when Manchester city council won £37.5m of City Challenge funds from then-Environment Minister Michael Heseltine.

In partnership with AMEC, the council set up Hulme Regeneration Ltd to invest the money.

And Hulme Regeneration used the national and local government grants pull in more millions of pounds of investment from the private sector to improve all aspects of life in the suburb.

City Challenge winds up at the end this month.

But Barbara McLoughlin sees it an opportunity for another new beginning.

She is to head a team involved in the £11m Capital Challenge improvements in not only Hulme but in neighbouring districts like Moss Side, the university complex and Pomona, the area stretching from St George's Church to the Bridgewater Canal.

"We are confident we can hit the mark and carry on improving Hulme and Moss Side well into the next century."



■ ABOVE:
The new Hulme taking shape in 1994 when the first phase was officially opened with, in the background, one of the remaining tower blocks still awaiting demolition

■ RIGHT:
North British Housing Association's stylish Martenscroft development, with Hulme Arch in the background



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WIDE-LOOK HULME: A variety of architectural styles has been encouraged and residents have been involved in the design of their new homes

Life at the heart of a dynamic city



■ BELLWAY Homes' apartments at Royce Place on Chorlton Road

More than 650 new homes-for-sale are being built in Hulme, one of Manchester's fastest growing areas. The area's best housebuilders, including Bellway Homes, have been given the go-ahead for a new phase of development in 1992, after a thorough and challenging process. The area is charged with bringing new life to the area, Hulme Regeneration. Their houses and

apartments are the first private homes for sale in the area for more than 100 years.

Many banks and building societies were initially sceptical about lending money to purchase homes in an area synonymous with inner-city decay. But a huge demolition programme was combined with social and economic improvements, and Bellway took a long-term view of their investment.

A comprehensive building programme is well underway, and Bellway are proud of their success in selling more than 150 homes.

Strict planning rules have been created to avoid the area's previous planning mistakes, and all Bellway properties adhere to them.

Bellway has built a wide range of detached and town-style houses, combined with a selection of two-bedroom apartments that appeal to young families and professionals alike, eager to take advantage of living in the UK's most dynamic city.

Bellway's commitment to total customer satisfaction lies in their attention to detail and the company philosophy in providing quality homes at value-for-money prices.

A family detached home with a garden and three bedrooms can be bought for under £60,000.

David Lloyd, regional director for Bellway Homes Urban Renewal North West, says: "Since the houses are situated

only a short walk from the city centre, and only a stone's throw from Castlefield, anyone buying from Bellway Homes can rest assured that their investment is safe.

"City centre living is in demand and here to stay. Already we have seen house prices in Hulme increasing faster than the national average."

Evidence of Bellway's commitment to the local community takes the form of the new children's centre being built on the former site of the notorious concrete Crescents. When complete, the centre will provide 52 places in its extended day care nursery, for children from six months through to school age.

Bellway are also involved in the construction of new shops, refurbishment of the Zion Arts Centre and Hulme Park, the biggest new park since Victorian times.

Prices for two-bedroom apartments start from £35,950, and houses from £37,700. More details from Rose on 0161-232 1946, or Stephen on 226 2788.

Commitment to the area

MUCH building work in Hulme has been done by Cheadle-based building and civil engineering contractors and developers Gleeson. Their commitment to Hulme dates back to 1990 when they built the probation centre on Chichester Road using local labour. They have since completed contracts for North British, Guinness Trust and Portland housing associations and Manchester city council.

Tenants' ideas are built in

MORE than 1,000 new homes are available for rent in Hulme, thanks to City Challenge and a thriving partnership of housing associations.

Long-suffering tenants previously endured years of problems because of run-down deck-access housing.

Manchester took the bold decision to demolish the decrepit concrete complexes, and — in partnership with tenants — vowed to design and build a range of new developments.

One of the most prominent organisations was North British Housing Association. A spokesman says: "Our first task was to convince tenants' associations we wanted a real partnership with them which would ensure local people's views and needs directed the development process."

"We have carried through our commitment to partnership with local people by enabling them to manage their own homes. Of the 600 homes we have built, we are transferring ownership of almost 200 to People First, a community-based housing association set up and managed by Hulme tenants."

Both North British and the Guinness Trust —

another major housing association — have wanted the construction of new homes to have spin-off effects on the neighbourhood.

So they have become consciously involved in non-housing activities such as providing shops, a doctor's surgery, new community buildings and job provision for local people.

Both are also building new management offices in Hulme.

Their housing developments have been designed according to guidelines using traditional street patterns rather than cul-de-sacs, with an emphasis on well-marked corners and landmark buildings.

"The resulting schemes are receiving national architectural acclaim, with the receipt of three separate RIBA awards," says a spokesman.

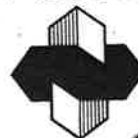
Fifty flats have been provided so far in one of the most environment-conscious developments in the city, the Homes For Change housing co-operative.

The complex also contains 16,000 square feet of workspace for local ethical and cultural businesses as well as artists' studios, workshops and a gallery.

1100 NEW HOMES IN 5 YEARS!

Thank you to all our partners,
especially the people of Hulme,
for helping us make it possible

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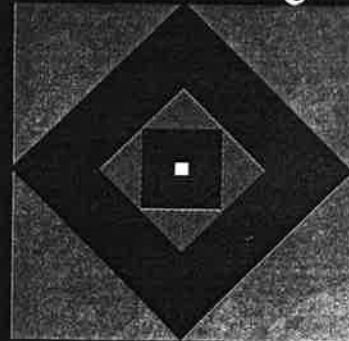
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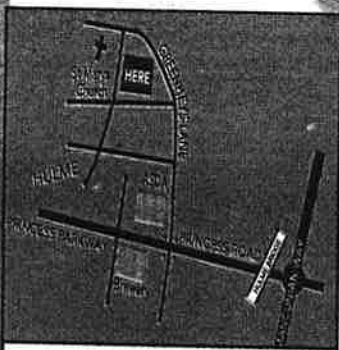
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High Street will take Hulme back to the future

LAST September construction work began on the new £37m High Street development for Hulme, marking the beginning of a brand new era for residents.

An exciting new high street was being born on the site of the notorious Moss Side District

Centre. It would create a vibrant shopping destination, giving residents a sense of community and pride again.

Manchester-based AMEC Developments won the competition to develop Hulme's new High Street. This company is working alongside Miller Homes who are building 124 new homes in the High Street area.

Ken Knott, from AMEC Developments, comments: "In Hulme, we want to move away from covered shopping centres and dark, bleak underground car parks. We would really like to get back to the traditions that made the high streets of the 1930s and 40s so successful. In fact, if we can recreate some of the atmosphere that the old Princess and Alexandra Roads once had, we'll be well on our way."

The masterplan for the whole 31-acre development was announced last August together with the news that ASDA had signed with AMEC Developments to be the first major retail attraction on the site. The new ASDA superstore, covering 76,000 sq ft, will be open in spring 1998.

"This was a massive statement of confidence in Hulme and Moss Side," continues Ken Knott, "it made the rest of the community sit up and take notice and now people are coming to take a look at the new Hulme."



■ ARTIST'S impression of the new Hulme ASDA store, viewed from Princess Road

THE new ASDA store in Hulme has been designed specifically to make the shopping experience as pleasurable as possible. Traditional market halls, with their natural light and friendly service, are the inspiration behind ASDA's latest building.

Customers in Hulme will benefit from an outstanding range of fresh products, including a fish counter and bakery on the premises. Couch potatoes will welcome

ASDA has a treat in store

the planned "Curry Pot" and pizza counter, where they can choose quality takeaway style dishes at low prices. And the George clothing department will rival the best of the high street, with high fashion looks as well as perennial classics.

ASDA's development surveyor, Paul Lowe, is delighted that Hulme is the supermarket's next

destination. "The regeneration of this area is very exciting and we are glad to be involved."

"We have well over 200 stores around the country to date — I'm pleased that Hulme's residents will not be missing out on low prices and legendary customer service which shoppers, elsewhere in the north west, already enjoy."

New jobs are created

AS the new High Street develops it will bring many new job opportunities to the residents of Hulme and Moss Side.

The building of ASDA has created dozens of new construction jobs and, once the store is open, ASDA will have a range of full and part-time jobs available for members of the local community. New jobs will also be created in other stores and smaller shops as well as the new offices and workshops. In

total, it is estimated that 900 new jobs will be created by this important development.

Barbara McLoughlin, Hulme Regeneration's Chief Executive sums up: "I am really excited about our new High Street. The new ASDA superstore will provide residents and Manchester's shoppers with facilities that will be second to none."

"We have consulted long and hard with the local community to ensure that the fin-

ished scheme provides all the facilities they want and need.

"This area always used to be a bustling retail area and I am confident that the new High Street will recreate that strong community atmosphere that will be appealing to shoppers from outside the area as well. It may have seemed a long time coming but High Street is well on course and I'll certainly be one of the first in the queue with my shopping trolley!"

Development attracts the big names

INCLUDED in the new High Street will be a wide range of shops — from national retail stores to small kiosks for local traders. A major feature will be the new covered market and market square, which will continue the long market tradition in this area of the city.

It will have a range of stalls and purpose-built kiosks. There will also be new family restaurants, pubs, offices and an Afro-Caribbean Community Centre.

Following the completion of the ASDA store, AMEC Developments will be spending £1m improving the Moss Side Leisure Centre and existing office block and making the existing underground car park more attractive to shoppers.

"People must feel safe when parking" says Ken Knott, of AMEC Developments.

"Lighting in the car park will be improved and security measures implemented."

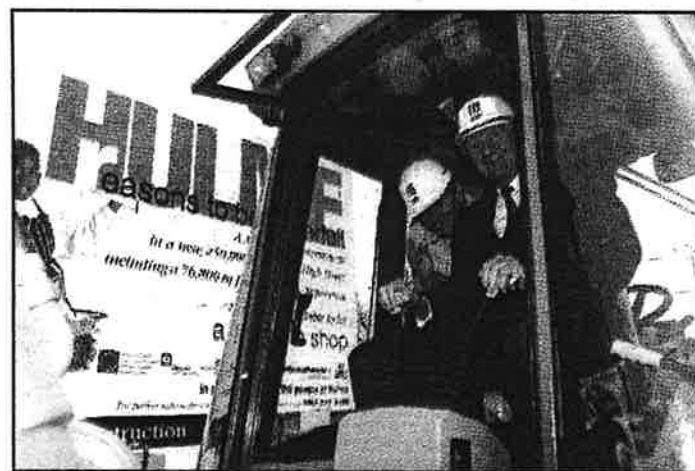
As well as serving the local community, it is envisaged that the new High Street will become a popular venue for all Manchester shoppers. Alongside some familiar names there will be a diverse range of ethnic shops, craft stalls, etc. In addition to this, its excellent location — right on a main commuter thoroughfare into the city — means that shops will also serve people working in the city.

In order to make way for the new ASDA store on the crossroads of Princess Road and Greenheys Lane, AMEC had to relocate several industrial units into brand new premises. The last of these is now being completed and, last month, the

Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, visited Hulme to dig the first sod on the site to make way for the new ASDA.

AMEC Developments will shortly be marketing the retail units adjacent to ASDA. "We are confident that major retailers will be opening in Hulme alongside ASDA," says Ken Knott. "We already have had interest from some of the biggest names in retail who now see Hulme as a place to shop. We are also encouraged by the response of local retailers and businesses who want to set up shop in the new Hulme."

● People interested in shops, offices or other commercial accommodation in the new High Street development should call George Tate at the letting agents DTZ Debenham Thorpe on 0161 236 9595.



■ DEPUTY Prime Minister Michael Heseltine and Sir Alan Cockshaw dig the first foundations for Hulme's new High Street development

Miller adds to the traditional approach

YOU might not have heard of Miller Homes before, but don't be alarmed by the new name, you're in safe hands. The company is part of the multi-million pound Miller Group, whose International headquarters are based in Scotland. It is about to launch a major expansion here in the north west with traditionally built homes.

The Miller Group build motorways, supermarkets and government buildings and recently completed the Skye Bridge and the new baggage terminal at Heathrow Airport. It is one of the top three house builders in Scotland and was established in 1934.

As part of the five-year programme for Hulme, Miller has been negotiating

a prime site over the last two years. It plans to build 31 homes in an exquisite courtyard setting on the site adjacent to St Mary's Church.

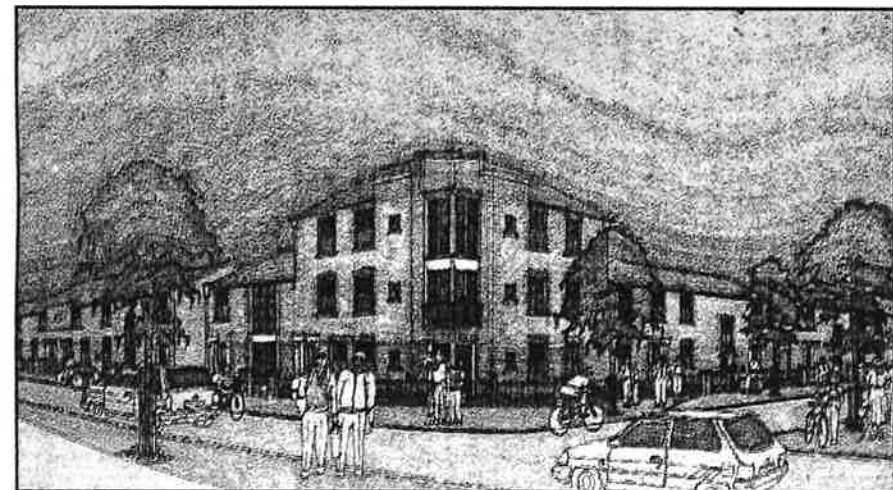
Within easy reach of central Manchester yet providing the setting for a new village style community, the courtyard will also be within easy reach of Hulme's new ASDA Superstore and shopping centres. Prices range from £34,500 for a ground floor apartment to £48,500 for a three-bedroom semi detached. Other accommodation comprises two or three-bedroom semis, two-bedroom mid-terraces, stylish one-bedroom duplex apartments and first and second-floor apartments.

Sales Manager Ann Level said: "We

are very excited about participating in the regeneration of the inner city development. The courtyard-style homes will really make a beautiful location with the additional benefits of security which the courtyard offers. The homes are very competitively priced and we are extremely optimistic about sales."

Miller's excellent reputation for building high quality homes, will be seen in the many finishing touches to its houses. Kitchens have oven and hob units, there's high quality bathroom fittings, gas central heating, car parking and hard landscaping features in the courtyard.

● For further information call: 0161 226 8848.



■ HOW the Miller Homes development at St Mary's in Hulme will look

HULME REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL!

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Winning design saves energy

Centre is a real blessing

EUROPE'S brightest young architects have helped to put the new Hulme on the drawing board.

A crucial site at the heart of the suburb was chosen as one of the challenges for entrants in Europan 1996 — an innovative design competition.

Europan is held every 30 months to stimulate knowledge and discussion on housing and planning across the continent.

Contestants were offered a choice of designing a housing scheme for one of 64 sites in 18 countries, and 29 designers chose to concentrate on Hulme.

The site lies alongside Princess Road, beside the new Hulme Arch bridge.

One of the winners was young British architect Christopher Bannister, who lived in Hulme in the early eighties before he started his architectural career.

His design includes homes with sloped zinc roofs, to glean as much energy as possible from sunlight, and sliding glass screens, to turn balconies into conservatories.

Christopher, who lived in the concrete Crescents that have now been demolished, says: "We saw this as an opportunity to make housing more energy-efficient without cramping people's lifestyles."

"Because of our first-hand experience of living in Hulme, we were anxious to avoid the mistakes of the previous redevelopment."

ONE of the most successful developments undertaken with the help of Hulme City Challenge is the St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre.

This former Roman Catholic church has been transformed into a thriving business centre.

Opened in 1994, the St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre is owned and managed by Firmstart (Manchester) Ltd, a local economic development agency which has worked closely with Hulme City Challenge on a range of projects to boost local job prospects and increase investment in the area.

The centre retains many features of its past as a church, including stained glass windows, the pulpit, and even the

font. The centre has 20 units and is home to a variety of enterprises, including multimedia designers, clothing manufacturers, a housing association, a charity and an insurance adviser.

It is also home to the Moss Side and Hulme Commercial Property Database Service, an initiative joint-funded by the Moss Side initiative and Hulme City Challenge.

In addition to providing workspace for local enterprises, the centre is also host to a range of exhibitions, seminars and events which take place in its conference area.

This area is available for hire, and a full range of facilities, including catering, is available.



■ THRIVING: St Wilfrid's Enterprise Centre, which opened in 1994

The wonders of science

MANCHESTER Science Park has recently started its fifth building, which is due for completion in November.

The £2.7m project is a prestigious flagship for the 12-year-old park — a joint venture between the city council, Manchester's universities and private sector

companies. Providing accommodation specifically for technology-based companies, the park enhances the technological and economic base of the city of Manchester.

It achieves this by attracting companies because of its proximity and close links to the universities, and providing a range of services to help companies grow.

Its own growth has steadily accelerated over the past three years — space occupied is up 74 per cent, and the number of companies has increased from 19 to 32.

Collectively, the companies on the science park represent the largest employers in Hulme.

The range of tenants include three from the US, one from the Netherlands and one from Iceland.

Many of the others are direct "spin-offs" from the universities.

The Science Park has development land available for three more buildings on its present site. However it is now in discussion over substantial expansion.

Chief executive John Allen says: "We are delighted to be in partnership with Hulme Regeneration Limited in helping to attract business here."

"HRL have supported installation of an artificial fibre link to the University Network and the Internet; enhancement of the Science Park's security system; and the growth of a number of companies on the park."

High-tech jobs

RESOURCE Solutions has brought high-tech jobs to Hulme in England's first commercial Telecentre. The company provides a bureau of services for companies that want to increase capacity without taking on extra staff.

With five full-time staff and four home-based disabled workers, Resource Solutions is now growing fast and recruits locally.

It received £340,000 start-up funding from Hulme Regeneration, Reed Employment Limited and the European Regional Development Fund. Spokeswoman Julie Bagnoli says: "Instead of over-stretching the typing pool or secretary, firms can pass time-consuming work to Resource Solutions."

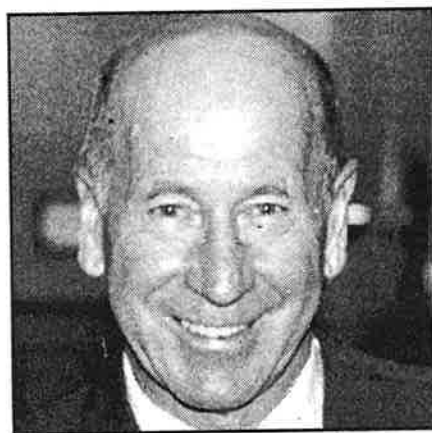
"A virtual office service also provides an invisible secretary for small or mobile business people, taking calls, typing and passing messages or finished work back by phone. We are England's first commercial telecentre — working at a distance from your employer or customer, using computers, telephones and faxes."

MSP Manchester Science Park

Adjacent to the largest academic campus in Europe, Manchester Science Park is proving a superb location for the 32 technology-based companies already there:

- ◆ now in its twelfth year of growth, and expanding rapidly
- ◆ excellent communications to surface and international air travel
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- ◆ optical fibre link to the University Computer Network
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Contact Dr. John Allen on 0161 226 1000; fax, 0161 226 1001; e-mail, allen@fs1.msp.man.ac.uk; or look at our web site on www.g-ming.net.uk/MSP/; or write to Manchester Science Park, Manchester M15 6SE



■ SIR BOBBY CHARLTON: Praise

A boost from Sir Bobby

ONE of Manchester's most famous ambassadors, Sir Bobby Charlton, is a big fan of all the changes in Hulme and Moss Side.

Sir Bobby has recently joined the board of Marketing Manchester, the agency set up to sell the city all around the world. And he is also a non-executive director of the company LT Switchgear, which has just moved to new premises in Hulme. Sir Bobby was present during the recent tour by deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine to

view the multi-million-pound improvements that have taken place in recent years.

He says: "Hulme Regeneration provides a wonderful blueprint for anyone that wants to do this type of work."

"There have been mistakes made in the past, when various agencies have attempted improvements in areas like this. But the quality of the work that has been done by Hulme Regeneration can compete with the best of its type around the world."

"The plan is that at last everyone from Hulme and Moss Side gets an equal chance. It is important they get the same opportunities and openings."

First class help for businesses

BACKING business in every sense of the word — that is the job of Moss Side and Hulme Business Federation.

Now in its third year, it has succeeded in establishing a reputation for providing first-class assistance in three areas.

For local people who have good ideas and want to start their own business, the Federation provides basic practical assistance, ranging from marketing advice, free design for corporate image, subsidised printing, legal advice, seminars on business-related subjects and much more.

Information and help is always available, including "signposting" to other local organisations.

The Federation's hand-holding approach has proved highly successful — and this is illustrated by a growing membership.

The Federation also provides continuing support for businesses as they grow, and for larger,

more established organisations. One example is a mentoring scheme which links small businesses with larger, successful organisations outside the area.

Social and community issues are also on the agenda, with management making a vital contribution to the area through involvement in such major projects as the Manchester International Caribbean Carnival and the multi-million-pound shopping complex.



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Fax: 0161 226 0587

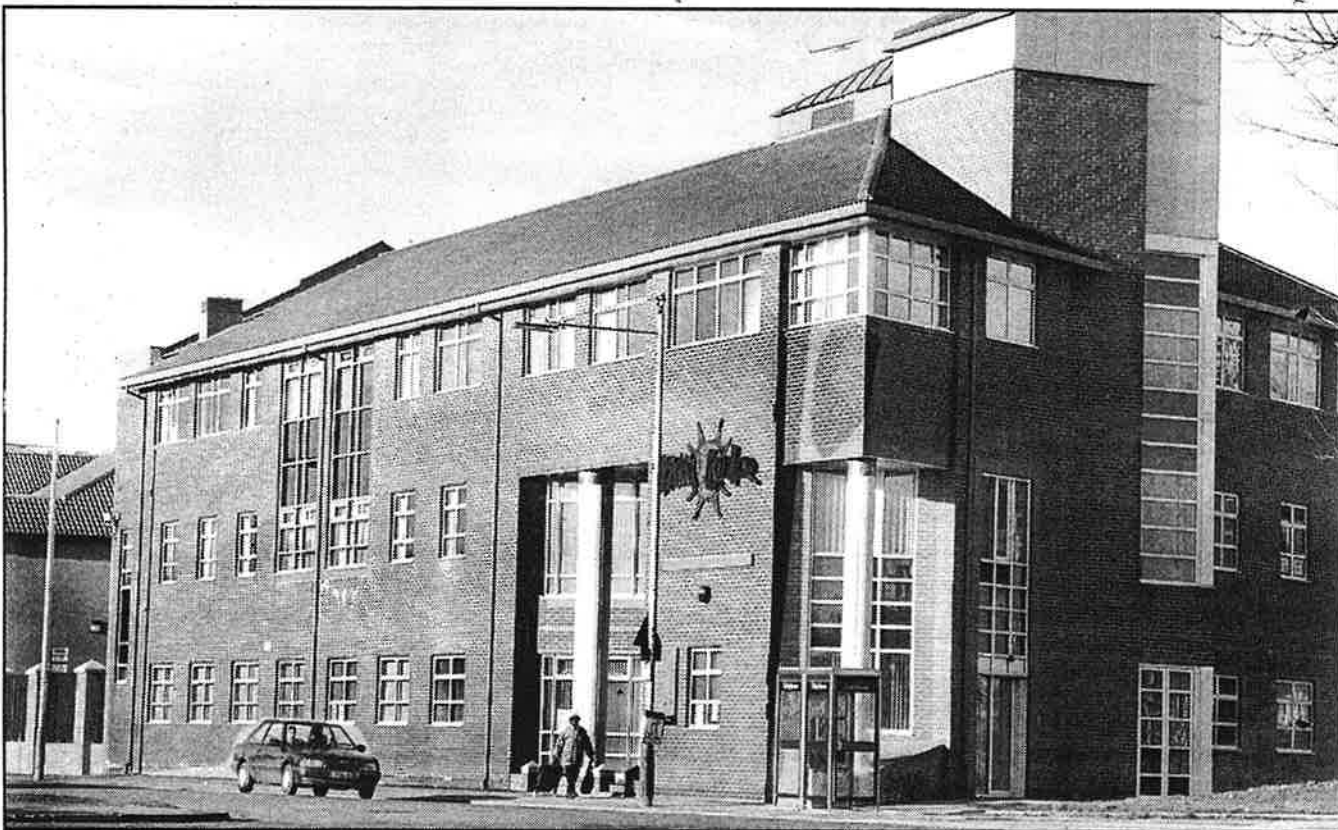
HULME REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL!

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Campaigner Kath Locke's work for better living standards in the area is remembered in the name of the new community and health centre

Fight for healthier Hulme is rewarded



■ AT YOUR SERVICE — the newly-opened Kath Locke Community and Health Resource Centre

A HEALTHY Hulme is a happy Hulme.

Householders old and new in Hulme and Moss Side are benefiting from a wide range of health and community facilities available at the newly-opened Kath Locke Community and Health Resource Centre.

The building, on Moss Lane East, is unique in Britain because it has been designed as community-led, to give local families and people the services that they request.

Kath Locke, the woman the centre is named after, was a committed campaigner for improved health, education and housing in Moss Side, who died in 1992.

Now her memory lives on as visitors to the centre can experience a

wide range of services. Funded by Manchester Health Authority, the centre is managed by the Zion Community Health and Resource Centre, which has extensive experience in local issues and community involvement.

A conglomeration of voluntary health groups, self-help groups and statutory services has been based at the Zion Institute for the last seven years. Those services will continue. But they are now working in partnership with services in the brand new purpose-built Kath Locke centre, which cost about £2.5m.

Dawn Rivers, new manager at the

centre, says: "The Kath Locke centre will be totally responsive to people's needs. It should be seen as a resource that local people can use."

"It is an airy and inviting building, with a welcoming colour scheme and well-considered layout."

The centre houses not just basic services but also audiology, diet and family planning services.

An outreach project for Asian women is based there, as well as the African Caribbean mental health project, counselling services, community psychiatric nurses, social services, physiotherapy and chiropody.

Says Dawn Rivers: "In many cases

this centre will mean that people won't have to travel to hospital for out-patients appointments."

About 30 people are employed by the centre itself, with dozens more providing sessions of healthcare.

Many of the workers at the centre are local people who found their posts as a result of an Awareness Day held last July to inform people of the opportunities on offer.

And the centre hopes in the future to provide a wider range of alternative medical treatments. Massage is already available.

Meeting rooms and other facilities are available for hire to health related community groups.

Inquiries can be made on (0161) 455 0211.



■ KATH LOCKE'S son Bolaji Lawrence at the official opening of the health centre in January

Reports by JANINE WATSON

Come and join the party fun

THE spotlight will beam on Hulme on Saturday May 10, as the successful suburb celebrates its vibrant and thriving future. Families and householders old and new will join a jam-packed jamboree of events to mark the end of the five-year City Challenge programme.

Visitors to the Spotlight Festival will have a unique opportunity to seize a bird's-eye view of the changes. For Richard Branson's Virgin hot air balloon will be tethered close to Hulme Arch. And there will be the chance to ride in it, weather permitting.

Music, sport and comedy will entertain crowds gathering at the site of Hulme Arch, beside the new Hulme Arch bridge.

The Arch itself will be



■ RICHARD Branson's balloon will be tethered close to Hulme Arch for the festival

opened with a laser and firework extravaganza in the evening. And a specially-written Hulme Arch Fanfare will be performed by the Hallé Brass as the bridge is officially



opened. The first Rolls Royce, which was built in the heart of Hulme, will be driven across the bridge to mark the occasion.

Barbara McLoughlin, chief executive of Hulme Regeneration, says: "This marvellous event will give an opportunity to local residents and people from across the city to celebrate the remarkable transformation that has taken place since City Challenge was launched five years ago."

"For the last five years, residents have suffered huge upheavals, with constant demolition and rebuilding. I hope this wonderful event will act as a house-warming party, and that people will take the opportunity to discover the new Hulme. We look forward to welcoming everyone."

The day's events start at 1130 with live music, and guests gathering for

the bridge opening. At noon, the bridge will be opened to pedestrians, followed by a reception for community leaders.

There will be performances from a range of Manchester comedians, and music from local and chart-breaking bands.

Community groups will stage events inspired by Hulme's rich cultural heritage.

For more active visitors, there will be mountain bike racing and simulated sky-diving.

And, following the success of the Penalty Kicks competition at Soccer City last year, people will once again have the chance to score against celebrity goalies.

In the evening, a Phoenix sculptural bonfire will be lit, a waterfall of colour will cascade from the Arch, and the day will be drummed out by the exotic sounds of samba drummers.



kidsunlimited

Kids Unlimited is the UK's leading quality childcare provider currently operating 26 nurseries throughout the UK

OUR HULME NURSERY IS PLANNED FOR OPENING IN EARLY 1998

For further information please contact Martin Pace on:

Tel. 01625 585222

'Let the kids be creative'

KIDS Unlimited want to provide 75 places in their nursery in St Mary's Street, Hulme. The grade 2 listed building was recently damaged by fire, but is being renovated. Says a spokesman: "We want to make our nursery a centre for creativity. We want to harness the creative potential of the area — performers, artists, musicians — and bring that in for the kids."

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HULME REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL!

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**HULME
REGENERATION
LIMITED**

A multi-million pound new look is revitalising a Manchester suburb and bringing in new residents, attracted to the green, green grass of Hulme...

GREEN is the colour of Manchester's new-look Hulme and Moss Side. Millions of pounds have been invested in parks, playgrounds and open spaces to brighten up the suburb. The popular parks will be used for walking, exercise and relaxing by the increasing numbers of families and new homeowners moving into the area.

Largest of the green developments is the 15-acre stretch of Hulme Park, which when completed will run from Mancunian Way to the new Zion Arts Centre.

Hulme Park is the first large-scale park within the city since Victorian times, and has been designed following extensive consultation with local householders.

Neil Swanson, of Landscape Projects, is working with four focus groups to discuss details of design, play, sports and art, and materials.

The first phase will be Zion Square, to be constructed outside the arts centre, using cobbles from the area, cut into smaller pieces and laid out in a fan pattern.

Says Neil: "It is good to be able to re-use some local materials. I can imagine lots of different groups using the park — children in the themed play areas, people enjoying the buskers in Zion Square, and others wandering down the Promenade Walk. This park will be about different people sharing the space. Already there are a number of groups around the boundary — Proctors Youth Centre, the North Hulme play building, the Zion and the Adult Education Centre and library — who look out on to it, and have an interest in it.

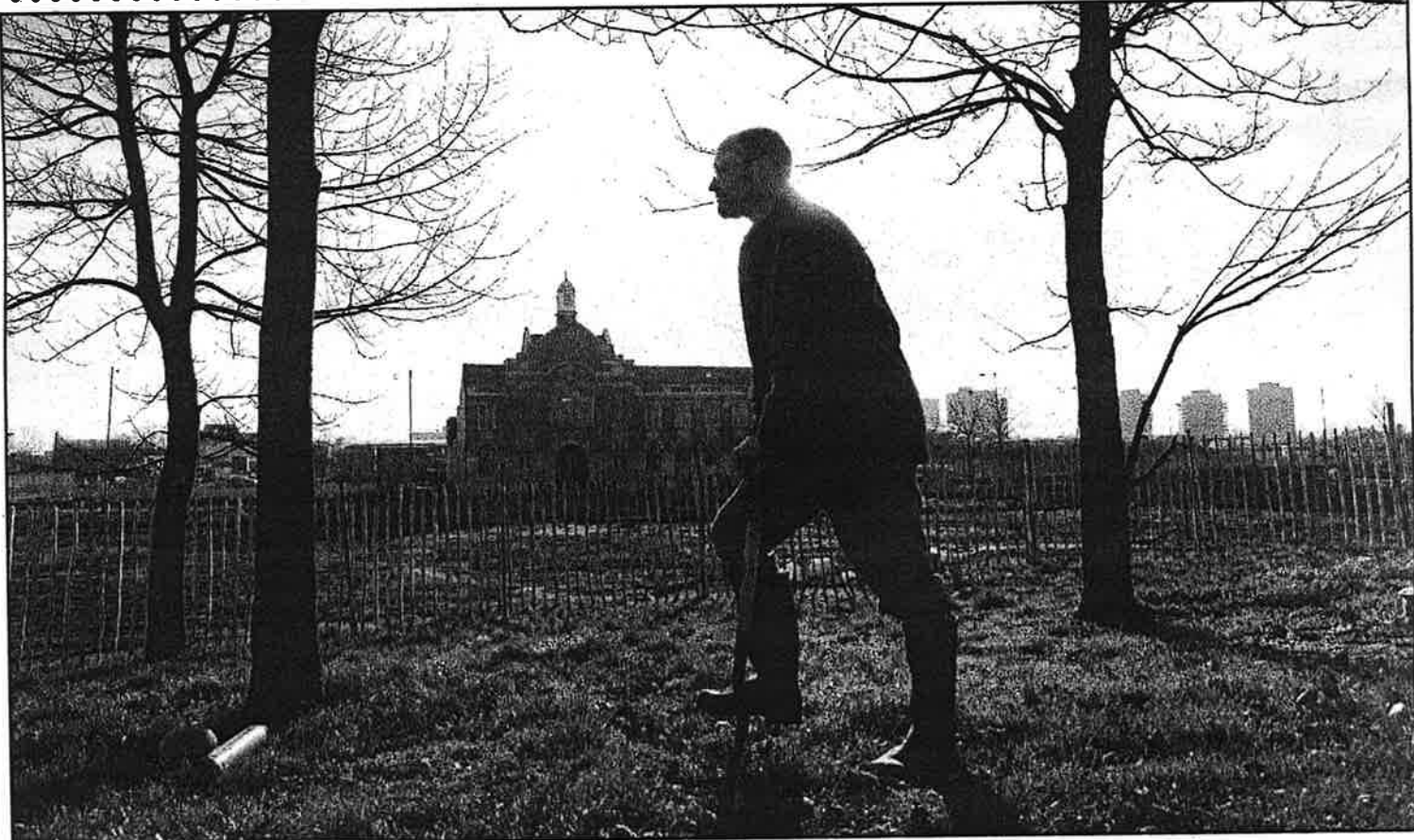
"It is a fairly small park as parks go, but that's good. I like the idea of a small park with lots of intense activity.

"It's long and narrow, which is an ideal shape, because you can get long views towards the city centre and back towards Zion and St Mary's church, and still you get the liveliness across the park."

It is hoped that ultimately a bridge will link the park across Mancunian Way to Knott Mill and Castlefield.

The park has been funded by Hulme City Challenge and the European Regeneration Development Fund, together with a substantial contribution from Bellway Homes Urban Renewal North West.

Visitors to the new St



■ LANDSCAPE architect Neil Swanson begins the work on the new Hulme Park, the first large-scale park within the city since Victorian times

Park here for pleasure

Reports by JANINE WATSON

Wilfrid's Park are greeted by a friendly Celtic dragon — a fun creature designed for youngsters to clamber over and play around.

The barren piece of land was transformed in just 15 weeks into an attractive and user-friendly park — complete with dog grid to prevent unwanted visitors.

The park — which has been praised by former Hulme Regeneration chairman Dave Lunt as "a little jewel" — is landscaped with a variety of flowering plants, and the perimeter has been planted with trees to give shade from the summer sun.

Aquarius Park is at the centre of a 400-home

development, and has railings which feature a seascape of interesting creatures.

Its grassed area includes a basketball net for practice for local youngsters.

Work is also under way at Barracks Park in St Georges.

Manchester city council's landscape practice group is drawing up plans for changes, and consulting with local people and other interested groups to bring the park up to date.

It is hoped to build a new play area for toddlers and young children, and to make changes to the park entrance to stop cars and motorbikes being driven in.



■ DELIGHTED local children didn't need a celebrity to open St Wilfrid's Park — they did it themselves



■ JO BEDDOE: "City has flair"

Zion has a vision for the city's youth

WHEN it opened in 1911, the mission of the Zion Institute in Hulme was to "educate, entertain and evangelise." The architecturally-striking building — which stood for many years in the shadows of the notorious concrete Crescents housing complex — has been home to many community groups and organisations.

Now it is to sing with a new voice as a palace of creativity for artistic youngsters. More than £2.5m is being invested from City Challenge funds, the European Regional Development Fund and the National Lottery to carry out a major facelift.

The building was once graced by

Rudolph Nureyev, has been home to the Hallé Orchestra and Choir, and Northern Ballet. It has also been used as a location in the film Reds, television dramas Cracker and GBH, and in Coronation Street.

The new complex, inspired by Russia's Palace of Youth Creativity in St Petersburg, will recognise the role of arts and culture and young people in urban regeneration.

The building will be home to the schools music and dance service, and will be involved in a variety of arts projects.

These include:

● A Saturday morning club for under-11s.

● Contemporary dance, music, drama and poetry workshops.

● A large-scale multi-media project called New Beginnings.

● Zion Radio and Zion Graphics, as well as business skills for young artists and performers.

Phase one of the facelift will include a dynamic new frontage and entrance, dance and music studios, rehearsal rooms, meeting and activity rooms, offices and a specially commissioned piece of public artwork.

Zion Arts Centre director Jo Beddoe says: "Zion's vision is to offer young people an opportunity to develop their skills and their interest in music, drama, dance,

circus skills and other arts activity.

"Manchester has a larger youth population within travelling distance of the city centre than any other city in Britain. It also has an enviable reputation for flair and innovation in the arts, fashion, music, sports, media technology and youth culture."

Recognising the role of arts and culture and young people in urban regeneration, Manchester allocated £1.2m from its City Challenge funds to refurbish the building. Europe gave £1m, and in January, the centre was awarded almost £350,000 from the Lottery for new equipment.