

### Sherwood And District Anti Poll Tax Campaign

The anti poll tax campaign in Sherwood was formed way back in September 1989. We were launched on September 28th, and have been going from strength to strength ever since. We aim to expose the poll tax to be what it really is, blatantly unfair.

The poll tax works on the principle of the lowest paid paying the same as the highest paid. It has no bearing on peoples ability to pay and many people simply won't be able to afford it.

- Our aims are:
- a) To inform people about the poll tax and how it affects them.
  - b) To build a mass campaign of non-payment, non-implementation, and non-collection of the poll tax. To lead to the abolition of the poll tax/community charge.

# Axe the Tax

## ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

If you are in doubt about claiming a rebate, or if you are eligible for one at all consider

### HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

If the answer is no, one way they can get you to do so, without you knowing it, is to get you to apply for a rebate.

### ARE YOU GOING TO PAY?

In Scotland, no one has been put in prison for not paying the poll tax. (see 'LABOUR'S POLL TAX PANIC' page.)

### POLL TAX WILL GO!

There are 600 members of the non-payment campaign in Sherwood. The poll tax will GO!

Can the poll tax really be defeated, even without the backing of the Labour Party? YES. Many Labour Party activists are in the campaign, and are involved in direct Non-payment.

### NOT PARTY POLITICAL

Do I have to get involved with politics or any political party to get involved in the campaign? NO. The majority of people in Sherwood are not involved with any political group or party. Some don't even vote.

### COMMUNITY COLLECTIVES

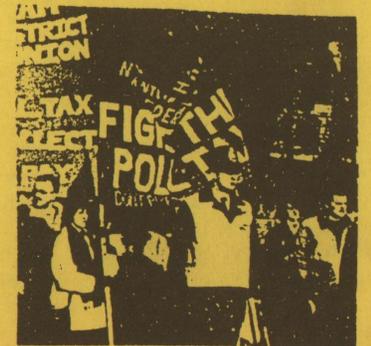
The whole idea of the campaign is one of MASS non-payment, on a community level.

## DIARY

SHERWOOD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:  
THE SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
MANSFIELD ROAD,  
(OPP. WOODTHORPE GRANGE)  
SHERWOOD.

THE STALL IS HELD ON MANSFIELD ROAD JUST OUTSIDE THE CO-OP.

- WEDNESDAY 21ST FEB. SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX MEETING.
- SATURDAY 24TH FEB. SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX STALL
- WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX MEETING
- SATURDAY 10TH MARCH SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX STALL
- WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX MEETING
- FRIDAY 23RD MARCH SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT 'BIG BOP II' (??), WATCH THIS SPACE.
- SATURDAY 24TH MARCH SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX STALL
- SATURDAY 31ST MARCH NATIONAL ANTI POLL TAX DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON. WATCH THIS SPACE.



## DEMONSTRATE

for

# MASS NON-PAYMENT

March 31st 1990

for details.

# Axe the Tax

AXE THE TAX. FREE. PLEASE MAKE A DONATION. ISSUE NUMBER II. SPRING 1990.

### PAY YOUR POLL TAX AND WIN (??)

"Yes!" say the Notts' County Council, "Pay your poll tax and you could win a holiday!" Nottingham poll tax payers are offered the chance to win a holiday as donated by CO-OP travel.

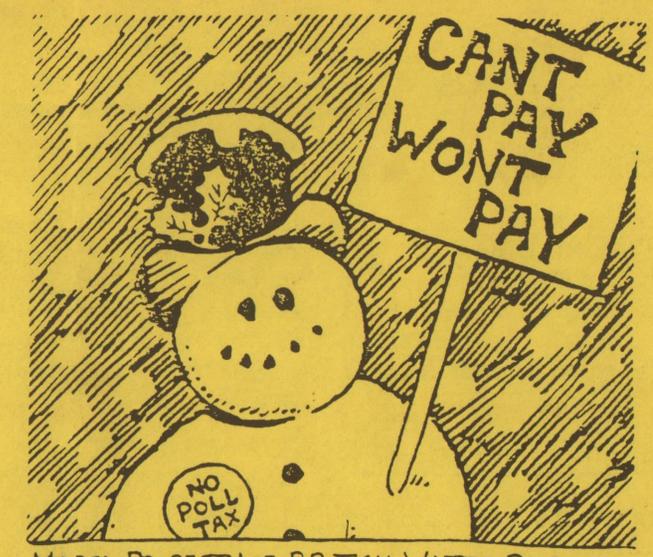
To enter the draw simply apply to pay your poll tax bills by direct debit. Then, when they put up the bill by 13% next year because the government has underestimated the rate of inflation again, they can increase your direct debit automatically.

It is terrible that the CO-OP, which funds the Labour Party could back such a scheme.

The LATEST news with the banks is that they are over worked with applications, so apply for your direct debit, but put Margaret Thatchers address, and lets put a spanner in the works.

The banks though, aren't the poll tax's biggest fans, and like on the issue of student loans have again turned their backs on the government.

The Government requested a list of account holders who don't pay their poll tax next year. The banks said NO WAY... Watch this space.



MODEL PROPERTY OF BRITISH WATER PLC.

### DEMONSTRATE...

Make it easy on yourself ! Pay no poll tax !! That is the message coming across loud and clear from Scotland, and into England and Wales.

On Saturday 20th January over ONE THOUSAND people joined a mass demonstration in Nottingham City centre to protest against the poll tax and to voice their anger and their willingness NOT TO PAY A PENNY POLL TAX.

There was a large group of people there from the Sherwood and District Anti Poll Tax Campaign, and if demo's are your scene, get in touch about a national demo on Saturday 31st March in the centre of London.

We are selling tickets so book your places NOW on a coach down to the capital.

Tickets are available for £6 (waged) and £3 (unwaged). See page 6 for details.

Only together can we AXE THE TAX!

# MAKE IT EASY: DON'T PAY!

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

ASPLEY.....  
 BULWELL.....  
 FOREST FIELDS/HYSON GREEN..  
 MEADOWS.....  
 RADFORD.....  
 ST. ANNS.....  
 WEST BRIDGFORD.....

There are new groups currently being formed in Arnold, Bestwood, Clifton and Lenton. If you live in these areas or any other area in Nottingham that has no campaign so far, contact the nearest campaign to you.

## AXE THE TAX

Do you wish to get involved in the writing and printing of axe the tax? Do you have any articles or information that could find a place in this newsletter? Do you have an opinion on the poll tax that you wish to air?

If so, then get in touch, we have a place for you, in the next issue of 'AXE THE TAX'

SEND ANY CORRESPONDANCE TO THE USUAL ADDRESS

## URGENT - MONEY NEEDED

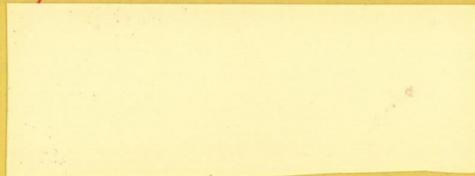
Anti poll tax campaigns all over Nottingham have been amazed at the amount of public support both the Ambulance staff, and the anti poll tax campaigns have been getting.

Unfortunately, if this campaign is going to continue to publish leaflets more money is needed.

We are responsible for the 'NO POLL TAX HERE' poster the 'Victim's Guide' leaflets, the 'Poll tax registration' leaflets, (all still available through us) and ofcourse the 'AXE THE TAX' newsletters.

Please send donations to the address below, or come to a meeting or to the stall. Please make cheques payable to 'THE SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN' THANK YOU.

THE SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN,



Axe  
the  
Tax



THE POLL TAX  
IS REVOLTING

## THE DARK CORRIDORS OF WHITEHALL

The poll tax, according to the Conservative party, is designed to take powers away from the state and back to the individual. This is not a bad idea, but the poll tax fails to do that.

Tory minister Nicholas Ridley said "Local services, provided by the local community, benefit that community... "Everyone benefits so everyone should contribute. Everyone should have the right, through the ballot box, to influence the level of service provided..."

In reality, the poll tax is designed to take powers away from the individual, and local authorities, and instead concentrate them in Whitehall

At present, just 40% of local authority income is provided by local government. When the poll tax is introduced, Whitehall will be responsible for 80% of that income.

The Financial Times summed up the Tories plan for local government.

"Plans for the destruction of local democracy are now complete... "Battle will commence in the Autumn. From then on local government is likely to suffer a series of blows..."

"Britain will be more than ever a centrally managed state, with power concentrated in Whitehall"

## PENSIONER AND THE POLL TAX

Two of the country's richest pensioners, Denis and Margaret Thatcher, will gain £2000 a year from the "fairer" poll tax.

By the governments own admission, the majority of pensioners will be £260 a year WORSE off. The pensioner and the poll tax are a lethal cocktail.

The Conservative Party, since coming to power has been paying the retired less and less in real terms. The poll tax is yet another blow to the standard of living for Great Britian's pensioners.

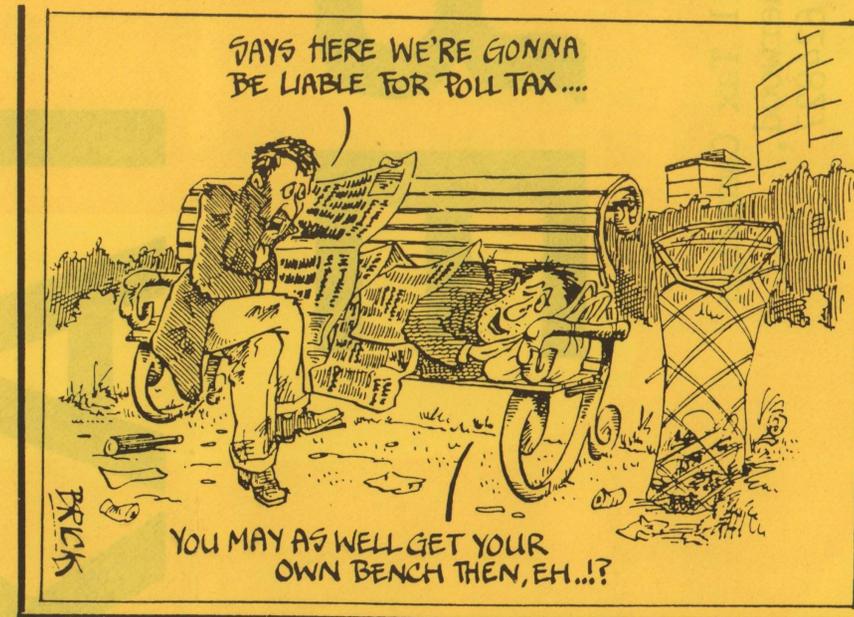
Many older people will simply not be able to afford the £5 extra a week or more, and even if they can just about manage it, why should they?

Jessie Thomson, continues to speak out against the poll tax because the crippling affects it is having on the old could cost pensioners lives.

"Do you put an extra pound in the meter to keep warm, or do you save it to pay your poll tax bill?"

Despite suffering from arthritis, she (and many others her age) refuses to pay her poll tax, supporting those who couldn't afford to pay it if they wanted to.

**SHERWOOD and DISTRICT  
ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN**



# NO

## POLL TAX

## HERE

Sherwood & District Anti-Poll Tax Campaign

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Not [redacted] 27

# POUNDS OFF YOUR POLL TAX BILL NO POLL TAX HERE



IF IN DOUBT - FILL THIS OUT

PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS ABOUT



City of  
Nottingham

WHY MR/MS RICH WHO OWNS  
A MANSION IN MAPPERLEY  
PARK PAY THE SAME AS ME

WHY MOST TORY M.P.'s  
ARE GOING TO SAVE  
HUNDREDS OF POUNDS

WHY, IF IT'S SUCH A FAIR  
TAX, DO much OF SCOTLAND  
REFUSE TO PAY IT



NAME ..... ADDRESS .....

SHERWOOD • BESTWOOD • CLIFTON →

DEMO



SATURDAY 31st MARCH

£6.00 waged £3.00 unwaged (pick-up points on back)

SHERWOOD = 7.30am

OUTSIDE SHERWOOD LIBRARY,  
MANSFIELD ROAD.

BESTWOOD = 7.45am

OUTSIDE "THE GREEN BARKEL" PUB  
ARNOLD ROAD.

CLIFTON = 8.15am

OUTSIDE "THE MAN OF TRENT" PUB  
CLIFTON LANE.

CONTACT NUMBER : 623674

## THE SHERWOOD AND DISTRICT ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

THE STALL is run every Saturday between 10.30am and 12.30pm. If you want any more information, or want to give a hand on the stall turn up outside the CO-OP, on Mansfield Road between the above time.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES happen once or twice every week. If you would like to join one of the teams phone (0602) 624827 today. Also ring this number if you would like a visit.

PUBLIC MEETINGS happen every other WEDNESDAY. For dates see the diary at the back.

### A WORD OF THANKS

All of us would like very much to thank the Forest Fields/Hyson Green Anti Poll Tax Campaign. In the early days of getting the campaign started, the FF/HG group were donating posters, leaflets, time and advice. Thank you (KISSEY KISSEY) FF/HG !!

If you want to get in touch with then contact BOX 5, BASICS, 42 FOXHALL ROAD.



# LABOUR'S POLL TAX PANIC

WITH ONLY THREE months to go until the first poll tax bills are due to be sent out in England and Wales, Labour councils in Scotland are conceding that their attempts to break the non-payment movement - through threats, intimidation and legal action - are failing.

Strathclyde region despatched 400,000 'final demands' at the end of last year, ordering non-payers to settle the whole of the first year's poll tax within 7 days 'or face the consequences'. When - at the end of the week - over 80% of those 'final' demands had been totally ignored, exasperated council officials admitted that the response had been 'disappointing'. Strathclyde's experience has been typical. Lothian regional council are now well over 25.5 million pounds short in poll tax receipts. They're having to borrow money to make up the shortfall.

## Ineffective

Many Scottish councils are now abandoning the use of bailiffs raids against those fined for non-payment, because they have proved so violently unpopular, and - in the face of large scale community mobilisations against them - completely ineffective.

Their plans to turn, instead, to 'arrestments' direct from people's bank accounts have also run into trouble.

late-November - the head of Scotland's clearing banks announced that they 'would be unable to cope with thousands of requests to trace the bank account details of thousands of non-payers'. Even if councils insisted on the costly and time-consuming process, he couldn't guarantee they would be able to find even 5-6% of the names.

Faced with a seeming dead-end in either direction, and an ever growing back-log of court action, Scottish councils are rapidly running out of options. Eric Milligan, head of Lothian region Labour council's finance department, spoke for many councils when, in December, he admitted: 'Such is the

scale of the non-payment movement in our region, that we may have to write-off large sums of outstanding poll tax'.

The December deadline for completing registration in England and Wales passed with many councils nowhere near finishing the job. Some have publicly warned the government that - because of the bureaucratic chaos that they're in - they may be unable to dispatch the first bills until May or June: putting everyone two months in arrears to start with.

Further government changes to poll tax law now seem certain, following the outraged response by industry bosses to news of the levels of Uniformed Business Rate (UBR) they'll be paying from April. In what can only be explained as a genuine civil service cock-up the upshot of the UBR calculations is that small business bosses in the south-east (ie loyal Tory voters in the Tory heartlands) face crippling rate rises, while big businesses in the Labour-heartlands of the north and north-east are set to enjoy massive cuts in their bills. The main bosses organisation - the CBI - has warned of tens of thousands of job losses and hundreds of business-bankruptcies.

The reason this should concern us, is, that in finding the money to sort out this mistake and relieve the burden on business, the Tories may well look to increasing the burden on domestic poll tax - meaning bigger poll tax bills - or in reducing the level of grant they give to councils - meaning an even greater threat to services. Businesses meanwhile, will look to make cost-savings by reducing their workforces, or trying to drive down wages.

Action on the industrial front against the poll tax received a major boost in January, when a majority of 17,000 local council workers in Leicester voted in favour of industrial action, if the city council tried to issue any redundancies because of poll tax-driven service cuts. The decision has already forced the council to back-

track and - for now - withdraw the threat of job losses. Leicester's example is certain to be followed by other council workforces as the extent of the threat to jobs and services hits home in the months ahead, as councils announce their budgets for the coming year.

Elsewhere, dole office workers in London have been on strike in protest at management plans to get them to pass claimants details from DSS files straight to poll tax officials. They've been joined by other groups of dole office workers who plan to refuse to process 'arrestments' of unpaid poll tax from non-payers who are signing on. And in Edinburgh, a group of local government workers are among the latest to announce plans to mount walk-outs if any employee in their department is penalised for non-payment.

## Anxiety

The Labour Party's growing anxiety over the anti-poll tax movement is reflected in the decision of the National Executive not to sanction a national demonstration against the Charge in April - against the advice of Labour's front-bench poll tax spokesmen who desperately want an 'initiative' they can hide behind. In the past, Labour has been willing to sponsor harmless demonstrations as a low-risk way of parading its 'anti-poll tax' credentials. Now, Kinnock is quoted as fearing that groups committed to non-payment and strike action might 'take advantage' of the situation and expose Labour's true poll tax colours.

The implications of the Labour Party's total compliance with the Community Charge, seem, at last, to be sinking in with some sections of the party's 'left' - particularly those whose dreams of building havens of 'municipal socialism' have been brought to an abrupt end by the poll tax. Amongst Labour-'Leftists', demoralisation and despondancy is rife. In inner-London, for instance, Hackney Labour Party can't find any candidates willing to stand in 33 out of the 60 council seats to be contested in the May elections.

As the futility of pleading with council bureaucrats becomes ever more apparent, and council workers begin to organise themselves against threats from their employer, the necessity of linking the non-payment campaign in the community directly with the battle being waged by local government - and other - workers, becomes ever clearer.

The strength, resolve and determination of the non-payment campaign in Scotland must be used as inspiration to build the struggle in England and Wales. The coming weeks and months will be 'critical'.

