

POLICE NEWS

From the top to the bottom, Chief Super to Constable, it seems to be "cops in trouble" time in and around Sheffield. Firstly, David Duckenfield, Blamed by many for the Hillsborough disaster, is in the throes of a stress related illness.

Since being suspended on full pay over two years ago, he has spent most of his time on the golf course. The prospect of a hearing into his part in the death of 95 people must have ruined his swing.

Secondly, two coppers are in trouble for ignoring special custody procedures when detailed to keep an eye on Dean Kelly.

Kelly was a renowned drinker and druggie, now he's dead. The punishment to fit the crime?

And last but not least is the case of Clough, Higham and Richardson, three detectives charged with 'Perverting the Course of Justice'. The case comes up at Sheffield Magistrates Court on October 30th, when the three will be accused of merrily lying under oath and falsifying police notebooks back in 1987 and 1988.

As usual a few pigs are singled out for scapegoating, while the rest go on with their daily job of perverting the course of justice. The usual rigmarole of lies and intimidation carries on. For us there is one little consolation - October the 30th, Sheffield Magistrates Court, a rare cause for celebration!



David Duckenfield - Top Cop in Big Trouble

it's a fact

Out of Sheffield's 350 magistrates, around 79% live in middle class or rich areas, a quarter live in the Dore, Totley, Ranmoor and Fulwood areas alone.

Class Justice!

KEETONS

Some months ago the management at Keeton's were in the dock at Sheffield magistrates court accused of operating machinery in unsafe conditions. When they were found guilty after evidence from the factory inspectors, the magistrate had the nerve to fix a nominal fine due to the dodgy financial situation Keeton's find themselves in since the strike which has been going on for over 5 years. The strike was started partly because of the unsafe conditions the bosses at Keeton's expected the workers to put up with. Mr Doyle, the boss at Keeton's, is obviously in the same lodge as the magistrate!

Keeton's strikers can be found outside the Town Hall on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings, they need support.

In future issues we hope to feature a 'Bastard Landlord of the Month' column. Nominations with details will be gratefully recieved.



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THE SHEFFIELD BLACK



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FREE

As election fever hots up...

BLUNKETT LOSES HIS MARBLES



In the good old days, families stuck together. Quite often four generations could be found living in the same 2-up 2-down. If an unmarried daughter got pregnant the family would close ranks (in spite of the humiliation) and the girl would stay with her parents and they'd raise the child together. On the other hand infant mortality was much higher and there was rickets.

Nowadays, according to Blunkett, the country is being overrun by pregnant schoolgirls grabbing council houses, some of them even get pregnant in order to jump the queue.

It's immoral! Of course there was a time when the pregnant woman would simply be stoned to death, or locked up (there are still some women in mental institutions because they got pregnant in the 1920's) but that's a bit extreme. Blunder reckons she should have to live with her parents for the rest of her life, or until she can afford to buy a house of her own. Not easy on benefits, with money to feed and clothe.

There are now almost one million single parents bringing up over 1.5 million kids. One in seven families with dependent children is a one parent family. Over the last 10 years benefits have been reduced, frozen and in some cases abolished, e.g. Child Benefit, in a money saving venture by a government obsessed by profit. In the vast majority of cases single parenthood means poverty. The average wage for a woman is 66% of the average mans wage. Most single parents are trapped on benefits because of lack of childcare or its high cost. This denies them the chance to train or work. Over half of one parent families are dependent on the local authority for housing, it is estimated by Shelter that half the families housed under the Homeless Person's Act are one parent families.

We suspect a little bit of electioneering from Blunkett. A bit of simple counting reveals that there are more people on the housing waiting list (and dissatisfied with the Labour council) than there are single parents. Votes in the bag for Blunkett, playing one off against the other instead of making positive suggestions about solving the present housing problems.

"Liberty without Socialism is exploitation. Socialism without Liberty is tyranny"

M. Bakunin

TELEPHONE POLL: Is Clive Betts a prat?

What do
Sheffielders think?
Your chance to
register your
opinion...

Yes? please telephone 734701
No? please telephone 754517

Black Star Says...

The rich get richer and the poor stay poor. Good news for the politicians, the media bosses and top businessmen. Those with economic and political power in Sheffield have finally realised that the steelworks won't open again. Their solution is to build temples for the consumer - shopping malls, supertrams, yuppie leisure centres. More profits for them, nothing for us. Don't let the Labour council fool you, these thinly disguised Tories are the businessmen's accomplices and friends.

The so-called far left offer little but the right to take orders from their own bosses in London. We look for opportunities to organise ourselves, not to follow the line of professional Marxists. We struggle every day in our own existences, and where possible, we take action.

"REGENERATION" OR DEGENERATION?

The one factor the council pushed above all in support of the World Student Games was that it would boost the national and international image of Sheffield and so facilitate its "regeneration". Even the deputy leader of the council, Peter Price, has accepted that coverage outside Sheffield was "dissappointing". A University report was more accurate in saying that Sheffield was portrayed "as a city in crisis, and not rather than a city on the move". We all know the massive cost to the people of Sheffield that this fiasco has entailed: the latest figure is that we'll have £12 million worth of CUTS in services next year. The overall cost looks more like £600 million to be paid over the next couple of decades - so much for regeneration. But the cost doesn't end there...

HIDDEN COSTS

- Whilst the promised employment from the Games turned out to be virtually all voluntary, the day before the Games began the council voted (in a closed meeting) to pay themselves £25 for each WSG function that they attended.
- The council Games exchange bureau "lost" £40,000 of foreign currency, between the Games Village and Thomas Cook.
- All council departments were ordered to provide services free or at half cost price to the WSG in a further attempt to hide costs:

Free publicity from Arts
Half price beds wardrobes and fittings from Works
(which is going to be privatised if it can't show a profit)
Vans etc. from Education

the list is endless.

DOWNWARD SPIRAL

Apart from showcase projects like the canal basin and supertram (we used to have a good bus service), Sheffield is on a downward spiral. Degeneration is here.

Because of the withdrawal of council services the communities of Sheffield will be left without childcare facilities, education, care for the elderly etc.

Yet despite all this and the fact that the Games were never wanted by the people of Sheffield, our "locally accountable" council is looking for allies so that Sheffield can host the 1998 Commonwealth Games. They won't find allies in us!



HOUSING

The last few weeks have seen two important announcements concerning housing. First, that the council is hiring radio-linked alarms, at a cost of approx. £200 per week each, to install into empty council houses. Second, that the council is intending over the next two years to demolish B-block of Hyde Park flats.

The alarms, which have already been shown to be unreliable, are being installed and monitored by a Liverpool company. These alarms are expensive enough without counting the other costs of keeping the houses empty, i.e. loss of rents from these properties, the costs of keeping them boarded up and general deterioration.

The council asserts that the

alarms are intended to protect empty houses from vandals and drug abusers. The council is inventing this to make it look like it is doing something. All part of the council's apparent policy to perpetuate the housing shortage in Sheffield.

Another example of this blatant disregard for Sheffield's housing problem is the impending demolition of B-block - the largest of Hyde Park flats 3 blocks.

Next time you walk around your area look at how many empty houses there are - empty shells waiting to be made into homes. Remember, squatting is not illegal. Neither is it the problem. The blame for homelessness in Sheffield lies at the Town Hall.

A CRAP IDEA

The council's latest scheme to make a few bob after the financial disaster of the Games, is to install public conveniences that cost 10p a go. We never saw that coming when they were talking about shutting all the old public toilets, honest! Not only that but the idiots have put one at the new bus station thing, just 10 yards away from the free ones inside. Is this the shape of things to come? *Bog Wars?* We might see the new advertising boards bearing posters claiming that the council ones are better before long. If anyone has found it necessary and had the courage to venture inside one of these things could they let us know what happens.



HEALTH - FROM BAD TO WORSE

Reports show that Trent Health Region (which includes Sheffield) is the second worst in the country for cancelling operations. Trent Health Authority, which has a £96.8 million maintenance and repairs backlog, cancelled 12.8% of operations last year.

Meanwhile, things look set to get worse, with health workers worried that jobs will be lost and services cut in order to finance new top bureaucratic posts if hospital and ambulance services "opt out" of NHS control. Trent Health Authority has announced its support of opting out, while 6,000 local people have signed petitions against it, in the understanding that hospital beds are more important than big salaries for directors of finance, personnel and the like.

The Health Service gets progressively more knackered, the outlook is grim for working class people in Sheffield.

