

# Taking Liberties

number 2: may-to-july 1991

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Newsletter of the Northern Anarchist Black Cross

## Robert Taylor

Here is a letter received from Robert Taylor a prisoner in HMP Garth, he was 'framed' by Greater Manchester Police and is now serving a 12 year sentence for a robbery he did not commit. He was convicted on the evidence of an ID parade alone:

*"I write in the hope that people who read about my fight to prove my innocence will help and support me in any way they can. I am doing 12 years for a robbery I didn't commit. The evidence against me was from an ID parade. There were 6 witnesses who all described a 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins slim white male. I am 6ft, well built and of mixed race. I was put on a parade of 4 black*

*men and 4 white men. Why were 4 dark skinned people put on a parade when six witnesses described the suspect as slim and white."*

In charge of the investigation against Robert were DS Kellett and DC Morris of the Greater Manchester Police Force. At Collyhurst Police Station, where the rigged ID parade took place, Robert com-

plained against the constables' method of indicating to witnesses who they should pick out. Witnesses who entered after he made his complaint all failed to identify Robert. *"I objected to the inspector about him and that none of the people on the parade were similar to me in any way."* His solicitor, Keith Dyson, who observed this malpractice, now became a witness himself in Robert's case and so could no longer act for him. The police provided him with a replacement solicitor - Vic Wosnick - who completely failed to take Robert's instructions and omitted to call Keith Dyson as a witness. The ID parade evidence was accepted. **cont. on p. 5**

## Screws In Action

*"Her Majesty's prison service serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. Our duty is to look after them with humanity and to help them lead law abiding and useful lives in custody and after release"*

Last month ITN's 'World In Action' programme screened two features on the British prison service. The above statement is on a sign outside every prison in the country. The two programmes contrasted this intention with real cases of brutality and injustice which occur within prison walls.

The first feature tackled the subject of the 'Hate Factories', notorious local prisons where prisoners have been severely assaulted by members of staff. The message put over by the 'World in Action' team was that the Woolf Report - investigating the prison service in the wake of the 1990 prison uprisings - did not tackle the question of brutality. Several cases were de-

tailed including the horrific assault on Martin Foran which took place in June 1986 on the hospital wing at Walton prison; Martin Foran was viciously attacked by members of the medical staff whilst recuperating from a colostomy operation. Eventually Martin was offered £750 compensation, the Home office admitted no liability and the compensation was paid on condition that the incident was not to be publicised....'World In Action' didn't mention the fact that the money was never paid! Several cases repeated the same pattern, brutal attacks by members of staff, money offered after a fight and no criminal charges pressed, suggesting that members of the prison

**continued on page 4**

### Screws In Action II

A prison officer was Jailed on May 22nd on 3 charges of assaulting an inmate at Armley Jail in Leeds. Christopher Carlton, 31, was sentenced to 9 months - 3 suspended after a 5 week trial in Durham. Between '87 and '89 Carlton and two other officers (both cleared) assaulted prisoners mainly in the punishment block.



For every prison officer found guilty of such charges many more are allowed to get away with such brutality (which usually results in prisoners being charged themselves).

**supporting class war prisoners**

# Paddy Murphy

## Irish Anarchist

*PADRAIG O'MURCHU - (anglisised to Paddy Murphy) is a great man. A man who has dared and still dares to be different.*

In 1989 he was arrested at his home in Belfast on bullshit charges of "possession of explosives" and "conspiracy to cause explosions with persons unknown".

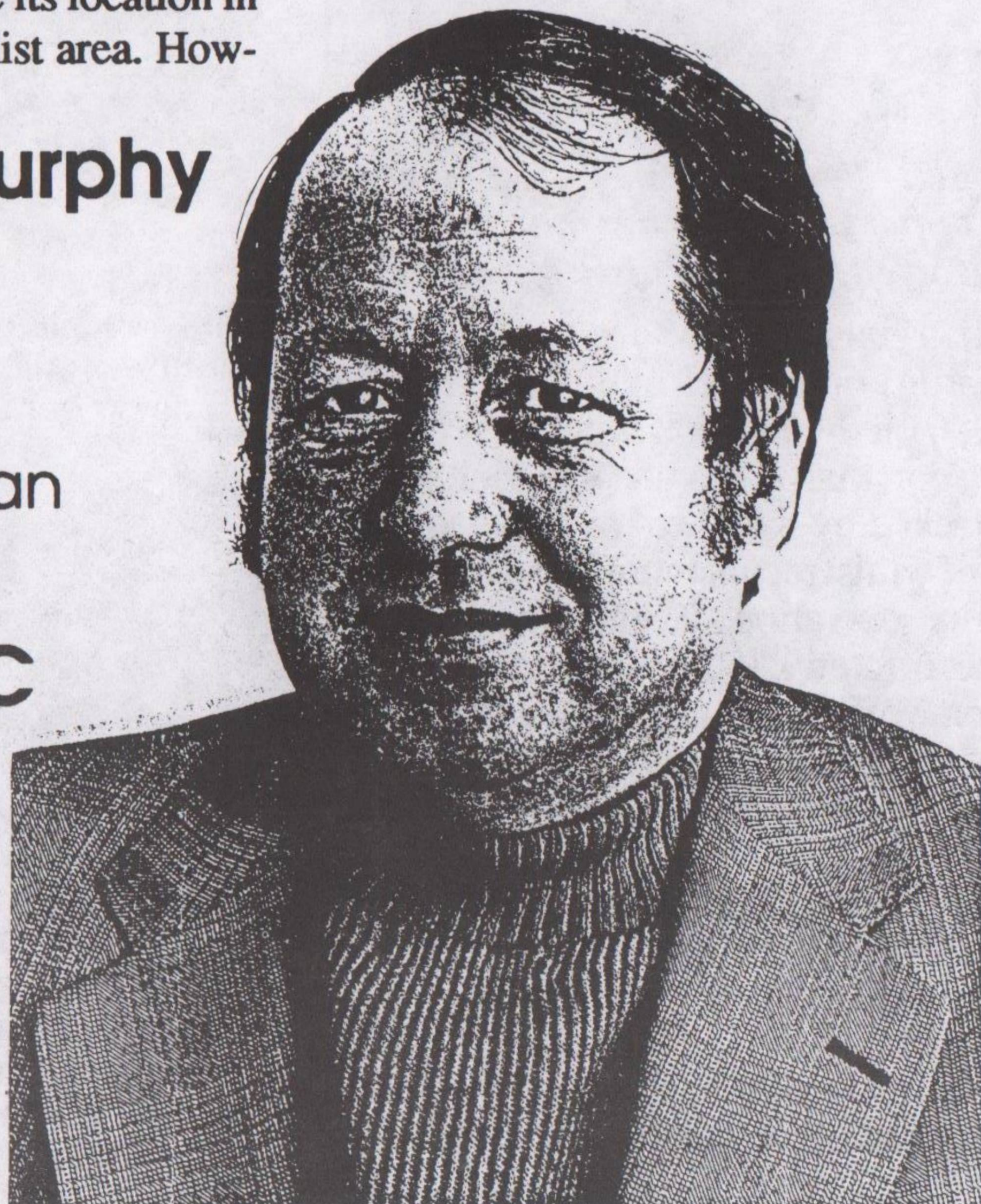
He was remanded in Belfast's Crumlin Road prison. The disgusting and degrading conditions of this evil Victorian prison are well documented (it has to be seen to be believed) and it is a mark of the man and his integrity as an anarchist that, whilst on remand, Paddy could get on with both Republican's and Loyalist's, recognising that despite political differences they were all prisoners and had a common enemy.

At the end of 1990, after 18 months on remand, Paddy was convicted by the Diplock Court system (one judge and NO jury!!! Coming this way soon?) to 5 years. Paddy had been well supported by his friends and the Belfast ABC and was visited regularly whilst in "The Crum", despite its location in a predominantly Loyalist area. How-

ever despite the fact that Paddy is from Belfast and all his friends are in Belfast., the authorities placed him in a prison over 100 miles away. This is no accident, the Northern Ireland Office has a policy of finding prisoners places near to their families and roots but in practice they almost never do this so as to make it as difficult as possible for prisoners and their families.

Needless to say Paddy is innocent and despite ill health brought on by prison conditions and bad-shit happening to an elderly relative, he has managed to remain cheerful and always has a joke or two to crack in his letters.

SHOW SOME SOLIDARITY, send Paddy a card or a letter and if you've got even a small bit of cash to help towards the cost of his visitors travel or to buy papers, magazines etc for Paddy then send it to Belfast ABC. Nice One!!!



## Padraig Murphy

A2837

H-Block 2

C Wing

HMP Magilligan

Co. Derry

## Belfast ABC

PO Box 148

Belfast

## Glen Lewis

### Suffering Harrasment

Glen Lewis was arrested in January '87 framed for armed robbery and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment; the work of the now infamous West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

He has recently been moved away from family and friends at HMP Long Lartin to Wakefield. His case papers were with-held temporarily by the authorities and he has been suffering harrasment during visits. This is an attempt to isolate and demmoralise him, making his fight against conviction more difficult.

Letters of support to:

**Glen Lewis W56246,**  
HM Prison,  
5 Love Lane,  
Wakefield,  
WF2 9AG,  
West Yorkshire.

## Dartmoor 'Riot' Trial

16 men are currently being tried on charges of Riot at Winchester Crown Court relating to the prison protest in April last year at HMP Dartmoor (just one week after Strangeways blew).

Over a hundred took part in the uprising; protesting against conditions and brutality. D and C wings were taken over and a dozen made it onto the roof. The trial is expected to finish at the end of July.

We send all our support.



## Anti-Fascist Prisoners

Since the first issue of TL the prisoners who gave Niki 'Nazi' Crane a bashing have been moved. So here's the updated info:

**Tony David** NT1338, HMP Blundeston, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 5BG. (Birthday 13th April)

**David Phelan** NT1337, Bisley Prison, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX. (Birthday 28th Jan.)

**Mark Malin** NT1335, HMP The Verne, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1EQ. (Birthday 7th Dec.)

## *Framed prisoner needs support*

**John McGranaghan**, supported by a range of groups in Britain (from 'Justice' to the RCG), was 'framed' in 1982 on charges of rape.

After being charged with two assaults on prison officers (one of them serious). He has been moved from Gartree on 'Good Order and Discipline' charges and has ended up in the punishment block at Parkhurst Jail. We urge people to write letters of support to John:

**John McGranaghan**  
BU0471  
HMP Parkhurst  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 5NX

## Suicide at Armley

Michael Rawnsley, a father aged 31, from Bradford who was remanded to Armley jail Leeds on robbery charges, became the 8th prisoner to commit suicide there in 3 years.

On Monday 29th of April, just 10 days later, Philip Darley aged 17 from Leeds, also remanded for robbery, attempted suicide. This left him critically ill for a time.

# Poll Tax Prisoners

The fight against the Poll Tax has seen the State jailing protesters; mainly from the Battle of Trafalgar Square and Brixton prison picket, but also from earlier Town Hall demonstrations. This is an attempt to both criminalize the dissent and frighten us off the streets. We must resist their efforts to break us, and keep in touch with the prisoners. Here is a list of those currently inside:

**Allan Clarke**, MV2254, HMP Coldingley. Send cards rather than letters. Convicted Sept '90 2 years.

**Brian Tavares**, MV3239, HMP Wandsworth. EDR Nov '92.

**Michael Neal**, MV3973, HMP Pentonville. EDR Jan '93.

**Timothy Donaghy**, MW0105, HMP Belmarsh. EDR Sept '93.

**Darren Healey**, RA2183, HMP Wandsworth. EDR Sept '92.

**Tim Paine**, MW0231, HMP High Point. EDR Dec '91.

**Neil Bremner**, MW0216, HMP Coldingley.

**Martin Benfield**, PF2678, HMP Wandsworth. Send letters via Poll Tax Prisoners Group (address below).

**Paul Jacob**, RA0711, HMP Wandsworth. EDR Nov '92.

**Richard Andrews**, MW0962, HMP Wandsworth.

**Matt Lee**, MW1054, HMP Wandsworth.

**Steven Lynn**, MW1028, HMP Ford.

**Steve Curtis**, MW1182, HMP Northeye. EDR June '91.

**Simon Russell**, ND1666, HMP The Mount. EDR Sept '93.

**Ian Lord**, MW 3124, HMP Wandsworth.

**Robert Wray**, MW1242, HMP Feltham.

**Keith Wray**, MW1241, HMP Feltham.

**Adrian Pugh**, RC0629, HMP Northeye.

**Alan Brown**, MW0094, HMP Northeye.

**Steven Murray**, MW0218, HMP High Point

(EDR=earliest date of release)

HMP Feltham, Bedfont Rd., Feltham, Middx, TW1 34ND

HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London, N7 8TT

HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Woolwich, SE2

HMP Northeye, Barnhorn Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4QN

HMP The Mount, Molyneaux Avenue, Bovington, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP30NZ

HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Rd, Wandsworth, London, SW18 3HS

HMP High Point, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9YG

HMP Coldingley, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX

HMP Ford, Ford, nr. Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0BX

HMP Brixton, Jebb Ave, London, SW2 5XF

The Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign has a prisoners group which gives both moral and material support to anti-Poll Tax prisoners.

For Further info. contact;

### **Poll Tax Prisoners Group**

c/o Room 205  
Panther House  
38 Mount Pleasant  
London WC 1X  
Tel: 071-833 8958

## 'Screws In Action' cont;

staff are immune from prosecution. The program finished by looking at the use of the body belt to subject supposedly disruptive prisoners who are deemed to be out of control. The belt is to subdue prisoners for up to four days; although one hand is meant to be kept free this doesn't happen in practice. The Authorities conceded that the belt was used 90 times in 1989.

The next feature dealt with 'The Ghost Train', where prisoners are made to pack and are taken to other prisons, then left in solitary for a time only to be moved yet again. This process is sanctioned by prison Governors under a regulation - 10/74. There is no need for a Governor to provide evidence for such a ruling, no right of appeal, and Parliament has never sanc-

tioned this procedure - neither have the effects of 'The Ghost Train' accompanied by long periods in segregation ever been researched although the practice has been going on for seventeen years, replacing the control unit system in 1974. Prison reformers interviewed on the programme pointed out that at least under the older system a prisoner who conforms to the unit would be returned to full association, whilst under 10/47 there is no guarantee of being removed from solitary. But both systems are felt to be repressive and inhumane. The second programme also mentioned how families of prisoners are effected badly by the 'Ghost

Train', and ended by covering the case of Andy Cunningham. Cunningham was disciplined at Parkhurst for emptying the contents of a slop bucket over a member of staff, and removed to Camphill Jail. There



he was hosed in his cell, badly assaulted and left with a broken arm. Later he was placed in a body belt and 'ghosted' to Pentonville without his injury being treated.

Overall the programmes were useful to all people who realise the need for a serious look at human rights abuses in Britain, the features also highlighted how closed and unaccountable the legal system is. The Prison Officers Association declined to take part in the programme, so much for the 'workers in uniform' whom our comrades on the left (especially 'Militant') seem to think are potential allies. At the end of the day 'Law and Order' as shown in the hate factories reflects a class dominated society; those with least power bearing the brunt of crime and the brunt of state brutality within the prison walls. World in Action highlighted the true nature of imprisonment in this society. Makes a change!

## Strangeways Uprising Trial

Don't forget the 26 prisoners on trial!

26 men were committed to Crown Court in March on charges relating to the Strangeways uprising of April last year. All face the charge of riot (section 1 of the Public Order Act, of which no-one has been convicted since it was introduced, inside or out). 20 of them are also charged with conspiracy to cause GBH and 4 are accused of the murder of a prisoner on remand for sex offences.

The police investigation into the uprising cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, it has involved 120 coppers who have interviewed most of the inmates of Strangeways at the time and have collected forensic evidence from the prison itself.

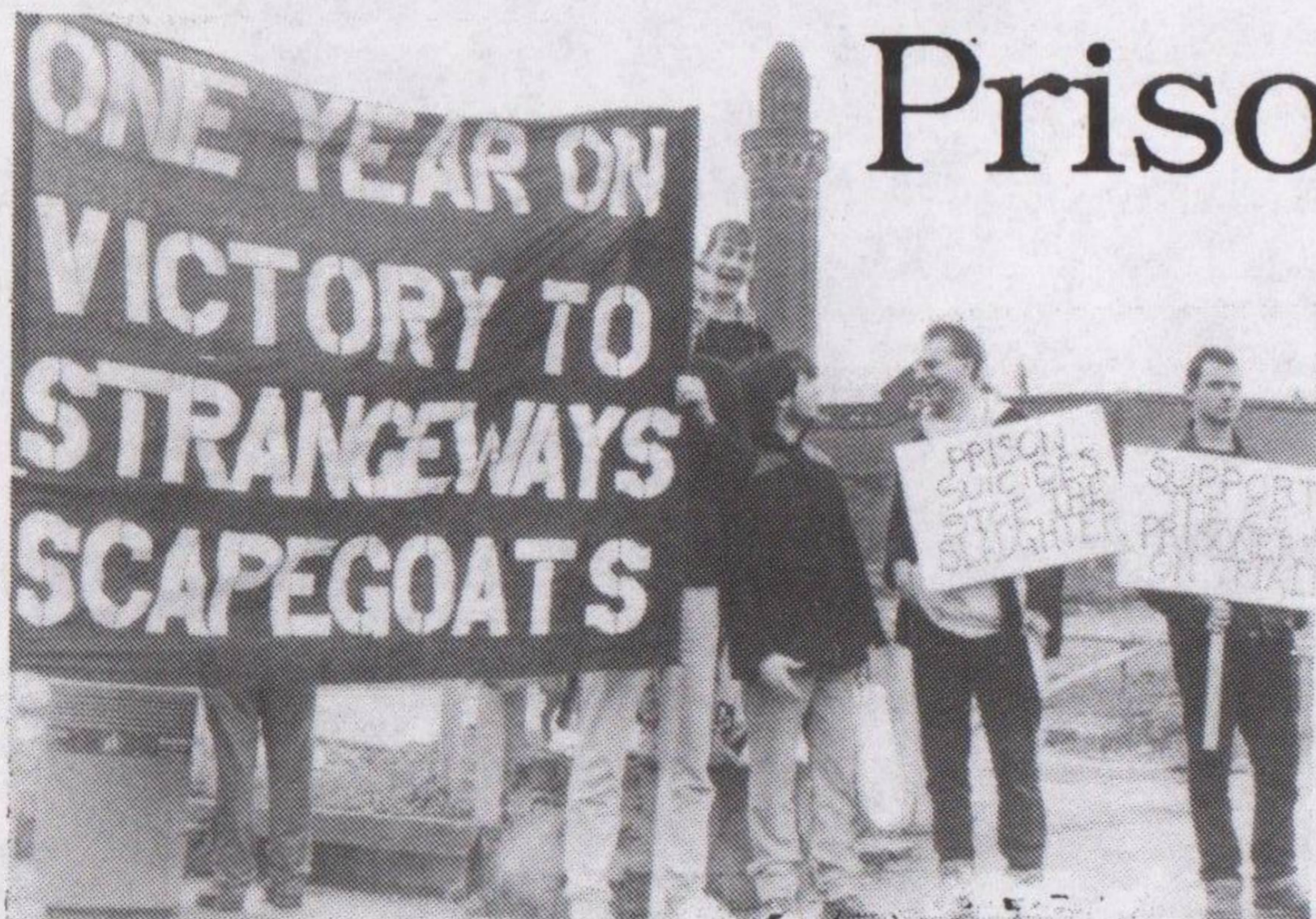
David Bowen, one of the Strangeways 26, wrote a letter of thanks to those who supported them. He empha-

sises how letters from outside are helping the defendants feel stronger and discourages the system from abusing them- so keep writing. The trial starts on July 8th and will probably take place at Lancaster Crown Court.

David says in his letter: "...comments from the prison screws like, 'We lost Risley, we won't lose Strangeways.' like it is some sort of game, only give us strength." (The Risley 54 prisoners were found not-guilty of riot earlier this year. A major defeat for the authorities.)

David Bowen should be released on May 31st from his present sentence. We should give these heroes all our support so that David and the rest do not do even more time for fighting for their rights. Lets see the same result as Risley.

## Prison Picket



Around 25 people turned out with banners and placards on April 1st to mark the anniversary of the revolt at Strangeways and to support the men who have been charged with serious offences.

Despite the rain the picket went well with everyone agreed that it was very worthwhile.

## Some of the Strangeways 26:

**Alan Lord A80382** - HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD

**Glyn Williams** - HMP Hull, Hendon Rd, Hull, HU9 5LS

**John Murry** - HMP Walton, 68 Hornby Rd, Liverpool, L9 3DF

**Paul Taylor AN0564** - HMP Brixton, Jebb Ave, London, SW2 5XF

**David Bowen BP1048 & Barry Morton** - HMP Preston, 2 Ribbleton Lane, Preston, PR1 5AB

# Great Escape

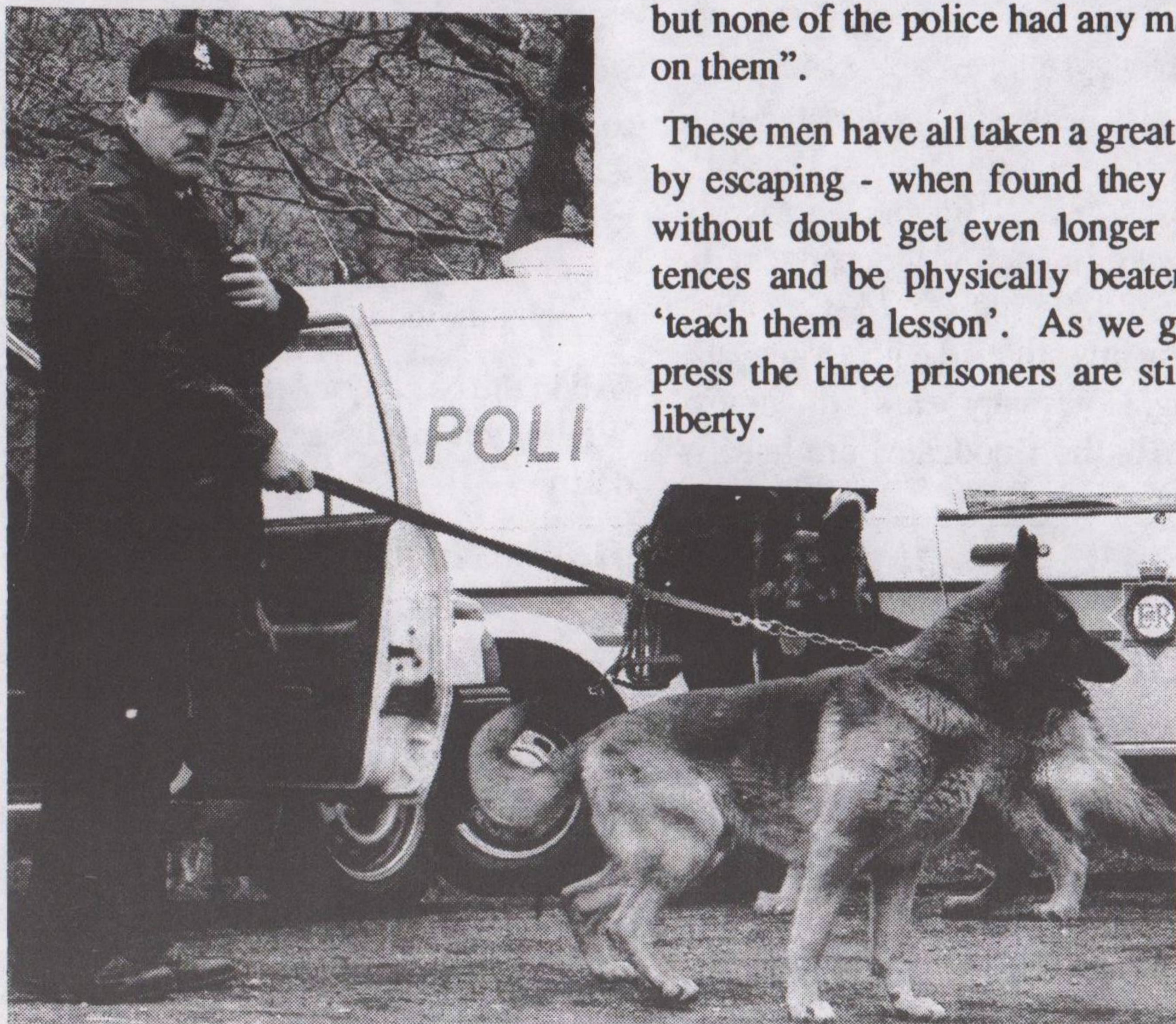
At about 8.55 am on Thursday 2nd of May, a prison bus carrying 12 remand prisoners from Hull to Sheffield and Rotherham magistrates courts, was taken under control of the prisoners. As the bus drove through the Sheffield area of Shiregreen, a screw was stabbed in the hand and the other 7 screws overpowered and manacled with their own handcuffs. The bus was then driven to Grenoside (also in Sheffield) where 8 prisoners escaped and scattered in surrounding woods.

Immediately the media machine in collaboration with the police went into overdrive to try and cause as much hysteria as possible. The first line in the Sheffield Star read "Vicious prisoners armed with makeshift knives overwhelmed guards...". We were then told, "they all have violent backgrounds, are armed and should not be approached". It was no surprise that the media did not once ask why they had escaped. Squads of armed police, tracker dog handlers, mounted police and helicopters spread out across nearby housing estates and woods. This 'dragnet' caught 4 prisoners within 24 hours. Armed police raided

3 homes in Sheffield trying to find the prisoner they claim masterminded the escape - Bernard Andrews. As is usual, the police and media speaking as one had to find a scapegoat and ringleader and Bernard Andrews was chosen. He was due to appear in Sheffield magistrates court charged with planning to rob a Securicor van in Hillsborough. Also still on the run are Craig Allen, 27, wanted on robbery and deception charges and Mohamed Afzal, accused of drug dealing. Jason Mullins, 21, accused of drugs, motoring offences and theft was caught mid-May.

The family of one of the recaptured prisoners - Barry Pollard - claimed he was assaulted by police whilst being re-arrested, suffering dog bites, bruised legs and kidney pains. He was previously assaulted during the arrest which led to his remand. His family also stated that the escape was to highlight his plight, that he has been FRAMED. His mother, Barbara, said, "We'll help him as much as possible to clear his name". His girlfriend also commented on his injuries, "When I went to visit him he was in a mess with cuts to his face. They said it was a violent arrest, but none of the police had any marks on them".

These men have all taken a great risk by escaping - when found they will without doubt get even longer sentences and be physically beaten to 'teach them a lesson'. As we go to press the three prisoners are still at liberty.



## "Robert Taylor" cont. from front page

*"This was the so-called evidence that has sent me to prison for 12 years. At my so-called 'fair trial' I was enclosed in a glass dock with 4 screws and police on both sides of the court, I will leave it to you to judge the effect that had on the jury. At my trial the inspector swore on oath that I didn't make any objections during the ID parade and that the witnesses walked from right to left and from left to right before identifying me but they in fact walked directly towards me. Under cross examination he admitted that I had objected to all the people on the parade. DC Morris said he couldn't remember this as he hadn't recorded it. Why? Everything, by law has to be recorded in a parade room. Two of the witnesses stated they walked directly to me and back to the inspector. So who's lying and why?"*

*This is the evidence which the Greater Manchester Police framed me with and we have untold amounts of evidence to prove my innocence. I need all the help and support I can get. If you would like to help me or know more about what's gone on please contact me or my legal advisor, who will help you in any way he can. I think a lot of people will be amazed at how easy the police can frame someone with blatant fixed evidence and send them to prison for a long time.*

In need of support,

Robert Taylor"

**Robert Taylor,**  
AK3468, HMP Garth, Ulnes  
Walton Lane, Leyland,  
Lancs, PR5 3NE

**Mr. J. Stevenson,**  
1 Allerton Close,  
Alexandra Park, Moss  
Side, Manchester

# Tony Wellington - Released

On March 25th, Tony Wellington became the fourth person to have his conviction quashed after being framed by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (WMSCS). Jailed in January '88 after being fitted up for a Post Office raid in November '86, he got 10 years.

The only evidence was a statement signed by him admitting his role. However, Electrostatic Document Analysis (ESDA) proved that three pages had been falsified and inserted afterwards (one of the WMSCS favourite tactics). During his appeal it became obvious that once again the practice of using uncorroborated evidence, eg. confessions and falsified ones at that, although condemned by everyone with half a brain, is alive and well and being used by the state. It is after all the easiest way for the police to get convictions. The appeal court made no references to any WMSCS conspiracy, nor did it deal with the 'patterns of (mis)behaviour' common to different cases. In fact the judge went out of his way to avoid dealing with any links between cases or obvious patterns of police behaviour. As Steven Jones, solicitor, said, "The appeal court is avoiding making its position clear on the pattern issue because it fears it would be opening the floodgates." This suggests that the state fears that it would have to release all its FRAMED prisoners. Because it is involved in a serious damage limitation exercise, the state cannot afford such an admission of police corrup-



tion. Consequently the ruling was made in an arrogant and grudging way, with no criticism of the police. The attitude of the state in cases like Tony's is not that the police have been out of order for framing people, but that their only mistake is to do it so obviously and get found out. For all the commotion, only three framed prisoners, linked directly to the WMSCS, have been released since 1989 (when the Squad was disbanded); Hassan Khan in Feb. '90, John Edwards in Jan. '91, and now Tony Wellington in March '91. According to the Independent of March 26th, 95 more WMSCS cases are being investigated with 15 appeals pending. How many years is this going to take? - the floodgates are hardly opening.

## 'Patterns of Misbehaviour'

One of these patterns concerns DC Woodley. He interviewed Tony Wellington and also John Edwards. He has also been linked to contested admissions in the cases of Roy Meads and Michael Bromell, both framed by the WMSCS. Roy Meads was convicted and sentenced in 1984 to 15 years on charges of armed robbery, on the grounds of an alleged verbal admission made to the WMSCS officers and the testimony of a 'supergrass'. The 'supergrass' later retracted his evidence just leaving 'a verbal admission' against Roy. His case is no nearer the court of appeal, though has encouraging support from his local MP.

Michael Bromell was sentenced to 7 years for 'unlawful wounding' in 1987 and the prosecution case consisted of 2 statements containing admissions Michael denied making. When Michael approached the Police Complaints Authority over this, West Midlands police had to concede that his file had mysteriously 'disappeared', and along with other documents in the records of this force has not been found to this day.

While the State begrudgingly lets some of its class war prisoners go, as if to show it is getting its house in order, it is at the same time quite happily keeping thousands of others locked up, unwilling to release them for fear of 'opening the floodgates'.

All in the Northern A.B.C send Tony Wellington our best wishes and solidarity.

## "Taking Liberties";

All contributions are very welcome - letters, articles, comments etc. to:

**Taking Liberties,**  
PO Box 446  
Sheffield  
South Yorks

## Get your regular copy of TL:

Free to prisoners - just let us know.

For others, send us postage, and specify number.

## Northern Anarchist Black Cross:

A new ABC group has been formed in Manchester. If you live in the area and want to be involved in prisoner support then get in touch;

**Manchester ABC,  
Box 8,1 Newton St,  
Piccadilly, Manchester.**

The views expressed in TL are not necessarily those of the NABC as a whole.