

# info...

## politics

Anarchist Workers Assoc.  
Lorraine Robinson  
Rear 261 Preston Rd.  
Brighton.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN  
(MARXIST-LENINIST)  
Meets 37 Gloucester Rd.  
1st Friday of each month.  
684404.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND  
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contact address 29, Queens  
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# BRIGHTON VOICE

No 27.

Dec '75. 6p

## TOWN CLERK STABS RIGHTS CENTRE IN BACK

### UNDERHAND LETTER RUINS CHANCE OF LEASE AND GRANT

A shady and vicious act by Brighton's Town Clerk, Reg Morgan has helped to stop any further grant to the Brighton Rights Centre. For the past nine months the Rights Centre in Prince Albert Street has been giving free and sympathetic legal advice to hundreds of people who have no money to employ a solicitor. The Citizens' Advice Bureau have come round to support it and to send it cases. Now its future seems uncertain. It has just been refused further money by East Sussex County Council who also refuse to back its application for government aid. Who is responsible? The Social Services Committee took the decision but the case against the Centre was made in a poisonous letter by Reg Morgan. We print this letter on page 6 and readers, councillors and Morgan's own colleagues can see what a sly and cunning letter it is. The way it was used is even more shady, and it is that, as well as the well-known prejudices of Morgan, which call for public condemnation and outrage.

FULL STORY pp 6-7

- 2) Shrewsbury picket in Brighton
- 3) Essential social services being cut.
- 4) In temporary accommodation - for 14 years with
- 5) New Vice Chancellor for egocentric students?

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- 6&7) Morgan's letter to axe Rights Centre.
- 8&9) Women's Centre - 1st Birthday Pie shop & Right to Read.
- 10) Letters.
- 11&12) Info.

**BOOM**  
IN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT



TWO NEW  
SIGNING ON CENTRES  
OPENED  
IN  
BRIGHTON & HOVE

## TRADE UNIONS CAMPAIGN AGAINST WELFARE CUTS

Brighton Hove and District Trades  
Council are holding a one day  
conference at:

THE ROYAL PAVILION  
Conference Rm 2

on  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22nd 1975  
10.30am - 4.30pm.

The conference will provide a  
rallying point in the fight against  
the slashing cuts in social services  
proposed by the government.

Speakers, local and national, at  
the conference will include:

- 1, Alan Chamberlain on the implications of the cuts for the nationalised industries.
- 2, Dana Harber on the Health Service.
- 3, Tim Stone on education.

(turn to page 2)

There will be a demonstration in  
London on Sat Nov 29 against the  
proposed Criminal Trespass Law.  
Coaches will be going from the  
Brighton area. Ring Neil Hunt  
680380 for details

### WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE VOICE.

#### CENTRAL BRIGHTON

ANANDA: 19 Bond St.  
ANTIQUÉ MARKET: Union Hall  
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ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St.  
INFINITY FOODS: 25 North Rd.  
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Rd.  
PHOENIX BOOKS: N.E. St. Peter's.  
STREET NEWS STAND: N.E. corner  
Churchill Square.  
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market St.  
THE NEWS STAND: London Rd.  
by Sainsbury's.

#### WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE

CORDELL'S: 99 Western Rd. Hove.  
PUBLIC HOUSE: 21 Little Preston St.  
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd.

#### NORTH BRIGHTON

FRANKLIN'S: 93 Preston Drive.  
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Rd.  
TOBIAS' STORES: 167 Elm Grove.

#### KEMPTOWN

BOOKS: 80b St. James's St.  
BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE.  
18-19 George St.  
LUMLEY'S: 145 Edward St.  
KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91 St. George's Rd.

#### UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main counter.  
WHOLE EARTH BOOKSTALL:  
HILL'S: The University Newsagents.

# FREE DES WARREN

Ricky Tomlinson, the freed Shrewsbury picket, was in Brighton on October 24th. Three hundred students at Sussex University turned up to hear him speak but barely fifty people managed to drag themselves to the Wagner Hall in the evening - though this was partly due to a lack of publicity.

After a film about the 'conspiracy' and the people involved, there was a talk by Nick Slater, from the Brighton Rights Centre, about the ease with which a conspiracy charge can be trumped up on hearsay evidence and the length of prison sentences which can be imposed - the Shrewsbury Three were done for conspiracy.

Then Ricky Tomlinson spoke. No-one who was there will forget in a hurry the anger, the subdued emotion and the resilience with which Ricky told his side of the story of a political trial "rigged and staged from the word go", by the building employers and the Conservative government after the police had originally recommended that no charges be brought.

Why should charges be brought? It was a peaceful picket. The only casualty during the picketing was a man who was cut by a stone. But even he admitted having pelted the picketers with stones from the scaffolding first.

He told us how Chief Inspector Meredith perjured himself at the trial by denying that he had congratulated the pickets on their behaviour - he denied shaking hands with Warren until a picture was produced: he then claimed that he was 'restraining' Warren.

He told us how the Three were 'identified' by police pictures which had their names on. The Home Office has recently admitted that this was 'unprecedented'.

He told us how the police forgot to take statements from the union officials who officiated at the meeting where the 'conspiracy' is alleged to have taken place - though 800 other statements were taken including those of every other person at the meeting and those of their families.

He told us how the police offer to drop the conspiracy charges if the men would plead guilty to one of the minor charges. He told us how the foreman of the jury which convicted them walked out in disgust when he

heard the sentences; he thought they'd get a fine or a few months gaol at most.

Then there was the press campaign to paint the pickets as black as possible. He told us how the Daily Mail followed their wives and kids around and how they badgered the neighbours to dig up dirt - and couldn't find anything.

He told us how they were harrassed in prison, how they were sentenced to an extra thirty five days for not making the beds the right way etc and how they followed a policy of non co-operation to emphasise the injustice done to them.

For Ricky this is past, but Des Warren is still there and because he hasn't capitulated at all, things are worse for him and it has affected him to the state where his health is very bad. Ricky intends to spend his freedom trying to secure that of Des Warren but the response from organised labour has been very bad.

Ricky's outburst at the TUC was due to his being told by the general council that as far as they were concerned, Warren would be staying in gaol.

People have been saying that the Shrewsbury pickets are a stale issue now but that certainly isn't true for Des Warren who has almost a year still to serve. And is this the reward to be shown to men who have sacrificed so much for the labour movement?

The Shrewsbury pickets were done under class justice. The conspiracy laws are the ones which can be invoked to mete out lashing sentences for trivial charges. If a company poisons the air and kills its workers O.K., but if men picket or pose any form of threat to capitalism they can be sent down for 'life' on trumped up charges resting on hearsay evidence, life-style, reading matter.

Surely the Labour Movement owes it to itself as well as to the Shrewsbury men to fight to FREE DES WARREN.

## Trades Council Conference.

The government is attacking our standards of living on two fronts: by massive attacks on the social wage - the services we receive from the government in return for taxes and rates - and by direct cuts in real wages by the imposition of the £6 pay limit.

The real meaning of these policies is becoming clearer with every day that passes. Despite the £6 wage freeze, prices are continuing to soar - by an estimated 25% still in January - and so does the rate of unemployment which is expected to reach 2,000,000 by next Christmas.

What does this mean? Hardship on a scale unknown since the 30's - when the government tried to use exactly the same policies to end recession and only succeeded in creating a slump.

Not only that, but all the services provided by the 'welfare state' are to be cut: schools, colleges, day nurseries, hospitals, housing etc despite the fact that many are inadequate anyway. Only 'law and order' services will grow.

You don't have to be an economic genius to see that these cuts will only make the crisis worse. Every cut means fewer jobs, more unemployment, less money in people's pockets to buy things produced by other workers - leading to more unemployment.

At the same time, you'll be paying more taxes and rates - money which is wasted on Concorde, out of date weaponry, £15,000,000,000 subsidies to private profiteers and the £2,000,000,000 which goes to banks and money lenders as interest payment.

The Trades Council conference on November 22nd at the Royal Pavilion will be covering all aspects of the public expenditure cuts. The aim of this conference is to provide a rallying point for the initiation of an extensive local campaign to oppose the cuts and through which the public will be made aware of the real effects which these cuts will have on their lives.

There will be local and national speakers on the platform and the afternoon sessions will be open to discussion on the development of the campaign. It is intended that an Action Committee will come out of the conference, made up of representatives from Trade Union branches.

Remember, cuts in our Health, Education & Social Services, which we pay for, will mean larger hospital waiting lists; overcrowded classrooms, less facilities for the old, disabled, the homeless and more unemployment, not just 'elsewhere' but here in Brighton too.

Come to the Conference.  
SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN.  
STOP THE CUTS

## Tories Slash Services

Ignoring the total opposition of Social Services staff and the Labour and Liberal councillors, the Tory majority on the Social Services Committee has steamrollered slashing cuts in next year's levels of services.

At their last meeting, on October 31st., Chairman Preddy (look out for his lovely new Daimler, JP 65) spearheaded the fight to save money at the expense of those in need.

The following are just the first instalment of the recommended cuts; with them we give an assessment of the probable effects made by Dennis Allen, Director of Social Services.

CUT Day care provisions for the elderly.

"This would obviously cause considerable hardship and may result in an increasing demand for residential and medical care."

CUT Comforts funds for old people's homes.

"those little extras which make life worthwhile."

CUT Recuperative holidays for the elderly.

This:-"might lead to more stress being placed on the family situation and to demands for permanent residential or health care."

CUT Aids for physically handicapped.

"The point would soon be reached where people were seriously impaired in their day to day living."

CUT Bed and breakfast provision for the homeless.

"If district councils do not find alternative ways of dealing with the problem, there could be increasing pressure to receive children into care."

CUT The emergency social work service.

"The effects would be severely felt by other agencies, such as the police and health service, they have already expressed concern about this."

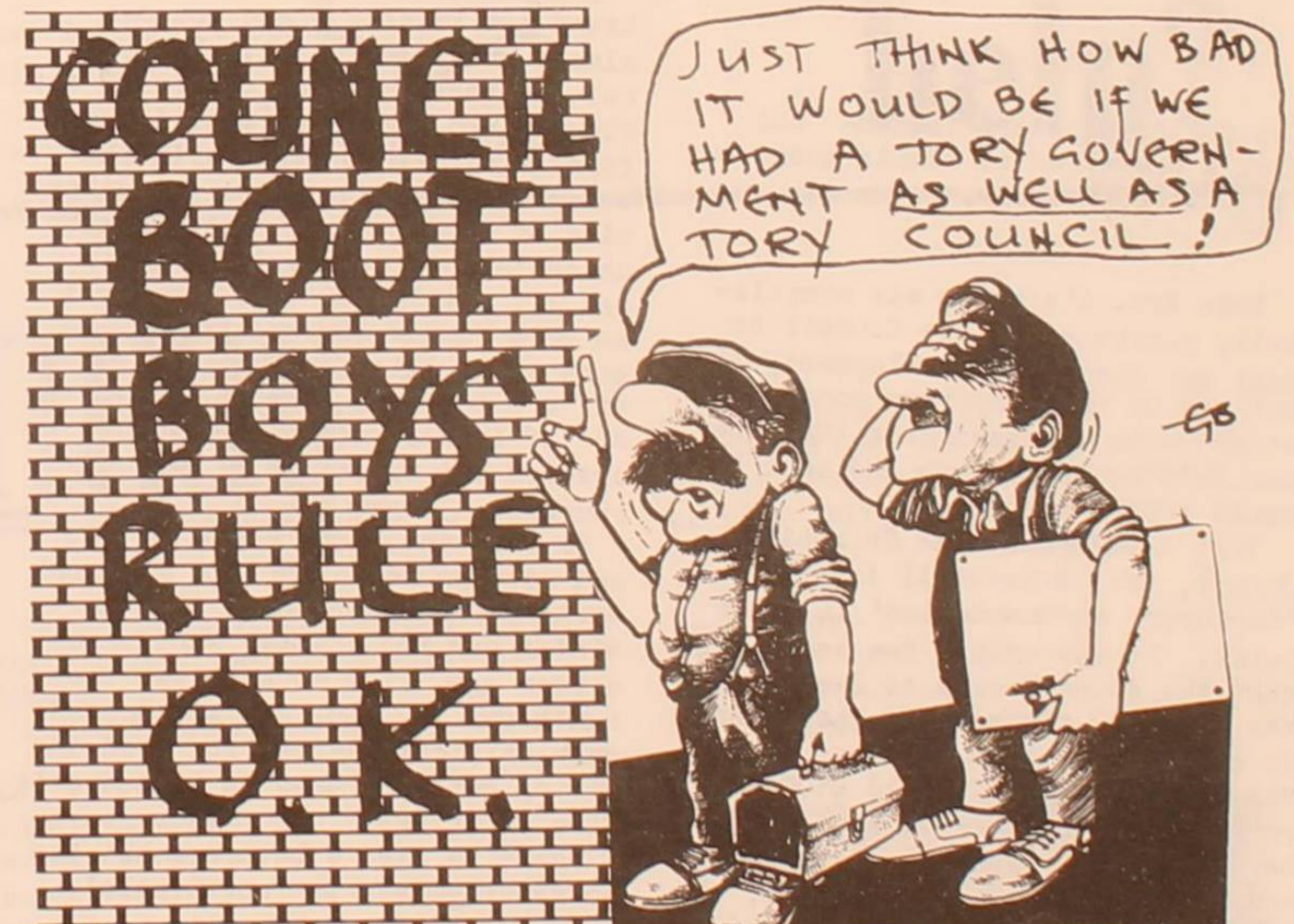
IT is quite clear that there is going to be a great deal of unnecessary suffering as a result of the Tories refusal to switch funds from useless status projects (such as a Marina) or put the question of the cuts directly to the rate-payers, who might not be quite so callous as their well-heeled 'representatives'. The effect of the proposals will be to produce short-term savings but a long-term drain on resources, to transfer costs from the local authority to the already staggering health service and to reduce provisions for the homeless. They will

also increase the powers of the police by forcing them to decide whether or not to admit people to the mental hospitals during the night and at weekends - a job for which they have no training and which they would rather not have.

As if this isn't enough, the total that could be saved by these cuts is only £306,000, less than half of the £750,000 required. Obviously some of the second line of cuts recommended by the Committee will be needed as well - and these are even more horrifying than those above. These include reductions in the

(already inadequate) accommodation for the elderly, mentally ill and, at the same time, a reduction in the amount of money available to help people in the community: a perfect Catch-22.

The final decision as to exactly how much will have to go will be made by the Policy and Resources Committee on November 25th and then rubber-stamped by the full Council. Both meetings are in Lewes and are open to the public; try and get there - you'll see which councillors work for the community and which work for themselves, if nothing else.



## The Writing On The Wall

### FLASHY - NEW OFFICES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

In an appalling decision at a time of economic crisis, most Brighton social workers are to be forced to move to an expensive and totally inappropriate building.

The building, at 10 and 11 Pavilion Parade (with the unattractive mirror-glass windows) is one of the most expensive in Brighton, and is quite unsuitable for social work purposes. There are likely to be no interviewing rooms and there is no access for handicapped people - in contravention of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act of 1970. The floors cannot be properly partitioned, leaving most workers in massive open-plan rooms, without quiet or privacy.

Whilst all Brighton social workers are incredibly overcrowded in their present offices in Princes St., most were prepared to wait for more suitable accommodation - particularly when cuts in services are imminent - but Divisional Director Peter Atkins told a recent meeting that the decision had already been taken by the Management Team and that he "wasn't going to run to the social workers every time he wanted to do anything". This was despite the fact that he personally was not among those supposed to be moving, while the social workers were.

There was no question of consultation or participation in decisions; "You have to have some faith in the management", he said. All this means that while old people, children, the mentally ill and others in need are suffering from an even worse service than the present one, their social workers will be stuck unwillingly in an enormously expensive white elephant.

## 14 YEARS IN ROTTING HOUSE

The following story is true but Mrs. A preferred to remain anonymous for obvious reasons.

When Mrs. A's house was compulsorily purchased by the Council to make way for a new development, they put her up in 'temporary accommodation' with the assurance that she wouldn't be there long and that they would repair the house.

That development was Churchill Square, Mrs. A is still in her 'temporary accommodation' 14 years later. It was only a few weeks ago that the council came to decorate the kitchen, the rest of the house is still to be done. To get even this much Mrs. A withheld £100 in rent. The workmen said they would be coming back to do the basement and so, as a token of good will, the rent arrears were paid. Needless to say, the workmen haven't been back at all.

Mrs. A used to have her own house in Russell St. which she and her sister had built into the house they'd always wanted in the eight years they'd been living there. Then along came Churchill Square, and although Mrs. A did better than the old couple who were compensated £37 because their sole frontage consisted of a front door, she didn't get enough to buy another house like her one - certainly not after she'd paid her own moving and conveyancing fees. So, for the time being, the Council put her into short life housing.

Mrs. A 'isn't as young as she used to be'. She's by no means incapable but how many of us in our prime would care to redo a whole house - on our own, when we don't think we'll be staying there and when the house we'd worked on for eight years had been taken away from us?

Her temporary house comprises two bedrooms on the top floor. One of these Mrs. A has been told she shouldn't enter because the ceiling isn't safe. In the other the ceiling

also hangs low over the bed and moves if you touch it. The stairs are steep and narrow and there is no rail to hold onto. This leads to the front room on the ground floor where the ceiling did fall in at one corner and where the council workmen have left a patch of bare plaster - somewhat whiter than the dingy walls which all Mrs. A's furniture and hangings can't quite hide. Her cat is often to be found perched on top of a wardrobe staring intently at the ceiling through which the patter of tiny feet betrays the rats running between the rafters from the antique shop on the corner. The rat man calls at the street once a week to leave piles of poison scattered about.

Down more stairs we come to the brand new kitchen where you can almost smell the paint. The yard out the back has been decorated with flowers and shrubs by Mrs. A and forms a bitter contrast with the basement sitting room on the other side of the kitchen. This is also unusable due to damp. The paper was all peeling off but there was no more fungus because Mrs. A had scraped it all off. When we broke off a bit of the skirting board to see if it was rotten something crawled out of it and it began to crumble.

In fact the whole house is damp and rotting because it is supposed to be aired by the coal fire in winter and the chimney went caput a year ago. The council say they can't fix it. So, now she depends on electricity except for when the wiring gets the damp in it and sets fire to things.

There is also a bathroom but the hotwater geyser is 'unreliable' and then there was that incident when the council did some work in the street and forgot to turn her water back on - for three weeks.

These house were due to be pulled down fourteen years ago but only recently the corner antique shop was given a new five year lease. The only other accommodation Mrs. A has been offered is not only in even worse condition but was due to be pulled down in a year or so.

The Council intends to increase the already high rent for Mrs. A's house in the near future.

Name and address supplied to any councillor or social worker who'd like to follow this up with a view to helping Mrs. A.



## BOROUGH COUNCIL RULES OK?

Following the recent local government reorganisation which gave East Sussex more power and the councils of Brighton and Hove less, the civil servants of Lewes fell into the nasty habit of referring to Brighton and Hove as 'District' Councils. Following anguished complaints from officials in those two towns (their pride already dented by the reorganisation) this shocking state of affairs has been finally rectified. A circular recently went round County Hall with instructions that Brighton and Hove were in the future to be referred to, once more, as 'Borough Councils'.

Still on calling the Council all sorts of names.....

A man has recently been wandering around Brighton, paintbrush in hand, attacking all signs reading 'County Borough of Brighton' - and erasing the 'County'.

## HORROR IN HOVE — unlicensed

If David Barling's plan for licensing property (see last issue) is anything to go by, then licensing will prove ever less of a threat to private property than we supposed.

The bold scheme before which Hove's intrepid councillors are undergoing agonies of doubt and indecision calls for fifteen (that's right, ONE FIVE) two room flats to be let to the Council 'for a minimum period of six months' at £500 p.a. each unfurnished - without any security for the tenants.

Is the idea to increase accommodation? Perhaps it will give families some security for a decent life? Is it even for wishy-washy-liberal-humanitarian-philanthropic etc reasons? No, you've guessed it, it's the minimum number of flats needed to save paying Bed & Breakfast costs for homeless families.

Brighton Voice would like to apologise to its readers for having spread rumours about there being a viable Tory alternative to squatting.

## student apathy as tory tipped for university

A tory politician is now tipped as favourite for the soon to be vacant vice-chancellorship of Sussex University. But this event does not seem to have excited the slightest interest on the once militant campus, a few years ago one of the most active in Britain.

Edward Boyle, ex-M.P. and Tory Minister, is being tipped as the replacement for Asa Briggs who recently announced his transfer to the comfortable vaults of Oxford.

At the moment a handful of University managers and a body of local dignitaries are meeting behind closed doors to select the new leader. Their decision is expected within the near future and they are, according to reliable sources, "delighted" at the calm of the students, "We expected to face demands for collective decision taking, student votes, that kind of thing" said one. But instead the University leaders have been allowed to go ahead without questioning, scrutiny or any alternative suggestions from the student body. Apathy prevails. And the university's so-called radical academic staff, who a few years ago horrified British liberals by protesting publicly at the visit of a warmongering American professor, have been equally inactive. Many are likely to have been silenced by threats to their privileged jobs during the present economic crisis.

## no concern for local problems

This inactivity of the students is surprising because recently they have done fairly well on issues which concern themselves, like fighting price increases in food and rent, and getting more playgroups for their kids, all important issues, we don't deny that. No, what the students' apathy reminds us of is their total lack of interest in social problems in the local community, the problems of housing shortage and expense, the grossly underprivileged schools in the east of Brighton and the shabby council estates which a wealthy and ruthless Council conceals on the outskirts.

How many students care about the thousands of homeless in Brighton? Not many to judge by the easy way in which students continue to take the best rented property available with no thought that they are pricing a family with four kids out of the market. If they do care why don't they do something about it, like squatting, protesting to the council or pressurising the University to divert more funds into accommodation so that properties in Brighton could be freed for the homeless? They could at least demand to use short-life housing in Brighton. In London and other cities this has been done and several student housing associations are now licensed to squat in short-life properties.

There is a University organisation which tries to do something. It's called Link-Up but unfortunately and quite wrongly, it suffers from a do-gooder image among students who don't bother to find out what it really does. The other 'active' students - members of the various socialist organisations - sell a lot of good newspapers and some have got involved with workers in Brighton factories. Now that's getting somewhere near the real thing.

As for the rest of the students, not to mention the vast majority of the staff, perhaps Edward Boyle would be a good choice. A university gets the vice-chancellor it deserves.

## P.O.S.

The People's Open Studios (P.O.S.) are now on their second project - Brighton Workers' Art Club. For this they have the backing of the Trades Council. All info. from Pat Flynn c/o Prior House. See next issue of the Voice for further news of this important grass roots venture.



EVEN  
SOCIALISTS  
SHOP AT  
SAINSBURY'S

"I was egged on by a  
hard-boiled minority."

said Sir Keith Joseph.

## NO SHORT CUT

The petty bureaucrats have struck again, this time to the detriment of the long-suffering users of London Rd. station. On arriving from Brighton, the more athletic passengers had long been in the habit of jumping the nearest fence or wall, so avoiding the long trek through the subway, along the other platform and back over the bridge.

A few weeks ago such a manoeuvre became impossible thanks to British Rail's new, secret weapon..... grease. Large quantities of this black, glutinous substance suddenly appeared, smeared over the walls and fences on the north side of the station - bringing our short cut to a sticky end.

But this was not to be all. A week or so later the workmen were back and with a large amount of barbed wire, proceeded to turn the station into something resembling a concentration camp.

No doubt some slick official thought to save BR some money by forcing everyone through the station door and so catching fare dodgers. But even if the fence leapers were dodgers rather than people taking a short cut this extravagance is unlikely to bring in much extra revenue ... oos there's often no-one on duty at the station door anyway.

# STABBED IN THE BACK !

contd from p.1

The Brighton Rights Centre (see insert p.7) was initially given a cash grant of £150 by the local Social Services department. It was also given the use of premises at 2, Prince Albert St. In October it reapplied for an extension of its lease and for further financial help. A subcommittee at County Hall met to consider the application. It was chaired by Tory Councillor Lillcrap. No member of the Centre was invited to attend. The councillors were told by Social Services that the Centre saved them money by taking cases which they couldn't deal with: they were told that the Citizens' Advice Bureau supported the Centre and they were told of the very real need in Brighton for free legal advice of this nature. Against the Centre arguments were presented claiming that the Citizens' Advice Bureau was sufficient on its own and that money was short. Then in a **STAGGERING PIECE OF INJUSTICE** parts of a letter from Reg Morgan, Brighton's Town Clerk and Chief Executive, were read out. The letter, published on this page, had been sent to Morgan's equivalent at County Hall, Mr Beechey, and it accused the Rights Centre of being an eyesore in the middle of antique shops and expensive restaurants. It also accused the Centre of supporting squatting and Morgan referred to a single poster outside the Centre, the details of which he did not give. "Neither Members of my Council" said Morgan, "nor I wish in any way to interfere or influence actions and judgements of the County Social Services Department..."

**WHAT HYPOCRISY !** Morgan must have known perfectly well that his slippery combination of half-truth and prejudice would find its way to the ears of the Tory Councillors who make the decisions. And that is exactly what happened. Once the subcommittee associated the Centre with squatting its decision was a mere formality. No more funds. No further lease. Did it bother to check the allegations? Of course not.

Did it invite the Rights Centre to reply to Morgan's so-called facts before reaching a decision? Of course not.

The Tory political axe came down, and when a Labour councillor tried to question the procedure at the full meeting of the Social Services Committee at the end of October he was told that the issue was closed.

**THE ISSUE IS NOT CLOSED.** The SCANDAL is only just beginning. Brighton Voice has rung Reg Morgan, Councillor Lillcrap, Beechey's personal assistant

at County Hall, and the County Press Officer, John Thompson. We asked them the following questions:-

**HOW and WHY** did Morgan's letter come to be used without any of the councillors present at the meeting knowing about it in advance?

**WHY** were no copies available for scrutiny at the meeting?

**WHY** was there no reference to such a crucial piece of 'evidence' in the agenda?

**WHY** was the Rights Centre not given the right to reply?

The answers were defensive and contradictory. Morgan was arrogant and evasive and said he would answer the queries of any councillor but would not discuss it with us or any other member of the public.

Lillcrap got nettled but confirmed that the letter had been read out, but not by him.

Beechey's assistant said that the letter had been passed down the normal channels.

The Press Officer, after a frantic investigation in County Hall, was helpful and said there had been two letters, one which was confidential and never left

## MORGAN'S LETTER

Dear Mr. Beechey, CE/MCB 22nd August, 1975.

Rights Centre, Prince Albert Street, Brighton.

The Rights Centre in Prince Albert Street Brighton is situated in a building which was in the ownership of the old County Borough Council and was in use as a Road Safety office and accordingly passed into the possession of the County Council as a consequence of reorganisation on the 1st April 1974. The Road Safety Officer was later moved out by the County Council and I believe the Road Safety operation for both Brighton and Hove is now run from one office in Hove. I make no comment on this, which is merely a little background.

The Rights Centre which is now established in the building, as I understand it enjoys the sponsorship of the East Sussex County Council Social Services Department to the extent that the County premises are made available to it, presumably free of cost although I am not absolutely sure on this point, and I also understand that the County Council makes some kind of annual financial subvention to the Rights Centre. I am sure that neither I nor my Council would in any way wish to comment upon the support which the County sees fit to give to this particular Centre, but there are two aspects of it which are causing concern to my Members and indeed to me and which I must bring to your notice.

Firstly, the shop front of the Centre, situated as it is in Prince Albert Street, is one of the things which tourists and visitors to Brighton see as part of their travels round The Lanes. It is cheek by jowl with antique shops (some might say junk shops) and there are restaurants of good quality very close to it. Yet this particular shop front is completely covered in brown paper, relieved only by a number of posters.

This brings me to my second point, that some of the posters at least which I have seen displayed there are at any rate of a casual political kind, and here again I refrain from passing any particular judgement excepting upon one which is inviting people to attend a Squatters Convention. (It is incidentally out of date and has been for some weeks). It seems to me, and it seems to some Members of my Council who have raised the matter with me, to say the least an odd state of affairs if the County Council Social Services Department is financing an organisation which is encouraging people to squat, since a good deal of time is being spent by my legal and housing departments at the moment in securing the removal of squatters from various Corporation properties, both Council houses and Corporation owned non Council houses.

There is perhaps a third quite trivial point, but the entrance way, which is very much part of the street scene as you walk along Prince Albert Street, displays torn and seedy looking road safety posters which are clearly a relic of the days when it was a Road Safety office and not a currently used road safety poster site.

I think a brief summary of what I am saying is that whilst neither Members of my Council nor I wish in any way to interfere or influence actions and judgements of the County Social Services Department, we would ask that you take all the necessary steps to ensure that this place ceases to be a distasteful eyesore in the centre of one of our tourist attraction areas, and also that whatever else it may be entitled to advertise in its windows it is not permitted to offer active encouragement to things like Squatting which is already the cause of serious problems for my Council, problems which can indeed in this particular instance well spill over into the field of your own Social Services Department as well.

In order to give some illustration of the points which I am trying to make, I enclose two copies of a number of photographs giving general views of the shop front, and also close-ups of the posters to which I refer.

I should be glad if I could hear from you at I may give to the Members of my Council who have raised the matter with me an assurance that the limited and I hope not unreasonable action for which I have asked will be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

Beechey's office, and another which was used at the meeting to establish the 'facts of the case' from Brighton Council's point of view. This second letter, he confirmed, was not made available to the committee in advance or at the time, although he said it was an important factual statement. Why then, we ask, were only bits of it quoted? The Press Officer said only one or two sentences at most had been used. Lillcrap on the other hand said the whole letter had been read out and said that it had played little part in the decision.

They can't all be right. Who's covering up? What's the real story?

**THE REAL STORY IS THIS.** The letter which we publish here was the letter which was so disgracefully used at the subcommittee but not all of it was read, only a few lines. Which ones? Naturally the ones carrying the snide allegation about the squatting poster, which, as anyone could have known had they inspected it was a poster about a Convention called to discuss housing and was attended by representatives of the Labour Party, the Liberal Party and several G.L.C. boroughs as well as squatters. The Convention took place in London and there was nothing on the poster which could be said to encourage people to squat, as Morgan declares. All they do at the Centre is to provide free what any solicitor would do for money. If asked to they advise squatters of their legal rights and obligations. As for the rest of Morgan's accusations they are too petty and too absurd to merit a reply, though the Rights Centre say they are full of inaccuracies.

An underhand letter used in a parody of justice to produce a vicious political decision. That sounds like the Tory establishment well enough. It would stoop to anything to crush anybody who threatens its monopoly of public life in Brighton.

**WHAT HAPPENS NOW?** Firstly the Centre is not going to be crushed. It will keep going and continue to provide free legal advice. It is also starting a big project in the Brunswick area to uncover the real depth of legal and welfare need. It is also going to

fight any attempt at eviction and has had offers of help from Trade Unions and other organisations. There is no going to be a quiet little death as the Tory Councillors hope. It is going to be a big rumpus which will expose the nasty, narrow motivation of Morgan and his political cronies. Brighton needs a Law and Rights Centre, and, despite Morgan and the rest, it will continue to have one.

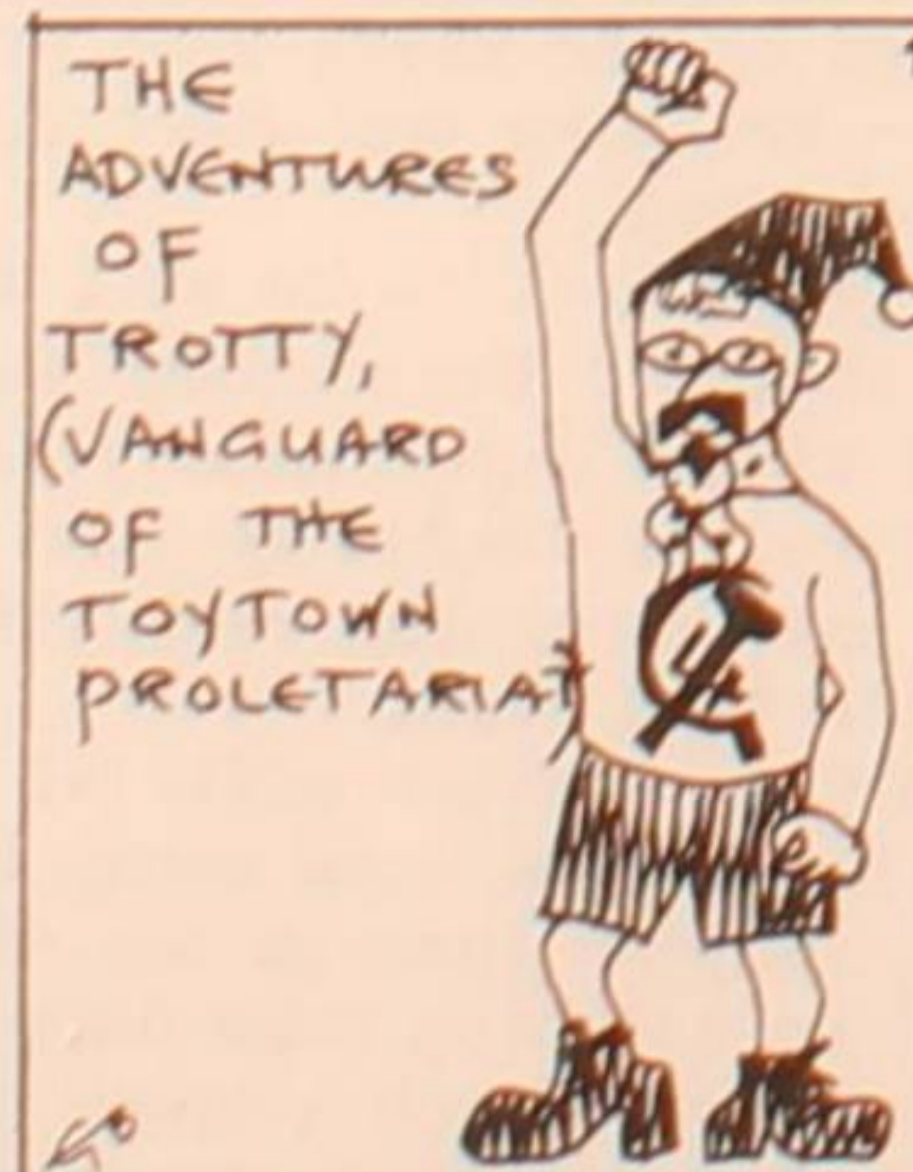
**FOOTNOTE.** The Council would like to lease the Rights Centre office to yet another antique dealer who has offered £1500 a year rent. 'Antiques before people' is their motto.

## RIGHTS CENTRE

The Brighton Rights Centre has been quietly giving free legal advice and help on a no-appointment basis since it began nine months ago. It hasn't advertised its activities widely because there were enough cases without that. It aims to concentrate specially - though not exclusively - on housing and welfare problems and on people in real need.

The Centre originated from The Line, which many readers of the Voice will remember gave free telephone advice and referral on simple legal problems. The basic idea was for the Centre to provide a place where people could discuss at length more complicated problems and to form a focus for attacks on the roots of problems instead of simply patching up.

If you have a legal problem the centre will help you, free - though donations are welcome. It also has a roster of helpful solicitors to refer you to if necessary. Any incoming problem is discussed by a mixed group of people so that social work, publicity and political as well as legal angles can be explored. The Centre is open to the public on Thursdays from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at 2, Prince Albert St. near the Town Hall.



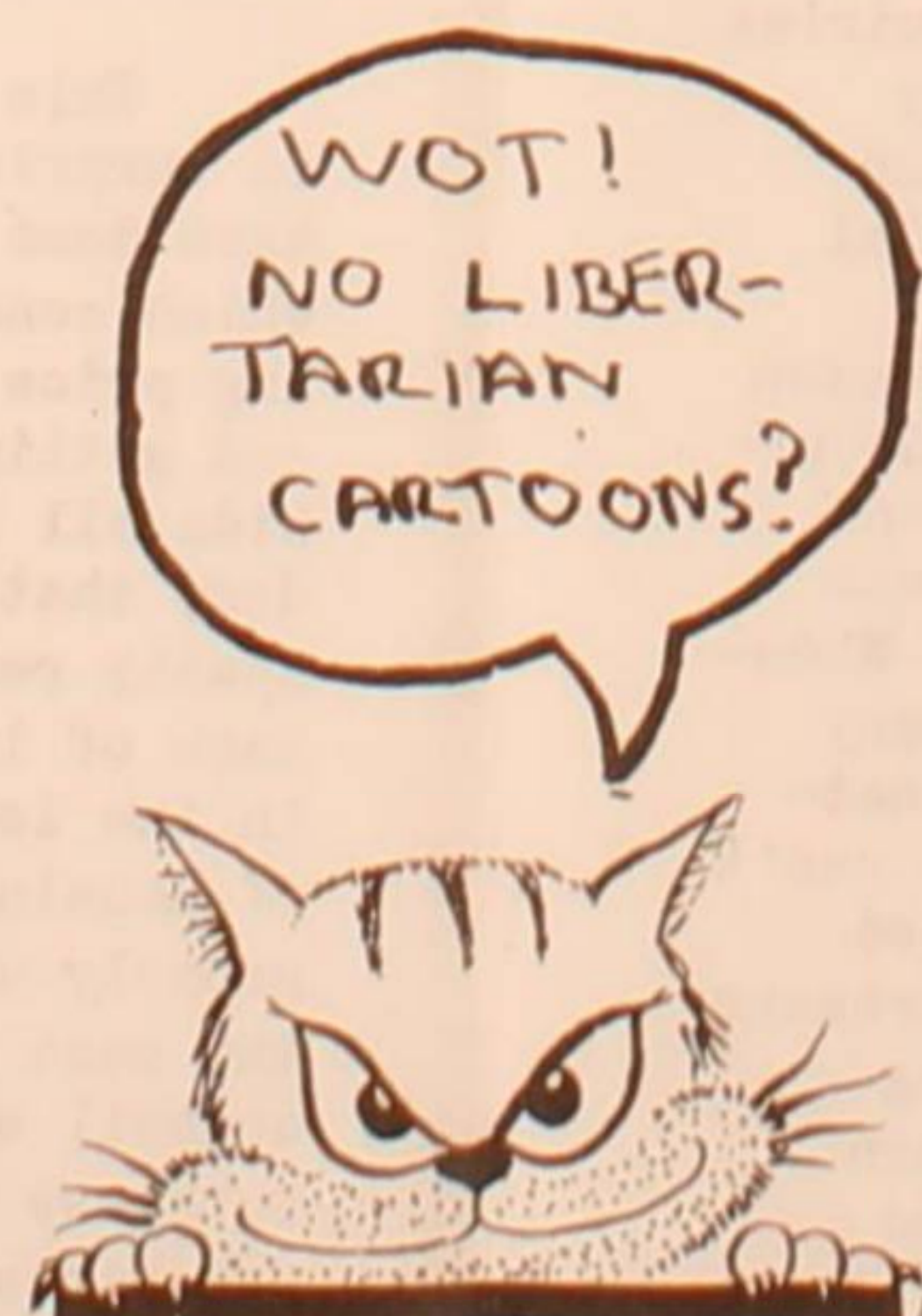
TROTTY HAD A FRIEND NAMED MOHAMED GOLLY, WHO WORKED ON THE TOYTOWN BUSES, BUT NOW THERE WAS A SLUMP IN TOYTOWN.



POOR MOHAMED GOLLY WAS OUT OF WORK BECAUSE HE COULDN'T PAY HIS RENT. MR CASH HIS LANDLORD KICKED HIM OUT OF HIS HOUSE.



AND THEN, BECAUSE MOHAMED GOLLY COULD NOT GET OUT OF THE GUTTER, MR FUZZ THE POLICEMAN ARRESTED HIM FOR OBSTRUCTION.



TROTTY WANTED TO HELP MOHAMED GOLLY SO HE GOT OUT HIS COPY OF "THE DEATH AS ONLY OF CAPITALISM" (THE FAMOUS TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME)



TROTTY AND MOHAMED AND PERCY PROLE FORMED A SQUATTERS GROUP AND TOOK OVER ONE OF MR CASH'S EMPTY HOUSES. THIS WAS A TRANSITIONAL MEASURE.



WHEN THE TOYTOWN REVOLUTION TAKES PLACE THE LANDLORDS HOUSES WILL ALL BE TAKEN OVER AND ALL THE WORKERS WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

## The Pie Shop Lives!

Those of us who were around Brighton during the sixties and before remember the Pie Shop; its disappearance a classic tale of big-time capitalism working against the interests of the community.

It used to stand in the space now occupied by the Green Shield Stamp building in St. James' St. - an organisation rich enough to pay its chairman £275,000 a year, the highest "wage" in Britain apart from the Queen. The Pie Shop was one of the greatest attractions of Kemptown, now so sadly run-down. Pies of all shapes, sizes and flavours were made before your eyes; they tasted superb and were really cheap. Needless to say the population of Kemptown lived on them (especially the "beans", with an apple pie to follow) - on Saturdays, the queue at dinner - time went right down the road. If you were poor, a pensioner or a student, the Pie Shop provided the basic essentials of life, but magnificently. A fresh hot pie

was the high spot of many people's day - something to look forward to and backwards on.

And then they wanted to build a Green Shield Stamp Shop, an essential part of every town - except you can't eat them.

They bought the plot next door, and made a massive offer for the Pie Shop - an offer too good to refuse. The owners were getting on and couldn't turn it down; so one day it closed. Oh, there were protests - even tears - but it didn't do any good, of course.

The Argus did an article, saying how sad it all was, without going into the reasons or the implications; people bought a fortnight's supply, and the queue went down to the Steine.

Then it was gone, and now it's just a memory. Though it would be the very thing (and more of it) for present-day Brightonians, its only in our minds that The Pie Shop Lives . . . .



## rip-offs in the n.h.s.

Our friends in the Department of Health up in London tell us that some of the already overpaid doctors in the Brighton area had better watch out! They are already under investigation for trying to illegally supplement their earnings at the expense of the NHS. One of their numerous fiddles is for more than one doctor in a practice to claim for treating the same patient.

When giving any kind of special treatment the doctor has to fill in a claim so as to get paid. It's not unusual for doctors to persuade the unsuspecting patient to sign each form more than once and they then send off the forms in duplicate, triplicate or even quadruplicate in the hope that the harassed NHS civil servants (who earn about a third as much as the doctors) won't notice the fraud and will pay the doctor for the same work again and again.

Dentist, though not averse to claiming for work not done, have an even better fiddle. Sometimes they say that what our mouths need isn't done on the National Health, when it is! If you think your dentist might be trying to con you, check with the local Family Practitioner Committee and see if he's telling the truth.



## Womens Centre

The Women's Centre has now been open for twelve months, during that time we hope we have succeeded in our aim to establish a place for women to be themselves and organise together. The Centre deals with specific problems of women as well as projects, it also enables women in Brighton to have a place to come to as a social base, for meetings of just for a cup of coffee and talk.

One of the most successful ventures is the Pregnancy Testing Service. We have found that a large number of women feel they do not get sympathetic attention from doctors, or feel their problems are too small to be of any matter. So, we

try to give counselling into the various aspects of Women's Health and then if necessary refer the women to the appropriate agencies such as the F.P.A. The pregnancy test takes two minutes for a result, and this itself is attractive as doctors usually take a week or more thus prolonging the anxiety. The service is used by women who are trying to have children as well as those who have not planned pregnancies and a lot by women who are experiencing the menopause and fear pregnancy because they do not know enough about the subject.

Our information room is open 10-5 each week-day, here we try to help women with a very wide range of problems, also with any enquiries about the Women's Movement, gay clubs, Women's houses etc. Much of the work centres around Social Security payments and Women's rights on this subject. Many women are overpowered by the Social Security and usually at the time when they are most vulnerable and lack confidence they need support. Whenever possible we try to accompany women to the DHSS but, unfortunately, due to lack of staff this can't always be done. We have noticed that recently the Housing Department seems to be drastically cutting back B&B accommodation for women with children, resulting in the kids being taken into care and the

## 2 million adults can't read

There are still around three million adults in Britain who are either illiterate or semi-literate. They are, in the main, people who have the ability to read and write but, for one reason or another, never got round to learning.

Volunteers are needed locally to help these people by giving a few hours each week to teach a student, or to help with answering tele phones, making contact with new students, and other essential work.

If you are interested in this or know someone who could be helped, contact:

Mrs B. Prior  
Further Education Section  
Royal York Buildings  
Old Steine  
Brighton

Tel: 29801  
ext. 322

Also Friends Centre  
Ship Street,  
and Connaught F.E.  
Centre, Hove. 720406 (evenings.)



## Can you help?

## 1st Birthday



women left to find accommodation alone. As there is no provision in this town for homeless women, they are left to trek around until they find somewhere. There are three hostels for homeless men in Brighton and we feel it is about time a refuge for women was found. We aim to build a campaign around this and would welcome any support.

At last we have a registered playgroup, Monday-Thursday mornings, and a Mothers & Toddlers club Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3.30. There are still vacancies in the playgroup (30p per morning) and any extra help or equipment would be appreciated.

We have just finished a library in which women can sit quietly and read a variety of books, including some feminist literature.

Unfortunately, due to the cost, we can't extend this into a lending library.

For our future plans: we are shortly starting a clear-up room for homeless women to come to once a week. A number of women sleep rough in and around Brighton each night and very often, because they are not as Society demands, they can't use cafes, public transport or have any chance of being found accommodation. We hope that knowing they can have a wash and a change of clothes might be the first step towards a warm bed if they wanted it. We would appreciate any donations of clothes etc and also publicity for this so that the women know where they can come if they want to. A definite starting date hasn't been fixed yet but for information contact 'Open Cafe' or ring Brighton 27612.

As winter closes in again, we face the problem of keeping pace with the electricity bills; once again, any contributions.... There are many things to do at the Centre, decorating, shelf building, collating information and it is sad that whatever we do we have the threat hanging over us that we must be out by April 76. We can get no definite answer from Social Services as to whether we will be given another building, or if, just as we are establishing ourselves, the project will have to fold.

The Centre has proved to a lot of women that we are capable of being independent. By trial and error we have learnt basic carpentry, decorating, carpet laying and many other 'male' defined skills. We have proved how much more satisfying it is 'doing-it-yourself' and how strong women can be when we unite.  
Brighton Women's Centre.



Women's Centre.  
79 Buckingham Rd. 27612  
10-5 Weekdays.

playgroup.  
Mon-Thurs 9.30-12.  
30p per morning.

Pregnancy Testing.  
If urgent: whenever the Centre is open. But preferably Thursday 8-9.30. If coming during the week ring first to confirm that there will be a person who can do the test and bring a urine sample.

An Adult Literacy Handbook has been prepared by the BBC to accompany the radio series "Teaching Adults to Read" which can be heard every Tuesday at 7 pm on radio 3. For the student there are television programmes called "On the Move" every Sunday at 6.05 pm on BBC 1. Leaflets and a book to go with these programmes can be obtained at any library.

## BRIGHTON LETTERS

(pkts of 3  
please send  
s.a.e.)

Dear Brighton Voice,

Being a regular reader of "Brighton Voice" I have followed your regular articles on squatters, the homeless, and your comments on the local judiciary with a great deal of interest.

What is relevant to the housing problem in this country and other Western European nations is not their inability to solve the problem but their apparent determination not to.

Contrast this with Eastern Europe. They too have a housing problem.

In East Germany (GDR) a dwelling is regarded as a social necessity and every family has a right to one. Rent is low (and does not burden the family budget being 5% to 6% of the family income), and speculation with rents or dwellings is impossible.

There are local Housing Commissions which draw up priority lists of people applying for flats so as to distribute the existing and new flats in accordance with social requirements. The GDR expect to solve their housing problem by 1980.

Whether they do or not, one cannot say they do not have the will to succeed.

In this country judges are remote from the working man and even the government. In the GDR all judges and "magistrates" are elected by popular representative bodies or directly by the citizens.

They are accountable to their electors on their work and may be recalled by their electors if they violate the constitution or commit a serious breach of their duties.

Who are our judges accountable to? Certainly not directly to the people.

Yours fraternally,

Ken Nightingale  
(Secretary)

Brighton and District  
Branch

Britain - GDR Society

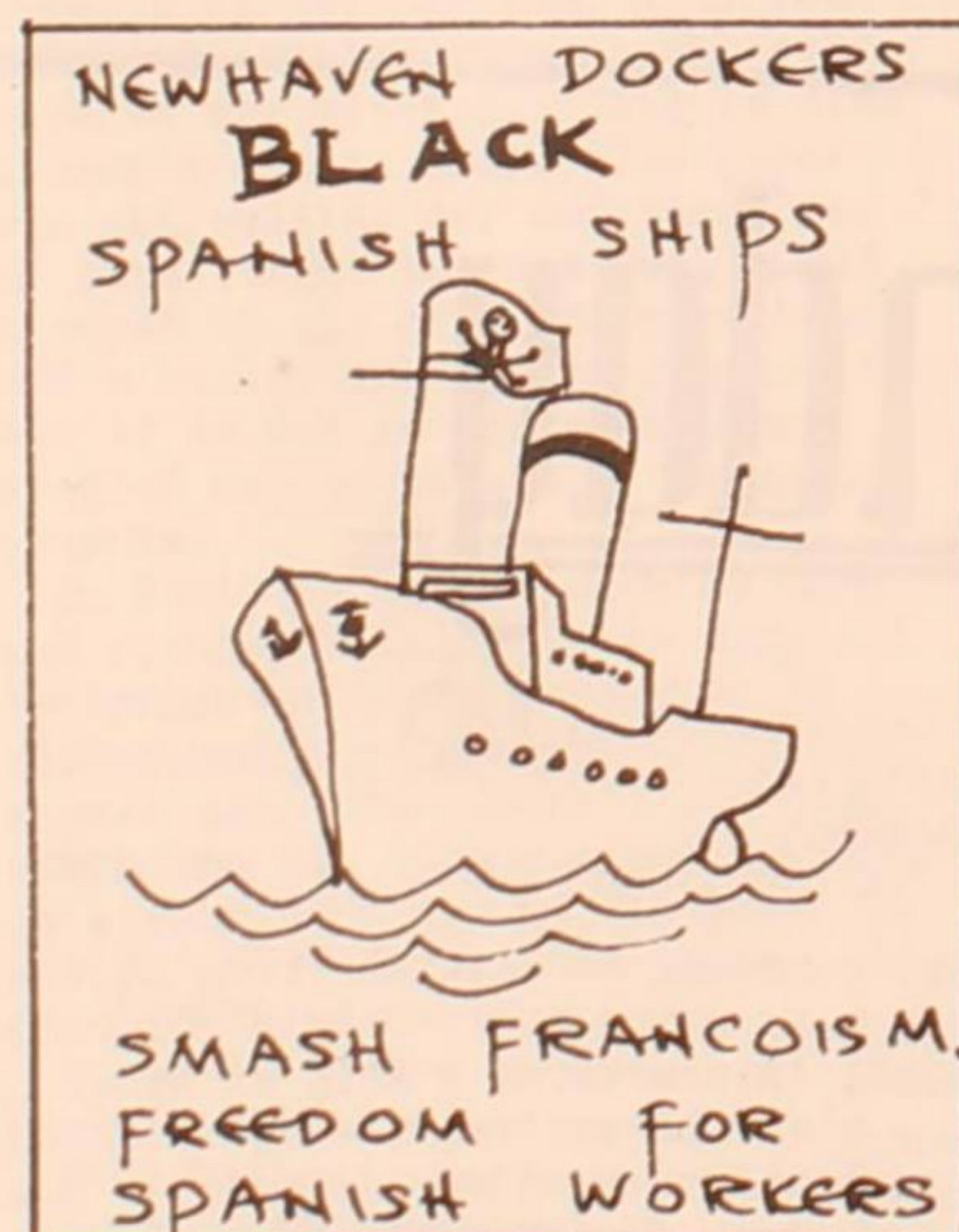
Dear Voice,

With regard to your article on licensing in issue 26, I would contradict your assertion that Rent Rebates would not be applicable to the scheme I have prepared with the Local Authority. The tenant would in fact be a tenant of the Local Authority, and would therefore qualify for a Rent Rebate.

If a Housing Association was involved, a rent allowance could be claimed from the Local Authority. You will see that Licensees are excluded, but under the suggestions which I have made, if homeless persons were licensed to go into premises, the Licensor could not charge any rent, or receive any payment whatsoever, so the question of a rebate or allowance would never come into play in the first place.

Yours sincerely,

David Barling



## "Local Aid needs Your Support"

Nearly three years ago, on January 1 1973, Gerry Howard founded Local Aid in Brighton. Due entirely to public demand it has become a thriving charity. In selling furniture cheaply it has attracted the custom of the Dept. of Social Security. It has provided meals and outings for pensioners, cheap and sturdy furniture for students and newly-weds and it is one of the few Sussex charities to accept on trust welfare cases as helpers, put forward by the Brighton Probation services. It currently employs about 15 welfare cases

employs about fifteen welfare cases as helpers, and has helped many others to regain their self respect before re-entering more permanent employment. Councillor John Smith said of Local Aid: "I believe that local charities such as Local Aid have a vital part to play in a society where people feel increasingly isolated."

A success story indeed but unfortunately much constructive work has been consistently hindered by the negative attitude of the Brighton establishment, in particular the Evening Argus and the Tory M.P. for Kempdown, Andrew Bowden. Said Gerry Howard LA director: "The lack of cooperation by the Argus is holding us back. It's bloody diabolical that the establishment won't give us the support we so badly need!"

The Argus, under Chief Editor Victor Gorringer, refuses to lift the stigma he has attached to L.A. virtually since its creation. Said Gerry Howard: "We would welcome a further inquiry, preferably with police involvement, conducted by an organisation independent of Bowden. We have a marvellous welfare organisation and if only the establishment would support it we would save the social services thousands of pounds, particularly at this time when there are cutbacks in the social services."

And he concluded, "Perhaps it's about time the public held their own investigation into the attitude of the establishment towards Local Aid. When there are so many people who need help, one sees the need for an inquiry into the establishment's refusal to give this help."

It is up to the public to demand that Bowden and the Argus stop blackening Local Aid once and for all.

Michael Burton.

For background on Local Aid and an account of the Bowden Inquiry into the charity see Brighton Voice No. 24.

OVERHEARD ON A TRAIN:-  
"Are you married or do you live  
in Hove?" (?!?)

SEND LETTERS TO  
BRIGHTON VOICE  
7, VICTORIA ROAD  
BRIGHTON.

## info...

AGE-CONCERN.  
57, Ditchling Rd (683275).  
Old people's welfare.

BIT-BY-BIT  
7 Victoria Rd (27878).  
Info/Help Service.

BRIGHTON PREGNANCY ADVISORY  
SERVICE  
Wiston's, 138 Dyke Rd  
(509726) Pregnancy testing,  
abortions, vasectomy

BRIGHTON RIGHTS CENTRE  
2, Prince Albert St.  
Advice on legal and welfare  
problems. Tues and Thurs  
5-7pm (202492)

CANCER PREVENTION (29801)

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU  
7, Ditchling Rise, (61664)  
2 St George's Place, 2.15-  
4.15 daily  
At Whitehawk Community  
Centre on Thursdays 2-4pm  
No appointment necessary.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC  
18-19 Western Rd. (734258)  
Also c/o Health Centre,  
University of Sussex.  
Lewes Clinic (Lewes 4403)

FRIEND  
Gay people's info  
Monday evenings (61664)  
Weekdays, 1C-6 (739729)

GAY SWITCHBOARD  
Info & advice. 27878  
Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
8-10pm. Meets Weds 8pm.  
7 Victoria Rd.

J.H.E. (CAMPAIGN FOR  
HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY)  
Now meets every Tuesday  
at the Marlborough Hotel.  
Contact: Graham Wilkinson  
3 Adelaid Crescent, Hove.

OFF THE RECORD (63080)  
Mon-Fri, 8-10pm  
Youth Service. Help  
with sex problems,  
loneliness etc...

RENT TRIBUNAL  
Anston House, 137 Preston  
Rd. (506381).  
Rent disputes, security  
of tenure, etc.

SAMARITANS  
(733333), 24 hours/day

VOLUNTARY SERVICE CENTRE  
17, Ditchling Rise (61664)

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE  
73 Grand Parade (681919)

## ♂ GROUPS

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP  
c/o Mike Dennis  
6 Islingwood Rd.

ANTI-RECRUITMENT (TOM)  
684256 is no longer the  
contact.

A.S. NEILL TRUST  
(691712)  
Local branch for alter-  
native education projects

BRIGHTON FILM THEATRE  
North Street  
Support your local (non-  
profit making) Film Theatre

BRIGHTON HOSTEL  
105 Islingwood Road  
Meals Sunday 12-2  
Tea at other times if  
possible. Soup 9:30 -  
10 pm under the arches.  
Needs clothes, food, HELP

BRIGHTON SOCIETY ENVIRON-  
MENTAL GROUP  
Selma Montford  
10 Clermont Road  
Against bad planning on  
social and aesthetic  
grounds

BRIGHTON HOVE & DISTRICT  
TENANTS ASS'N.

BRIGHTON HOVE & DISTRICT  
SQUATTERS UNION.  
Both meet Tues 8pm.  
7 Victoria Rd. 27878.

BRITAIN/GDR SOCIETY  
(686259)  
Facts and info on East  
Germany

BRITISH SOVIET FRIENDSHIP  
SOCIETY  
(62794)

BUILDING CO-OP  
People interested in get-  
ting one together contact  
Ray and Stephan (692766)

ICEBREAKERS Tel. 202930  
Isolated homosexual women  
and men. Sats 7.30-10pm.  
and Fri's from 28 Nov.

CHE (CAMPAIGN FOR HOMO-  
SEXUAL EQUALITY)  
Marlborough Hotel,  
(Top Lounge), Princes St.,  
Every Tuesday, 8-30pm.  
(Saloon Bar prior to  
meeting).  
Graham Wilkinson 3,  
Adelade Crescent, Hove.  
or Brian Hart 111, Church  
St, 683710.

CLAIMANT'S UNION  
7 Victoria Rd (27878)  
Meetings Mondays 8pm

## GATHERINGS

CLAP (COMMUNITY LEVY FOR  
ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS)  
Details in CLAP catalogue  
Send your CLAP TAX to  
BIT 14.6 Great Western Rd  
London W1

EAST BRIGHTON RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION  
G Andrews 8 Twineham Rd  
(687715)

FREE VET - PDSA  
6 Oxford St (63606)  
Donations welcome

FRIENDS CENTRE  
Ship St (27835)  
Wide range of classes  
including planning.  
Tuesdays 7:30

BRIGHTON & HOVE COUNCIL  
FOR EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE  
(E.E.A.) No cuts in Educa-  
tion! Join the campaign.  
Details and membership -  
N.Osmond, 8 Tower Rd  
Tel. 683544.

FREE ROOM FOR COMMUNITY  
USE Day or evening.  
For community info a type-  
writer and photocopier  
will be available during  
the day, Chris Miller  
Social Services Dept  
15 Princes St (29801  
ext 674.)

POETRY AT OPEN Tuesdays  
8.00pm. 7 Victoria Road.

MOTHER & TODDLER  
AFTERNOON  
Westdene Library. Tues  
2.30-3.15 (term time).  
Coffee, toys, picture  
books and a chance to  
meet other mums.

MOULESCOOME ADVENTURE  
PLAYGROUND. Needs money,  
material and help to re-  
build the playground.  
Arthur and Dave, c/o 67  
Centre, off Hodshrove Rd  
Moulescoomb (682428).

NATIONAL UNION OF SCHOOL  
STUDENTS  
Ben, 13 Prince Edward's  
Rd Lewes (2731)  
Power to the classroom.

PENSIONERS AND TRADE UNION  
ASSOCIATION  
Keith Orange  
22 Whippingham Rd.

PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS  
& MUMS OPPORTUNITY GROUP  
Tues 1.30-3.30 Mrs S  
McCormick 44 Inwood Cres.  
(509431).

## ♀ ETC.

PRIOR HOUSE  
Carlto Hill (681925)  
Youth and Community Centre  
Many activities including  
Old People's Lunch, Tues  
12.30-2.00, 20pence.  
Open Creche, Thurs 9.30-  
12.00, 10pence.

RANK & FILE.  
Organisation of class-  
room teachers within NUT.  
689113 - after 6pm.



RIGHT TO READ see p 9.

SAVE THE PIER CAMPAIGN  
Enquiries to: John Lloyd  
Forum Gallery, 16 Market  
St. (28578).

P.O.S. Peoples Open  
Studios. Now into second  
project. See page 5.

TRADES COUNCIL  
Keith Orange 22 Whipp-  
ingham Rd.

TRANSPORT 2000  
Kevin McNulty  
75 Upper Lewes Rd.

WHOLE EARTH GROUP  
Sec Alistair Nisbet,  
54 Queens Park Road.  
Meet Wednesdays 8pm  
7 Victoria Road.

WOMEN'S AID.  
A refuge for battered  
wives. Contact Women's  
Centre, 27612.

WOMEN'S CENTRE  
79 Buckingham Rd (27612)  
Open Daily. Come for  
company, help, playgroup,  
pregnancy testing. Creche  
facilities and coffee bar

WOMEN'S LIBERATION  
Jer de Wynter,  
154 Harbour Way,  
ASSOCIATION (87-61680)

WORKING ASSOCIATION  
OF MOTHERS  
Linda Kinsella (55134)  
Baby sitting, creche  
coffee mornings

