

info...

ADVICE

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

BIT-BY-BIT
7 Victoria Rd 27878
Info/Help service

BRIGHTON PREGNANCY
ADVISORY SERVICE
Wistons 138 Dyke Rd
509726 Pregnancy testing,
counselling, abortions
vasectomies.

BRIGHTON RIGHTS CENTRE
2 Prince Albert St
Advice on legal
problems. Free and
confidential service by the
Centre's workers and solic-
itors. Thursdays
12.30-2.00 & 5.30-7.30

CANCER PREVENTION
Brighton 29801

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU
17 Ditchling Rise, 61664.
Mon-Fri 10.00-4.00, Tue
6-8.

2 St Georges Place (nr St
Peters Church).
Mon-Fri 10.00-12.00.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC
18-19 Western Rd 734258
Lewes Clinic Lewes 4403
Also University Health
Centre.

FRIEND
Gay People's info
Monday evenings 61664
Weekdays 10-6 739729

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Info and advice 27878
8.00pm-10.00pm every
night

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
73 Grand Parade 681919

NCCL Sussex Group
Brighton 689385 or
write c/o Public House
21, Little Preston St.

Light Removals

£2.40 hr
with driver

tel. 691318

Whole Cash

OFF THE RECORD
Help & information for
young people. Free & con-
fidential, call in or phone
: Tues-Thurs 8p.m.-10 p.m.
6, Marlborough Place 63080

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
681919.

POLITICS

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOC.
Lorraine Robinson
Rear 261 Preston Rd
Brighton

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

COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND
(MARXIST-LENINIST)
Temporary contact address:
29, Queens Park Rd

COMMUNIST PARTY (CPGB)
M Chaplin 83 Edburton Av

PAVILION LIBERAL PARTY
Francis Hix B'ton 26560

BRIGHTON LABOUR PARTY
179 Lewes Rd. 62592 or
557704.

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCS.
(Pavilion & Kemptown)
Meets Tues. 8pm at 179
Lewes Rd. Contact Pat
Byrne, 64 Coleman St or
61559. For Hove contact
Bill North, 53 Blatching
ton Rd.

KEMP TOWN LIBERAL
ASSOC. Secretary
Alan Horner
3, Lustrell's Vale, Salt-
dean. Tel. 38532

WHO SELLS the VOICE?

CENTRAL BRIGHTON
ANANDA: 19 Bond St.
ANTIQU MARKET: Union Hall,
Air St. (Mondays)
ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey St.
INFINITY: 25 North Rd.
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Rd.
PHOENIX BOOKS: Grand Parade
CHURCHILL SQ.: News Stand
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market St.
LONDON RD.: News stand (Sainsbury's)

WEST BRIGHTON & HOVE
CORDELL'S: 99 Western Rd., Hove
PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston St.
THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Rd., Hove

SHOPS

ANANDA
19 Bond St
Odds and ends to make
your life good

ANTIQU MARKET
Union Hall Ayr St
Mons & Weds 8-5
Teas by OPKN
VOICE on sale (sometimes)

BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP
37 Gloucester Rd (684404)
Sats 9.30-6.00

INFINITY BULK BUYING
3 Westbourne Grove Hove
Thur, Fri, Sat, 10-1,
2-5

INFINITY FOODS
25 North Rd
Macrobiotic and organic
foods and vegetables

OPEN CAFE
7 Victoria Rd (27878)
Sun-Thur 12-8, Fri-
Sat 12-11. Cheap
vegetarian food

PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP
21 Little Preston St
More than just another
bookshop-books, mags,
coffee. 28357

SIMPLE SUPPLIES
11 George St, (off St
James St), Kemptown
Whole food, cast iron,
publications, etc.
Whole Earth Environmental
Centre. B'ton 691318

SURVIVAL
10 Station Rd., Lewes.
Basic foods - grains,
beans etc. Mon-Sat,
10-1; 2.15-5.30.
Closed Weds afternoon.

SYMPOSIUM BOOKSHOP
12 Market St (28142)
Books, mags-the
radical stuff.

WHO

NORTH BRIGHTON
FALLONE'S: 40 New England Rd.
FRANKLIN'S: 93 Preston Drove
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Rd.
TOBIAS' STORES: 167 Elm Grove
TILLSON'S: 68 Preston Rd.

KEMPTOWN
BOOKS: 80B St. James' St.
BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE:
18-19 George St.
LUMLEY'S: 146 Edward St.
KEMPTOWN BOOKS: 91 St. George's Rd.
SIMPLE SUPPLIES: 11 George St.

UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main Counter
HILL'S NEWSAGENTS
WHOLE EARTH BOOKSTALL

LEWES
SURVIVAL: 10 Station St.

THREE ROOMS CAFE
14 Blatchington Rd Hove
779933 Vegetarian Cafe
Mon-Sat 10-3.

WIND HORSE BOOKSHOP
19 George St
Buddhist literature &
Info. Incense, posters,
cards, etc.

PAPERS

BRIGHTON FIGHTS BACK
Communist Party of
Britain (Marxist-Leninist)
pamphlet on the cuts in
Social Services, housing,
education, etc.
37 Gloucester Rd 684404.

EDUCAT
42 Egremont Place
680258. Teacher and
education magazine.

LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE
Paper of the Anarchist
Workers Association.
From Symposium, Public
House and local AWA.

QUEENSPARK
Paper for the Queens Park
Area. 14 Toronto Terr. &
62 Bentham Rd.

SQUATTERS HANDBOOK
The new edition is now
available from 2 St.
Pauls Rd. London and from
Open Cafe. 10p + postage.

UP AGAINST THE LAW
George Davis special
Public House and
Symposium bookshops.
Subscription £2.50
for 12 issues.

WHOLE EARTH
Available from good
bookshops or from 54
Queens Park Rd, 16p
plus postage.

WRAG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!
available from the Women's
Centre, 79 Buckingham Rd.
50p for 2 issues.

BRIGHTON
VOICE

No. 32

sept 76 10p

Churchill Square
Demo Ban

The total ban on free public
speaking, street theatre and demo-
nstrations aimed at by Brighton
Council is taking another step.

Latest casualty is Churchill
Square, Brighton's soulless monument
to the fast buck.

If a decision steered adroitly
through three committee meetings
stands, Fishmarket Hard will be the
sole surviving site in town where
a licence is not required for a
public meeting.

Having successfully transformed
our lively and gloriously gaudy
town centre into a miserable parody
of every 'model' town in the land
you'd think they'd rest content.
But no!

Nothing must interfere with shop-
pers being enticed into spending
as much as possible as quickly as
possible and aiding the shopkeeper
friends who want the town to
become an enormous supermarket
'checkout.

All that's needed now is rubber-
stamping by the full council.
Then, after religious nuts who
double up as Tory councillors have
been placated by exempting relig-
ious meetings, the Tories can easily
push on with a total ban on street
theatre, political meetings - and
free speech in this town.

Argus Tells
Truth!

Poor old Argus! It tells the whole
truth for once, and promptly gets
hauled in front of the Press Council
and its knuckles rapped. Connoisseurs
of the bizarre may have noticed a
report of a recent unsuccessful li-
cence application for the Hungry Years
by a gentleman with an interesting
criminal record and a propensity for
standing for election on a Fascist
platform, which was supported by none
other than our old left-wing friend
Dennis Hobden.

The Argus solemnly reported this
interesting fact, and was hauled up
for mentioning the criminal record
too prominently. O Gorrings, we weep
(crocodile) tears for you this day!



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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NOTICE on Swedish stand at Bri-Expo :
"BIG REDUCTIONS + HAVE IT OFF NOW !"

TOP PEOPLES
FESTIVAL

The big hoteliers of Brighton have
been successful in forcing the date of
the next Brighton Festival back into
Summer. They argue that Festival people
fill expensive rooms and holiday-
makers the cheaper ones, so they can
both come together and then hoteliers
can save cash by opening fully for a
shorter period over high summer. So
the next Festival will be in late June,
on the theme of 'Under Twenty One'.
And now you know who makes the deci-
sions in Brighton!

Ironically, in the face of its
next theme, the Festival issued
a lament that the town's students
would not be around for the
Festival next year.

Is this linked to the tourist
and conference industry and the
fact that students don't stay
in hotels, buy expensive meals,
clothes, souvenirs etc - but
just go to the thing.

• Voicenote: A main patron of
this annual cultural clambake is
Mr Harold Poster, chairman of
AVP Industries who own the Metropole
and are currently trying to knock
down the West Pier.

"Slap, Bang! -
"Here WE are AGAIN"

DR
TIBBLES' N-Cocoa

WARMS & NOURISHES.

ASK YOUR GROCER.

WATFORD MANUFACTURING CO., LTD., DELECTALAND,
WATFORD, HERTS.

THE TUC AND THE PEOPLE

Welcome to the TUC Conference. Welcome from the Council, cos they like respectable power, welcome from the shopkeepers and hoteliers for obvious reasons, welcome from the Trades Council and local unions who did all the work.

And welcome from us - because we're basically friendly. At least to everyone who wants to help the lot of the working person, the unemployed, the kids, the homeless, the Disabled, generally the shot upon in this town.

of recovery we are told. Less pay to curb inflation we are told. And the TUC capitulates. Many better off unions can afford to, for them it is no second-car, larger house or holiday abroad. But what about the large sections of this country whose workers get a raw deal out of the TUC.

Jack, Joe, Len, Tom, look at the waiter serving you. You get more in expenses than he does to live off. You will have a different chambermaid each day because none of them can stand the conditions. The old couple in the kitchen have been living in for years, but they will be out with the rubbish when their usefulness is over or if they make a fuss.

They have only their labour to sell and it's a bigger buyers market than ever before - ever between the wars.

— editorial —

ENDLESS DEBATES

They have said nothing about the quality of life, of community needs, mutual help and of the hardships endured by millions due to inept government, bureaucracy and the vested interests of the money machine.

Mick, Jim, Dennis you will have endless debates on unemployment and inflation but you'll miss the point.

What has big business and the civil service done for you and your members, unless you haven't told us about it.

Take a trip to our dole queue while you are here, the kids and people tossed on the scrap heap after years of honest service.

Go into the crumbling houses in this gay resort, see the people living on the street, snubbed and brushed under the carpet by the authorities.

Lock across at the porters and waitresses **THOSE ARE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS** and they get nothing out of this shit heap system you are trying to defend.

You are hard realistic men, tough as nails - try a bit of heart.

The TUC is run by men who have forgotten that PEOPLE are the centre of this nation, of any nation. Their determination to brake the falling standards of living has blinded them to the fact that their use of the phrase is synonymous with the 'real' wage value, for the average worker.

"FURTHER TO THE AMENDMENT TO THE THIRD PART OF SUBSTANTIVE MOTION 24. I SHOULD LIKE TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT...."



Shameful conditions

at the



"HAROLD, HAVE YOU NOTICED WE'VE HAD THREE WAITERS SINCE STARTING OUR MEAL!"

CHAPPIES MUST'VE DIED. I THOUGHT I SAW THE MANAGER CLEARING SOMETHING UP DURING THE HORS D'OEUVRES.

METROPOLE

The TUC delegates enjoying their ease in the Metropole might like to think about a few facts concerning the people who work there.

Ever since the new manager arrived six months ago, the hotel has been full of rumours that he is trying to get rid of permanent staff, so that casuals can be taken on instead. Casuals can be laid off over any 'slack' periods - permanent workers can't. This certainly fits in with all the other little dodges by which the management are scrimping and saving---on wages that is, they don't mind shovelling money out of the window at the same time if they can get anything out of it.

So, people are sacked for not working holidays, when even if they do work they don't get any extra money. Overtime is paid quite arbitrarily. Banqueting porters, for example, don't get any. Others just get time in lieu. If you do get it, it is usually paid at the wrong rate. Everyone is always getting pulled off one job and put on another in a frantic effort to try and run the hotel without the proper number of workers. In fact, some people have been working there for 30 years and now they are just being treated like rubbish! Why is it that there has been a 400 per cent turnover in chambermaids in 6 months? Could it have anything to do with low money, lousy conditions and the extra work that they are virtually blackmailed into doing?

For Poster

While they are putting the boot in the managers absolutely queue up to fawn over the managing director. Mr Poster has a huge suite of four enormous rooms which if he was paying for them would set him back over £100 a night.

It must be a lot of comfort to the overworked staff to know that, besides this big parasite, they are supporting a whole raft of bungling managers. Their latest coup was to install a butter-pat machine---against staff advice. It cost a fancy price and has been entirely useless, exactly as they were warned. And while on the subject of managers, the Voice would like to know what happens to the staff gratuities from the major exhibition exhibitors? Somehow, they never seem to get down to the people doing the graft.

The result of all this has been that in a traditionally badly organised industry, over 80 per cent of the staff have joined the GMWU. Half of the new members have never been in a union before. Even Head Waiters and foreign workers are joining in protest against their treatment. Some have received an increase of up to £4 recently. This is the first pay rise for two years and goes nowhere near keeping up with inflation, let alone improving on poor money.

The management now is stalling. They don't want a union with any teeth. They want a staff association. They want a union which can't even blow its nose without their permission. They want a long-winded negotiation process out of control of the staff. Most of all, they want shop stewards who are going to spend all of their time running around to see that their members observe all the rules and agreements. Well, they have a point, the stewards would probably do a better job than the managers---but their job is to represent their members. So, start worrying Metropole, the times are changing.

TUC Week--- Whats Going On

Sunday 5th Sept Eve of TUC rally of Pensioners and Trade Unionists. Assemble 2pm Brighton Railway Stn. Rally 3pm Fishmarket Hard or Dome/ Corn Exchange if wet.

Monday 6th Sept May 1926 Exhibition Official opening 5.30pm at the Art College, Grand Parade

Fabian Team Meeting 5.15 Royal Albion Hotel. Speaker Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment Admission 50p

Trades Council Reception and Re-Union 8pm to Midnight.. Hard luck its by invitation only.

Tuesday 7th Sept Ruskin Media Show Anti-Apartheid 6pm Polytechnic, Grand Parade

Thursday 9th Sept CND & LAFF 'Arms, Jobs and the Crisis.' 2.15 Longbranch Guest House, 76 Grand Parade.

Chile Solidarity Campaign 6pm Wagner Hall, Regency Rd

Sunday 12th September National Demonstration of Solidarity with People of Chile Assemble 1pm Clerkenwell Green, London, marching to Trafalgar Sq. Speakers: Madame Allende, Ron Hayward and Charles Clarke(NUS)

"Plenty of houses
and jobs available
in Brighton

D of Employment.

A family who were due to be evicted and had no work saw an advert for a job for a couple with accommodation in Hastings. They arranged an interview and had a good chance of getting the jobs, but had no money for the train fare.

They approached the DHSS, who said that travel warrants could be obtained from the Department of Employment. They therefore contacted the DofE who refused to provide them on the grounds that there were plenty of houses and jobs available in Brighton...

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

But the TUC seems to have forgotten this side of its role. It is so taken up with playing power politics, social contracts, a tempting to run the country and testing the CBI that it forgets it is the organ of the organised working class and must protect them against exploitation by the brutal necessities of callousness, capitalism and bureaucracy.

Len, son, you don't run the country, all you do is threaten to blackmail it.

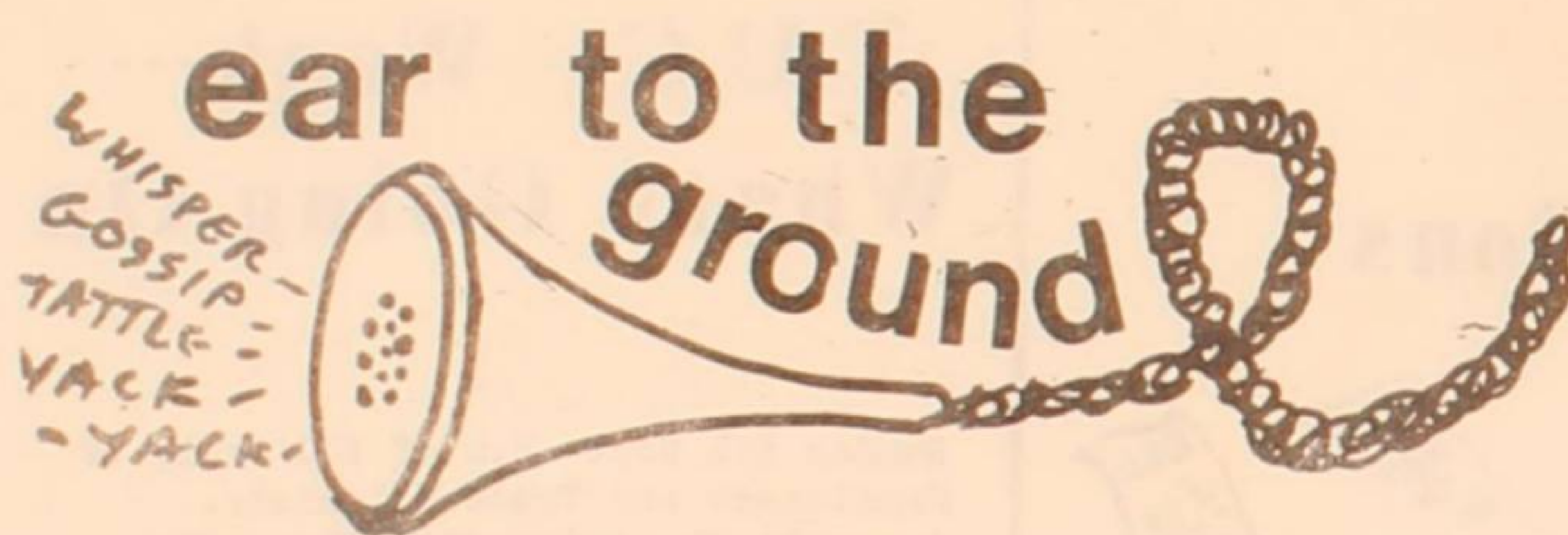
"DON'T ROCK THE BOAT"

The situation is serious. So what does the TUC do? Lulled by delusions of power the unions preach self denial, belt tightening and not rocking the boat.

Not rocking the boat - that is the TUC's power. A strike would be calamitous to the nation's prospect



"I DON'T LIKE ALL THESE NASTY HORRIBLE WORKERS BUT THEY'RE SPENDING ABSOLUTE FORTUNES IN DADDY'S HOTEL."



MARINA

The Marina saga goes on! These in the architectural world will know that Louis de Soissons, the consultant architects on the Marina, have been advertising for quantities of staff to work on the design of the marina buildings. This is taken to mean that detailed drawings are in hand despite statements by the company that most of the buildings will not now be built and despite only having outline planning permission.

BINGO

6	58	11	23
63	17	41	3
24			39
	56		4
8	79	32	25

Another Brighton Cinema looks like biting the dust in the near future, a victim of the mindless appeal of bingo and wrestling and the ruthless avarice of those who make money from bringing us such delights.

Victory Theatres Ltd, the owners of the Duke of Yorks, at the moment the best second-run film cinema in Brighton, has made two separate planning applications. The first is for 'The playing of Bingo' and the second for 'Occasional Live Entertainment including Wrestling'. So, if they get their way it will be all brawn and bingo at Preston Circus in future and there will be one less 'cheap' cinema in this town.

Voicenote: Objections to the applications can be lodged with Brighton Borough Council at 83 North St. They must be received by September 13th.

Union News

In this issue is a long letter complaining about Sussex Student's Union's lack of community effort. There is also a long reply.

Following their essay into the printing business, which resulted in the demise and destruction of the Black Wedge Press - a loss which is still crippling many organisations in Brighton - it looks like they are now withdrawing from community action altogether, with their recent executive decision not to appoint a new Coordinator for Link-Up.

Paddy O'Reilly, the union administrator, keeps making the excuse of 'ultra vires' payments. But other S.U.'s have found ways of helping the communities they are thrust upon; for instance, Liverpool, Southampton, Cardiff and London are supporting major on-going housing projects; two inaugurated, and still partly support, law centres.

Meanwhile Sussex buries its head in the sand and goes on fiddling merrily away in its privileged green oasis out at Falmer.

k - lust ?

Sharp-eyed readers of the Argus may have been surprised at the recent resignation of Cllr. Klust as Chairman of the County Planning Committee. Klust has been something of a whiz-kid on the County Council with, allegedly, the largest expense account of all. For some time rumours of peculiar practices abounded and Cllr Klust's name was even mentioned in the same breath as suggestions of imminent corruption charges. So persistent were these rumours that the County Press Office actually went out of its way to tell anyone who would listen that 'there was no truth in the story whatsoever'. Very shortly afterwards, however, Klust resigned... 'for reasons of health'.

community workers

Remember the earlier rumpus about the actions of the community workers in Brighton and their subsequent departure in disgust for pastures new? A promised review of the functions of community work appears to have leaden feet, for nothing has been decided yet, and it has only reached the stage of being a 'discussion document', of quite unparalleled vacuousness. And no new community workers have been appointed - and maybe never will. Meanwhile the community seems to be getting along, even though the County Council officially says it doesn't exist.

b & b

One of the seamier scandals to ooze out recently is about the way the numbers of people receiving bed-and-breakfast emergency accommodation has been savagely cut down...because the budget is overspent! Brighton actually HIRED some extra people solely to work out a heavy selection procedure, the result being that out of 76 applicants only 4 got their B&B in the second quarter of this year, ie 5%. In contrast, 60% of Hove applicants got it - but Social Services have told Hove they must fall into line - or else.

Maybe they are overspent, but think. If the community officers had had some of those B&B funds for a community housing scheme we might still have had them. emergency accomm and more, and money to boot.

Instead it was given hand over fist to exploiting hoteliers and ran out before the holiday season started.

**A PUBLIC MEETING
ON
HOUSING CUTS
SPEAKERS
GEORGE SMITH GENSEC.U.CATT.
BILL RANKIN. DEAGENSEC.N.A.L.G.O
ALEX KITSON TR.G.W.U.
DOUGLAS TILBE DIRECTOR OF
SHELTER
AT 6.15 PM
ON
THURSDAY 9TH SEPT
INSTITUTE HALL QUEENS SQ
BRIGHTON**

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND REVIVES

High up above Moulsecomb, overlooking Stanmer Park and Coldean is Moulsecomb Adventure Playground-- a desolate looking piece of land filled with swings and local kids. It has been going for ten years but became run-down and vandalised earlier this year. It has recently been taken over by a new playleader, Jane Isitt, who is employed by the Education department and who has the difficult task of getting it back on its feet.

No money comes from the Education department (except to pay the playleader and two part-time staff) and all the money for equipment over the ten years has been raised by a management committee made up of local residents--no mean task when you consider that they raised £2,000 alone to build a 'hut', used at present for storage of materials. All the extra help has come from volunteer workers, mostly local people like Vic, who gives a large part of his spare time to working on the playground.

At present, the playground consists of various different types of swings, slides, towers and wooden shelters, made from old telegraph poles, tyres, ropes and wood prounged locally or bought second-hand. Jane hopes that eventually all the structure will be joined together to form a massive complex of interconnected swings and platforms. They are also building a switchback which will go from one side of the playground to the other. They are helped in this by the fact that the ground is very steep. There is a sink in the hut and a small brick and cement paddling pool outside, about two feet deep, but they are not allowed to fill the pool, or use water in the sink because of the water shortage (just over the hill on the racecourse, the sprinklers are going all day long to keep the grass nice and green).

When the playground started ten years ago, there were 200-300 kids using it regularly--which indicates how much of a need there is for some kind of entertainment for local kids-- but it is now used by only 40 or so on a regular basis. Partly this is because a

year ago a play leader left and the ground was empty for four months in which time it was badly vandalised. Partly it is because the ground has got a bad reputation because "all the naughtiest kids" go there and many parents stop their children going. Many younger kids are frightened of going because of the older ones. Jane is trying to improve its local reputation but this will naturally take some time. At the moment most of the users are boys aged 9 to 12. Because so many of the structures have been vandalised the kids get bored and destructive. Jane hopes that by building up the structures again vandalism will decrease--but it is still heavy going. The hut was broken into recently (nothing much taken) and at night they have to take the swings down and lock them away because otherwise they get pinched. They are hoping to build a fence round the playground to discourage kids from coming in at night, but they are not put off by fences if they are determined enough to get in. What is needed in the long term is involvement on the part of the kids who are likely to vandalise the place, and these kids are normally the older ones who don't come during the day.

**Come back Dickens
all
is forgiven.**

While we're on the subject of the Metropole (see elsewhere in this issue) we thought you'd like to know that they're having a grand opening for their new Buttery Bar. So what?

Well, to ensure a good spread in the Argus (free publicity) they've asked local Probation and Social Services for the names of 'poor and deprived' people who would be grateful for a free meal.

The playground is open every day from 1.00 to 7.30 during the summer holidays and weekends and 3.30 to 8.30 during term time. It closes in the winter because the ground is too exposed to be used in bad weather. As the playground develops they hope it will be used as a club in the evenings, both by adults and children, for events like barbecues.

A lot is still to be done. The playground has had some support from Link-up (at the University) with such things as free transport and the playground hopes in the future to join with the 67 Centre (the local youth and community centre) for outings, camps, etc. But apart from this, the playground stands on its own with little outside help or support. They are always in need of such things as brushes, paints, rope, wood, chairs, carpets, etc. and, of course, HELPERS.

How to get there-----turn right off the Lewes Rd up Moulsecomb Way and by the bus stop at the top of the hill turn right up a small path between two houses. The playground is at the top of the path about 100 yards up.



But perhaps we're being unfair, and the management are turning over a new leaf; perhaps we can look forward to the doors being thrown open to the homeless and the hard-up, free holidays with breakfast in bed for old age pensioners?

Or perhaps the whole thing is the nauseous, patronising publicity stunt it appears to be on the surface.

RIGHTS CENTRE

The saga of the Rights Centre goes on and on and on. One year after the initial eviction decision by the County Council, the Centre is still battling it out and continuing to offer all its legal services. Its complaint to the Ombudsman about the deception and deceitfulness of the Council and Councillors Preddy and Theobald in particular, has produced a massive response from the County, who clearly have a real horror of being investigated. Rumour has it that it has cost the Council a sum not far short of that originally asked for by the Centre (£1,000) to provide its defence data so far.

Meanwhile, both the Borough and the County have decided to 'freeze out' the Rights Centre and render its work as difficult as possible by refusing to co-operate with it. A recent suggestion by the Centre of an inter-departmental discussion to try and ameliorate some of the problems of re-housing was met by a response from Blake, the mole-like Borough Secretary who said that none of his departments wants anything to do with the Rights Centre. Funnily, the first post that day brought a positive response from Social Services, but the second brought a hurried refusal from them 'after further thought'.

What a scandal that an organisation which is doing such good work is refused even minimal co-operation by the Council in its efforts to make up the errors and omissions of the Council.

Remember, the Centre is open for new cases every Thursday lunch time and evening (till 7.30). It has helped well over 400 people in the area now, and advises many community and residents groups.

Did you notice recent advertisements urging firms to move to East Sussex? And one of the carrots offered was that we had 'a stable social structure'. No revolutionaries here!

The remark only appeared after the original ad had been re-written by the assistant planning officer, so it is a good reflection of County Council values.

ACCOUNTANT

Is there any liberal, radical or just relaxed accountant (or student nearing completion) in Brighton? If so, please contact Voice.

PREDDY PLANS

Councillor Preddy, whose name has appeared in these pages before, deserves yet another mention. Usually he is behind some villainous piece of hard-heartedness in the Social Services area, but he has been a naughty boy on the planning scene this time.

Preddy was on the working groups considering the future of the Seaford and Newhaven areas, but complaint was made about his presence—since it was simply illegal. He has chemists shops in both towns. He also had a curious habit in the group discussions of emphasising the importance of good access to those streets containing his shops.

What did the County do about the matter? You might think they would remove Preddy. Not on your life! They made the working groups into sub-committees of the Council, which are not subject to such old-fashioned restrictions. And Preddy is still pushing his ideas forward.

Marks et Cie.

England ain't wot she used to be! Did you know that the girls in Marks and Sparks now have to learn French to cope with the influx of cross-Channel bargain-hunters?

CLIFFORD'S SMASHING TIME

The recent invasion by Council workmen of the Buxton Road squat and their smashing of the toilets and light fittings has the local NCCL in a tiz. Apparently the Town Hall, correctly surmising that most of the squatters would be in Lewes for the court hearing, decided to move in as soon as they had word that the Judge had given the Possession Order. So in went Morgan's Merry Men, in their suits but lacking the all-essential Court Order in their hot little hands, and without showing any identification to the mother and child left in the house.

May, the Housing Manager, says that he 'did not give authority for the smashing of the house'. That is a nice get-out, but who did give the word? Why, none other than our old friend the harassing Harassment Officer, ex-Met cop, Clifford. Clifford has now called in a firm of Security Thugs, Green Bank Security of Dorking. That will cause a nice rumpus on the Council - if the Labour Group have any guts left.

The obscenity of the Council sms smashing homes whilst the waiting list gets longer and longer needs no comment.

LETTER OF THE YEAR

Dear (?) Voice,

What is the Voice coming to, that it publishes such sycophantic apologetics as the article on Infinity! What a fine line in liberal clap-trap to say there is a 'welcome for constructive criticism, but don't knock them because they are successful'. If the Voice consistently allowed itself to be heard only when it had 'constructive criticism', most of the past issues would be blank pages. Part of its function is, rightly, scabrous criticism; part of its aim should be not to reflect Guardian-type 'balance'.

And on the subject of Infinity, no matter how thinly you slice it (or how many copies of the Voice are sold there), it remains true that Infinity are the only community-oriented operation which seems to make money, yet virtually none of that has come back to the community. To say they have other (reasonable) things to put it into merely reflects the very value-judgements which are the cause of

criticism; it does nothing to justify those value-judgements in any way whatsoever. Lots of groups are desperate for cash in this town. If Infinity had set aside £10 a week for such other organisations it wouldn't have gone bankrupt, and it wouldn't be seen as so turned in on itself.

But Infinity, despite criticism, still deserves to thrive. But if the Voice publishes such toadying bunkum again, it certainly doesn't!

Yours,
Hubert McCance.

There are more letters on pages 12, 13, and 14. It's great that so many people are writing to us and we hope that the trend continues.

Write to: Brighton Voice,
7, Victoria Rd
BRIGHTON

BOOK REVIEW

LAND LIB

LAND FOR THE PEOPLE
compiled by Herbert Girardet.
Crescent Books 8a Leighton Cr,
London NW5 2QY. @ £1.20.

Land for the people is the manifesto of a growing group of people who wish to see a general re-population of the countryside. They believe our present highly industrialised life style is un-sustainable in the long term as easily available energy and raw materials are finite and fast running out. On the land they see the problem as becoming particularly acute as modern farming continually exhausts the soil and needs ever increasing applications of highly energy expensive fertilisers.

With the rest of the world no longer queuing to sell us cheap food we cannot afford import and so will have to produce most of our own. The solution offered by 'Land for the People', is to have many more people working on the land using in many cases HORTICULTURAL rather than AGRICULTURAL methods.

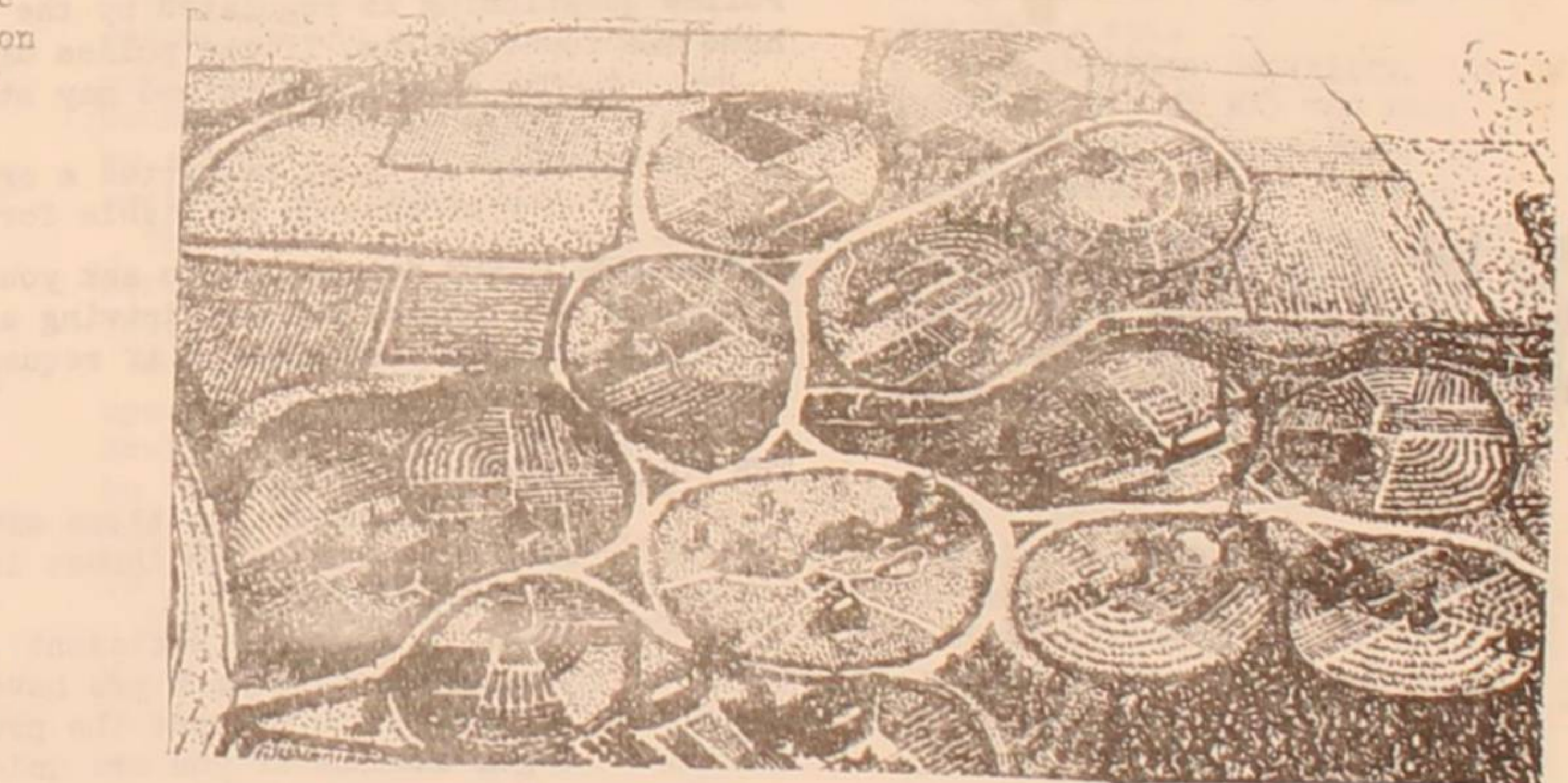
At the same time there is a growing body of people who are disenchanted with city life and desire to live and work in the countryside. Under the present system of land ownership there is little hope for many of these in their attempts to satisfy this need.

This book is intended as a contribution to the on-going debate on the topics of land use and ownership. They are hoping that it will be useful as a tool for the rapidly growing movement of people who are seeking access to land. Redistribution of land is seen as a precondition for the emergence of an ecologically viable agriculture.

Southdown Open Up

One of the more interesting developments on the industrial front recently has been the success of the united busmen's Unions in forcing Southdown to open up their 'books'. Everyone knows that Southdown is a grossly mismanaged company, but the problem has been to prove it. The information from the accounts may help to do just that.

A spokesman for the busmen, Len Coombs, says the trouble is that 'the company has just got too arrogant. The last time they raised fares they put the new fare tables out even before they had gone to the Traffic Commissioners. The time has come to make a stand. Over the last five years 33 buses have been taken off the road. Soon there will be no service at all'.



The book is a solid and detailed work with essays by eleven widely differing authors. It covers all aspects of land use and ownership from the history of the sixteenth century enclosures movement to plans for future new village communities; there are excellent sections on world food resources, land revival and the principles of land reform.

They end with an appeal to develop a movement to demand land reform NOW BEFORE it becomes economically vital and we are saddled with some kind of bureaucratic enforced land

Even more outrageous is the attitude of the Traffic Commissioners themselves, 'who don't even go out for a smoke now when 'considering' an application, they just rubber-stamp it. They have become arrogant too.' Nobody knows the criteria used by these Commissioners in judging an application, and they are probably pretty vague themselves as none of them have any training in transport engineering.

Petitions and grudges are alright in their way, but to really break the Company's 'case' for more cuts and higher fares we need a more effective based on detailed information necessary. We need to pull the wool over the eyes of the 'Traffic Commissioners' and to begin the beginning of a stand, and they are to be congratulated on taking their Union beyond the usual limited horizon of wages into management.

resettlement scheme. "Whatever political changes accompany the movement back to the land we must at all costs avoid creating another area of bureaucratic control. -- We have to be constantly aware of the subtle dangers of co-optation or forced integration into a tightly-controlled state scheme. The need now is to bring about a process of land liberation, rather than stagnant control. -- " If you care about how we are to live and feed ourselves in the future obtain a copy, read it and then act, towards LAND LIBERATION.

THE VOICE
COLLECTIVE
MEETS EVERY
SUNDAY, 8.00
AT OPEN CAFE
7, VICTORIA RD.
EVERYONE'S
WELCOME

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

part
four

Continuing our series of edited versions of NCCL Fact Sheets on your legal rights, we look this issue at your rights on being questioned by the police. Normally when the police ask for your assistance you will, of course, want to help them. The VOICE like the NCCL does not want to discourage this but when dealing with the police you should know your legal rights and know when you are not legally obliged to co-operate.

Police questioning is regulated by the 'Judges Rules'. These do not have the force of law. If the police disobey them:

1. The evidence obtained may still be used in court if the judge allows it
2. They may have committed a criminal or police disciplinary offence OR be liable for an action for damages

THE POLICE CANNOT detain you to ask you questions without first arresting you, unless you are driving a motor vehicle when you must give your name, age and address if requested to do so by a uniformed officer.

THE POLICE SHOULD NOT

- Make you answer questions either before or after arrest
- Make any promise or threat in order to persuade you to make a statement
- Make you sign any statement
- Change any statement you have made
- Interview you without the presence of a parent or legal advisor if you are under seventeen

THE POLICE SHOULD

- Caution you - tell you of your right not to say anything - as soon as they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that you have committed an offence
- Caution you again when you are charged or told that you may be prosecuted
- Caution you again if further questions are asked on another occasion
- Record both questions and answers in full, the time and place of questioning and who was present
- Ask you to sign a record of the questioning. You should only sign if you are satisfied that it is an accurate record of what has taken place
- Make reasonable arrangements for your comfort and for refreshment

MAKING A STATEMENT

You need not make a statement if you do not wish to. If you are questioned as a suspect it is often sensible to say something like: 'I do not wish to say anything until I have seen my solicitor'. If you are charged with an offence and wish to make clear your innocence, say something like: 'I didn't do that' or 'I am innocent'. Do not go into further explanations until you have taken legal advice.

Remember: you have the right to speak to a solicitor alone and can insist that he is present before answering any questions.

If you decide to make a statement it is often better to write it yourself. Alternately you can dictate the statement to the police.

The statement should be in your own words without prompting and should be read back to you.

If you are foreign you should make a statement in your own language.

Do not sign a statement until you are satisfied that it is correct and reflects exactly what you wanted to say. If you do not understand anything in it - don't sign.

It is important to be polite and reasonable when asked questions by the police. Co-operation can help you, but you should never believe threats or inducements. Co-operation solely for short-term benefits e.g. promise of bail, may do your case harm.

BIG BROTHER

(British Style)

THE POLITICAL POLICE IN BRITAIN, Tony Bunyan (Julian Friedmann), £4.95.

The Political Police in Britain is a gripping book which drives several stakes into the heart of liberal mythology.

It is an explicitly socialist account of the development of law, the police and the counter-intelligence agencies with the development of the state to identify, monitor and contain political activity.

It examines the present role and methods of the uniformed police, Special Branch, MI5 or the Security

Service, the Defence Intelligence Staff plus other intelligence gathering bodies, public and private.

It traces them from their start in the eighteenth century when the idea of state neutrality reigned to their current status, independent of the working class and largely of parliament.

Political police fight with law, not batons and bullets. Mainstays are the Official Secrets Acts against treason, sedition and incitement, and conspiracy.

Their power is formidable, particularly since the proposals of the Franks Committee in 1972 were shelved. The Official Information Act suggested as a replacement would have removed the cloak of secrecy from much of the information.

The publishers of the book fought off all attempts to check the book for infringements of D-notices. D-notices are one institution under the Official Secrets Acts.

Bunyan traces the legitimacy gained by the uniformed police and CID who sought to guard the bourgeoisie - their original role - by spying on and infiltrating meetings and organisations.

The police are forbidden to form a union to affiliate with the TUC.

Recently there has been an upsurge in pre-emptive policing designed to gather information on 'likely' future offenders.

Two such are the Drugs Intelligence Unit and its Immigrant counterpart. These files will be merged on a Police National Computer this year. This makes for a vast potential in cross-linking, invasion of privacy and information. This resource will be available to those able to pay through ex-policemen in the hire of private security companies.

The Special Branch, formed in 1883, polices political ideas, prepare lists of militants to be arrested etc. This role has not changed since its inception. What has changed is the size of the force - 1000 officers now - multiplying many times in recent years as a result of various actions by activists and unions.

The covert side of this overt force is the Security Service, MI5. They have ten times the manpower and do the positive vetting of civil servants and keeping watch on MP's, industrialists, etc.

Even the Home Secretary, the nominal boss of MI5 can only get information on a 'need to know' basis.

Bunyan catalogues some of the some of the activities of the service which have emerged. It is an authoritative guide.

Also dealt with are the technological methods of surveillance, phone tapping and mail intercepting.

While the book is factual and not sensational it does highlight Cabinet Office machinations in preparation for counter-revolution and the suppression of dissent. The National Security Committee within the Cabinet Office nearly became a National Security Agency earlier this year. This is the committee at the centre of increased army intervention in civil affairs and the Military Police joining the Met force on permanent patrol in London.

The Voice has often dealt with activities of political police in Brighton and this book is essential for all those in the area who think their activities will leave us alone.

what an alliance

The Chairman of the ALLIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY (Britain's 6th largest with headquarters in Hove) said recently:

"The Society's continuing concern to provide all possible help to first-time buyers will be an important and essential part of our effort to contribute as fully as possible to home ownership."

What hypocrisy! Look at all the money that goes first and foremost into office blocks and luxury flats. We have found some telling details of what goes on in Brighton, particularly to the profit of the Coleman-Cohen family, related to the late Lord Lewis Cohen of Brighton, a founder/managing director of the Alliance.

Just recently the Sussex Mutual lent £165,000 to a local speculator, Henry Smith Properties Ltd., to build luxury flats near Brighton Marina. As this company's profits amounted to only £1,000 in the previous year it surely wasn't a safe bet for a building society loan. But it just so happened that Henry Smith was a business associate of one of the directors of the Alliance.....The flats were built and the company's profits jumped to £61,000 when they were sold. Further the President of the Sussex Mutual is one of the Stiles, Horton and Ledger estate agents in partnership with a director of the Brighton-based Citizens' Regency Building Society. This firm handled the sales of the luxury flats built by the Cohen family group of companies for which the Alliance lent over a £¼ million at the height of the property boom. The little circle of profit goes round and round. And now the Empire is extended a bit more: one of the directors of Braybans, the largest building firm in Brighton, has just been made a member of the board of the Alliance. What chance has the first time buyer, desperately looking for a cheap house and a mortgage, got against this lot ???

N. C.
C. L.
**A complete set of NCCL Fact Sheets is available for 18p post free from NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Rd WC1X 9DE

BOOK REVIEW 9

THE DUBLIN HANGINGS

THE FACTS & THE PEOPLE

On September 11 1975 the Allied Irish Bank, Dublin, was raided by at least three people and £7,600 was stolen. The robbers were followed in a car by an off-duty policeman, Garda Reynolds; who was later found in St. Arme's Park, shot in the head.

The Dublin 'Evening Herald' ran headlines that the garda had been shot by anarchists, while at the same time the police were saying they didn't know who was responsible. A reward of £20,000 was offered for information.

On September 23rd the police started raiding the homes of all known anarchists and the friends and relatives of imprisoned anarchists, plus a wide spectrum of people involved in community and welfare organisations, including prisoners rights groups. About 200 raids were carried out. One person who was 'helping police with their inquiries' was released with several ribs broken, another they put into hospital for two weeks. They had all been asked to 'confess' to knowing who was responsible for the bank raid.

One of the people raided, interrogated and later released in these raids was Ronan Stenson, who worked for the Prisoners Rights Organisation, which had become an embarrassment to the government because of their persistent exposure of inhuman prison conditions.

On October 9th Noel and Marie Murray were arrested by 20 armed police as they returned home. At 10.30am that same day Ronan Stenson was also picked up from his home.

Why did the police pick on these three? Obviously the police had decided they were guilty, but why is a question only the police can answer. All three were previously known to the police; Ronan Stenson because of activities on behalf of prisoners, Noel Murray was already wanted by the police in connection with another matter (a petrol attack on the Spanish Cultural Institute in 1974) and Marie Murray has at least one previous conviction for which she received a suspended sentence - later squashed on appeal. Both the Murrays had been 'in trouble with the police' before and the police had been in trouble with Ronan Stenson.

Both Noel and Marie Murray were active anarchists. But what made the police single out these three from all the other people of similar background, only the police can say.

INTERROGATION AND TORTURE

The three were initially interrogated separately. Stenson was beaten with a hammer and a nylon rope, as well as the normal methods of fist beatings, humiliations and intimidation. When he had 'confessed' he was taken to Curragh Military Prison where the army doctor, who examined him on admission, noted that he had extensive bruising on various parts of his body. He was refused any independent medical examination.

The Murrays were similarly treated, Marie finally 'confessing' verbally after 18 hours, having been put in the cell next to Noel's, where she could hear him being tortured. She was told that he would be killed if she did not confess. Noel is said to have made a verbal confession.

Ronan Stenson was so badly tortured that although he was put on trial with the Murrays they had to stop the case against him and transfer him to the prison hospital where he is to this day, 9 months after his arrest, still unfit for trial.

Stenson and the Murrays were brought before the Dublin Special Criminal Court for their trial.

TRIED ' IN ABSENTIA'

In this court the case is not decided by a jury of twelve ordinary people, but by three judges appointed by the government (one of whom had already tried Noel Murray some years before for another offence). At the trial the main evidence was the 'confessions'. The Special Court refused to believe there was any torture, maintaining this belief by refusing to allow the defence to produce any evidence to support their claims. The condition of Ronan Stenson must have made this pretence even more difficult and the abandoning of his trial due to ill health was inevitable.



The defence was not only hampered from producing any evidence on any major point, but the defendants were not permitted to be present at all for a large part of the trial, including when the verdicts and sentences were given. (Marie Murray did attempt to make the customary statement before sentence of death, but the judges would not allow even that).

NO CHANCE ON APPEAL

The Special Criminal Court was set up in 1939 to hear cases involving large paramilitary organisations, specifically the IRA, to "prevent intimidation of the jury". (It appears more likely that the major fear was not so much intimidation as the large number of people sympathetic to the IRA who, if serving on a jury might vote for acquittal; also the amount of evidence offered by the prosecution would not be enough to convince the average jury.)

The Irish Government are using the court, which has no jury, and which was set up to deal with the IRA to try three people who have no connection with the IRA, and to sentence them to death, in order to show how tough they are getting with the IRA.

The Murrays appealed against the conviction and the sentence to the Appeal Court but predictably the appeal was turned down. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court on November 1st and so the date of execution has been deferred until after this last appeal. The chances of winning an appeal to the Supreme Court are remote.

PUBLIC MEETING Conway Hall Small Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 10th September 7.00pm

MURRAY DEFENCE GROUP (LONDON) Box 2, Rising Free 138/142 Drummond St NW1

GEORGE STREET

SMALL SHOPS,
SOME REFLECTIONS
ON A STRUGGLE.

A redevelopment scheme for the George Street/St James's Street area of Brighton is threatening the future of Simple Supplies' premises at 11 George Street. Greenelms Properties, a subsidiary of the giant J.Lyons group, want to demolish the existing shops and homes in order to build a large supermarket, with car parking, a few luxury shops and flats, and 10,000 sq feet of offices.

If the plan goes through, small traders in George Street will be squeezed out and low rent housing lost. The traders will be lucky to find comparably priced premises elsewhere; and we all know what the housing situation's like in Brighton. No-one seems to want more offices in a town where so many are now standing empty - except of course the developers for whom the offices are the catch-penny of the whole scheme. And those concerned with conservation don't want to see some of the oldest houses in Brighton destroyed for the sole purpose of lining Greenelms' pockets.

Some of these old fishermen's houses are empty. They have been smashed by Greenelms' vandals, so that their condition will help them make a case for demolition of these listed houses.

You'd think there would be so much opposition to the scheme that it would not stand a chance of getting through. But it hasn't turned out that way. The developers are cleverly pushing the supermarket as a 'carrot'. Many people, especially the larger traders and the planners, desperate for a solution to the visible decline of the area, have grabbed at it.

To understand why, it's worth looking at the recent history of this part of Brighton, which is typical of many inner urban areas. In the past ten years or so, it's changed from a prosperous shopping centre, with a mixture of chain stores and small shops, to a blighted place where one in seven of the shops are empty. The population has declined with slum clearance and rehousing elsewhere; the Churchill Square shopping precinct began to draw trade away a few years ago and the large shops gradually pulled out, seeking financially lush pastures. After Sainsbury's - the main grocery store - closed, others followed suit, and it's rumoured that even Woolworth's is seen to shut up shop. So the people in the area haven't got a decent food store any more - hence the attraction of a supermarket redevelopment. But will it really help?

At a recent public meeting, it was suggested that the only way to 'revive' the area would be by policies designed to bring in more people to live there again and to encourage small traders sensitive to the needs of the local community, aided perhaps by a street market. This met with the - typical - response from a chain-store trader that it was all very well to talk about the local community, but she couldn't make enough money unless people were drawn in from further afield. "Chelsea-type" shops would be "good" because they would attract tourists into the street.

She was asked whether she realised that this would tend to increase property values and so drive out the "locals" - but not surprisingly she was more concerned with the prospect of more profit.

There may be some lessons here for those of us concerned about "survival in the city" and trying to make a stand against the concentration of shopping and other facilities in ever-larger and more remote units: why is it always such a struggle?

As shopping concerns become big business, their profit margins in places like St. James' St. aren't fat enough to cover the enormous overheads incurred - because the outlets are too small, the catchment areas restricted and local income levels too low. Either they leave such areas altogether, or they back redevelopment schemes wherein they can have big new stores without much competition, in the knowledge that wealthier people will be drawn in. Either way, there's a direct conflict between commercial pressures and the interests of the established residents. The multiple stores don't need the support of local people, so they can ride roughshod over communities such as St. James' St./George St. - and often do.

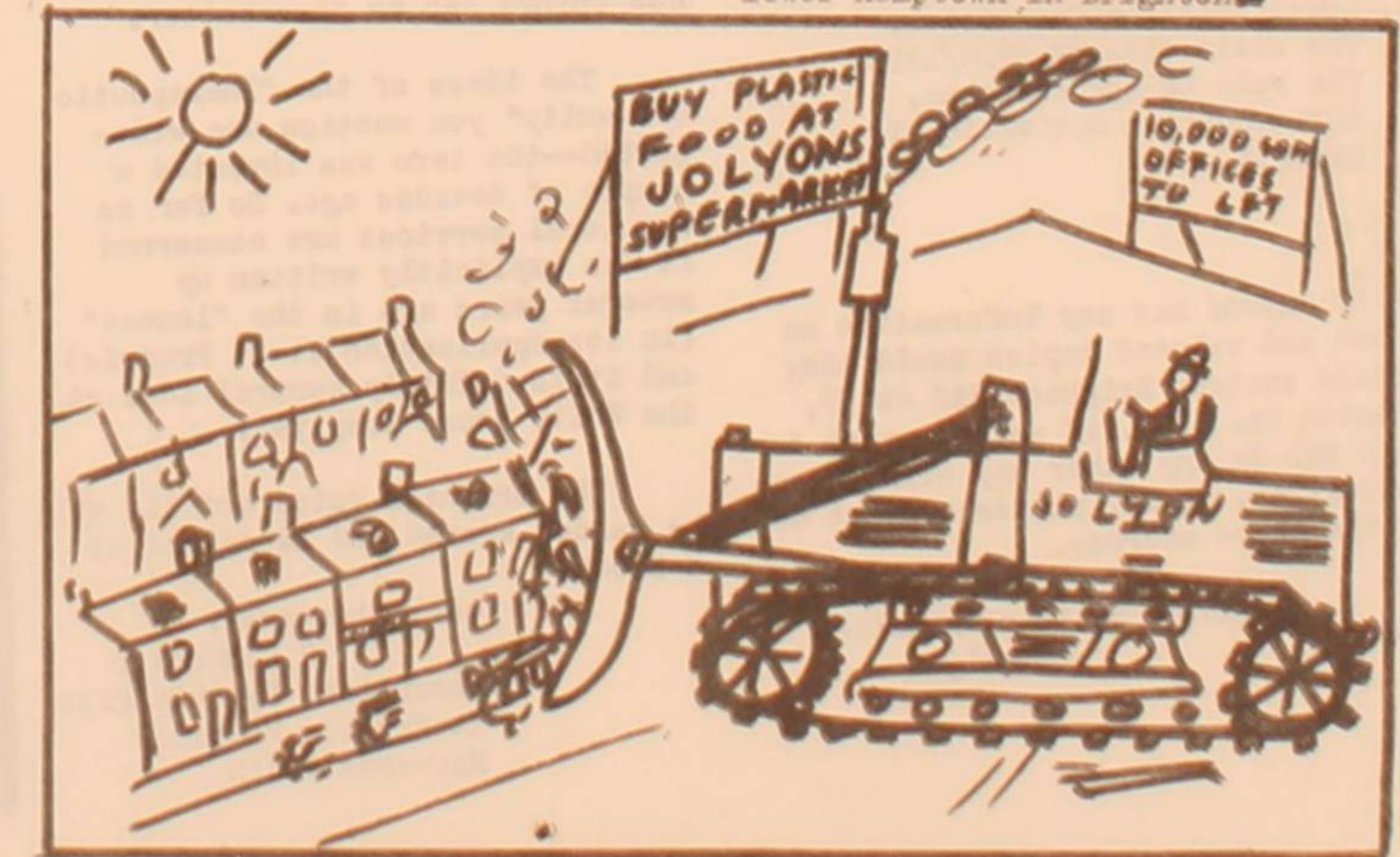
Against this relentless capitalist logic, the small is beautiful argument might seem like a pathetic pipedream. But a brash and barren redevelopment scheme

doesn't solve the problems of a declining area - it just shifts them elsewhere. If property values are forced up then it becomes harder for Councils to buy up places to rehouse people displaced by such schemes. If people have to do more travelling to fewer but larger shopping centres, then traffic congestion increases. All in all, more headaches are created for planners as well as for the poor and immobile - so perhaps there is an opportunity now to actively challenge the logic behind this process.

Given the chance, small shops like those in George St. and a (small) new grocery in St. James' St. could thrive, and once again many of the basic needs of the local community could be provided within the area. The overheads of this type of shop are relatively low, so their profit margins can be kept down and they don't have to be so anxious about bringing in trade from further afield. They rely largely on loyal regular customers to whom they give a personal service and above all, they have an interdependence with the local community, in the sense that neither could survive without the other.

Co-operatives like Simple Supplies have an important part to play in demonstrating the value of this delicate balance. They can do this not merely in the insular sense of the "urban village", but by providing a contact point for the exchange of skills, ideas and produce among people using the centre and by being in tune with some of the basic things we need in order to be healthy in the city.

If Simple Supplies and like-minded ventures can not only make a stand against the diktats of developers who threaten their existence but can foster new projects to help us gain more control over the way we live, that will be more positive a statement than any mere polemic against the interests trying to destroy communities like Lower Kemptown in Brighton.



"WE ONLY WANT TO REVIVE THE AREA"

LETTERS

n.a.c.

Dear Voice,

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Abortion has recently made its second report. Like the first one, this report proposes further restrictions on a woman's right to control her own fertility and will have the effect of denying more women abortions or driving them back to the back-street abortionists. It also seems likely that some time in Autumn or Winter more restrictive legislation will be put before Parliament.

The National Abortion Campaign is replying to these moves by setting up a national tribunal to investigate abortion facilities in this country, which groups of people are attempting to restrict these facilities and for what reasons. The tribunal, which will be held in January, will be hearing evidence gathered from all areas in this country. To this end, Brighton NAC will be setting up a local tribunal which will present its evidence probably in December. The following are some of the topics on which we will be collecting evidence:

1. The reasons why women need abortions.
2. The attitudes of the medical profession.
3. Local abortion facilities.
4. The activities of SPUC/LIFE.
5. The role of the churches.
6. Anti-abortion activities in schools.

If anyone has any information on these and related topics would they please contact Brighton NAC at 57, Preston St. Also, if anyone wants to help out in any other way with these activities, again, please contact us at the above address.

Brighton National Abortion Campaign.

PICTURES

Dear Brighton Voice,

I would like to get in touch with anybody interested in setting up a photographic unit operating on a co-operative basis free from outside interests.

If you like taking pictures, want to get in touch with others in the area and also enjoy communal facilities, you don't have much choice beyond the local photographic societies. A course run by ESCC adult education has closed because of the cuts.

mental health

Dear Editorial Collective,

I was interested in Issue 31, particularly the article on Mental Health services in Brighton. I don't regard it as fair or balanced, but I don't suppose it was intended to be. But it's useful to have as many critics as possible. What you may not realise is that it is not only the Communists who go in for self-criticism. You'd be suprised(if you were able to look at things fairly, without ideological blinkers) how many of the people involved in the mental health service try and work out how things can be done better.

The ideas of the "Therapeutic Community" you mention are wide-spread--the term was invented a couple of decades ago. So far as our local services are concerned it was explicitly written up several years ago in the "Lancet" (in its application at St Francis) and it is a fairly central idea at the White House hospital.

The Brighton Voice article will be handed around and discussed at H Block.

Yours sincerely,

R.H.Wheeler
Consultant Psychiatrist
St Francis Hospital
Haywards Heath

What I'm interested in is the experience of photography. What it does to your insides when you really get going. And I want to share this with other people so that self affirmation/discovery becomes the starting point for everything else.

Once you become aware of what's going on, inevitable if you want to take good pictures, you really have to look. Then it naturally follows that there is a lot to talk about.

This is why I want to find people who feel the same, so that we can find some premises and get a darkroom going, and also make it a place where anybody can come and make pictures - providing they're prepared to talk about their work and contribute money to pay for everything.

The place could be an alternative visual news centre. Also a library of pictures and books could be arranged where people could come along and borrow pictures to support community interests or just to look at at home instead of the telly.

But it is vital people don't come along just cos it's cheaper than Boots.

Then there's the money. Premises would be expensive but they needn't be large or in particularly good nick. The most basic necessity would be electricity. Can you suggest something?

Money could be raised by selling pictures by people interested in this.

Also, I don't see anything wrong in selling pictures to magazines, papers etc, even if what they print is a load of crap, providing the money is used to finance a community photographic centre.

Perhaps eventually the centre could raise sufficient money to finance trips to other countries. But this would be different to supermarket TV - where there is a little good stuff in all the mud. Photography is not difficult, with practice you can do it and go on doing it discovering things all the time.

I feel stuck because I believe you can only go so far alone before it loses its meaning. If the experience is shared ideas and relationships can be discovered and kept new.

I hope you can help me find people and let me know what you think.

Graham Rew
14 Dorset Gardens

While it is great to get all these letters, please try and keep them reasonably brief. We do not want to cut letters at all but in this issue some would have covered pages and we hope our editing hasn't misrepresented the views of any writer.

cont....

more letters

wistons criticism...

Dear Voice,

Thanks for writing a much needed article on abortion, which still has to fight strongly against an insidious morality in this country, in the world. I'd like to add something to your summary description of Wiston's, as I recently had a termination there and was shocked by the lack of post-operative care or counselling.

I was completely reassured by the various staff who gave me the tests which are carried out a few days before the abortion, and consequently I felt relaxed the morning I went in. But once out of the operating theatre and coming round from the anaesthetic, all the women in the ward were amazed at the pressure which was suddenly put on us. Firstly to get up and dress, then to eat, then to go and sit in a waiting room. This way our beds and the ward were quickly vacated for the next influx of women who had already arrived and who meanwhile had to watch us, perhaps in some pain or just pale and quiet-certainly not quite with it- before going through the same procedure themselves.

There was no effort from anyone at Wiston's to see any of us individually. Some patients were left printed advice beside their bed before the op, others had no post-operative guidelines(on hygiene, general rest, the need for immediate sexual abstinence, future contraception, etc). The surgeon breezed into the waiting room but didn't seem to expect any questions as we all looked 'all right'. Most pregnancy terminations are far from being serious operations, nevertheless they upset the body's rhythm and cannot fail to present some kind of physical, emotional or financial problems at the time, perhaps serious, perhaps not.

Wiston's presumably relies upon the relief felt by its patients, once the operation is all over, to unload it of any further responsibility. And so although its role(and that of any other charitable trust) is a very valuable one, its service is in no way complete, as friends' experiences and my own suggest.

Gill Nokes

...and reply

We sent a copy of Gill Nokes' letter to Wistons. Here's their reply:

Dear Brighton Voice,

We were very sorry to see the letter from Gill Nokes and to know that she left BPAS's Wistons Nursing Home feeling dissatisfied. It is only if people tell us of their complaints that we can put matters right; our files contain many hundreds of letters from satisfied "customers" but it is the dissatisfied ones we need to hear from immediately and directly rather than some time later via publications like yours.

Obviously, people vary enormously in their reaction to such things as anaesthetics and insertion of intra-uterine contraceptive devices. Some feel very fit immediately after an operation, others need longer to recover. This was one of the factors we had in mind when BPAS decided to charge the same for day-care or overnight stay abortions. In this way no woman feels pressurised into opting for day-care, and somebody booked for day-care can change her mind at any time and stay overnight at no extra charge.

Your correspondent booked in for a day-care operation and left the same day although a number of patients do decide post-operatively, to stay for the night. It is because patients who leave the same day need food inside them, need to walk around a little and need to be in a vertical position before leaving the premises, that day-care patients get up soon after their operations, have a meal and sit in chairs in the waiting room. It is understandable that in her post-operative state, Miss (sic) Nokes thought this was to release beds-although, in fact, Wistons has plenty of beds- rather than realising it is best for patients to become active gradually and not go straight from bed to the journey home.

We are also sorry that your correspondent did not feel able to communicate her worries to the surgeon in the waiting room afterwards, nor to ask for the information she required from the Sister who all patients see just before leaving. We do try to ensure that all patients have written advice(usually given to them when their appointment for the operation is made but with additional copies available besides the waiting room) about post-operative care. All patients have counselling discussed with them at each stage of progress through the organisation. Unfortunately some people are so stressed by what is happening to them that they find it difficult to take in and/or remember what is said. This is one of the reasons why all patients are given a card when they leave with our phone number and saying they can come back or contact us at any time for advice or help.

Anyway, I hope she will accept-via you- both our apologies and the fact that if we don't know of criticisms, we can do nothing to put these right.

While writing, perhaps I may comment on one matter in your earlier article (Issue 31). BPAS does not just 'say' there is a fund from which loans and grants to needy patients are made- there really is such a fund. For example, in 1975 there were 96 loans (totalling £3,526) and 62 grants (£1873) made to Wistons abortion patients. In the Midlands and Merseyside the amounts are much larger. However, it is important to realise that because BPAS is non-profit making and because Bpas has no other source of income other than the fees it receives for services to patients, the loans and grants money is provided by those patients who pay the full amount. Because some people undergoing considerable hardship insist on paying the full amount, we have a duty to distribute the subsidy they provide with great care and only where no other finance is available. This may be why some people feel aggrieved at being asked to raise the £66 elsewhere. Nevertheless, nobody has been turned away from BPAS because they did not have the money to pay for the treatment they needed.

I apologise for the length of this letter but hope you can print it as it will help to clarify a number of important points.

Yours faithfully,
Diane Munday
Public Relations Officer.

university creche

Dear Voice,
Twice the Student Union of the University of Sussex received a mention in your last issue, each time apparently accused of considerable irresponsibility. Luckily its officials have now changed and it may not be excessively mean to throw another stone at this unlucky organisation. I would like to ask the Union the simple question--whom do you serve?-- in relation to its policy over the financing of the University creche.

The Union's refusal to contribute to the running costs of the creche has often been discussed by the creche's management committee, of which I am a member. Apart from vague hints to principles involved I have not discovered a rational explanation of the refusal.

Like all other areas, the creche has had to adjust to financial diff-

AND MORE LETTERS!

In addition to the above letter, the Voice has also received the following unsolicited reply:

Dear Voice,
As a member of the new sabbatical executive I shall do my best to answer Ms Boehmer-Christiansen's criticisms of our 'unlucky organisation.'

Firstly, the students union exists to serve its membership. It also serves its membership 'in relation to....the financing of the university creche'. As Ms Boehmer-Christiansen knows Union policy is democratically determined by its own membership and if she thinks policy is wrong she has the means to effect a change.

It is my belief, however, that present Union policy on the provision of creche facilities is correct and has been proven to be correct in practice; I shall, therefore, do my best to justify it.

We believe, like Ms Boehmer-Christiansen that parents have every right to study and that nursery and creche facilities are essential if they are to do this. The university recognised this implicitly when it advertised creche facilities in its handbook in an attempt to attract more parent students. Provision of facilities for the care of students' children is as vital a part of the university's commitment to its students as tutorial supervision. It is practically impossible to benefit from a full-time course while also having to care full-time for one's children.

At present the Union contributes a grant of £100 p.a. to the creche for toys. To accept any further financial responsibility would be in my

opinion irresponsible. The student's union simply does not have the resources to bail out the government, local authority and university administration. Just as the union cannot undertake to provide housing for its members, so it cannot undertake to offer creche facilities; creche and nursery facilities belong to the same category of essential provisions as accommodation and teaching. Ms Boehmer-Christiansen is right in stating that principles are involved here, but there is nothing vague about them. If we are to have adequate facilities for children of students and staff on campus, then the university must be made to realise once and for all that they have a total responsibility to provide them. If Ms Boehmer-Christiansen wishes to see a long-term answer to the problem rather than seeing the present inadequate facilities being propped up by the students' union, then she should involve herself in the campaign for creche and nursery facilities and force the university to shoulder the burden. A very limited success has been achieved so far in maintaining standards in the face of a real deterioration in provisions elsewhere. A concerted campaign must be mounted in order to achieve real improvements. I hope Ms Boehmer-Christiansen will join other members of her union in this fight.

Gerry Traynor

iculties. We have to guarantee the University a specified income from fees. From September parents will in fact be means tested, and a quota system in favour of fee-paying parents will have to operate. Students have lost their automatic right to free places. Over two thirds of the creche places, calculated by the number of sessions used, go to students, graduates and postgraduates-- The creche serves them; it supports parents and in particular women who want to combine careers or study with child-bearing. Most of us would be forced into the 'home' if the creche did not exist; as places for under three year old children, close to the mother's place of work, are very difficult to find. Here is an area of real social need. Why does the Union think it proper to support sailing clubs, debating societies, etc. but not us? Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen

info...

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP
contact Hugh Bayley
c/o Nalgo 104 Queens Rd.

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Selma Montford
10 Clermont Rd.

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TENANTS' ASSOC.
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BRITAIN/GDR SOCIETY
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on East Germany.

BRITISH SOVIET FRIEND-
SHIP SOCIETY
62794

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Brian Hart 111 Church St.
683710.

CHE WOMEN'S GROUP
4th Tuesday of every
month at Marlborough
Hotel, Princes St.
Upstairs lounge.
Su Spurway WG/LAMBDA
PO Box 449 Brighton.

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Meetings Mons 8pm.

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Coffee, toys, picture books
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mums.

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PLAYGROUND
Needs money, material
and help. Arthur & Dave
c/o 67 Centre, off
Hodshrove Rd Moulescoomb
682428.

NATIONAL UNION OF SCHOOL
STUDENTS
Ber, 13 Prince Edward's Rd
Lewes 2731.

PEOPLE'S OPEN STUDIOS
see bottom column 2.

POETRY AT OPEN
7 Victoria Rd
Tuesdays 8pm.

PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED KIDS
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Tues 1.30-3.30 Mrs S
McCormick 44 Inwood Cres
509431.

PRIOR HOUSE
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12.30-2.00 20 pence.
Open Creche, Thurs 9.30-
12.00, 10 pence.

The Voice Collective meets
every Sunday 5.00pm at
Coker Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd.
All are welcome.

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