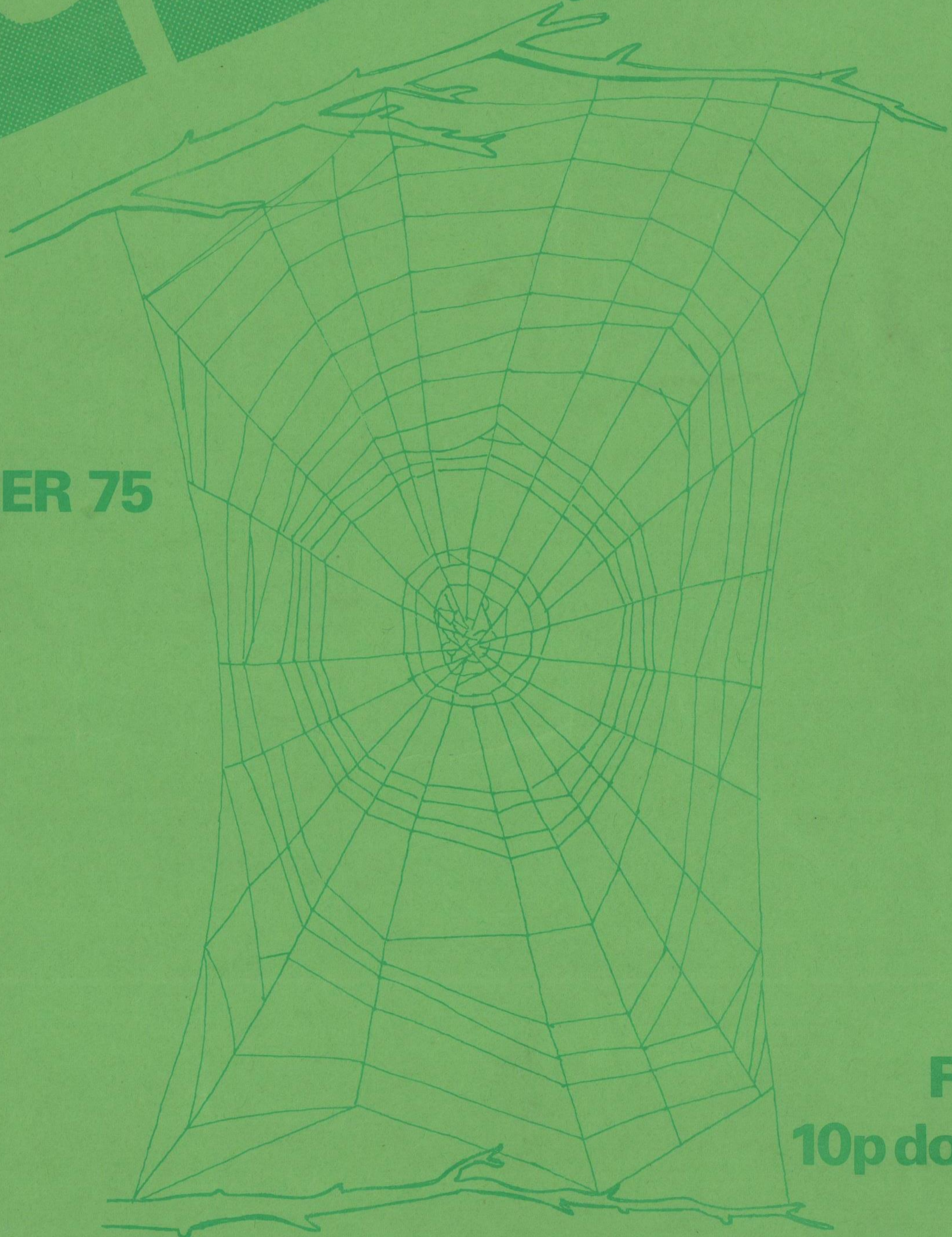


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**WEST
MIDLANDS**

C.L.A.P.

HANDBOOK



**Nº1
SUMMER 75**

**FREE or
10p donation**

C.L.A.P. (COMMUNITY LEVY FOR ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS)
informs you of alternative projects in need of and offering resources.

FOOD and Environment



WALSALL WHOLEFOODS

This is a shop which developed out of a food co-op which operated in the B'ham/Walsall area in winter 1973/74. It is now operating more than ever as a co-operative, being open 2½ days a week, staffed by a rota of about 6 people (unpaid). We are also starting to share more of the tasks like jarring up and transporting supplies.

Aims - rather hazy. The general idea is to promote the use of foodstuffs that are wholesome, natural, and economical in their use of the earth's resources. I see two distinct reasons for this: (a) the maldistribution, misuse, and apparent inadequacy, of world food supplies, and (b) the fact that a more wholesome diet has something to contribute to our own personal development, both physical and mental. Of course, given only these two reasons, we could all get what we need by selective shopping in supermarkets (after all they sell dried beans and nuts and wholewheat flour) and traditional health-food shops. But there is a third reason: buying basic foods through a co-operative like this is a way of unhooking yourself a little from the big commercial/industrial machine (food processing, food packaging and food marketing). Of course the best set-up of all is for most people to grow most of their own food on their own little patch. But that can't be achieved overnight by most of us, and meantime we can take steps in the right direction by using simple foods obtained through "alternative" distribution channels.

How it works - we have a small shop premises in Walsall (3 George Street, near the market) open on Tuesday (9-5), Friday (9-11) and Saturday (9-5) - i.e. on Walsall market days. We sell flour, grains, flakes, dried beans, peas, & lentils, nuts, dried fruits, honey, molasses, herbs & spices, etc, using almost entirely recycled jars and bags. Our main suppliers are on the "alternative" scene too - Community Wholesale and Sunwheel Foods in London for imported stuff, and Sam Mayall, the great organic farmer, for cereals. We do a fair bit of joint buying with Sunrise (B'ham) and with Cornmother in Leamington.

Finances - I have provided the working capital of about £500 (which covers value of stock, equipment, etc.).

In the last few weeks takings have been increasing significantly and it looks like this will mean a surplus. So a pay-out to CLAP is an obvious possibility.

Help needed - mainly in staffing the shop: Friday 11-5 needs to be covered, also 9-11 as from July. Saturday 1-5 would be useful too.

Rob Reid, Walsall 26750.

BATH PLACE FOOD CO-OP

Bath Place Food Co-op has been running almost a year now, and the weekly turnover of food is £90. We try and involve as many people as possible, old as well as young, and try to **make** it easy for them to be involved. Briefly - one person **employed** by the Project goes to market with a pensioner who **has** an old Bedford van. Then people in the building set the food out and it's served by volunteers in 2 sessions, 3.30 and 4.45.

This has been a simpler approach than pre-paid orders which need packing - a previous Co-op here ran on these lines, not very successfully. Hopefully, over next year, more and more people will participate, though in terms of size we are near our ceiling (not literally - Bath Place is a very high building!)

We'd like money to buy another set of scales (£12) so that we can serve people quickly, and a small fund to cover emergencies (e.g. van breaking down).

Food Co-op, Bath Place Community Venture, Bath Place, Leamington Spa.

Don't forget there's also

Cornmother (wholefood shop needing new premises): c/o Other Branch, Leamington.

OATS

Oats at the moment centres on a vegetarian "restaurant" every Friday at Carrs Lane Church Centre (near the Peace Centre), and is run on a co-operative basis. We have a rota of people who take it in turns to plan and prepare the meal. Decision-making meetings are held at the Peace Centre and everyone is welcome.

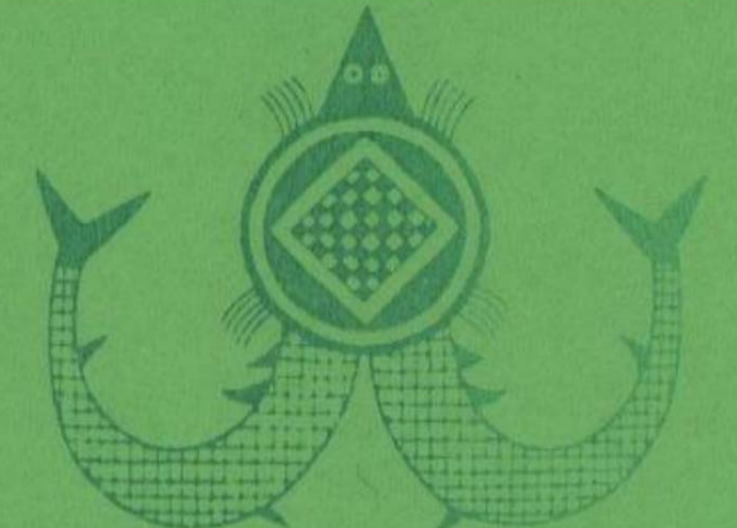
The Friday evening meal is prepared from 4.30pm, serving usually starts about 6.30 (be there by 7.15 to be sure of a complete meal - sometimes we run out!!). We charge around 30p for the three-course meals, but it's free to the cooks (hint!).

We are also happy to do outside catering, so if you're holding any sort of event, please consider us and tell your friends.

At the moment we are looking for premises to start our own wholefood shop, so if you know of anywhere suitable or are interested please get in touch. Oats will need either a loan or donation of about £300 to help cover the costs of the initial stock of food, the advance rent necessary to start a shop, and possibly to buy a lease.

Oats has existed for over two years now, the Friday meal has become very popular and crowded, particularly with people who simply go there to eat, not to be a part of Oats - we need more enthusiastic people with fresh ideas and energy. So if you are interested in cooking, starting a shop, or just plan hungry, give Oats a try.

Sandra 440 2506 or Maggie 440 2861.



SUNRISE

Sunrise is a non-profit-making co-operative selling wholefoods, crafts, publications, publicising the problems of ecology and the poor world, as caused by exploitative trading.

We need help in running shop affairs - getting the goods, bagging food, shopkeeping, window displays, accounting, posters, and publicity.

We need help with projects that will develop the potential of Sunrise urban peasant club! - e.g. running food stalls, recycling things.

We may have the tools and resources for a number of odd jobs like mechanics, painting, decorating, building, etc.

Not all our suppliers are strictly "non-exploiting", so we are anxious to know of any good suppliers of wholefoods, vegetables, craftwork - anything!

Sunrise might be a staging post for alternative projects getting food in bulk so as not to waste transport.

Paper bags, food scoops, bins, sticking tape, screw-top jars and shelving are the tools of our trade. We produce a surplus of boxes (card & wood), big sacks, and good wholefoods for you. Come along.

Sunrise, 247 Dudley Road, Birmingham 18. 454 0435



MR. PIGLET

Mr. Piglet started life in the now defunct Village Store in Moseley, and is now operating from a flat in Moseley. He sells wholefoods as cheap as possible and odd items of craftwork etc. He desperately feels that there is a growing need for a shop/centre in the Moseley/Kings Heath/Selly Oak side of town to complement Sunrise on the other side and the Peace Centre in the centre. It would be like a show place to show all and everyone how we can live peacefully, cheaply, and happily without doing ourselves or our planet any harm, and so perhaps help them to do the same.

Mr Piglet doesn't really need money, as he feels so strongly that such a venture is right that the money will come as needed. but what he does need is, firstly, a shop, preferably with living accommodation; secondly, practical people to devote their time and energy; also jam jars or coffee jars.

Rich, 8 Sandhurst Road, Moseley. 622 4081 (work hours).

ORGANIC HOLDING & SCHOOL

Hoping to establish a small residential school for maladjusted and deprived children (from 3 years onwards) on Steiner principles, and self-supporting in fruit, vegetable and dairy produce. I have been given the prospect of a suitable property in the Cotswolds - large mansion, 23 acres, and staff cottages, but need someone to start it with me, who would not expect too much profit for a year or two but eventually it should provide a living as well as rewarding (and demanding) service to children. I am an experienced and qualified primary school teacher, also a State Certified Midwife. I believe in wholefood nutrition and organic culture and would like to contact anyone interested in organic farming and growing, or more especially willing to give devoted care to children (emotionally, and often physically, battered) in a deeply Christian, tolerant, and active atmosphere. We shall also need cooking and secretarial skills. (Hoping for local part-time help in music, art, etc.)

B. Doubleday, 22 Firs Close, Marlbrook, Bromsgrove, Worcs.

NEW VILLAGES ASSOCIATION

The New Villages Association has been formed with the object of establishing New Villages and thereby setting the pattern for the future. We hold neither with the blindly optimistic view that "something will turn up", nor with the abjectly pessimistic opinion that "there's nothing we can do about it". We believe we must accept our unique responsibility and work constructively to determine our own future.

We have to face and solve at least three major problems -

Firstly, the price of land makes raising the money to buy a site for even one New Village a huge task. Financial loans would make self-sufficiency practically impossible. The N.V.A. hopes to lease village sites from a Community Land Trust, which embodies a new approach to land tenure by holding land in stewardship for all mankind, present and future, while protecting the legitimate use-rights of its tenants.

Secondly, we have to overcome the difficulties involved in obtaining planning permission for repopulating agricultural land.

Thirdly, our phenomenal lack of useful skills must be remedied. We need to learn not only how to produce our own food and clothing, but also many other skills necessary for the functioning of New Villages. The N.V.A. will provide a framework for training and education, whereby members can acquire the required skills and knowledge.

It is hoped to obtain village sites through a Community Land Trust and to establish nuclei of well-trained and committed participants. The villages will then expand as housing is built and land brought into condition, each able-bodied person contributing an agreed minimum of manual labour. The impetus might continue by each established village devoting its surplus energy, after its immediate needs are satisfied, to setting up another New Village.

David Venner, Katie's House, Childswickham, Broadway, Worcs.



BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Birmingham F.O.E. is one of 110 local groups affiliated to the national organisation.

We operate closely with the Central Office, often launching events to coincide with the publication of reports by them - this works on the principle that maximum publicity and pressure at all levels is needed to bring about change towards policy with greater ecological soundness in the limited time we still have available.

A recent campaign centred on whales - and the ban on importing whale products for pet foods was an example of what can be done. Many councils, now including Birmingham, have paper salvage schemes and we are trying to persuade them to do the same thing with bottles.

We also try to keep up a running commentary on issues in the West Midlands and speak anywhere to begin to awaken consciousness of the ecological dimension within which we live.

We can offer - people (some) for other events; specialised info from Central Office reports on a wide range of ecological issues; specialised contacts; negligible tangible resources!

We need - people, both as regular members prepared to put in regular time & energy, and as people who will support one-off events (like the Bike Procession); and resources, especially help with designing blurb and printing it for campaigns.

Lyn Roberts, 6 Passey Road, Moseley, Birmingham. 777 1019.



CAMPAIGNS



CAMPAIGN FOR A DEMOCRATIC CO-OP

The British Co-operative movement is one of the greatest creations of the British working class. For over a hundred years working men and women have struggled, with great success, to build alternatives to capitalist trading and foreshadow a socialist society.

Their movement, with its principles of democratic member control; banishment of the profit motive and individual ownership; service to the culture and education of the community; and commitment to the politics of the Labour Movement, has been an inspiration to socialists throughout the world.

For the past twenty years this heritage has been under attack. Although the principles and the idealism of the pioneers built the Co-Op into the biggest retailer in the country and a major force in its politics, they have been steadily abandoned, and commercial priorities have come to rule the movement. Political and educational commitment has been relegated to the shadows. Member democracy has been whittled back and an insidious counter-revolution has seen management bureaucrats gain control.

Yet the Co-ops remain the greatest untapped strength of the Labour Movement in Britain. For all their bureaucratic degeneration, they remain member-controlled. Their constitutions retain a commitment to the education, culture, and politics of their local communities - and in some areas, such as London, this is more than lip-service. Further, despite the commercial failure was has accompanied the installation of capitalist priorities, their enormous commercial strength - £1,400 million sales in 1973 - remains to be used to pioneer new relationships between workers and consumers which can give real meaning to the rhetoric of the alternative society.

Co-op democracy works in two ways: in the annual elections to the board, and in the members' meetings, which take place quarterly and allow the rank-and-file membership to participate in the running of the Society. The elections to the board are designed to represent both members and workers on the main decision-making body of the Society. The domination of elections by the managerial-led Forward Group is destroying the vitality of the organisation.

It is not the job of the Board to run the commercial operations of the Society. That is the task of management, which is employed, trained, and paid to do that job. It is the job of the Board to act as a watchdog and controller of management on behalf of members and workers to direct overall policy and to put forward political initiatives.

In a situation where management controls the Board, the Board cannot do any of these jobs properly. With no check on management, management becomes conservative and inefficient, and fails to serve the best interests of members and workers.

The first essential task in reviving the Co-op is, then, to break Forward Group control of the Board elections. This will open the way to the political and commercial regeneration of the Society.

The Campaign for a Democratic Co-op will have candidates in the Board elections in September, and (starting long before then) needs help in telling people about the possibilities for changing the Co-op and encouraging them to vote (and beforehand to get their share-statement, which is what entitles you to vote).

Trevor Fisher, 19a Carlyle Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16. 454 8877.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE

Our aim is to stop sales of armaments from British companies to governments and other dealers abroad. We think it's immoral to make money from war and from encouraging preparations for war.

The Campaign is a national organisation. One of its local groups is in Birmingham. What we want is people to do the campaigning.

C.A.A.T., 16 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17.

THIRD WAY IN VIETNAM

We support the peace and reconstruction work of the Unified Buddhist Church in Vietnam. Our activities have two main aspects - arguing politically for a Vietnam free from the international power-blocks, and helping financially with the charity work of the Buddhists, especially their efforts to help Vietnamese orphans.

How the recent Communist victory will affect all this and in particular, whether Buddhist reconstruction work in Vietnam will be able to continue as before - remains to be seen. So at present, we don't know what we shall be doing and what sort of help we'll need. But if you are interested, please get in touch, and we'll contact you when things do become clearer.

Third Way in Vietnam, c/o Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4. 643 0996.

BIRMINGHAM GAY EDUCATION GROUP

is an organisation set up by the local Gay Liberation Front in 1971. Its original aim was to visit schools and colleges in the area and give talks on homosexuality in an attempt to clear up misunderstanding and prejudice.

Present activities also include the production of the GLF newsletter and organising entertainments, and we have recently published a sex education pamphlet written for schoolchildren called "Growing Up Homosexual".

Our first need is to pay for the pamphlet - many copies of which are being given away and the remainder sold at a loss. We need £100 to pay the printers.

We also need funds to help with the production of our newsletter "Gladrag". So as to encourage as many gay people as possible to buy and read it, we like to sell it at a low price - but at the same time improve its appearance and presentation. At the moment, all the typing is being done on hired machines, which is uneconomical in the long run. We are therefore looking around for a suitable second-hand electric (preferably golfball) typewriter.

Birmingham GLF, c/o Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4.

SOME OTHER USEFUL ADDRESSES

Campaign for Homosexual Equality: Birmingham - Ian 429 3957, Wolverhampton - Dennis Wolv 752673, Women's group - Jill 743 9903.

Men's Liberation: Rob, 27, Goldsmith Rd., Birmingham I4. 449 5939.

Transexual Action Organisation: c/o Birmingham Peace Centre.

Women's Liberation: Polly Feather, 38 St Albans Road, Moseley, or ring Jenny Stokes, 449 5875, early evenings.

Gay Switchboard: B'ham 449 8312, 7pm-10pm.

NATIONAL UNION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS

A branch of the National Union of School Students is being started in Birmingham. The basic aims of the NUSS are as follows:

- (1) To protect and fight for the rights of school students.
- (2) To campaign for fully democratic and comprehensive education.
- (3) For the full participation of school students in the functioning of their school.
- (4) To represent and act on behalf of the majority of the membership.
- (5) To promote and maintain co-operation with the youth of other countries.

The NUSS is currently engaged in a campaign to fight the cuts in educational expenditure of the Labour Government.

I would like to appeal to any school students and old members NUSS branch members, plus teachers, students, workers, and anybody else who are interested in joining or helping NUSS to contact me.

Jo Jones, NUSS, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC 1.

SOME OTHER USEFUL ADDRESSES

Birmingham World Development Action Group: John Fletcher, 4 Welman Croft, Selly Oak, B'ham 29. 472 6686.

Student Christian Movement, 67 College Road, B'ham 13. 777 1296.

Workers' Educational Association: 9 Digbeth, B'ham 5. 643 0717.



GENERAL

CASHLESS EXCHANGE

We all have things we don't need/use, most could use things we can't afford. Cashless exchange is a system whereby those that have (anything from clothes to skills) and are willing to give or lend to someone without lets me know. Likewise anyone that needs anything can let me know. You don't have to give to receive, you don't have to receive to give (although obviously some must give or there is nothing to get!). I don't have the facilities to store or transport things so my job is just to put you in touch with each other. If you have or want anything I would love to hear from you, likewise if you want advice on starting your own cashless exchange.

Wants - apron for folding pram/pushchair, working record player or amplifier, girl's (aged 4) clothes, clothes, small saucepans, outside coalbunker, doll's pram and doll's house, baby relax chair, high chair, 2 cooker guards, 2 nursery fire guards, bits of bikes.

Available - changing mat, guitar lessons, boy's (aged 2 or 3) clothes, complete set A100 (Arts) Open University course units, child's wooden playpen, a small transistor radio that works, a large valve radio that doesn't work, bits of bikes.

Paulette, 106 Oxford Road, Moseley, B'ham 13. 449 1668.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP

started last year with meetings to discuss anarchism & related topics. We decided that it would be a good idea to reach more people, largely within B'ham University. We produced a duplicated magazine, "Blackbrick", and distributed it free. We intend to bring a second issue out soon - which means we'll need some more money, although we have had some donations from friendly people. We need help towards costs, and with production & distribution, and we'd also like people to write articles, etc.

We have also held alternative seminars, on Toryism, Marxism, & Gandhi. We will be holding some more next term. We are interested in land and food, and plan to cultivate some of the campus. We also intend to get out into the community more.

Birmingham Anarchist Group

Harry Gilonis, c/o Students' Union pigeon-holes, Birmingham University.

BRIGHT SPARK PROMOTIONS

The Windsor Festival is now accepted as an annual event by more than 100,000 people. The festival has, this year, run into slight problems about legality. So this year we not only have to finance the festival but also the court actions and possibly aid for people busted last year.

Bright Spark Promotions are yet again getting a stage together for the fourth festival, but urgently require £300 for equipment hire and transport (of the use of equipment and transport itself).

Stephen Lucking, Bright Spark Promotions, 78 Sunnybank Road, Wylde Green, Birmingham 73. 354 1250.

WEST MIDLANDS SCIENCE & ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY GROUP

We have three main aims - to campaign on political issues involving the misuse of science, to discuss the possibility of an "alternative science", and to further genuinely alternative technology.

So far, we've had discussion meetings and brought out one edition of a newsletter. Some members are involved in constructing and experimenting with alternative technologies. There are hopes of starting an information exchange about resources wanted or available for A.T., bringing out more issues of the newsletter, and getting a political campaign going on the future decline of the car industry and possible alternative uses for the existing machinery and skills.

What we need most at this stage is people willing to put some time and energy into doing one (or more) of these things. If you are at all interested, please get in touch with

WMSAT group, c/o Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4. 643 0996.

LUCAS AEROSPACE COMBINE SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE

(This is reprinted from a letter in the latest issue of "In The Making".)

"We are taking the liberty of writing to you as we understand you are interested in the possibility of deploying the skills and equipment of technologically advanced firms on alternative technology, in particular those forms which are socially useful.

We should explain at the outset that this Combine Committee represents all employees of the 17 U.K. sites of Lucas Aerospace. It is therefore unique in the British Trade Union Movement in that it speaks for the entire spectrum of workers by hand and brain, from labourers to senior technologists and engineers. We design, develop and manufacture a wide range of aerospace components and complete systems. A substantial proportion of this work is on defence contracts. It seems to us that the "energy crisis" will result in a slowing down of many of these projects and the general economic climate is likely to result in cutbacks in defence contracts. This we regard as inevitable and even desirable. Our concern however is that cutbacks of this kind have always resulted, in the past, in the break-up of teams of skilled workers and design staff, followed by the degradation of the dole queue.

We have, over the past two years, been engaged in a number of bitter disputes to assert "the right to work". It is our intention to do so in the future. However, instead of campaigning for the continuation of socially undesirable product ranges we will, in future, campaign for the right to work on alternative and preferably socially useful products. In addition ... we also want to ensure that the work is carried out in such a fashion that the full skill and ability of our members is utilised, and that we depart from the dehumanised, fragmented forms of work which are now becoming commonplace even in a highly skilled industry such as aerospace.

The annual turnover of Lucas Aerospace in the U.K. is approximately £60 million. There are about 14,000 employees, and some 2,000 of these are engineers, draftsmen and scientific staff. A large proportion of the remainder are highly skilled manual workers. It is the kind of work force which, because of its skilled background, is extremely adaptable, and would be capable of working on a wide range of products. We have just over 5000 machine tools and about 250 of these are numerically, automatically or digital display control... A list of test facilities shows that this is backed up by products, environmental and investigation laboratories.

There is a very genuine desire to work on products which would be socially useful, not only in Britain, but in the newly emergent and developing countries. It is certainly not the view of the Combine Committee or of the work force involved that the kind of capital-intensive products which have come to characterise the technologically advanced nations



will be appropriate to newly emergent nations. It is therefore fully understood and accepted that entirely different forms of technology will have to be considered.

If you know of alternative technologies on which a work force of this kind could become engaged, in particular if these technologies would be socially useful, we will be very pleased to discuss the matter with you further. We are particularly keen to see that the very considerable skill and ability of our members is used to solve the wide range of human problems we see about us.

We should like, in conclusion, to point out that this initiative comes entirely from our workforce itself, through its Combine Shop Stewards Committee, and as such is completely independent of the normal commercial considerations of a large company of this kind. We will greatly appreciate your advice and suggestions, and would, of course, treat your reply in confidence if so wished..."

Contact (with s.a.e.): Roland Chaplain, Future Studies Centre, 15 Kelso Road, Leeds 2 (0532-459 865). The FSC is acting as a clearing house at the present, and can put you in contact with the Shop Stewards Committee if you wish.

A conference is likely, with workers from Lucas, Yorkshire Intermediate Technology Development Group, and other people, probably in July. Details from FSC.

If you'd like to publicise this further, please contact the FSC before you do, as developments may get outdated fairly quickly.

Community

SELLY OAK PEOPLE'S CENTRE

In January this year, a local group, backed by the Claimants' Union and some students at Birmingham University, occupied a shop - 768 Bristol Road, Selly Oak - and have since been in the process of redecorating it and equipping it as a community centre, meeting place, and advice and information centre.

So far, the advice and information centre has been the main area of concentration, and local response seems to indicate that there is a need for such a service in the neighbourhood. Help given has been mostly in the field of Social Security benefits, landlord/tenant problems and legal matters.

We are also beginning to tackle issues of importance in the Selly Oak area, particularly as regards housing and the planned road scheme which has led to the closure of many shops on the Bristol Road and the general "blighting" of the area. We are trying to gather information about these schemes and, if necessary, campaigns will be fought against such schemes. At present, local residents are concerned for the area's future, and much of this concern is due to the fact that so little information has been made available to them by those in the decision-making position.

The shop in Bristol Road was originally occupied as a protest against the fact that it had lain empty for three years with no attempt made to fill it by the Council, who now own it. This, it has been said, is because of the planned road scheme which will affect the Bristol Road shops, yet with Government cutbacks, the likelihood of the road's being built becomes more remote every day. This is a situation which affects many parts of Birmingham and there are over 5,000 empty houses here at the moment. One of our other aims, therefore, is to support those who decide to squat by providing information and advice as to the best places to squat.

Financing for the project has so far come from a £50 donation made at the start of the squat. This has now run out, and the prospect of raising any substantial amount of money is not good. The running costs of the project are not as yet very high as we have not yet heard from the Council on the question of rates. However, there are heating and lighting costs to be met, plus the cost of making good the premises whose condition has been allowed to deteriorate in the three years it has lain empty. In addition, books, leaflets, stationery, etc., are expected to cost in the region of £60 or £70 per year.

Selly Oak People's Centre, 768 Bristol Road, Selly Oak.

BATH PLACE COMMUNITY VENTURE

We can offer - a large attractive centre for meetings and conferences, with a minimum of hassles. Leamington is near enough the centre of England, and is nice enough to visit (and live in!). We have a coffee bar, kitchen, art room, creche, hall, playground, and other rooms besides.

If you're interested, please write to Jim at Bath Place Community Venture, Bath Place, Leamington Spa. Plenty of notice, please!

Also

Saltley Action Centre, 2 Alum Rock Road, B'ham 8.

BIRMINGHAM YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

BYV runs several playschemes, including holiday playschemes, schemes for blind and mentally handicapped children, a weekly Saturday scheme with the emphasis on creative play, and residential projects. We are also involved with residential holidays for handicapped OAPs, a community newspaper for OAPs, surveys, hospital projects, and a babysitting service for families under stress.

If workers in other schemes feel our experience might be useful to them we would be pleased to help where we can. We also have a Resource Library comprising journals, reports, articles, books and directories appropriate to our work. Anyone is free to browse through and borrow items. We have an electric typewriter (not golfball head) at present under-used in weekday afternoons when others may be able to use it.

Birmingham Young Volunteers, 161 Corporation Street, Birmingham 4. 236 2344.

BIRMINGHAM PEACE CENTRE

We are an alternative bookshop, information service, and meeting place, serving a wide range of groups and interests, but with the emphasis on nonviolent radical social change.

We sell books, pamphlets, magazines, food, posters, joss, oils, badges, handicrafts, seeds, and records. We try to answer questions from people in the shop and people phoning up, and there are noticeboards and information files. Some groups meet at the Peace Centre regularly every week, others less often, and the Peace Centre holds its own business meetings and discussions as well. We act as a mailing address for a number of groups, and can put people in touch with a lot of others.

We need: coffee-mugs, a clean plastic dustbin, trading stamps, money to pay our two workers, and help for a few hours now and then.

Birmingham Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, B'ham 4. 643 0996.

There's also

Other Branch (alternative bookshop): 7 Regent Place, Leamington Spa, Warwicks.

632

"632" bookshop, information centre, and poster workshop has been open for just over a year now. It's run by a collective of 4 people on a rota system, and others help out, though not regularly. The books section of the shop has been expanded, as well as the pamphlets.

The poster workshop still needs to be expanded, though. We need to buy better equipment so we can do photostencils for posters - i.e. mercury lamp, light box, etc. This would also make the workshop more efficient, and it wouldn't take so long to do the posters as it does now.

632, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham. 472 7019.

BIRMINGHAM ARTS LAB

The Arts Lab. has been in existence for seven years now, presenting the best of new work in the fields of cinema, theatre, dance, music, poetry and exhibitions. It is primarily an organisation for putting on events, and our quarterly programme contains on average something in the region of 200 performances. In addition to this it acts as a resource centre for other local groups and organisations.

The needs of the Lab., in terms of equipment, are considerable. A new 16mm fumeo projector, all kinds of sound equipment, or components to build the same, some white lino 25ft by 25ft for the dance group, a full-length mirror, and a new A3 printing press are some of the things which spring to mind. Manpower is also useful, for manning the coffee bar or doing box-office or helping get the programme out, for example.

The Lab. offers, apart from the most comprehensive programme of modern arts, space for rehearsals or activities (mainly during the day - the mornings are the best bet), use of such equipment as we have (mainly theatre equipment) and cheap A4 printing or silk-screen posters.

Arts Lab, 359 4192.

PUB THEATRE CO.

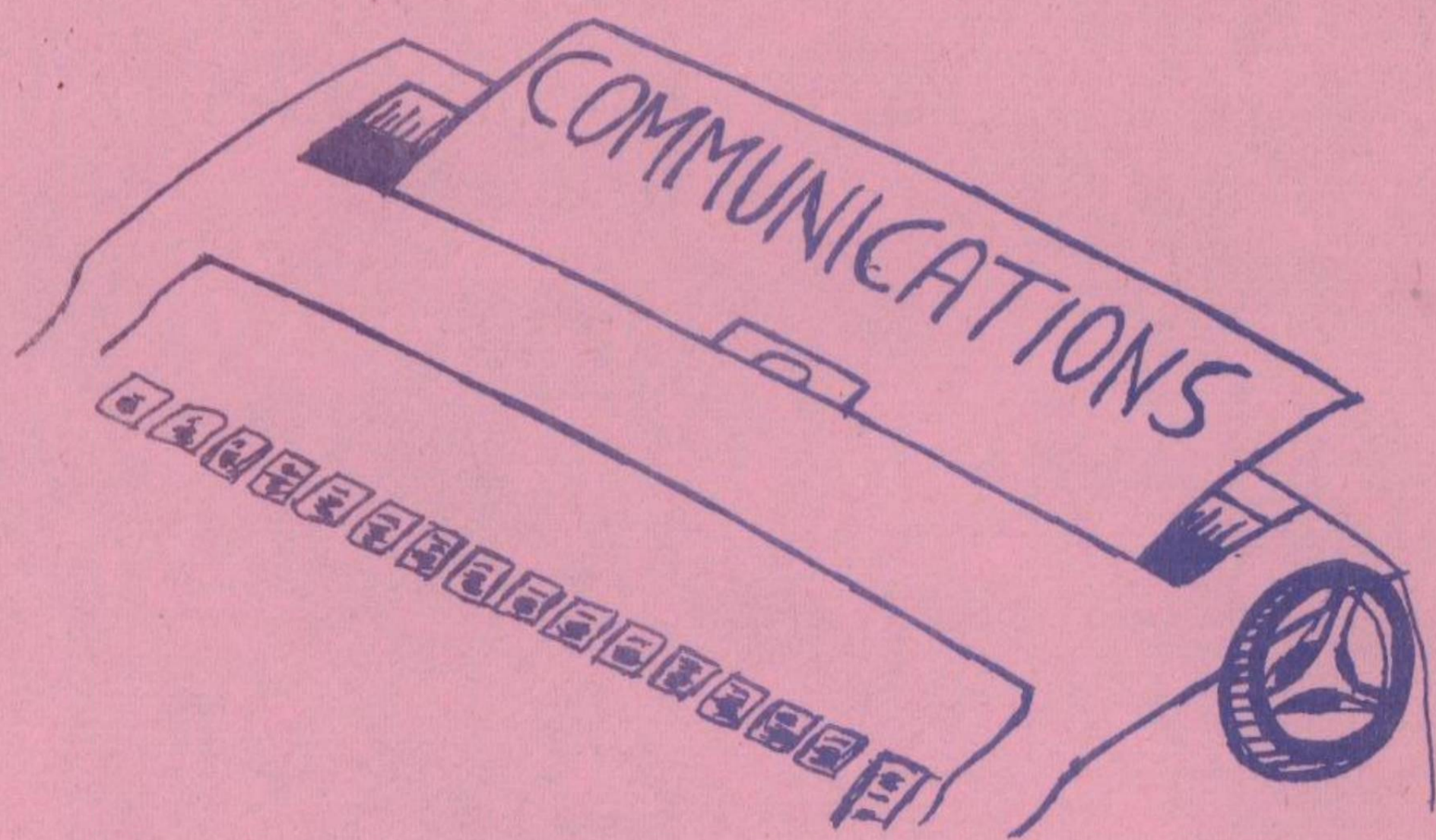
Pub Theatre was founded in January 1974 out of 20th Century Cocks, with the aim of expanding Pub Theatre in the Midlands. It aims to take theatre out of its traditional setting and make it available to a wider section of the public. At present it works "The Junction", Harborne, "The Fighting Cocks" at Moseley, "The Robin Hood" in Brierley Hill, though it is constantly looking for new venues and outlets. It is committed to performing work which has never been seen in Birmingham, and particularly to new plays by Midlands writers.

The company turned fully professional in March of this year, with all the problems which that entails; at present it performs scripts in a more-or-less formal setting, though it hopes to expand its work into improvised scripts, street theatre, work with children and old people etc. There are many possibilities.

The company needs: a moped, some electric cable and sound equipment, and above all, manpower: people who can help with publicity distribution, a reliable photographer for dress rehearsals, actors and actresses for larger projects, and an electronic whizz-kid who can service tape-recorders, mikes, and lights, and record tapes.

The company offers: shows to perform for any organisation; at present it means that such a show would have to be one that was also being done at one of the pub venues, but if the work expands as intended, it will consider mounting shows for particular situations.

John Hill, 449 0497.



TO LIVE IS TO TAKE SIDES

BATH TIMES

"Bath Times" has been going for 8 issues now, and we regularly print and sell 1000 copies, servicing South Leamington - a catchment area of around 15,000. South Leamington is the older, more decaying part of the town, very much the poor relation of the North part of the town. 90% of the factories and council estates are in this area.

We concentrate on local issues - this time a survey of empty housing, a review of the first year of the Venture, and "Old Leamington" featuring the coming of the railway. Next time we're writing up efforts to re-open the Coventry-Leamington branch line (the station is in the heart of South Leamington). Bath Times seems to be quite well liked, though we don't have much written response.

We'd like money towards a cheap electric typewriter and a cheap camera. We have a very cheap printer (£50 for 1000 copies consisting of 3 x A3 sheets, printed on both sides. That makes a mag of 12 "pages").

Bath Times is available from The Other Branch or the Peace Centre if you'd like to see it. Comments and criticisms very welcome indeed.

"Bath Times", Bath Place Community Venture, Bath Place, Leamington Spa.

TRAPEZE

"Trapeze" is a community newspaper for the Handsworth & Lozells area of Birmingham.

What we need is money - any donations (up to the sum of £100!) to pay off our last printing bill, following the non-appearance of some promised revenue.

What we can provide is publicity for community projects etc. which want to get through to people in Handsworth/Lozells - we have a guaranteed circulation of 5,500 (the paper is distributed free).

Trapeze, 1 Finch Road, Birmingham 19. 554 3251/3278.

BRUM BOOK

After a long gestation "Brum Book", an alternative guide book to Birmingham, is finally nearing publication. By the time you read this, editorial and production work should be complete but help will still be welcome on the sales and distribution side. And of course we still need financial support.

Brian Homer, Brum Book, 209a Monument Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16.

Other magazines of interest include

PEACE NEWS is a fortnightly magazine which publishes the national CLAP handbook, news about alternative projects, and things about "nonviolent revolution" generally. It's 15p - from Sunrise, IS Books (B'ham), Other Branch (Leamington), Peace Centre, & Prometheus (alternative bookshop, 134 Alcester Road, Moseley, B'ham), or from "Peace News", 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.

IN THE MAKING is a "directory of proposed productive projects in Self-Management or Radical Technology" - they also print articles on workers' control, CLAP, etc., and other relevant information. It's 22p - from 632 (radical bookshop, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, B'ham), Peace Centre, or from "In The Making", 221 Albert Road, Sheffield 8, Yorkshire.

UNCAREERS

For nearly four years now, Uncareers has been going - writing and distributing our Directory of Alternative Work and other information about things people are doing instead; of working for a conventional employer - in particular, things which new people could join in with. We are now slowing down our activities, and have already stopped distributing the Directory of Alternative Work on a large scale.

The reasons why we won't be carrying on much longer ourselves are these:

(1) One of the main reasons we started Uncareers no longer applies. Originally we found that people who didn't want to go into the "careers rat race" did not know about; alternatives. But now a lot more people do know about these them. Careers service and careers advisers have even got copies of our directory to show to people (now over 90% of university careers services and a lot of local careers and youth employment offices all over the country - no kidding!). A lot has been written in the papers, and on TV, over the last few years about the sort of things we write about.

Hence Uncareers became more of a routine source of information, and we think the original idea of showing people it was possible to do things like this isn't really necessary any more.

(2) We have written the Directory of Alternative Work 7 times now in all - changing it to include new things, and alter others, to keep it up to date. Done by the same people, it would get repetitive and stale - if it continues, it's due for some new inspiration.

There's been no reduction in numbers of people contacting Uncareers, though, and a lot of people say they find it very useful. There's a fair amount of scope for it to be continued, if anyone has any ideas. For the moment, we're keeping things going and replying to enquiries, but not undertaking anything big like writing another directory.

If anyone is interested in producing a new Directory of Alternative Work, either as a direct continuation of ours, or something a bit different but related, please do get in touch.

Uncareers, 298b Pershore Road, Birmingham 5.



THIRD WORLD PUBLICATIONS

T.W.P. distributes books, pamphlets, and teaching materials about, and from, the Third World (the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America). It selects the best materials already published, and through mail order, bookshops, and bookstalls, it promotes these to a wider audience.

Over 400 titles are stocked from about 100 publishers, including Third World First, Haslemere, Counter Information Services, Oxfam, Christian Aid, World Development Movement, and the Voluntary Committee on Overseas Aid & Development. We are UK distributors for the Tanzania Publishing House and the East African Publishing House, including books on politics, community development and economics, as well as novels and children's books. We stock books from progressive publishers in South Africa. Our range of children's books from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean is being used increasingly by UK schools, particularly in multiracial areas. TWP also stocks relevant Christian literature, pamphlets and "heavier" books written by Third World Christians, including books on "Black Theology" and Latin American "Liberation Theology".

TWP operates as a non-profit-making staff co-operative and is based at present in the S.C.M. Community House. Lack of space means that we are moving this month, probably to 138 Stratford Road. Visitors are welcome. By the Autumn it is hoped to set aside one room as a Third World shop/resource centre - probably opening Fridays and Saturdays initially.

What we offer is a unique source of materials for the Birmingham area (and beyond). What we need is financial assistance (at the moment we can only continue until October this year) and regular voluntary help.

TWP, 67 College Road, Birmingham 13.

JUST WORDS, Ltd.

We still aren't printing, but the machinery is working. Though we would like to buy a metal plate-maker: anybody know of how to get a decent one cheap? That would be about £70. We've also been asked to get an electricity meter so we can calculate our share of the S.C.M. & Third World Publications bills. Can anyone help?

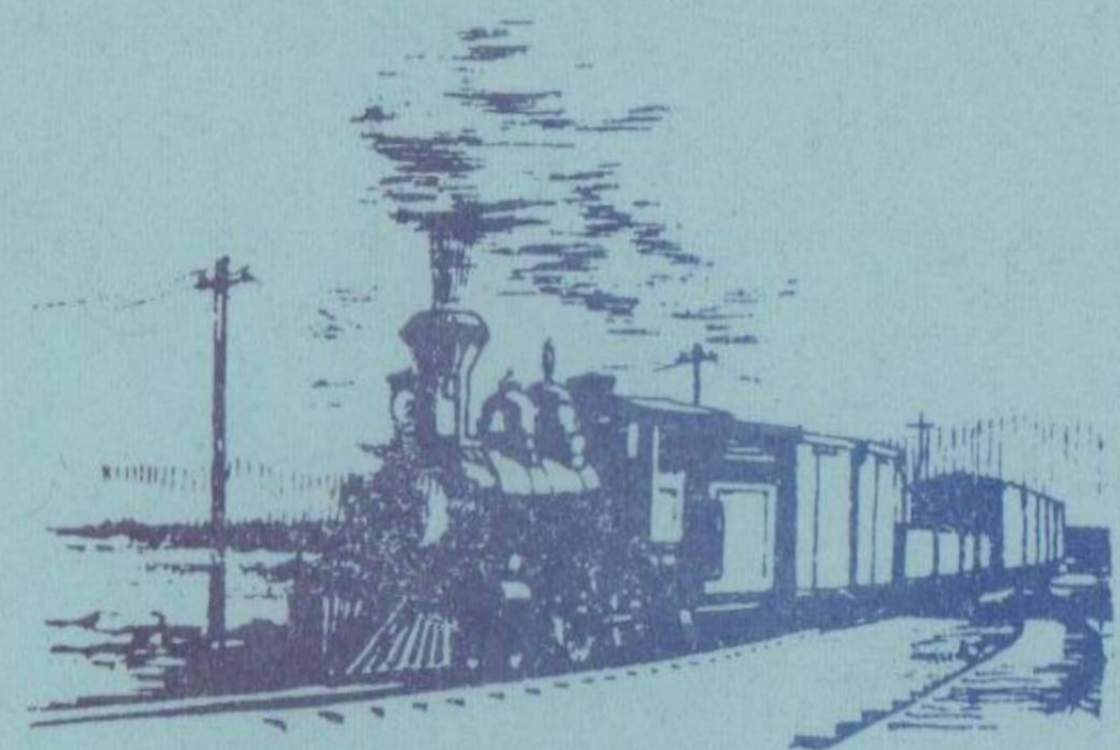
The main thing we lack isn't money, or materials, but people with energy, especially someone with experience of printing willing to get us started in the first difficult months. He or she would be able to support themselves off the work the press did (or by other means!) and be helped by a weekly rota of people who can spare a day or two a week, but no more. When the press is going we'd like to contact all groups and friendship networks who are likely to be wanting a tuff done regularly to encourage them to delegate someone as their group's printing apprentice. That way knowledge of how to work the machinery (without breaking it!) will be spread widely and the press should in the end be a cross-between a service for the community and a radical co-operative.

But it's all a pipe dream until people are prepared to spend the time doing it. I've gone ahead so far assuming that if I/we got the press to a certain point, others would emerge to relieve me of the responsibility, a redundant printer or technological freak would miraculously appear and all would be well. But now things are stuck. I'm responsible, but so are you. If it happens, it happens; if not, it's OK, I guess.

One good thing to report is that after 2 years of hassling the legal framework is at last complete. Having paid our protection money to the State-mafia and purchased a "magic" seal, we are now a company with limited liability.

The activities that can be carried out as Just Words Ltd. are incredibly wide. So Colin Webster and I as Company Chairperson and Secretary respectively will be pleased to extend our umbrella over any alternative project that's worried about personal liability, so just ask and we'll "take you over".

Just Words is at 67/69 College Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, but there's nobody round there at present, except occasionally. You can also phone Keith Paton, 472 2945.



BIG SIOUX TRANSPORT

Chris Vigers makes a regular run from London into the Midlands with his van Big Sioux collecting and delivering food and things. So if you need his services for moving more or less anything, he can be contacted through Sunrise 454 0435 or at home: Houseboat Vanguard, Weirs Lane, Donnington Bridge, Oxford.

COMMUNITY PRESS

We are printers staffed by voluntary labour offering cost price (or nearly) printing to groups and organisations whose finances could be put to better use than supporting commercial printers. This obviously puts our own finances under strain, which means taking in a limited amount of commercial work, though we would like to cut this out altogether.

Paper supplies are a constant difficulty, with us usually waiting for payment from one customer before being able to buy supplies for the next (our credit with most paper suppliers has been stopped, one has issued a writ against us). Volunteers or people wanting to learn to use the machines will always be welcomed, donations in the form of either materials or cash are also needed, or better still use the press for any printing you may want. Groups who wish to do so are encouraged to use the machines themselves - if they supply their own paper and plates the printing can be done free (however a small donation would always be appreciated if possible).

Community Press, 3 High Street, Saltley, Birmingham 8. 327 1241.

WEST MIDLANDS CLAP

West Midlands CLAP - Community Levy for Alternative Project: - aims to encourage communication and co-operation between alternative groups, and to encourage people to give resources (including time and money) to alternative projects).

The main way it does this is through the West Midlands CLAP handbook which will be produced roughly every 3 or 4 months, and through the monthly CLAP meetings.

Donations go directly to the individual projects - so little money passes through CLAP itself, and who gets the money depends on the donors making their own decisions, rather than on any decisions by CLAP. But please let West Midlands CLAP know of any donations, etc, that are made.

There is also the national CLAP handbook, published every 2 months in "Peace News" (and also available separately). And there are regional CLAPs in Yorkshire and the North-West, which produce their own handbooks as well.

We need help getting reports from projects and groups for the handbooks, and in producing, distributing, publicising, and paying for them.

WMCLAP meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm - details from the Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4, 643 0996. We may also hold weekend "conferences"/Potlatches.

We'd also like articles for the handbook on the difficulties people have found in running projects, ideas for possible new projects, ideas on CLAP and how it should develop, what you think the priorities should be for which sorts of projects/activities to put time/resources into - and how (or whether) you can see these sorts of alternative projects adding up to something which can eventually replace capitalism.

It may be that our handbooks will split up into three separate publications - one with articles on the topics just mentioned, one directory of projects coming out about twice a year, and monthly newsletters with more up-to-date news, corrections, urgent pleas for help, etc. But that depends a lot on the response to this handbook, and on whether more people get involved.

West Midlands Community Levy for Alternative Projects, c/o Birmingham Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4. 021-643 0996.

CLAP ADDRESSES

National CLAP, c/o Bit, 146 Great Western Road, London W.11.
Yorkshire CLAP, Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate, Bradford 1 or Futures Centre, 15 Kelso Road, Leeds 2.
North-West CLAP, c/o Whatwork, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester or c/o Open Mind, 39/41 Manesty's Lane, Liverpool 1.

THE NEXT HANDBOOK

Please send in news of your project or group for our second West Midlands CLAP handbook. Unlike the national handbook, we don't have a limit of 200 words per project, so write as much as you like (though we might cut it!) - the applications in this handbook should give you an idea of the sort of thing we want. The last date for sending things in is August 6th, when we'll be having a meeting to decide what's going in.

(if you haven't been included & think you should be, please write to us!)

CLAP projects should:

- help to change or revolutionise British society in some way;
- help people fight their oppressions;
- help people expand their consciousness;
- help people communicate with one another;
- help people improve their environment;
- help build up alternative structures in Britain;
- try to support themselves by their own and more local efforts.

We'd like to print more letters and articles in the next handbook. To start off the comments/reactions/theory/etc side of the handbooks, he's part of a letter from Jim Layton, who's involved in the Bath Place Community Venture and Other Branch bookshop in Leamington -

I'd like to see more interaction between "them" and "us". More "freaks" taking notice of local people and their needs & potential for social change in the local community (not just their community). Ditto "politicoes". And for "community workers/activists" to be more aware of the political background to their work, and - for example - religion, food reform, or whatever.


Often, "alternative society" means - or appears as - hippies/brown rice/self-sufficiency etc. - separateness from the wider community, and just as intolerant of its values as probably the "wider community" is of their values.

As you can see I find this confusing - what do you think?

arts lab press

For cheap and imaginative printing and design ring:
John or Hunt (litho to A3 size)
or John Angus (silkscreen)
on 0 21-359-4132.....

P.S. we printed this book!



DO YOU PAY YOUR CLAP TAX?

WHY NOT PLEDGE A SMALL PART OF YOUR INCOME TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF CO-OPERATIVE STRUCTURES IN BRITAIN?

Radical doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, lawyers, journalists, salaried and business people, established organisations and anyone with any kind of income or inheritance, please don't avoid paying this alternative tax. Help build up a network of sane structures working for the transformation of society.

DON'T TRY TO RATIONALISE NOT GIVING? JUST GIVE!
(And if you are broke, why not send off for a CLAP sticker and put a CLAP jar on your mantelpiece and ask visitors to give?)

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM. IT LETS US KNOW HOW CLAP IS GOING.

Return to West Midlands CLAP, c/o Birmingham Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4.

This time we are sending the following sum(s) to the following project(s) =

.....

.....

.....

Signature Date

Your name (capitals)

Address

.....