

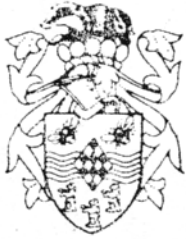
NEWSLETTER

BEESTON ANTI POLL TAX UNION

JUNE/JULY ISSUE



BEESTON ANTI-POLL TAX UNION



BROXTOWE

Borough Council

TOWN HALL,
BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AB.

Tel: Nottm. (0602) 254891 Ext.

Ask for

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Date 7th June 1990

[REDACTED]

Beeston,
Nottingham.

Dear Miss/Mrs. [REDACTED],

I am in receipt of your letter of 17th May, 1990.

Where you got the idea that I would be happy to meet you after that disgraceful performance at the Town Hall, I do not know. I have never said any such thing and have no intention of doing so. Not only are you breaking the law yourselves, you are encouraging others to do the same. When you came to the Town Hall, you showed no respect for the Mayor when he entered the Council Chamber. Despite the fact that he is The Queen's Representative in this Borough, none of you stood up. You presented him with a phoney petition, not worth the paper it was printed on - it was not the original but a set of inky photostat sheets with half the necessary information blotted out with rubbish about intimidation from Conservative Councillors. You put on that noisy demonstration which did your cause no good at all, and now you expect me to come and meet you. I have neither the desire nor the intention.

However, if you can find three people who are prepared to discuss, sensibly and reasonably the matter of the Community Charge, I would be prepared to meet them at the Town Hall, either in the day time or the evening, but any repetition of the type of behaviour that we had on May 9th would bring the meeting to an immediate close.

I await your reply,

Yours truly,

J. Sutton,
Leader,
Broxtowe Borough Council.

COMMENT..

We think that 3500 signatures is valid. Of course the addresses and Telephone numbers were removed for fear of recrimination.

LATEST SCORE:-

Beeston Anti-Poll Tax Union 3500 v Councillor Sutton 1

Your the referee.. Who won ?

WELCOME...

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Beeston anti-poll tax union. Our membership is now over 500 and growing constantly as more people become committed to non payment of this unfair and cruel tax.

Our membership includes all ages, from young people to O.A.P's. We are high and low paid, some unemployed, and some housewives on no income at all. We have no alignment with any political party. In other words a broad cross-section of Beeston people.

As a support group we are committed to supporting people victimised for non payment. We are opposed to this unfair undemocratic tax, and we believe the most effective way to defeat this tax is through a mass campaign of non payment.

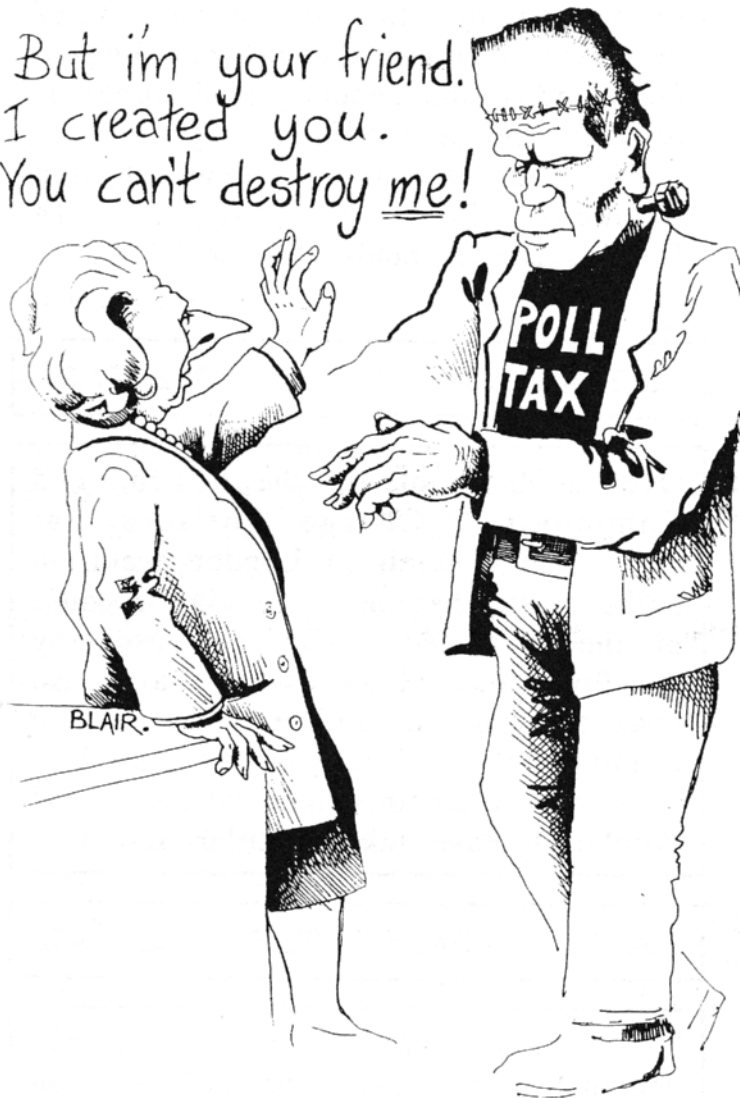
Beeston anti-poll union is affiliated to the Nottingham anti-poll tax federation which has a membership of over 12000 people committed to non payment of the poll tax across the county.

The strength of opposition by Nottinghamshire people is clearly evidenced by figures printed in the local press for the city. Two months after implementation more than 75% of all those people billed have not paid a penny in poll tax.

In the county as a whole the level of non-payment is 50% and in Mansfield the level of non-payment is as high as 80%.

This shows that many people are committed to non payment. Beeston anti-poll tax union believes, with active support and commitment, we will defeat this tax.

But i'm your friend.
I created you.
You can't destroy me!



PROTESTORS chanting "We won't pay the poll tax" were herded out of a council meeting at Beeston last week.

Around 40 members of the Beeston anti-poll tax union were escorted out of the town hall after their spokesperson Jane Wilton ignored repeated pleas to keep silent.

At the start of the Broxtowe Borough Council meeting the protestors had presented a 3,500-name petition to Broxtowe Mayor Terry Buckley calling for non-

Anti-poll tax demonstration disrupts meeting

implementation of the community charge.

Demonstrators

Ms Wilton then began to read a prepared speech but Coun Buckley asked her to stop, and when she did not, he ordered the clearing of the council chamber.

With shouts of "stuff the poll tax", and "this is

an undemocratic council" the protestors left the building to join other demonstrators outside.

The full council meeting recommenced 10 minutes late.

Said Coun Buckley: "I very much regret what happened. It was my intention to read out the petition at the start of the meeting."

He then read out the petition which stated the protestors' opposition to the tax and called on Labour members to refuse it implement it.

Banner-waving demonstrators kept up their protest outside the building throughout the meeting, singing and chanting anti-poll tax slogans.

Police were present but the event passed off peacefully with no arrests.

Said protestor Austin Kennie of Waverley Avenue, Beeston: "Our main objective for being here is to present a petition to the head of the council and to draw publicity to

our objections to this unjust tax."

"There have been 200 demonstrators here tonight and many more have signed our petition," added spokesperson Jane Wilton.



NATIONAL SITUATION

In Scotland after 14 months there are 1.5 million people who either aren't paying the poll tax or are in serious default. In England and Wales the level of non payment according to the Sunday Independent (3rd June) is between 40% and 50%.

In many areas the level of non payment is even higher. In Birmingham it stands at over 50%. The

high levels of non payment are not confined to any particular area of the country but are spread the length and breadth of the country.

These figures clearly embarrass the government who estimated the maximum size of the protest at only 5%.

STRIKE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Over 2000 people in the housing and Community Charge offices at Greenwich Council in London went on strike at the beginning of May because of the increased workload caused by the Poll Tax. DSS offices have also gone on strike in different parts of the country, Sheffield refusing to take Poll Tax from claimants and Glasgow and Edinburgh have taken similar action.

POLICE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

500 Sussex police protested against payment of the Poll Tax and rent allowances. This also occurred in Staffordshire where 200 police protested.

RALLIES AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Newcastle saw 6000 people demonstrating against the Poll Tax on the 7th May which was the biggest demo in the City in a decade. Similar sized rallies took place in Birmingham, Chesterfield and throughout the country.

I.O.W 1 v TORY POLL TAX 0

Magistrates on the Isle of Wight were forced to abandon court hearings against 3800 non payers, because the Tory council broke legal rules by sending out reminders by second class post. Angry and defiant people within the courts declared their commitment to non payment. Nigel Cunningham the son of the Tory Mayor ripped up his bill and court summons.



THE REBATE RIP OFF

Most people's principal objection to the poll tax is that it bears no relation to the ability to pay. The only argument the Government to counter this is that there is a Poll Tax rebate system to help those on low incomes

Here are a few examples of how the rebate system works.

1. A single person aged under 25 years taking home £69.07 per week won't qualify.
2. A two parent family with two children under 11 years receiving £21.75 child benefit and taking home more than £164.05 per week.,won't qualify.
3. A single parent family, with two children aged between 11 and 16 receiving £20.10 Child Benefit and £30.00 Family Credit, taking home more than £84.82 per week won't qualify.
4. An old aged pensioner couple with state retirement of £75.10 per week, a former employment pension of £50.00 per week and savings of £16,000, won't qualify.

DO YOU CONSIDER THESE PEOPLE WELL OFF?

The Tories have made much of the Poll Tax being an individual tax. Many women have found out this isn't true. Poll Tax rebates for couples have to be assessed on the basis of joint income - one of the partners can not apply independently. So in a couple where the man is working and earning a reasonable wage, and the woman is looking after the kids, i.e. working but not being paid, the woman, if she wants to pay her Poll Tax, has no choice but to ask her husband to pay it for her. Is that an individual tax?

So by all means apply for a rebate but don't hold your breath or expect too much!

Where I work, our case load has doubled in the last six months, we have had no increase in staff and our computer system is in chaos!

Oh, and by the way, my wages are below every official definition of low pay in the book, but - guess what, I don't qualify for a rebate.

ALISON MORTON (Housing Benefit Worker)

Feel angry about the poll tax. Don't keep it to yourself. You can express your outrage free of charge by dialling 100 and asking the operator for freefone rebate hotline.



LOCAL ISSUES

Recently a lot of positive things have been happening locally. There was a May Day protest in Nottingham where around 1,500 marched to a rally addressed by miners leader Arthur Scargill who called on Labour and Trade Union Leaders to back action against the Poll Tax.

Recently an article appeared in the Evening Post stating that Notts police have told council chiefs that they do not want to take action against people who fail to pay the Poll Tax, police fear a massive workload caused by a huge number of possible arrests for non-payment. And that, they say, would divert officers from tackling crime.

At Pork Farms in Beeston the Transport and General Workers' Union have stated that if there are any wage arrestments then industrial action will be taken. It is important for anyone who is a union member to bring up this issue in their place of work and support this sort of action.

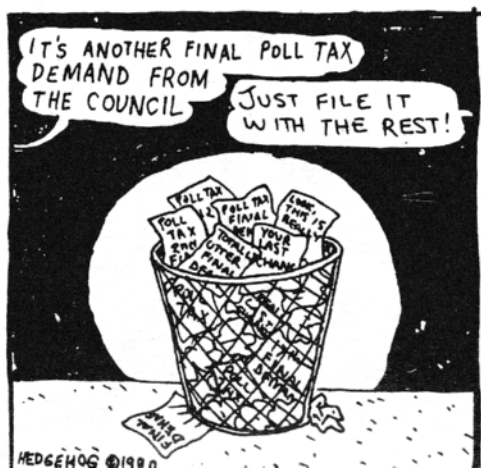
In Nottingham, there is a local campaign called the Nottingham Defence Fund which has been set up as a support group for anyone arrested on any offence connected to non-payment of the Poll Tax, the group provides financial funding and legal advice to all those in need of support.

CONTACT:-

NDF

BOX DF

HYSON GREEN.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CITY

There are now anti-poll tax groups in 18 areas of Nottingham.

FOREST FIELDS, HYSON GREEN

Forest Fields, Hyson Green anti-poll tax campaign has over 400 members, they also hold a stall every Saturday and they have recently had a very successful benefit gig at the Marcus Garvey in Nottingham.

RADFORD

..Radford against the poll tax has only been going for a couple of months but has good interest and 120 members, they have had a benefit gig at the Old Angel and are organising a benefit pool tournament.

SHERWOOD

The Sherwood and District Anti Poll Tax campaign has nearly 1,000 members, they hold a stall every Saturday and are a very active successful group.

SNEINTON

Sneinton has 240 members at present and they have recently had a bill burning.

CLIFTON

Clifton has 1,000 members,

MANSFIELD

One estate in Mansfield boasts 1,800 members!

BEESTON ANTI-POLL TAX UNION

CONTACT NUMBERS

Secretary

Treasurer

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area 1 North of Beeston Rylands, left of Station Road, and Woolaton Road

Area 2 Beeston Rylands

(Work)

Area 3 North of Beeston Rylands, right of Station Road, and Woolaton Road.

Area 4 Chilwell

NEWSLETTER

Please contact or send any articles to:-

(Work)

WHAT WE STAND FOR

- * We are opposed to this unfair, undemocratic tax.
- * We believe the most effective way to defeat this tax is through a mass campaign of non payment.
- * We are committed to supporting people victimised for non payment.

"EQUALITY" UNDER THE POLL TAX

INCOME:
£50,000+ p.a.



POLL TAX: £500

INCOME:
£5,000 p.a.



POLL TAX: £500

PAY NO POLL TAX

JOIN YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX UNION

ANNESLEY: Dave Bird
ARNOLD: Lee Howard
ASHFIELD: Nick Barlow
ASPLEY: Kevin Slattery
BASFORD: Steve Addison
BEESTON: Mark Ramsey
BESTWOOD: Nicky/Andrew
BILBOROUGH: Matt Goldborough
BILSTHORPE: Tom Mellors
BLIDWORTH: Freda Jackson
BROXTOWE: Margaret Dexter

BULWELL & DISTRICT: [REDACTED]
CENTRAL: [REDACTED]
CLIFTON: [REDACTED]
FOREST TOWN/CLIPSTONE: [REDACTED]
FOREST FIELDS/HYSON GREEN: [REDACTED]
GEDLING & CARLTON: [REDACTED]
HUCKNALL: [REDACTED]
LADYBROOK (MANSFIELD): [REDACTED]
LENTON: [REDACTED]
MANSFIELD: [REDACTED]
MEADOWS: [REDACTED]

RADFORD: [REDACTED]
SHERWOOD: [REDACTED]
SKEGBY: [REDACTED]
SNAPEWOOD: [REDACTED]
SNEINTON: [REDACTED]
or [REDACTED]
TOP VALLEY/RISE PARK: [REDACTED]
WARSOP: [REDACTED]
WEST BRIDGFORD: [REDACTED]

LOCAL CONTACT:-

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: [REDACTED] (FEDERATION SECRETARY), [REDACTED] NEW BASFORD,
NOTTINGHAM, [REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

PLEASE DISPLAY PROMINENTLY IN YOUR WINDOW