



support
the

POLL TAX
PRISONERS



APTU: 84. COLSTON ST. BRISTOL BS1. (0272)255504

**SOLIDARITY WITH
POLL TAX PRISONERS**



Remember!

WE ARE IN HERE FOR YOU; YOU ARE OUT THERE FOR US



support
the

POLL TAX PRISONERS

The state has endless methods of control. Prison is the ultimate. The government's aim to discredit the Anti Poll Tax movement by provoking thousands of demonstrators, trapped in Trafalgar Square on March 31 1990, failed. The following month the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign was set up pledging unconditional support to all those arrested.

Although a hundred people have been incarcerated with prison sentences ranging from weeks to 4 years the numbers would have been far higher without the commitment of T.S.D.C.

Those of us fighting the poll tax outside London are beginning to learn how to support our demonstrations thanks to the practical nature of T.S.D.C. When a Bristol man, arrested on 31/3/90, appealed to the Avon Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions for help with bail, the "OFFICERS" of the federation ignored him. The convenor of a south Bristol Anti Poll Tax Union was the only person to give any practical support. This support increased thanks to the battering two Bristol demonstrators received at the Brixton Prison Picket. From this network we were able to set up the Avon Defendants Campaign in October 1990. A.D.C. reports at the monthly Federation meetings are now listened to in respectful silence !

Communication is our main problem. In this booklet a Bristol woman explains her attempt to protest at the police behaviour in Trafalgar Square. Thanks to T.S.D.C. she eventually succeeded. Her evidence in Tim Donaghy and Darren Healey's trial contributed to the charge of RIOT, which carries a 10 year sentence, being thrown out.

The current aim of the A.D.C. is to support poll tax prisoners. The first part of the booklet consists of letters which have already been printed in STAND FIRM. These letters are reprinted as a reminder that they were written by those who were brave enough to defend the right to demonstrate. The majority of these men are still in prison. There is also a letter from 70 year old NON PAYER STORMIN NORMAN. Militant pensioners abound and have been stalwarts in Bristol's anti poll tax office, in the courts and in radio phone in programmes.

The poems by Oscar Wilde and Linton Kwesi Johnson need no justification. The rest of the booklet gives an idea of Bristol's anti poll tax campaign. The fact that a bill burning is fixed for July 1991 shows that the struggle continues.

Another booklet of prisoner's writing, poems, cartoons and photos will come out in the Autumn if there is any interest.

Contributions to: A.D.C. 84, Colston Street, Bristol, B.S.1. by 31/8/91.

Dont Forget



The Prisoners

UNVEILING THE MASK OF ANARCHY

The people came from miles around
By coach and foot and underground
To voice their anger to the state,
That implemented the Poll Tax rate.

There marched in groups and under flags,
With family picnics in their bags
Towards the Central London rally
Arranged by Militant's, Sheridan & Nally.

A restful spot was finally found
By the MOD 'green', upon the ground.
As the people were tired, it seemed quite fitting
To continue their protest, by patiently sitting.

Unaware were they that the final deduction
Deduced that they were committing obstruction,
Or that the police would instigate
Such shocking destruction towards the state.

Riot police squads came mounted to greet
This countries citizens resting their feet
With truncheons and charges abound,
Trampling protestors into the ground.

Up rose the people, crying their call
Echoing off the facade of Whitehall.
A woman was stripped in front of all
By police in blue suits, so "honoured and tall".

This gross infliction of humiliation
Resulted in crowd agitation
Then a man, beaten, whilst in his wheel chair,
Distracted attention from the disbelieving stare,

Police tactics, devoid of care
Forced the marchers to Trafalgar Square
As groups of people were surrounded,
A response of self-defence abounded

Missiles began to fill the air,
Sticks and stones and even a chair!
But the people had nowhere to hide,
And the police had the government on their side.

The battle spread and tempers rose,
A policeman winced at his broken nose,
A woman was trampled by her majesties horses,
So it seemed fit to bring in more forces.

The battle became a media hype
With politicians slander in black & white
"Her boys in blue can do no wrong,
It's scruffy people who sing the 'Maggie' song!"

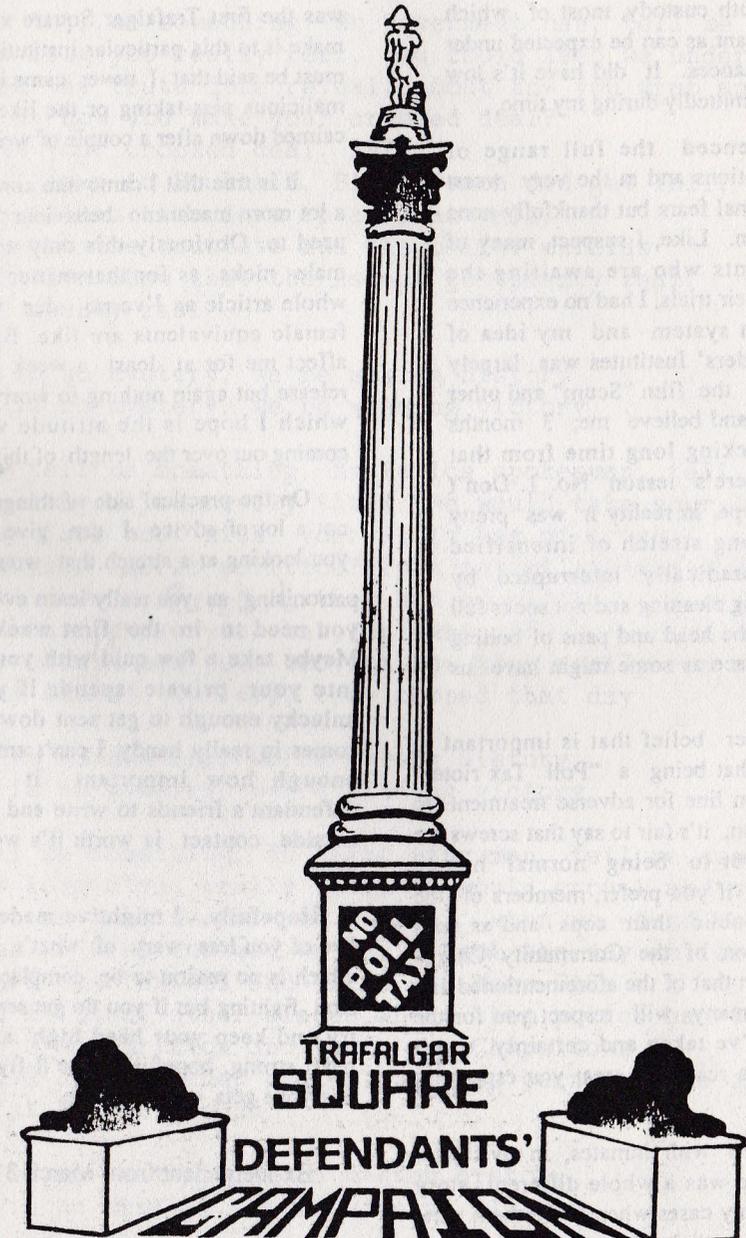
They printed photos of angry protesters
And woe faced city investors
"Anarchists, punks and masked hoodlums!"
"Shop your children, dads and mums"

Along came the 'witch-hunts' and more arrests
Of all the people Maggie detests.
Guised as justice and democracy
And ugly cries of "vote for me".

People who want the right to exist
On anything but a community charge list,
Or if your charges invoke disdain...
then
Join the

Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign

(sorry Shelley...)



NEITHER "SCUM" NOR "PORRIDGE"

Firstly, let me tell you a little background info. I was sentenced to 3 months for threatening behaviour after March 31st and served six and a half weeks in youth custody, most of which was as pleasant as can be expected under the circumstances. It did have it's low points and admittedly during my time,

I experienced the full range of negative emotions and at the very worst points, irrational fears but thankfully none of these set in. Like, I suspect, many of the defendants who are awaiting the outcome of their trials, I had no experience of the prison system and my idea of Young Offenders' Institutes was largely derived from the film "Scum" and other such sources and believe me, 3 months looked a fucking long time from that angle. So there's lesson No. 1. Don't believe the hype. In reality it was pretty much one long stretch of intensified boredom sporadically interrupted by meals and wing cleaning and not socks full of PP9s to the head and pans of boiling water in the face as some might have us believe.

Another belief that is important to dispel is that being a "Poll Tax rioter" puts you in line for adverse treatment. In my opinion, it's fair to say that screws are a lot nearer to being normal human beings, or if you prefer, members of the general public than cops and as such their opinion of the Community Charge holds with that of the aforementioned and as such many will respect you for the stand you've taken and certainly won't see it as a reason to treat you especially badly.

However with inmates, in my case at least, there was a whole different story and in many cases when I told them what my charge was, I might have well been telling them that I had run around

Trafalgar Square wearing a red nose and with my trousers down...i.e. ridicule. However, this was mainly due to the fact that I was in for an unusual reason and I was the first Trafalgar Square victim to make it to this particular institution and it must be said that I never came in for any malicious piss-taking or the like and it calmed down after a couple of weeks.

It is true that I came into contact with a lot more machismo behaviour than I'm used to. Obviously this only applies to male nicks as for that matter does the whole article as I've no idea what the female equivalents are like. But it did affect me for at least a week after my release but again nothing to worry about, which I hope is the attitude which is coming out over the length of this piece.

On the practical side of things, there's not a lot of advice I can give those of you looking at a stretch that wouldn't be patronising as you really learn everything you need to in the first week or so. Maybe take a few quid with you to put into your private spends if you are unlucky enough to get sent down as it comes in really handy. I can't emphasise enough how important it is for defendant's friends to write and visit as outside contact is worth it's weight in gold.

Hopefully, I might've made one or two of you less wary of what's in store which is no reason to be complacent and stop fighting but if you do get sent down, try and keep your head high and your heart strong, hopefully time'll fly by and everyone gets out sometime.

Craig

Ex-Defendant from March 31st 1990

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN

PICKETS:

BRIXTON PRISON

Sunday 22nd July

1pm - 3pm

Brixton Hill SW2. Tube to Brixton or bus 50, 95, 109, 133, 159

HORSEFERRY ROAD COURTS

Monday 30th July

9.45 am

Horseferry Road, SW1. Tube to Pimlico or Westminster, or bus 79, 507, 510

WORMWOOD SCRUBS PRISON

Sunday 5th August

1pm - 3pm

Du Cane Road, W12. Tube to East Acton or bus 72.

NO FRAME UPS. NO CRIMINALISATION.

1990

Socialist Worker answers

the *Mirror's* and the *People's* poll tax lies



THE PEOPLE turns police informer

THE POLICE are operating hand in glove with the *Sunday Mirror* and *Sunday People* to try and turn their readers into coppers' marks.

Under the headline "If You Know 'em, Shop 'em" the *Sunday People* used photographs of protesters on the massive 31 March anti poll tax demo which had been given to them by the police.

The *Sunday Mirror* pulled a similar stunt.

They're saying the pictures show violent trouble-makers and call for readers to identify them to the police.

**Shop
the
cops**

SOCIALIST WORKER 26 May 1990

Dear TSDC,

How can I express my gratitude to the new cabinet for the early gift of a New Years Honour (49 days in jail, Assault. Ed) in recognition of the very occasional objections raised by myself Re; The Community Charge?

It was plain from the start of the trial that the State had gone to great lengths in fabricating an extraordinary tapestry of intrigue out of an every day Oxford Street scene. I can only send my sympathies to the chief prosecution witness for any traumas he might have suffered during the case and hope that his conscience is not too trampled to stand up to my appeal. It was great to have many friends and supporters at court throughout - Only sorry that it ended up with a guilty verdict and a half-dozen probationary cops muscling in on the gallery.

I was on my way to the Scrubs but it was full house there so I find that I'm here at Latchmere. It seems to have dodged the suicide statistics that have plagued Brixton and elsewhere this year and it's actually possible to live 2 to a cell plus a fair bit of association. Friends visited on Friday and TSDC organised a radio and newspapers. With help like this I can fight the isolation that I am supposed to accept in place of the right to protest at the brutal arrest of a man on the 31st!

Greetings, yuletide or not, to all other Poll Tax hostages - Stick together on the wrong side of the wire - share what limited comforts come your way - send reports to the TSDC office (like, what kind of facilities do they have for helicopters?). And help each other in the struggle against the systematic criminalisation of the poor. There are 10's of thousands of people outside continuing the fight. P.S. How are they going to make room for all the deserters that are bound to be charter-shipped back from the Gulf?

Alistair Mitchell

Resistance Makes Us Strong

As I write I have a matter of days left to serve in custody. I was sentenced to a year, half of which was suspended, for my misbehaviour on 31/3/90 and yes, I was another victim of those men in nice suits from Operation Carnaby. The fact that this is nearly over makes it easier to see the few positive aspects; even though I went through hell at the hands of our caring government.

Nearly a year of my life was spent waiting to be sentenced, a year of not knowing what was going to happen, a year of total despair. Anything achieved, any roots put down, any relationships formed was destroyed by the memory of some smarmy C.I.D. bastard talking about TWO YEAR STRETCHES and BEING UP WITH THE BIG BOYS I am not being flippant about the mental torture of being fed through the judicial system, its fuckin' awful but some good points did come out of it. Once I was sent down things only got better. I realize just how full of shit the C.I.D. were when I copped 6 months instead of 2 years. I was lucky. The judge I was put in front of was slightly less insane than some of the others. I can't explain how I feel when I heard of 3 or 4 year sentences, it could so easily have been me.

I went go into immense detail about life inside. It's basically very very very fuckin' borin'. I felt lonely and scared at times but these fears passed as did the time. My first 2 weeks of BANG UP were spent with another P.T. rioter - apart from forming a friendship, it helped cushion the shock. By the time we were separated, I had sussed the system. Life continued its repetitive cycle broken by letters plus the odd visit. Letters are so important; if you are writing to a prisoner try to write regularly, even every day. Receiving a letter from a stranger helps a prisoner realize the extent of support. Get copies of the prisoners' list circulated, get people to use them not just decorate their walls.

So, I have survived. Doing so I have beaten one of the biggest fears of my life. I am not recommending that anyone should do the same but if it becomes inevitable, please be strong. I know it's easy for me to say, being one of the luckier ones, but you will come through. Not everyone wishes to partake in direct action. It's one of the ultimate weapons the state has like a spoilt child that refuses to listen. Government will take those who show their unhappiness + disgust and keep them from spreading this dangerous truth. Don't let this happen

Don't see our incarceration as proof that the state can't be beaten, see it as the opposite. There are so many sick fucked up systems dragging us down every day, the poll tax was just more obvious, they must all be defeated.

Anyway that's it. I hope I have put across the strength of those imprisoned. Thanks to all at T.S.D.C. and all who have supported us in any way. Bollox to those parasites who claimed this victory over all our work and suffering, especially the spineless Labour Party. (Sorry about the back biting but it had to be said.)

by Zacharey Osbourne

BIRMINGHAM POLL TAX PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP

one year on - the fight goes on

Today the British state has decided to imprison me for taking part in a peaceful protest against the POLL TAX - the most hated piece of Tory legislation in the last 10 years. They have added my name to the long list of political activists imprisoned by the Tories since they came to power.

On March 31 1990, I participated in a legitimate and peaceful protest - peaceful that is, until the police decided to drive us off the streets, for no reason other than that we were protesting against this government.

On that day I witnessed acts of brutality by the British Police that equalled the repression and brutality of Eastern European governments. Yet when workers and students fought back on the other side of the "iron curtain" the Tories and reactionaries of this country applauded their actions.

I fought back - like many others on that fateful day - because I felt under threat. That threat wasn't from any individual Police Officer, but was from the collective actions of the Police. They behaved that day as if they truly were "Maggie Thatchers Boot Boys".

The aims of the Police were not the maintenance of an objective situation of law and order. Their aims were to drive us off the streets and in the process discredit a political movement. **THEIR AIMS WERE POLITICAL AIMS.** They may not have thought out these aims - they were merely the tools used by the Tory party - but nevertheless their aims were political.

My crime is to be politically opposed to this Tory government. The government - the British State - is waging a political battle against the movement to which I belong. On March 31 that political battle was fought on the streets of London's West End, not the House of Commons. On October 20 it was fought on the streets of Brixton. My fear is that the political battle will continue to be fought on the streets of this country.

The above was written by Matt Lee, Chair of the Birmingham Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions. On 25 March 1991 he was convicted of "violent disorder", and sentenced to 2½ years at Southvark. Much of what Matt stated above, he also stated at his trial, his not guilty plea and his determination that the Police are not vindicated for their actions, ensured that the judge handed down an extremely harsh sentence. **WE MUST STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THOSE IMPRISONED AS A RESULT OF THE POLICE ATTACKS ON ANTI POLL TAX DEMOS,** this means countering Police and political misinformation about what has happened. **SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE.**

STOP THE SHOW TRIALS

WITNESS AT RIOT TRIAL

My friend and I went to the ANTI POLL TAX DEMONSTRATION on March 31 1990 because we considered it to be an unjust and immoral tax. We enjoyed marching along and felt happy as everyone was friendly but at the end of the demonstration as we were leaving Trafalgar Square to return to our coach we witnessed an unprovoked act of aggression by the police against ordinary British people. I was so outraged by what I had seen I was determined to make a statement to someone about the police behaviour. So I contacted my M.P., Dawn Primorolo, who took my statement, and those of many others, and sent them to the Home Secretary calling for a full public enquiry.

The Home Office answered thus:

"It is recognised that the majority of those who took part in the demonstration wished to express their views in a peaceful and law-abiding manner. However, it is evident that a minority in the crowd were intent on causing trouble. The police were subjected to a sustained, ferocious assault which resulted in more than 370 officers and 20 police horses being injured. As to the way in which the police responded to what was clearly an extremely difficult and dangerous situation the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police is conducting a full review of the events of the day, which will involve a thorough examination of how the police planned for the demonstration and their tactics for dealing with disorder.

I have made arrangements for this correspondence to be copied to the Metropolitan Police so that they are aware of the points made by your constituents. If any of your constituents feel any of the officers acted improperly on the day it is open to them to pursue the matter with the commissioner"
Yours sincerely, Ferrers

As I did not know who the police were or even the number of the police van I could go no further.

However in October I read that a video of the demonstration called "The Battle of Trafalgar Square" was being shown in Bristol and from this meeting obtained literature appealing for witnesses. After sending my account of the events of that day to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign I was contacted by solicitors who were acting for Tim Donaghy and I agreed to give evidence on his behalf. During the trial I was shown a video of a police van being attacked by demonstrators and asked if this was not provocation. They were trying to insinuate that the vans were attacked first further up the road but this is untrue because my friend had looked up the road as we were walking out of the square and she saw no trouble. The police vans were just waiting there. I was glad that the trial took place so that I could tell what I saw. The plan rebounded on them. I gave evidence for Tim Donaghy just as I hope anyone would give evidence for my son if he was in a similar situation.
Heather

June 1991

A LETTER FROM TIM DONAGHY REGARDING POLICE TACTICS OF PLEA-BARGAINING TO SECURE CONVICTIONS:

After the "Community Charge" of Trafalgar Square, I was, unfortunately, one of the community charged with an array of offences resulting from "Operation Carnaby". Most were dropped leaving Riot (Section 1 Public Order Act) carrying a maximum sentence of Ten years imprisonment, and violent disorder (section 2, P.O.A) as an alternative (to back them up if I won section 1) for my involvement with the "POLE (at)TAX".

With the offer of a 3 year sentence for Section 2 guilty plea, the Gestapo offered to drop the section 1. This though, was only available if my co-defendants and myself were willing to plead guilty; the bastards wanted all or nothing. One of my co-defendants was willing, having served 8 months in custody, the other was just plain pessimistic and wanted it all over and done with as soon as possible. This offer looked tempting as an alternative to a possible Eight years that we were to expect if found guilty of Riot.

What could I do? It was all up to me. My co-defendants future was in my hands (deliberately, I think). A guilty plea would ensure the reputation of the police went untarnished. Morals, ethics and personal principles hammered at me alongside a sense of duty to keep the other two out of the shit.

Ultimately, I thought "Bollocks!" and decided I wouldn't surrender. It would be a fight to the death if they were going to nail me.

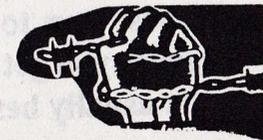
After over two weeks of a gruelling trial at the Old Bailey, three verdicts of "not guilty" were reached for Section 1 [Riot]. For Section 2 Myself and one other defendant were found guilty, the other (after 8 months in custody) walked free. I got Three years and the other guy got Two. He also had a third count for which he got Six months consecutive totalling Two and a half years.

Conclusion: we got at least (or better than) what was offered on a plea bargain, plus one of our number walked away. We also exposed to the jury gross negligence of duty and other atrocities committed by the police that day (although hurriedly swept under the carpet by Judge Machin Q.C.). Finally, I went down with peace of mind knowing the full outcome of the trial, rather than exploring what "could" have happened from a police cell.

Therefore, if the Gestapo offer a plea bargain, tell them to stick it where the sun doesn't shine and FIGHT THE POWER to the bitter end.

"I don't advocate violence, but I don't call the use of violence in self-defence violence, I call it common sense"

- MALCOM X - P.E.A.C.E.
(Positive Education Always Corrects Errors)
STAY STRONG, Tim Donaghy



MY ADVICE TO NEW PRISONERS

I'd just like to thank you again for your time and effort devoted to supporting me and other poll tax prisoners. It's well appreciated and very heartening to know of a group of people organised for our welfare.

Being sent to prison is without doubt a confusing and upsetting experience, especially for anyone who's never been sent down before. As I look back on the two months I've now done, what advice and reassurance would I have given myself on arrival, had I known what I know now? Well firstly I'd have begun by reminding myself that this is a situation not of my choice and that my priorities are; to get out as early as legally possible and to make my life as tolerable as possible in the meantime.

To these ends I would have said that it is essential to try and accept and get on with prison life. Avoid making enemies. Obviously this isn't always down to you, but an attitude of quiet co-operation with prison life will certainly serve better than one of rebellious disaffection. Remember you have rights, but in reality demanding things is more likely to lose you privileges than gain what you believe yourself to be entitled to. Quiet, polite approaches to the authorities get results. Hostile demands don't. Having said that it is also essential to have the respect and co-operation of your fellow inmates. So it's necessary to tread carefully, to find the balance between working the system to your advantage and not upsetting fellow inmates by being too friendly with the officers. Fellow inmates, especially established ones, are usually the best way to discover how to do things. Use whatever chances you get for association to this end.

It's usually best to get advice, on whatever you want to

achieve, from several sources. Remember it's no use getting angry in prison. However frustrated you feel, publicly expressing your anger, however justified, will achieve nothing positive and may have rather bad consequences. As you begin to learn how to work the system start applying for everything that will make your time more busy. Classes, work, gym, cell cleans, etc. Being busy is the key to making the time pass more quickly and tolerably. It's also the best chance of turning your sentence to any possible benefit to yourself. Try not to dwell on what's missing from your life, though don't forget. Never lose sight of the fact that one day, the sooner the better, you're going to get out. As an inmate said to me the other day "Being inside is time to do all those things (those available anyway) that you didn't have time for outside" - getting fit and/or educated for example. Look out for advantage takers. Don't be too generous with your baccy, toiletries, etc. In prison it's essential to maintain yourself. Keep your self respect.

Finally, try and keep in touch with the outside as much as possible. Send as many letters as you can afford: getting replies is a boost to your morale.

It must be said that this approach has worked for me but I've been lucky. Being a metal worker I quickly got a job (£2.75 a week, ed.) on the works at Wandsworth. Though I wouldn't choose it my prison life is quite tolerable. I've tried to avoid specific advice as prisons vary, I hope it may be of some use to someone however.

MARTIN BENFIELD

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF : MICKEY NEAL

05.30 cell door opened
05.45 get up
06.00 slop out
07.00 cup of tea, breakfast; a chance to wake up.
07.30 work; cleaning out kitchen bins, mop floors.
11.30 lunch break.
12.00 work; cleaning out kitchen bins, mop floors.
17.00 recreation; on special days 1 hr TV viewing.
19.00 back to cell; locked in for the night.

Highlights of the week

On a busy day make tea for the whole prison, about 1000 cups! Sometimes work finishes at 12.30 so back to cell and enjoy reading book sent in by TSDC and mail. Thurs: mail brings summons for not paying Poll Tax! Sat: Given Census form to complete. Sun: Fellow Prisoner goes home; feel happy for him but a bit choked myself, dreaming about the time when I will be free to walk out of the gates.

Weekends are always the worst time here; you remember what you are missing. Visits are rare and may only last 15 mins but the good news is that all the mail gets through, so letters and Post Cards are most welcome and very important to keep the spirits up.

At present Mickey has a job so does spend some time out of his cell but has been locked up for 23 hrs a day.

Mickey Neal is 23 years old and was sentenced to 18 mths imprisonment for taking part in an affray i.e. Trafalgar Demo on 31 March 1990. EDR Jan 1992.

Messages of support to: MV 3973, Neal, HM Prison, Pentonville, Caledonian Rd, London N7 8TT

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Mail to Prisoners in Pentonville.

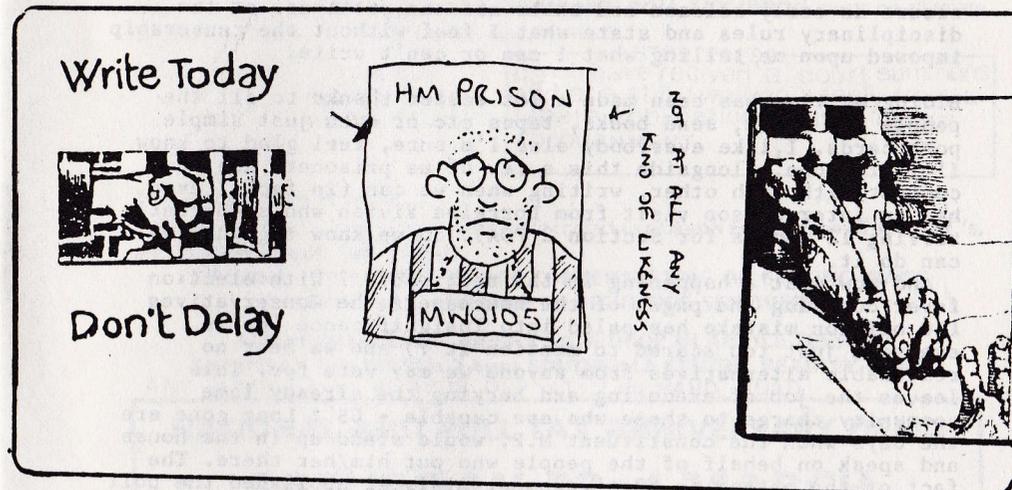
At present prisoners are receiving all their mail.

Show your name and address on the back of the envelope, if you feel awkward writing to a stranger just send a Picture Post Card with a brief message of support.

Picture Post Cards can be used to brighten up cell walls.

Prisoners can buy 4 stamps out of their wages (if they have any wages) so it helps if you can enclose a stamp.

Don't write anything which might get the prisoner into trouble.



POLL TAX - THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER

STRATEGIES OF SURVIVAL

When the threat is so great the victim(s) will protect themselves by any means necessary: hence the chain reactions and repercussions during and after the Battle of Trafalgar .

1) The attacks on the police, I feel, were wholly justified being a defensive mechanisms triggered by a common instinct whether it was derived from anger, fear, repulsion or a combination of all three at the level of unprovoked and/or unnecessary violence committed by those who are supposedly paid to protect us.

2) The amount and severity of custodial sentence meted out by the judges who obviously felt vulnerable by seeing what a realized idea can achieve, thus threatening the status quo.

I was neither surprised nor upset to receive a three year prison sentence. I was just glad it wasn't the 8 years that I expected. The only thing that did disturb me was the way the case was dealt with by the representatives of all parties (including my barrister), particularly the "impartial" judge. Then again, what should one expect? There's no such thing as a moral force that this government recognizes and as I already stated: when the threat is so great.....

Now, as a fully fledged serving inmate I'm just biding my time. From the inside, the only way to beat the system is to secure an early release and shake off the pettiness of the disciplinary rules and state what I feel without the censorship imposed upon me telling what I can or can't write.

Biding my time has been made a lot easier thanks to all the people who write, send books, tapes etc or even just simple post cards. I, like everybody else I'm sure, feel glad to know I'm not alone. Alongside this a few of us prisoners are in contact with each other, writing when we can (in fact I even had an inter-prison visit from Lorraine Vivian who's currently serving 12 months for Section 2 POA). So we know together we can do it.

And now what's happening in the real world? With election fever covering the pages of the newspapers the Conservatives £10 billion mistake has paled into insignificance (or is everyone just too scared to mention it?) and we hear no reasonable alternatives from anyone we may vote for. This leaves the job of executing and burying the already lame community charge to those who are capable - US! Long gone are the days when the constituent M.P. would stand up in the House and speak on behalf of the people who put him/her there. The fact of the matter is NO government minister abolished the poll tax- WE DID!

P.E.A.C.E TIM.

P.S After serving 3 years in prison I'd still be prepared to return for non payment - defiant to the end. June 1991

HOW YOU CAN HELP

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

Bit of biog. for anyone wishing Tim a HAPPY BIRTHDAY

EDUCATION

Little schooling from age of 13 preferring libraries or museums- picked up a couple of 'O'levels later. Sent down in January 1991 while in final year of degree course in film making at the London School of Printing. Wishes to study political science and Spanish in prison but educational department of H.M.P. BELMARSH is not yet operational.

MUSIC

Business as Usual by EPMD.
Live Hardcore Worldwide
by Boogie Down Productions.

BOOKS

Malcolm X (Autobiography, "By Any Means Necessary," "Victims of Democracy" by Victor Wolfenstein.)
Similarities in Malcolm's education and his: inner city upbringing, prison and a need to see people being treated reasonably.

FILM MAKING

Shooting own horror film this spring delayedworking on sub plot-currently writing detailed outline of mise-en-scene .

BOOKLET OF PRISONERS LETTERS- great idea - will contribute.

Tim was one of the first three people to be tried on Riot charges (Section 1 POA. max sentence 10 years). He was accused of shoving a scaffolding pole through the window of one of the riot vans charging into people at speed in the Strand. Together with Darren Healey and N.W. he was found not guilty of the riot charge, however he was sentenced to 3 years on a Section 2 POA. Earliest date of release Jan 1993.
MW0105 DONAGHY, H.M.P BELMARSH, Western Way, London S.E.28 OEB

N.B. Envelopes must have senders name and address on back.

Tim mentioned that people were injured on 31/3/91. Chris Evans from Bristol was crushed in the police charge whilst sitting in a side- street to the square. After 2 spells in B.R.I. with severe spinal injuries, it's uncertain he'll ever be able to walk again. (Venue 26/10/90). Chris was working for Telecom at the time and received 6 months sick pay. ADC does not know what success he has had in suing the police.

AVON DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN supports poll tax prisoners by writing to them, by distributing information on A.P.T. stalls and by involving people in the labour movement.

**SOLIDARITY WITH
POLL TAX PRISONERS**

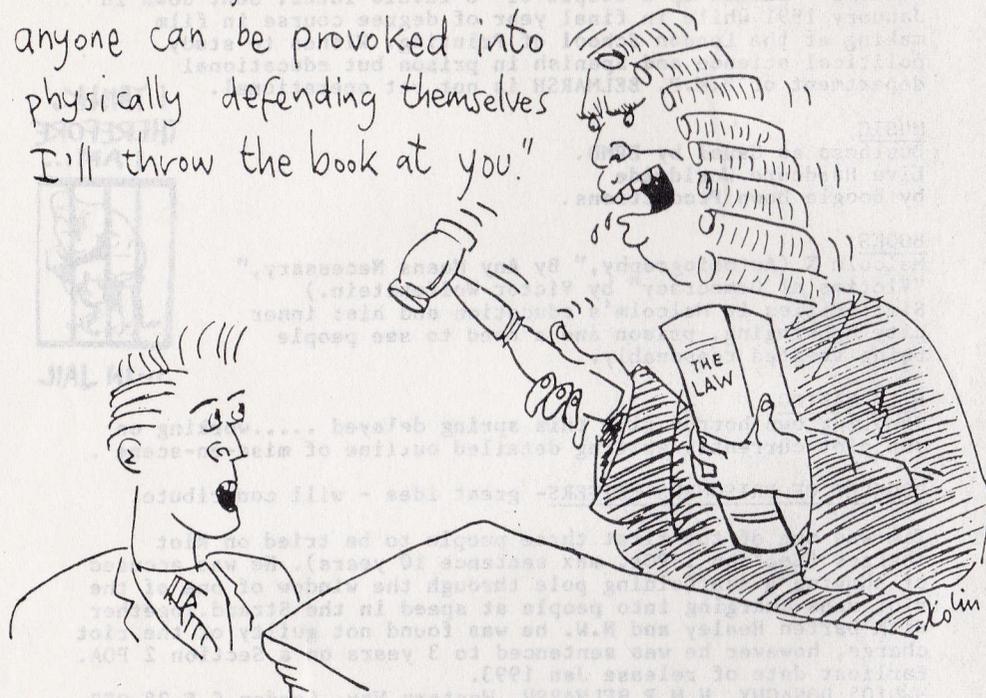
I THINK,
THEREFORE
I AM...



...IN JAIL

STOP THE RIOT SHOW TRIALS

"If you say once more that anyone can be provoked into physically defending themselves I'll throw the book at you."



The show trials of Anti-Poll Tax demonstrators continues. The trial of a man charged under P.O.A.(31/3/90) started at Southwark Crown Court on 8 July 1991 .

POLL TAX JAILINGS FOR NON PAYERS.

About 30 people have been sent down for non payment of poll tax. They include two pensioners over 70, one disabled man confined to a wheel chair, and the unemployed. Magistrates can dismiss the charge. Under regulation 42 (2) Community Charge (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations gives Magistrates Courts powers to remit payment of poll tax where it is in the interest of justice to do so.

Dear ALL of "us" (if you know what I mean) that are left,

One year on, and certain pincer tack-tics taking their toll (HE IS). Me name's Brian Tavares and I got GRASSED UP two weeks after the Mighty People's Revolt of 31/3/90, (maybe kids in school 5 yrs from now might be learning of the Heroes of the People) "Aye" Brothers and Sisters, wot a day. My only regret is that I could not defend the Men, Women and Children of this land from "their" onslaught. Christ knows wot I was feeling when I could see people getting battered senseless, my only wish there and then as I stared at the Sun (in the sky) was that I was the Man destined to wield "EXCALIBUR" and that I'd have a "Warp Spasm" - (A mystical battle frenzy in which earth energy pours through the body "Warping the Warrior"). "The Irish Cuchulann is the most famous 'warped' warrior but other Celtic heroes had similar battle frenzies - King Arthur for instance, at the Battle of Bath".
- Taken from Pat Mills 2000 AD comic strip of 'SLAINE - The Horned God'.

At the thought of The People being defiled by their "OWN" people I thought that I could go completely berserk' and rush forward into the ranks of the Police Men, and mow down great swathes of them with the People's Battle Sword EXCALIBUR, and that I wouldn't slacken my onslaught until I had killed One thousand and 80 Police Men, and hear this, People of this Land, I, BRIAN OF ENGLAND would not think this too many, in fact I would not think it enough!! Maybe if I had... the future....here and now would or could "POSSIBLY" be different. Need I say more? no I don't!! The Nonces and Grasses and Traitors do though!!!

Anyway, back to reality, I'm FUCKIN GUTTED at my sentence, the only half caste geezer, until Tim Donaghy, to get bloody 3 years, even the bloody prosecution said I was only fringing on the Riots. Ya know wot it was that got me 3 years? I'll tell ya. cos I didn't give it that Golden Handshake shit, I didn't go up to the beak and, in a manner of process of train of thought, say aloud in my head, "Mister judge Man, I was (HE IS) at the Poll Tax Riots so that here and now I can add to the confusion of Men, Women, Children, families and the Nationwide, Worldwide sorta crap, so 2 years, one suspended, wouldn't go amiss, which would leave me 6 months".

My appeal was refused cos the single judge said I'd been a major participant of the Riots, that I'd attacked a police Sgt, which I don't even remember, so..."was it worth it?" ... I'd be lying if I said it is worth it to be here and now... PEOPLE!!! yep... always... My only hope is that one day I'll be able to be a Guardian of the People, to make my People HAPPY, to bring the Sun back into their lives to lighten their Darkness, Most of all TO FREE THEM FROM FEAR, by Jesus Christ + EXCALIBUR. And so, People of this land... ah yes... already...

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, DON'T LET THE BASTARDS GET YA DOWN COS THEY'RE FULL OF PLOP, WOTS MORE THEY KNOW IT... DON'T CHA PEELER!!! IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN THAT GREAT BRITAIN MIGHT BE THE BIRTH PLACE OF WORLD PEACE.

Let us pray, your servant, friend and Brother - BRIAN OF ENGLAND

P.S. Thanx for the £10, TSDC... B of E. XXXX

THE REAL CRIMINALS

by Tim Donaghy

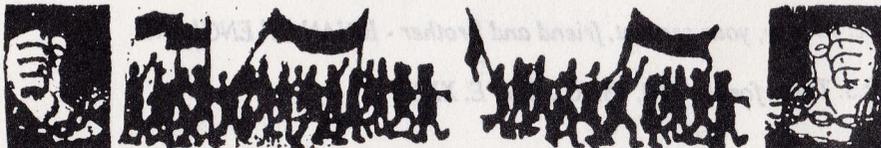
First I feel it's appropriate to quote Malcolm X :
"A protest demonstration is a reaction to what someone else has done. And as long as you're involved in it, you're in someone else's bag. You're reacting to what they've done. And all they have to do to keep you on their string is to keep you reacting, to keep you so busy you never have a chance to sit down and figure out a constructive programme to enable me and you to make the progress that is our due...
The kind of demonstration that you and I want is one that gets positive results. Not a one day demo, but a demonstration until the end of whatever we're demonstrating against. That's a demonstration. Don't say you don't like what I did and walk in front of my house for an hour. No, you're wasting your time...
If we're going to demonstrate it should be a demonstration based on no holds barred....."

The reason for choosing this quote is not, I emphasize NOT, because I live according to such philosophy or acted upon it at Trafalgar Square (31/3/90) but because it illustrates government diversions regarding development within the POLL TAX and its successors..... Also the attempted discrediting of non payers by forcing them into fighting (physically) for their rights and subsequently labelling them "rioters" in the public eye and causing hardship to hundreds of "victims of circumstance" like myself.

Over a year later, with just 20 months to go until I'm fit to walk the streets again, the system has failed miserably in making me feel remorse for my so called "crimes"; at this moment all I feel is contempt. A contempt that grows each time I remember that day when the police were exempt from any law or sense of justice.....The police STILL seem to escape prosecution for their crimes indisputedly committed by their hands: a woman trampled by police horses, a man maliciously run over by a police van - brought to light in my court case. The judge knew the driver broke the law but ignored the fact - all the innocent heads busted, the list goes on. Then came the lies, perjury, fabrication of evidence conspiring to pervert the course of justice. Ultimately this brings into line the judges and lawlords involved in the cover-up as being guilty of false imprisonment.
Living in this "septic" isle with its fake democracy that boasts of no political prisoners, I for one have been incarcerated for an opinion against the State, nothing else. The violence I was involved in was an instinct for survival, or plainly, self defence. I am not alone. Sharing my current accomodation (HMP Wandsworth) are up to a dozen others and we are still defiant.

P.E.A.C.E Positive Education Always Corrects Errors.

Heather Jarrett from Hartcliffe was one of the witnesses whose evidence helped to get the riot charge thrown out. Tim wrote recently asking for Heather's address in order to thank her. She would be willing to give evidence again if he appeals.



Advice On Arrest. (by the Desperate Bicycles)

It can't happen here! Here! Here! Here!
They can't do it to me! Me! Me! Me!
I've got nothing to fear Fear! Fear! Fear!
Never seen the S.P.G. G! G! G!
We've got democracy C! C! C!
Who needs solidarity? T! T! T!
This is what to do
If it happens to you...

Shout out your name
Take all their numbers
Make witnesses for your defence
At the station they will search you
And make a list of your belongings
Don't sign for something you don't own
At the station there'll be questions
Demand your right to phone a friend or lawyer
Don't make a written statement without
legal advice
They don't have the right
To take your photo or your prints

THE ONLY INFORMATION YOU HAVE TO GIVE THE POLICE IS:

NAME ADDRESS DATE OF BIRTH



LEGAL INFORMATION

important - keep this card with you at all times

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED ask what you are being arrested for; you have a right to know.

Shout out your name. Make a note of the numbers of the arresting officers.

You are obliged to give the police your name and address. If you are under 17 years of age, you are entitled to extra rights, so tell the police. **Everybody has the right:**

1. To remain silent - we advise you *not to make any statements.*
2. To a solicitor of your choice
3. To make a phone call

Sympathetic legal support and solicitors are available on:

071 637 1181

IF YOU WITNESS AN ARREST: 1. Write down the name of the arrested person

2. Write down the numbers of the arresting officers

3. Give this info and your own name and phone number to a Legal Volunteer.

Please come forward as a witness.

The telephone numbers of this card are for the legal office run by the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign. The Office will be open **all weekend**. We will also provide **information for friends and relatives of anyone arrested** - please call:

071 636 0246

In the event of arrests, come to the special meeting in Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Monday March 25th, 6pm onwards. **All defendants, witnesses and supporters should attend.**

BACK ON THE STREETS



BIRMINGHAM POLL TAX PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP

CHAIRPERSON D. FINNEGAN

SECRETARY CHRIS LEE

C/O 6 EXTON GARDENS BLACKPATCH

SMETHWICK B68 2LT TEL 021-665-4217

THE POLL TAX PRISONERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT - DON'T LET THEM FIGHT ALONE.

Model Resolution

This Branch notes:

- 1 - The current imprisonment of around 30 people, sentenced for demonstrating against the Poll Tax.
- 2 - The violent police attacks against the March 31, Brixton picket, Colchester and other anti Poll Tax demonstrations.
- 3 - The gross infringement of working class people's right demonstrate that these attacks represent.

This Branch resolves:

- 1 - To circulate its membership with leaflets from the Birmingham Poll Tax Prisoners Support Group.
- 2 - That this Branch writes to Matt Lee and other Poll Tax prisoners, with messages of support.
- 3 - This Branch affiliates/donates to BPTPSG.
- 4 - This branch considers adopting a prisoner/s and providing regular funding to a Poll Tax prisoner.

Campaigning materials are available from the BIRMINGHAM POLL TAX PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUP:
Petitions (free), A5 £12 for 500.

Affiliations - £2 individuals, £10 Branch, £20 Region.

All correspondence to above address.

Letters of solidarity to Matt Lee at above address.

Supported by:-

BIRMINGHAM TRADES UNION COUNCIL
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCILLORS;
G Manku, P Murphy, M Wells,
G Daly, R Evans, (Labour Party).

LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PRISONERS SUPPORT GROUPS. REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH TO GET RID OF THIS ROTTEN TAX.

STOP THE SHOW TRIALS

MODEL MOTION FOR ALL-BRITAIN ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 25 1990
DEADLINE THE END OF OCTOBER.

This Conference notes:

- 1) The massive turnout on the October 20th demonstration to greet the peoples marchers in London, despite the efforts of the police to beat our movement off the streets at Trafalgar Sq.
- 2) That the police once again used violence to break up a peaceful demonstration in order to discredit the anti-Poll Tax movement.
- 3) That well over 120 protestors were arrested, and dozens were injured during indiscriminate charges by baton wielding riot police.
- 3) That in the aftermath, the police have called for future anti-Poll Tax demonstrations to be banned.
- 4) That the October 20th defendants are likely to receive, as the March 31st defendants are doing, political show trials and excessively high conviction rates and heavy sentences.

This conference resolves:

- 1) To give full support to those arrested on October 20th.
- 2) To re-affirm our solidarity with the Trafalgar Sq. defendants, especially in the run up to the Old Bailey trials of defendants on riot charges in the New Year.
- 3) To utterly condemn the police for their violent and lawless behaviour on March 31st and October 20th.
- 4) To affiliate to the TSDC - which is run for and by defendants - and support its initiatives.
- 5) To defend the right to demonstrate against the Poll Tax by calling a massive national march through Central London (including Trafalgar Square) on Saturday March 30th next year, and to go ahead with this *no matter what the police, the media or the government try to do about it.*

This resolution was passed by the Avon Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions but rejected by the ALL BRIT. at its national -um -er rally/conference in November 1990.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME NO POLL TAX NO CUTS NO JAILINGS NO JAILINGS!

SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY
ASSEMBLE 12 noon,
SILVERDALE COLLIERY ENTRANCE
HIGH STREET, SILVERDALE
(3 MILES FROM NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME)

Don't let the local councils do the Government's dirty work. Central government are doing nothing to even alter the Poll Tax. The Poll Tax is likely to go up next year. More cuts in services and jobs and more privatisation is on the agenda. Now local councils are threatening to jail large numbers of non payers. The whole labour movement must respond to this threat, we must say we are against jailings.

Stop Privatisation - Fight The Poll Tax
No Cuts To Services - No Closure
Don't Pay, Don't Collect, No Courts, No
Bailiffs, No Wage Arrestment
REPEAL THE POLL TAX

North West Salford and Manchester march against the Poll Tax, cuts and no jailings
February 23rd

Avon Defendants Campaign
84, Colston Street,
Bristol B.S.1

28/11/90

Steve Nally
All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation

Dear colleague

The Avon Defendants Campaign welcomes the support given by the A.B.A.P.T.F for the Northampton 20 Legal Defence Fund. However we are concerned that the Federation has not shown similar support for others criminalized by fighting the poll tax. In particular we are concerned at the lack of support for the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign (T.S.D.C).

Your dismissive attitude to the T.S.D.C. has had serious implications both for the credibility of Avon Federation and for individuals from Bristol who have responded to our calls to demonstrate.

The Avon Federation and three Bristol Anti-Poll Tax Unions affiliated to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign (T.S.D.C.) when it was set up in May. This demonstrated support for those arrested. However it was only a token commitment. When a Bristol man on remand in Brixton Prison appealed to the Federation to help raise £1000 bail he was given no practical help. He has recently been released from prison and, not surprisingly, does not want to be involved in the campaign.

Another casualty of March 31st was Chris Evans, a worker with British Telecom, who was trampled under the police charge while sitting in a side street off Trafalgar Square. The Avon Defendants Campaign only learnt of him through Venue magazine (October 26) and despite endless phone calls eventually tracked him down in the Bristol Royal Infirmary on November 23. He too is seeking compensation from the police.

The ABAPTF may feel they are not responsible for the fate of Bristol demonstrators. However your attitude has meant that giving practical support and getting the subject on to the agenda of Avon Federation meetings has been difficult.

Your letter (25/10/90) to the T.S.D.C criticizing their stewarding of the picket outside Brixton Prison on October 20 also has serious implications for us. Two Bristol demonstrators suffered serious head injuries from police batons which needed medical treatment. One of them was so seriously damaged physically and emotionally that she, too, is suing the police for compensation. A Bristol man who went to her defence has been charged under Section 5 and summonsed to court in London on January 16 th. It seems both from your letter and the fact that Dave Morris, an organiser of the Brixton Prison Picket, was

given so little time at National Conference to put his case that you accept the view that the demonstrators outside Brixton Prison were irresponsible. This is not the view of the AFAPTU. Enclosed is a resolution passed unanimously by the AFAPTU on 23/10/90.

We are proud that the secretary of the Avon Federation, Danny Burns, and two other executive members disassociated themselves from your destructive letter dated October 25.

Your attitude to defendants raises another issue:- communication. Despite the massive workload of the T.S.D.C. it keeps all members fully informed. Recently we have received :

- * poll tax prisoners address list
- * 6-Monthly General Statement to the Anti-Poll Tax Movement
- * a two page reply to your criticism of the Brixton Picket
- * an 8 page preliminary report on the policing of the anti-poll tax demonstration of October 20 th.
- * Colchester 17 Defence Campaign
- * details of the National Right to Demonstrate Conference.

In contrast the ABAPTF sends out little information. This again has been detrimental to our effectiveness as an organization . Since October 26 we in Bristol have had weekly court sessions. It was immediately apparent that considerable planning is needed to support those going through the ordeal. We have identified 8 jobs, apart from MacKensie's friends, which need to be delegated. We have also made four separate information sheets - a time wasting and demoralising experience. Why hasn't ABAPTF provided draft sheets based on the experience of other parts of the country which we could have adapted locally ?

During the past two years the ABAPTF has consistently campaigned against the poll tax .However a strategy which isolates those criminalized is a recipe for defeat. The ABAPTF could show its commitment to the T.S.D.C. by supporting the National Right to Demonstrate / Solidarity Conference on Saturday 9 February, Conway Hall, London which aims to defend all those arrested - including those from Northampton.

AVON DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN

Copies to:
Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign
Nottingham Defence Fund
Northampton 20 Legal Defence Campaign
Refuse and Resist
Danny Burns, Secretary AFAPTU
Steve Henwood, Venue Magazine



THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL

I know not whether Laws be right,
Or whether Laws be wrong ;
All that we know who lie in gaol
Is that the wall is strong ;
And that each day is like a year,
A year whose days are long.

But this I know, that every Law
That men hath made for Man,
Since first Man took his brother's life,
And the sad world began,
But straws the wheat and saves the chaff
With a most evil fan.

This too I know—and wise it were
If each could know the same—
That every prison that men build
Is built with bricks of shame,
And bound with bars lest Christ should see
How men their brothers maim.

With bars they blur the gracious moon,
And blind the goodly sun ;
And they do well to hide their Hell,
For in it things are done
That Son of God nor son of Man
Ever should look upon !

This is an extract from
THE BALLAD OF READING GOAL. OSCAR WILDE
was sentenced to two years imprisonment
with hard labour in 1885.

The Battle of Trafalgar

March 31 1990 is a memorable day for 200,000 people. Some will remember the carnival atmosphere of the march through London against the poll tax, others the battlefield on Trafalgar Square. But not many realize that it was the action of those who defended themselves which prevented panic and death. One of the demonstrators, trapped in the crowd, was seen on video calling on others to push through the police line. For this action, Matt Lee has been imprisoned for 2½ years. Others tried to stop the police driving their vans into the crowd. Darren Healey was sentenced to 2½ years and Tim Donaghy to three years for this. We believe that these actions were courageous. Self defence is no offence.

These prisoners are not the thugs portrayed by the media. Matt Lee is chair of Birmingham Anti-Poll Tax Federation and Tim Donaghy is in his final year of a degree course in film making. In court and in their letters from prison, Matt and Tim both show their determination not just to end the poll tax but to see a society where people are treated reasonably.

Out of 520 people arrested, 100 have been sent to prison with sentences varying from a few weeks to four years. Thirty are currently in prison. They have been supported by the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign which was set up by defendants. For the past fifteen months T.S.D.C. have given unconditional moral, practical, legal and financial support to them. The Prisoners Support Group in London meets weekly to ensure that each prisoner gets a daily newspaper of his choice, at least one letter a week and £10 a month allowance.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

We in the Avon Defendants Campaign know that each of us can do something which gets immediate results.

- 1) Get a picture post card
- 2) Write a cheerful message plus your address on it.
- 3) Address it to a prisoner on the list below and post it.

POLL TAX PRISONERS OUTSIDE LONDON 14/6/91

STEVEN LYNN MW1054 HMP FORD, Nr Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 OBX
STEVEN CURTIS MW1182 HMP NORTHEYE, Barnhorn Rd, Bexhill, TN39 OAE
NEIL BREMNER MW 0216 HMP COLDINGLEY, Bisley, Woking, Surrey,
GU24 9 EX

TIM PAINE MW0231 and STEVEN MURRAY MW0218
HMP HIGH POINT, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk
SIMON RUSSELL ND1666HMP THE MOUNT, Molyneux Ave.
Bovingdon, Herts, HP3 ONZ
ROBERT WRAY MW1242 and KEITH WRAY MW1241
HMP FELTHAM Bedfont Rd, Middlesex TW394Q

**SOLIDARITY WITH
POLL TAX PRISONERS**



COUNCILS controlled by all three major parties have stepped up intimidation of poll tax non-payers this week.

South Tyneside Labour council has jailed a



STORMIN' Norman defies Tory laws

71 year old pensioner.

Norman Laws, who has a 74 year old invalid wife, was given two months inside after defying a suspended sentence handed down in March.

The council are "throwing people into jail

for being poor," said a local pensioner activist.

"I'm refusing to pay one penny," Norman defiantly told the court.

Protesters' anger was increased because one of the magistrates was an ex-official of the engineers'

union.

This is the second time South Tyneside has given such a vicious term—much worse than even Tory councils dare to impose.

About 50 people packed the court's public gallery when Norman was jailed and sang the Internationale as he was sent down.

Around 80 demonstrated outside Durham jail last Saturday. An Anti-Poll Tax Federation speaker said, "Labour councillors are elected to represent their constituents, not repress them. Now they're showing whose side they're really on."

DEMONSTRATE

Free Norman Laws

Sat 25 May 12.30pm

**Marine Park
South Shields**

Norman Laws Political Prisoner CK0163
H.M.Prison Cell A2-39, Old Elvet
Durham D.H.1 3 H.U. 20/5/91

South West Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions
Dear friends,

My "desk" is so full of envelopes, stationery, INS & OUTS, I don't know if I'm on my head or my heels. Well it's wonderful to have so many friends all over the country writing and standing firm against the stupid POLL TAX legislation.

All the actions taken by councils in court is so disgraceful and unnecessary it makes one wonder if they have lost all their grey matter. It doesn't succeed in bringing in one penny—much worse it simply wastes money whoever pays the court or prison costs.

Councils' legal obligation cease after bailiffs have done their vile job (win or lose) and there is no obligation on councils to take defaulters to court. It seems pure vindictiveness on their part. But what do you expect from (in the case of Labour Councils) traitors to their own class, which many of them have proved to be.

I have invited the leader of my local council to come and visit me here. I bet he doesn't come. I told him last week if his group (80 odd to 2) didn't alter their policy, the only way they would see the inside of a Town Hall in future would be from the visitors' gallery.

The fight for a local income tax is practically won. My own pet plan - hammering the filthy rich - is available for Mr Major. All is well and taken care of at home. So no worries. Thanks again for your support.

Norman

**STOP THE POLL TAX
JAILINGS NOW!**

WE BROKE THE LAW AND WE WON!



**OUR CAMPAIGN OF NON-PAYMENT + DEMONSTRATIONS
HAS DEFEATED THE TORY POLL TAX. BUT THE FIGHT
GOES ON. WE ARE STILL CAMPAIGNING FOR: -**

- AN AMNESTY FOR ALL NON PAYERS**
- AN END TO THE USE OF COURTS + BAILIFFS**
- THE RELEASE OF ALL THOSE IMPRISONED AS A
RESULT OF THE TRAFALGAR SQUARE + BRIXTON
PRISON DEMONSTRATIONS 1990**

WE WILL ALSO CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE LOCAL AUTHORITY ^{SERVICE} JOBS.

AVON FEDERATION OF ANTI POLL TAX 1991.



DEMONSTRATION against THE POLL TAX

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED
BY THE ANTI POLL TAX
UNIONS OF BRISTOL

ASHLEY
WINDMILL HILL
HARTCLIFFE
BISHOPSTON
EASTON
ASHTON
BARTON HILL
KINGSDOWN
ST ANNES
KNOWLE WEST
HORFIELD/
LOCKLEAZE
LITTLE STOKE
ST WERBURGHS
ST PAULS
BRISTOL POLY
BRISTOL UNIVERSITY
KINGSDOWN
YOUTH AGAINST
THE POLL TAX
BRISTOL WOMEN APTU



BRING YOUR
REGISTRATION FOR
DON'T FILL IT IN
YET !!!

AVON FEDERATION OF
ANTI POLL TAX UNION

The POLL TAX

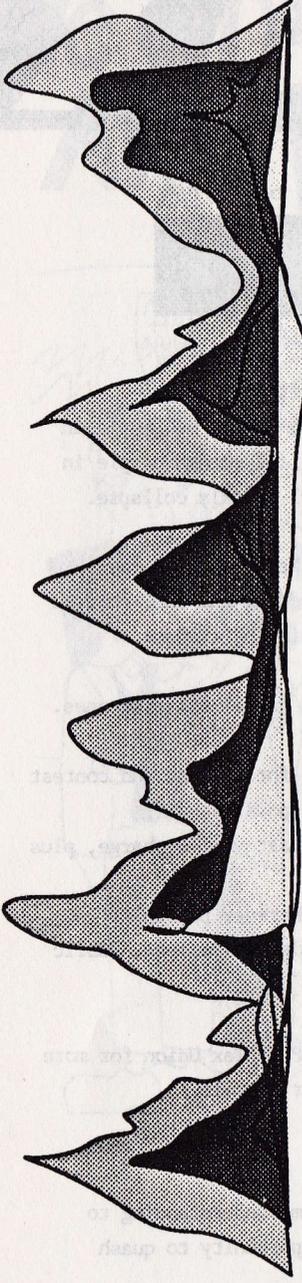
WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

1. DON'T PAY! Particularly if you can't afford to!
This is not as drastic as it may appear. A lot of people in Scotland are already committed to this. If enough people in the country don't pay, the Poll Tax will quickly collapse.
2. If you feel you must pay, then don't make collection easy. Any administrative frustration in collecting the tax, coupled with mass non-payment will assist in bringing it down.
 - a) Don't fill in any direct debit, and cancel existing ones.
 - b) Delay payment of instalments.
 - c) Make the Council apply to the Court for payment and contest the hearings. Make as much fuss as possible.
 - d) Pay your rates bill only (based on last year's charge, plus inflation).
 - e) Claim Poll Tax relief and rebates wherever possible.
 - f) Write to MPs, Councillors. Attend demonstrations, Public Meetings.
3. Get organised and join your local Anti-Poll Tax Union for more ideas and mutual support. (See over for details.)

REMEMBER!

The Government depends on fear, apathy and misunderstanding to maintain the Poll Tax and will use every opportunity to quash opposition to it.

The Poll Tax will only be defeated through concerted action by the general public who stand together in their resolve to sweep away this unjust and punitive burden.



If you live in Bishopston/St Andrews and you're opposed to the Poll Tax, bring your bill to St Andrews Park on SATURDAY, 28TH APRIL at 11.30 A.M. and show the strength of your opposition!!

We then aim to join together with people from Montpelier, Redland/Cotham and Kingsdown to march to College Green where a central demonstration will take place at 2 p.m.

Burn the Bill

STICK TOGETHER AND WE CAN BEAT THE POLL TAX!!

I wish to join my local Anti Poll Tax Union.

Name

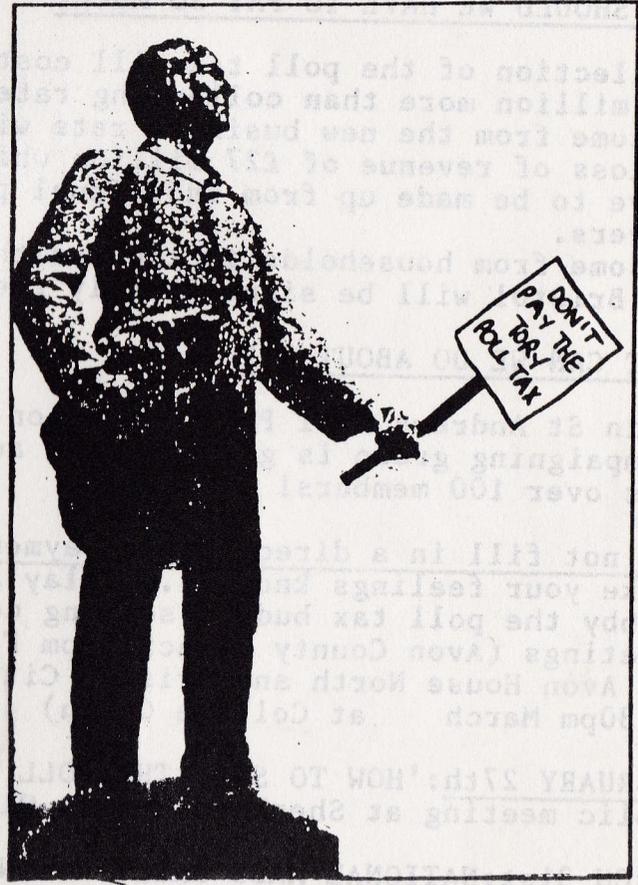
Address

Please return to Effingham Road, St Andrews BS6 5AY

**NO
POLL
TAX!**

JOIN US

STONY SILENCE AT PROTEST



The statue of Samuel Morey, Liberal MP for Bristol City from 1869 to 1885, with an anonymous addition

St Andrews

Anti Poll Tax

ACTION!

Poll Tax bills will be dropping onto our doormats from April 1st. For Bristol the predicted figure is £501.

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO PAY SO MUCH?

- *Collection of the poll tax will cost about £6 million more than collecting rates.
- *Income from the new business rate will mean a loss of revenue of £27 million which will have to be made up from individual poll tax payers.
- *Income from households in the wealthier parts of Bristol will be significantly reduced.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

*Join St Andrews Anti Poll Tax Union. This campaigning group is growing fast and already has over 100 members!

- *Do not fill in a direct debit payment form
- *Make your feelings known...display a poster, lobby the poll tax budget setting council meetings (Avon County Council 1pm February 22 at Avon House North and Bristol City Council 1.30pm March at College Green)

FEBRUARY 27th: 'HOW TO STOP THE POLL TAX'
Public meeting at Shepherds Hall, Old Market.

MARCH 31st: NATIONAL MASS RALLY AGAINST THE POLL TAX IN LONDON, coaches from Bristol.

PAY NO POLL TAX

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

LEON ROSSELSON



'Our finest songwriter, without question'

Acoustic Music

'His songs are fierce, funny, cynical, outraged, blasphemous, challenging and anarchic. And the tunes are good, too'

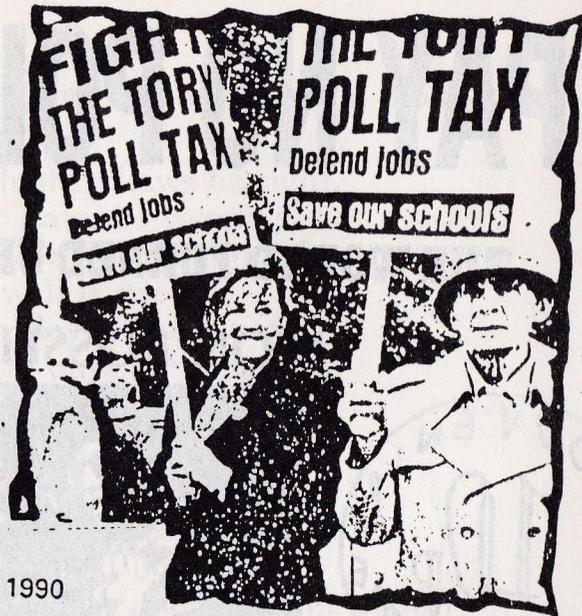
Guardian

'He has never dealt in cosy cliché; when he attacks, his words are lethally sharp and rarely off target'

Melody Maker

BISHOPSTON SATURDAY
COMMUNITY JUNE 2nd
CENTRE 8 - 11.30 pm
GLOUCESTER RD.

£3/£2 conc.



12 MILITANT 22 June 1990

Priests ban meeting

Dear Comrades,

In mid-March a request was made to the priest at St Antony's Catholic Church at Henbury, Bristol, for the use of their hall to hold an anti-poll tax meeting. This was refused on the grounds the hall was not let for political purposes.

When a new priest was appointed a further request was made by a person with no affiliation politically. Again this was refused.

Yet the hall had been let to the local Conservative Association, at which the local Conservative councillor and Conservative MP, Michael Stern, attended to discuss the poll tax or as they would have it the community charge.

The Henbury community

were, by the discriminatory action of the church, denied a platform, as they were not apparently of the Conservative faith.

Not only were the Henbury community denied but the whole Bristol community were not allowed to read of this discrimination as the two local free newspapers refused to publish letters setting out the facts. The two editors, although asked for an explanation for their non-publication, have three weeks later not answered.

So one can only conclude by the action of the church and the press that Glasnost has arrived in the East but not the West.

Richard Adams,
Henbury anti-poll tax union, Bristol.



ANN THOMAS

has been Councillor for this area for the past 3 years. She has resigned because she has been victimised for her outspokenness by the right wing leadership of the Labour Party in Brislington and on the City Council.

WHY I HAVE RESIGNED

I am very sad that I have to take this decision because I've enjoyed the work over the last three years particularly my involvement with local people and groups.

I believe that people in Brislington East voted for me, the Labour candidate, to represent Labour Party policy and this I have done. I have always voted for Party policy, but in doing so I have come into conflict with those who control the Party in this City.

As a Labour Councillor, I wanted to defend the interests of people against the Tory policies and laws which have hurt many people such as high mortgage rates and attacks on council housing, and services. The Government is now telling councils to put up rents and to impose the hated Poll Tax which most people will not be able to afford to pay.

DISAPPOINTED

I believe that the Labour Party should fight in the strongest possible way against such unfairness. But I am disappointed to see Labour councils and councillors who willingly accept such attacks on the people they represent.

Those of us who want to support working class people to defend themselves are criticised and forced to leave.

POLL TAX

We can no longer rely on Labour councils to look after us. Instead, we have to organise ourselves in our Tenants' Association, Trade Union, etc., to oppose the Poll Tax, the rent increases, and the cuts in services and jobs.

For this reason, I urge you to join the St. Annes Anti-Poll Tax Union to carry on the fight against the Tories.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone in the Brislington East Ward, especially people in the Tenants' Association, St. Annes Anti-Poll Tax Union and the various community groups for all their support and kindness, and for the many messages of encouragement. As a Socialist, I will continue to be active in Bristol and will keep in touch in the future.

With very best wishes

POLL TAX - NO WAY
 DON'T COLLECT
 DON'T PAY



John Harris (NIU)





BRISTOL MAGISTRATES COURT - 1013

SUMMONS FOR NON PAYMENT OF COMMUNITY CHARGE

IMPORTANT - SEE NOTES ENCLOSED

Wkg Grp	Account Reference	Summons No.
025	224497-1-5	0080995

ST ANDREWS
BRISTOL

BS6 5AW

Type of Community Charge

PERSONAL

Complaint has this day been made to me, the undersigned Clerk to the Justices, by an officer of the Council of the City of Bristol, (the Charging Authority) that you being a person subject to a Community Charge as detailed below, have not paid the sum due.
YOU ARE THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before

BRISTOL MAGISTRATES COURT NELSON STREET
BRISTOL

at 10.00.A.M. on FRIDAY the 14TH of DECEMBER 1990, unless the sum due be sooner paid, to show cause why a Liability Order should not be made against you. If you do not appear you will be proceeded against as if you had appeared and be dealt with according to law.

DATE CHARGE MADE	PERIOD OF CHARGE FROM TO		AMOUNT(S) DUE
* 06 MAR 90	01 APR 90	31 MAR 91	£425.30

TOTAL SUM DUE
£425.30

* A substituted charge was made on 1st August 1990.
Your liability for Community Charge arises out of a registration at the following address:

Dated the 29 NOV 90

ST ANDREWS

Erwina Sullivan
Clerk to the Justices

Wkg Grp	Account Reference	Summons No.
025	22449715	0080995

PAYMENT COUNTERFOIL

CITY OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY CHARGE

City Treasurer,
PO Box 230,
Poll Tax Office,
Amelia Court,
Pipe Lane,
BRISTOL BS99 1SD.

Telephone No. for enquiries is (0272) 250981.
PLEASE QUOTE THE ABOVE REFERENCE.

IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE is received by the CITY TREASURER BEFORE THE DAY OF THE HEARING the proceedings will be stopped. If it is not so paid and the court issues a Liability Order, costs may be incurred.

SEE OVERLEAF FOR METHODS OF PAYMENT.

DATE OF ISSUE
29 NOV 90

TOTAL SUM DUE
£425.30

AVON FEDERATION OF ANTI POLL TAX UNIONS

DEPUTATION TO COUNCILLOR CLAIRE WARREN

Bristol City Council is persecuting the poor. Each week at Bristol Magistrates Court people on benefit, who have applied for rebate, are told that they are liable to pay the full poll tax. Their request for an adjournment under practice note 15 is dismissed.

Bristol City Council are entirely to blame. Unlike poll tax registration, enforcement is totally under the control of councillors.

Councillor Claire Warren, as chair of Land and General Purposes Committee, should call a special meeting to instruct officers at Amelia Court to adopt the Guide to Good Practice. She should also ensure that emergency rebate forms are issued.

Bristol City Council is now using bailiffs for collection of poll tax. The council has a code of conduct which will only be enforced if we are vigilant.

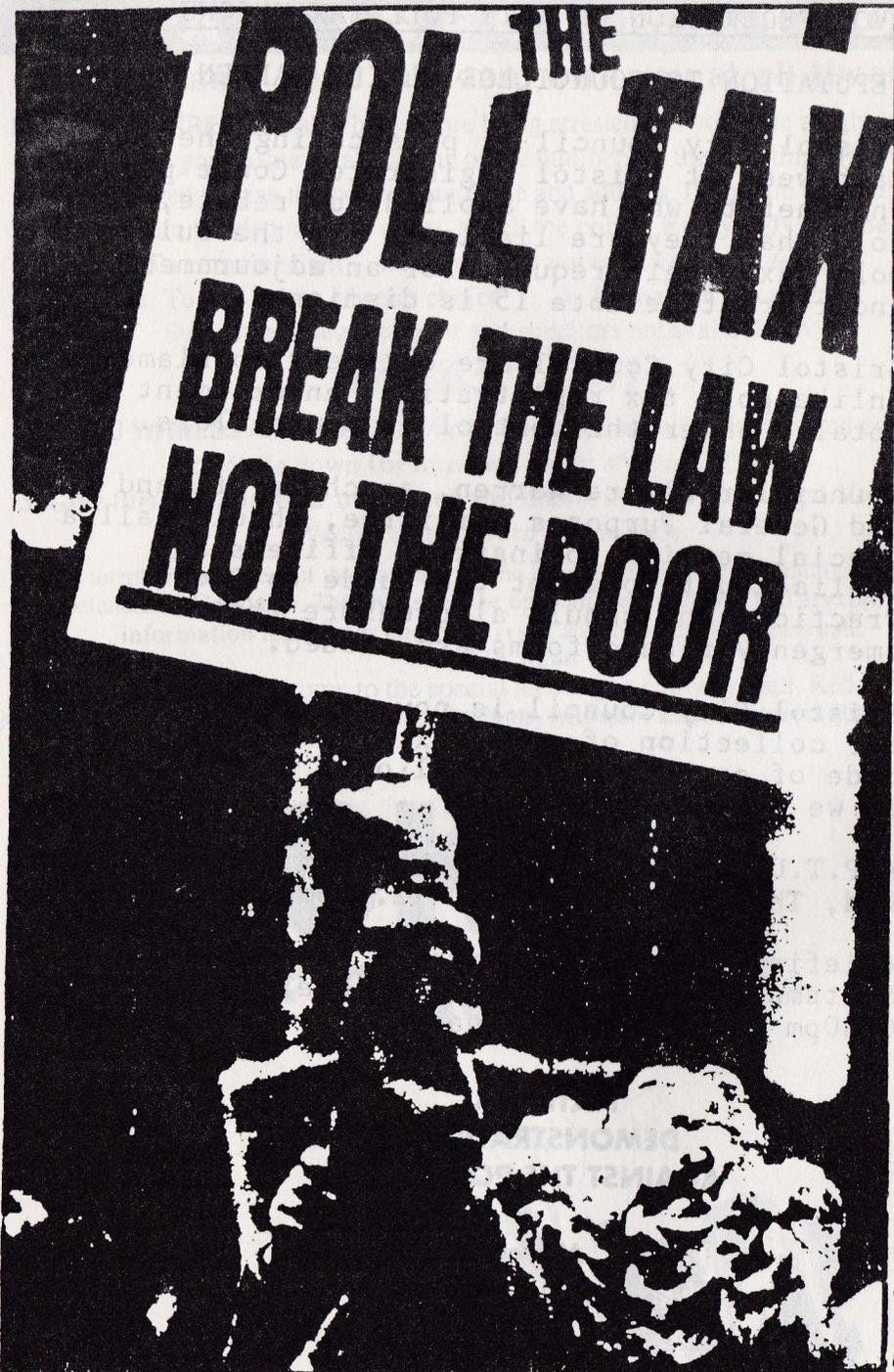
A.P.T.U. office is open: Mon 2pm -6pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs 2-4pm, Fri 10-12.30pm. Tel 255504

Briefings for those summons for court:-
Scotsman and his Pack, St Michaels Hill
6.30pm - 8 pm on Thursdays

NATIONAL
DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST THE POLL TAX



March 23rd,
Central London



Picture JOHN SMITH (Profile)

PROTESTERS IN Manchester last week

BRISTOL MAGISTRATES' COURT

DATE :

COURT NUMBER :

DEFENDANT'S NAME :

SUMMONS NUMBER :

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS :
[if no summons number]

025

CALLING ORDER NUMBER : 121

DON'T TRUST the courts to give any sort of fair hearing.

Lord Justice Watkin and Justice Timothy Evans ruled last week that a council can demand you pay full poll tax even if you've applied for a rebate and the reason the rebate hasn't been processed is the council's fault.

Bristol council was judged to have acted fairly in demanding the full £425 from John Willsman and starting proceedings against him for non-payment while he was trying to sort out his claim.

John was actually entitled to an 80 percent discount.

White: Defendant's copy, Green: Court copy, Pink: File copy

AVON FEDERATION OF ANTI POLL TAX UNIONS hopes that this leaflet will give you some idea of what to expect when summonsed to court for non payment of poll tax.

About 1500 non payers are summons for 10 am on the same day. Bristol Magistrates Court makes no allowance for the fact that people may have young children with them; that they may have to pick up children from school; that bus fares are high etc.

The usher on the ground floor gives you a number and then you wait outside the court. Check your bill to see that your name is spelt accurately, that the address is correct and that the bill adds up to the right amount. Mistakes on the bill can mean that your case is adjourned.

ANTI POLL TAX supporters are in court to help. We aim to hold briefing sessions from 9.45 am onwards. These meetings help to build up confidence by hearing people report any success they have had in court. It is also a chance to get involved in the A.P.T.U. as people are often summonsed from the same area.

IN COURT

You will be asked if your name and address is correct. Then you will be asked if you are liable and you should ask for this to be explained clearly. You can be given an adjournment if :

- * you have already paid
 - * you've moved (& have already paid)
 - * that your entry on the register was incorrect
 - * that there is an inaccuracy in your bill
- STAND FIRM. KEEP CALM

YOU'VE APPLIED FOR A REBATE ?

- * request for an adjournment under practice note 15
- * phone Councillor Claire Warren, as chair of Land and General Purposes Committee, Bristol City Council 736028 (eves)

LIABILITY ORDER

This is sent out about a week later .It is a criminal offence not to fill it in.

ATTACHMENT OF EARNINGS

Deductions from wages £100 £8 deductions weekly.

Deductions for those on rebate can only be made from income support

A.P.T.U. office is open: Mon 2pm -6pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs 2-4pm, Fri 10-12.30pm. Tel 255504

Briefings for those summons for court

Scotsman and his Pack, St Michaels Hill 6.30pm - 8 pm on Thursdays

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

NOCTN 2000-0



NOCTN 2000-0

FRI. 30th NOV.

12.30 - 2.30

NEW MAGISTRATES COURT
NELSON ST.

SUPPORT THE BRISTOL NON-PAYERS

BRISTOL CHARGING AUTHORITY

**COMMUNITY CHARGE
(POLL TAX)**

P.O. Box 230, Poll Tax Office, Amelia Court, Pipe Lane
Bristol 1. Telephone (0272) 250981

Community Charges
Registration Officer

Norman Fayers
BA, IPFA, IRRV

St Andrews
Bristol
BS6 5AW

When calling or telephoning
about this letter please ask
for Mr P Humphreys

Direct line: 223434

Fax Number: 755730

Your ref:

Our ref: PSH/22449715

Date: 5 December 1990

Dear Madam

RE: Bristol Magistrates Court Summons No. 0080995

I am in receipt of your letter dated 3 December 1990 in connection with the above summons, returnable on 14 December 1990, concerning non-payment of Community Charge.

I note from your letter that the Community Charge Registration Officer has granted you anonymous registration. If you require anonymity at the Magistrates Court, this is a matter solely between yourself and the Court, I cannot be party to any such request nor will I oppose any application or consent.

My advice to you is that you should write to the Clerk to the Justices in advance, stating your summons number, the date of the hearing, and the details of your request. On arrival at Court on the day of the hearing you should give your name and summons number to the Court Usher and ask that the Clerk of the Court be advised that you have requested an anonymous hearing.

I am given to understand that whilst it is improbable that the Court will allow your case to be heard in camera, if the Clerk of the Court has prior knowledge he will not read your address out in open Court.

Yours faithfully

P Humphreys
Recovery Manager

JLW/Recovery/

SOUTHVILLE AND ASHTON A.P.T.U. NEWSLETTER

DISTRIBUTED TO 5,000 HOMES LOCALLY FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE 9

Hello, here we are again, weeks away from the second year of Poll Tax (estimated at £550). There are thousands who have still not paid last years, thousands who started and then stopped and thousands who paid only the same as their rates and no more.

The Poll Tax office is in chaos and has now booked the magistrates' courts on Wednesdays and Fridays in a desperate attempt to get through all the cases before it is allowed to pursue non payers from the coming year

The government has hidden behind the Gulf War smokescreen in order to avoid loss of face over the feeble tinkering reforms in 'transitional' (temporary) relief announced by Heseltine. It must be scrapped. The war in the Gulf is a cynical political manoeuvre to divert attention from the worsening domestic policies in the U.K. and U.S. The news media must take much of the blame as the spectacle of SCUD missiles has obliterated the rapidly rising unemployment statistics.

COUNCIL SERVICES

We can expect government propaganda to blame cuts in council services on Poll Tax non-payers. Last year they tried to blame 'high spending' Labour councils; the truth is that Avon County Council is already considering a £5 million cut in its social services budget and Bristol City council is considering closing five swimming pools (including Bristol South), these are just two examples, as a result of Poll Tax capping by the government. We want proper funding for local authorities; another reason for the Poll Tax to be scrapped.

Bristol City council will set its Poll Tax budget on Tuesday 5th March. Join the demonstration against the tax and the cuts outside the Council House, 1pm onwards.

Also Avon Budget Setting Meeting Thursday 7th February Demo 1.30pm Avon House North.

If you would like to find out more about the local campaign or want advice or would like to help in any way **SOUTHVILLE AND ASHTON ANTI POLL TAX UNION** meets on alternate Sundays at 7.30pm, Southville Centre, Beaulay Road.

Future meetings:- February 3, 17
March 3, 17, 31
April 14, 28 etc

STOP PRESS
if you have received a court summons
and are still awaiting a reply from a
rebate application - INSIST ON AN
ADJOURNMENT

Your street representative is

Also if you receive a court summons/bailiff visit contact us or **Avon Federation of A.P.T.U.'s**,
84 Colston Street. Tel: 255504.

**THE POLL TAX ENFORCERS ARE CONCENTRATING ON SEEKING WAGE
ARRESTMENTS, FOR HOW TO FIGHT THIS SEE OVERLEAF**

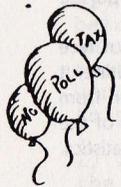
**ALSO FUNDRAISING JUMBLE SALE/DROP IN ADVICE SESSION
SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2-4pm SOUTHVILLE CENTRE, BEAULEY ROAD
ANY JUMBLE? - IF SO DROP OFF AT 2, HOWARD ROAD**

**NATIONAL ANTI POLL TAX ANNIVERSARY DEMO
SATURDAY 23rd MARCH
CENTRAL LONDON**

LOCAL COACHES FROM SOUTHVILLE AND ASHTON

Please book early to avoid disappointment
Details from your street representative or local contacts

SING AGAINST THE POLL TAX

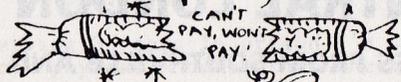


JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS
JINGLE ALL THE WAY,
WE'RE AGAINST THE POLL TAX
AND WE'RE NOT GONNA PAY!!!



FRIDAY DEC. 14th
1.00 - 2.00

NEW MAGISTRATES COURT
NELSON STREET



SUPPORT THE BRISTOL NON-PAYERS

DON'T PAY!

THE PENSIONERS REVOLT

In 1381 the rulers of this land
Said to the pensioners a poll tax we demand
Shouted back the peasants the poorest of the poor
"It's impossible to live and this burden to endure"
They revolted and said "GET OFF OUR BACKS."
NO WAY WILL WE PAY YOUR ROTTEN POLL TAX."

Now six hundred and ten years from that day
To live in Britain a community charge you must pay
They say to us pensioners, the poorest of the poor
"PAY UP OR WE'LL SEND THE TAX COLLECTOR TO YOUR DOOR"
So let's revolt and say like the peasants "GET OFF OUR BACKS"
NO WAY WILL WE PAY YOUR ROTTEN POLL TAX".

In 1939-1940, Dunkirk, the blitz, Tory Toffs do you recall
How our generation, now pensioners, stood alone backs to wall
Is this our reward in 1989-90 the 50th anniversary date
That to live in Britain the poll tax we must pay
So let's revolt pensioners and say "GET OFF OUR BACKS"
NO WAY WILL WE PAY YOUR ROTTEN POLL TAX"

We fought against tyranny, gave blood, sweat and tears
And many of our comrades bones lie in foreign fields
The poll tax now introduced to your crying shame
Was my sacrifice and theirs all in vain?
So let's revolt pensioners and say "GET OFF OUR BACKS"
NO WAY WILL WE PAY THIS ROTTEN POLL TAX".

NOW PENSIONERS LET'S FIGHT, REMEMBER THE PAST
HOW THE PEASANTS MADE THE RULERS GET OFF THEIR BACKS
WE WHO SAVED THIS COUNTRY FROM THE TYRANNY OF FASCISM
CAN DESTROY THE POLL TAX THAT CREATION OF THATCHERISM
SO LET'S REVOLT AND SAY "GET OFF OUR BACKS"
NO WAY WILL WE PAY THIS ROTTEN POLL TAX"

Danny Price
June 1989

□ Demonstrators brick up boss's front door and empty garage



WHO ELECTED HESELTINE TO CUT BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL'S SERVICES ?

MAY DAY was celebrated in Nempnett Thrubwell this year by 100 anti poll tax protesters. They visited John Roach, boss of the bailiff firm paid by Bristol City Council (B.C.C.) to collect poll tax. By bricking up his front door, displaying the contents of his garage and planting a BRISTOL BAILIFF ASSASSINS placard in the front garden they gave the Roaches a taste of the terror they inflict.

FROM THE PENSIONERS OF BEDMINSTER.

TO Mrs ROACH, (BAILIFF'S WIFE,)
CHEW VALLEY,
NEMPNETT,
BRISTOL.

April 1991.)

Let the poll tax die,
We have not the money to pay,
We worked hard all our days,
For comfort in our old age,
So Please Implore your Spouse,
We will call upon your house,
Unless He forgets to call,
For money from us all,
For some -thing so unfair,
As a tax we have not got,
THE ABILITY TO PAY.

Barbara G.S. T.

FEWER SERVICES, HIGHER BILLS

ARE NON-PAYERS TO BLAME?

The truth is that the poll tax is high because:

- It reduces the amount of tax paid by the rich and big business.
- The Tories have slashed the money available to local authorities to maintain basic services in order to privatise them.
- The Poll Tax costs much more to administer than the rates.

NO CUTS



Marching youngsters protest over possible nursery education cuts

MAY 1990
EVENING POST



Certificated Bailiffs

Registered Office: Contact House
Church Lane
Cliftonwood
Bristol BS8 4YY
Telephone No. (0272) 299339
Fax No. (0272) 292879
VAT Reg No. 397 4154 18

Licensed under the Consumer Credit Act No. 201806

Account No. 052606
Assessment No. 20736656

Notice of Distress and Inventory

To _____ and all others to whom it may concern.

Take Notice That by acting on a certificate issued to me by the Bristol County Court and by virtue of the authority given to me by Bristol City Council

I have this day Seized, Distressed and Impounded on the premises situate at:
Landseer Avenue, Lockleaze, Bristol

the goods specified in the following Inventory for the sum of £476.65 being arrears of Community Charge and costs. Community Charge owing to Bristol City Council for the financial year commencing 1st April 1990. This being under a Liability order issued on 07.12.1990.

INVENTORY TO WHICH THIS NOTICE REFERS:

All goods owned by you - its cover community charge + cuts.

Any person removing the goods to defeat the distress will be liable to penalties.

Total sum (excluding costs).....	425.30
Court costs.....	18.50
Levy costs (see scale overleaf).....	27.00
Possession (one day).....	0.45
Total Amount if paid today.....	471.25
Additional days possession at 45p per day, until Distress is fully paid (Max. 5.40)	5.40
TOTAL (including additional days possession fees).....	476.65

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE. That unless the said amount be paid to me together with the expenses of this Distress, or the goods be relieved, within FIVE DAYS from the date hereof they will be sold according to law.

Dated this 11 day of April 1990

Certificated Bailiff [Signature]

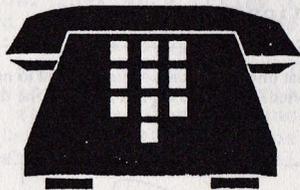
ALL REMITTANCES TO BE SENT TO OURSELVES (ENCLOSE S.A.E. FOR RECEIPT).

BEAT THE BAILIFFS!

DON'T PANIC DON'T PAY!

- A bailiff is only allowed to enter your home if you have let them in.
- If you do let them in, they can use force on later visits.
- Council officials may well be doing the bailiffs job at first.
- Bailiffs can enter through an open window, so keep them locked.
- Tell your children not to open the door.
- Ask a friend to be a witness to prevent illegal action, better still contact your local anti-poll tax group.

Join the Bailiff Busters



255-504

St. Paul's and Montpelier

Anti Poll Tax Union

Mass opposition has forced the Tory government to retreat and announce the end of the Poll Tax. However, their alternative, the "council tax" will mean that the burden of local government taxation will still fall heavily on ordinary people.

THAT THE RICH WILL STILL NOT PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE -

HOW THE PROPERTY BANDS WORK

Property value band	Upper property value in band	Tax for standard spending (2+ adults)*	Tax for standard spending (1 adult)*	% properties in band
BAND A	£40,000	267	200	19
BAND B	£52,000	311	233	16
BAND C	£68,000	368	267	20
BAND D	£88,000	400	300	17
BAND E	£120,000	480	367	13
BAND F	£160,000	570	434	8
BAND G	£180,000+	600	501	7

*Averages based on the standard spending assessment for local authorities in England.

AND THAT THE POLL TAX WILL BE WITH US UNTIL 1993.

Poll tax court cases, bailiff raids and jailings could go on until the middle of the decade.

We've got this farwe can't afford to ease up now.

Nearly 50% of the registered population in Bristol are in arrears.....that is 180,000 out of 390,000, and over 31 million pounds due, has not been collected.

Bristol council has issued an attachment of earnings order against just one person. The use of bailiffs to intimidate people by delivering threatening notices has only raised £53,000.

In Hackney, east London, the bailiffs employed by the council have pulled out, saying they were faced with an impossible task, and that the company would go bust if they continued.

If we are organised we can protect each other and send the bailiffs packing in Bristol as well.

Get involved with the Anti Poll Tax Union - come to meetings, be a contact point for your neighbours or distribute information around your street.

Support the events that are organised.

ASHTON, BEDMINSTER & SOUTHVILLE ANTI-POLL TAX UNION NEWS ★ JUNE '91

Don't panic! The Poll Tax has not been resurrected (yet), but your local Anti-Poll Tax Union has no intention of giving up support for Bristol's poorest citizens while the Council continues to try and collect last year's bills. We have won a famous victory, and yet, despite having already summonsed 55,000 people to court, the City Council is in the process of summonsing another 90,000 for last year's Poll Tax (these two figures added together equals 50% of the people on the Poll Tax register!).

We can ignore the carefully-selected letters printed in the 'Evening Post' from bellyachers who paid their Poll Tax, because despite the arrogant magistrates in the Poll Tax courts, despite the illegal threatening letters from the bailiffs (otherwise known as scum), and despite the Council breaking its own Code of Practice in taking people to court who had applied for rebates, WE forced the government into the biggest political U-turn in history. Nobody else did it for us.

The government has said that it won't be getting rid of the Poll Tax until 1994, which means three more years of misery. The government managed to get the VAT increase (a collectable form of Poll Tax?) through in one day, but they say it will take three years to get rid of the Poll Tax! This cannot be acceptable.

The most encouraging thing is that local people realise that as well as being an attack on the poor, the Poll Tax and its bastard offspring, the Council Tax, are an attack on local services and local democracy. We have consistently argued for services to be protected. We support the campaign to keep Bristol South Swimming Baths open. We all need to make sure that pressure is put on local councillors to ensure that no jobs or services are cut. While levels of Poll Tax bills and the amount councils can spend on services are being dictated by central government, then Bristol City Council and the people of Bristol will have to fight for the level of services that we need. The only way that we can get decent council services is to get rid of the Poll Tax, and with it the imposition of local council budgets by central government.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX UNION.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Thursday 30th May, Thursday 13th & 27th June, Thursday 11th July, etc.
Every two weeks at 7.30pm, upstairs in the Albert Inn, West Street, Bedminster.

Local contacts:

Bedminster / Southville & Ashton

Avon Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Unions: 84 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB. Tel: 255504

SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE POLL TAX HASSLES:

1. COURT If you are summonsed, phone the Federation office (number given overleaf). They can advise you of meetings, held every Thursday evening prior to court dates for people who have been summonsed (they are usually held at the Scotsman and His Pack pub, St Michaels Hill, 6.30pm). It is likely that many other local people will be in court on the same day, so turn up and have a party outside. Costs of £18.50 are awarded — this is added on to the Poll Tax.

2. LIABILITY ORDER FORM/WAGE ARRESTMENT If you fill out a form from the court following a summons and give details of your employment, you will probably have Poll Tax deducted from your earnings + £1 per week/month. Nationally the Audit Commission reported that less than 20% of the forms had been returned, despite the threat of a £100 fine for failing to supply information. We have a standard letter you can send back if you're worried. Wage arrestment is a serious erosion of civil liberties. Workplace trade unions should be kicked into action if there are threats to stop money from people's wages.

3. BAILIFFS So long as you do not let a bailiff into your house/property, they have no legal right to force entry and you are entitled to use force to stop them if they try it on. Anti-Poll Tax protestors from all over the South West recently visited the home of Mr Charles Roach, head of Bristol bailiffs firm (1 Lakeside Close, Nempnett Thrubwell, nr Blagdon), recently and gave him a taste of scumbusting. Why not write to him yourself and tell him what you think of his line of business? His dozen or so bailiffs are currently attempting to pursue 8,000 people in Bristol alone for Poll Tax.

The following categories of people are exempt from bailiff visits in Bristol: unemployed; single parents; seriously ill; recently bereaved; pensioners; disabled; people with marital problems; communication problems; and severe financial problems. If you fit any of these categories and have a bailiff letter delivered, contact Councillor Clare Warren, tel. 736028. If you have received a notice from them and are entitled to Legal Aid, contact the Avon Law Centre, tel. 667933, and take the bailiffs to court for harassment!

Bristol City Council voted to continue using Roach & Co. for Poll Tax recovery on 14th May '91 despite the firm's record of delivering illegal 'Distress Notices', blatantly ignoring the exemption categories, breaking and entering ('Bristol Journal' story from Kingswood) and other misdemeanours. Only a few Labour councillors (none from Southville or Bedminster) were brave enough to vote against the official Labour Party policy of Poll Tax enforcement, and all this when Labour Party candidates at election time claim to oppose the Poll Tax!

Published by Ashton, Bedminster & Southville Anti-Poll Tax Union

Delivered free. Donations to cover costs always welcome. Please feel free to copy and pass on.
TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG.

BAILIFFS...



MAKE MY DAY!

NO POLL TAX HERE

MAKING HISTORY
by Linton Kwesi Johnson

Now tell me something, Mr Government man, tell me something
How long you really feel, you could keep we under heel
When the truth done reveal, about how you grab and steal
About how you make your crooked deal?
Make your crooked deal. Eh?
Well down in Southall, Blair Peach did get fall,
The Asians them form up a human wall,
Against the fascists and the police shields
And them show that the Asians got plenty zeal.
Got plenty zeal.

It is no mystery, we're making history
It is no mystery, we're winning victory

Now tell me something, Mr Police spokesman, tell me something
How long d'you really think, we would take your back lip,
Your jack boot kick, your dirty bag of trick
and your racist politics? Your racist politics? Eh?
Well down in Bristol they had no pistol,
But them chase your babylon away,
You should see your babylon how they really run away
They copped that day, they copped that day

It is no mystery, we're making history
It is no mystery, we're winning victory

Tell me something, Mr Right wing man, tell me something
How long d'you really feel, we would grovel and squeal
When so much murder you conceal. when we wound can't heal
When we feel the way we feel? Feel the way we feel? Eh?
There was Toxteth and there was Moss Side
And a lot of other places where them police had to hide
There was Brixton and there was Chapelton
And a lot of other places that was burnt to the ground
Burnt to the ground

It is no mystery, we're making history
It is no mystery, we're winning victory

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BAILIFFS

ON : Monday July 1ST

Demo at Roach's Office
Church Lane
Clifton Wood

BE EARLY. **10:00**am.

BRISTOL SCUMBUSTERS

Box 25
82, Colston St.
Bristol
BS1 5BB



Take care Take action
BRISTOL SCUMBUSTERS

Smash The Bailiffs!!

Burn the Bills Rally

Saturday 13th July

12:00am

Victoria Park

Bedminster

(Adjacent to Somerset Terrace entrance)



Organised by the Avon Federation of Anti Poll Tax Unions,
84 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB. Tel: 255 504.

POLL TAX PRISONERS LIST 14\6\91

HACKNEY DEMO

ALBERT (ALAN) CLARK MV2254
COLDINGLEY PRISON, Bisley, Woking,
Surrey, GU24 9EX 2years GBH

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMO

NEIL BREMNER MW0216
COLDINGLEY PRISON
30 Months, Section 2

SIMON RUSSELL ND1666
THE MOUNT PRISON, Molyneux Ave,
Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts,
HP3 0NZ
18 Months Section 2 & 30 Months for
ALF activities

PAUL JACOB RA0711
WANDSWORTH PRISON, Heathfield Rd,
London, SW18 3HS
4 Years 2 x Section 2, Handling Stolen
goods EDR NOV '92

DARREN HEALEY RA2183
WANDSWORTH PRISON 30 Months 2 x
Section 2
EDR Sept. '92

BRIAN TAVARES MV3239
WANDSWORTH PRISON
3 Years Section 2 EDR NOV '92

MATT LEE MW1054
WANDSWORTH PRISON
30 Months Section 2

MARTIN BENFIELD PF2678
WANDSWORTH PRISON
15 Months Sections 2 & 3

STEVE CURTIS MW1182
NORTHEYE PRISON, Barnhorn Rd,
Bexhill-on-Sea
1 Year Section 2

BRIXTON PICKET DEMO

ADRIAN PUGH RC0627
NORTHEYE PRISON
9 Months 2 x Arson- Police Motor-
bike!!!

RICHARD ANDREWS MW0962
SEND PRISON, Ripley Rd, Woking,
Surrey, GU23 7LJ
18 Months Section 2

TIM DONAGHY MW0105
BELMARSH PRISON, Western Way,
Woolwich, London, SE2
3 Years Section 2 EDR Jan '93
Birthday 4th July

TIM PAINE MW0231
HIGHPOINT PRISON, Stradishall,
Newmarket, Suffolk,
16 Months Section 2 EDR Dec '91

STEVEN MURRAY MW0218
HIGHPOINT PRISON
1 Year Section 2

STEVEN LYNN MW1028
FORD PRISON, Nr. Arundel, W. Sussex,
BN18 0BX
1 Year 3 x Section 2

ROBERT WRAY MW1242
FELTHAM, Belfont Rd, Feltham, Middx,
TW39 4QN
21 Months Sections 2 & 3
Criminal Damage

KEITH WRAY MW1241
FELTHAM PRISON
15 Months Sections 2 & 3

MICHAEL NEAL MV3973
PENTONVILLE PRISON, Caledonian Rd,
London, N7 8TT
18 Months 2 x Section 3
Parole July '91

NON-PAYER

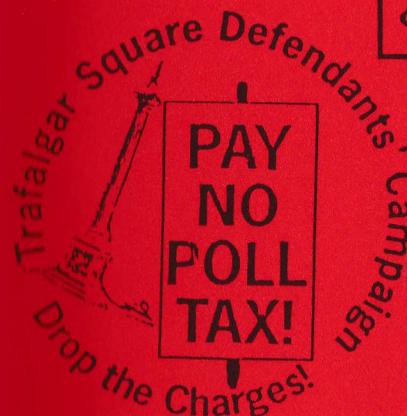
NORMAN LAWS CK0163
DURHAM PRISON, Old Elvet, Durham,
DH1 3HU 2 Months EDR 15 JULY Info
0912324606



**DON'T
DELAY
WRITE
TODAY!**



**STOP PRESS
URGENT
THE BAILIFFS
ARE MOVING
MASS BLOCKADE
AT 7.00 A.M. CHURCH LANE,
CLIFTON WOOD, FRIDAY 3RD AUGUST**



THE AVON DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO GIVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO ALL THOSE FROM THE AVON AREA ARRESTED AT ANTI- POLL TAX DEMONSTRATIONS. THIS SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO DEFEND THE ANTI- POLL TAX MOVEMENT AGAINST VICTIMISATION.

PROFIT RAISED IN THE SALE OF THIS BOOKLET WILL GO TO THE AVON DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A PRISONER.

This involves raising £10 a month 'spends', the cost of a daily newspaper and money for relations' visits. Prisoners support groups currently exist in London and Birmingham. The support for those imprisoned for non payment has been splendid judging by reports in CLASS WAR, MILITANT and SOCIALIST WORKER.