

coventry news

april·may
10p. no 1.

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NEWS.

CITY SLUMS - COVER UP

Coventry City Council are organising a "massive housing cover up"! This allegation is contained in a letter to the City Council from Mrs Doyle, Secretary of Coventry Temporary Council Tenants Association, which accompanied the temporary tenants second petition, which was presented to the Council at its April meeting. The petition described in the letter as a 'plea for sanity' was read out and referred to the appropriate committee. The letter was not read out and the Coventry Evening Telegraph, who were sent a copy of the letter, also chose not to publish its contents.

The letter stated that during the course of their campaign they have met many Council tenants who, like themselves, are living in inadequate, unhealthy, overcrowded and dangerous conditions. Most of them have "years of experience of being fobbed off, ignored or trampled on by the City Council".

In the course of their campaign the temporary tenants have produced substantial evidence to back up their arguments. Photographic documentation and surveys carried out on behalf of the tenants by qualified public health inspectors certainly suggest that the allegations will stand up to scrutiny.

The temporary tenants have maintained from the outset that they are living in houses which are substandard and illegal and have summonsed the Council under the Public Health and Housing Acts to prove their case in the Courts.

The Council, whilst denying the tenants allegations, admit

that in many cases the houses are substandard. They justify their policy of placing homeless families in them on the grounds that most of them are in rent or mortgage arrears.

The temporary tenants admit that some of them are in arrears, but argue that examination of individual cases proves without doubt that in all cases this is due to factors beyond their own control such as unemployment, redundancy, illness or marital breakdown. A survey carried out by Coventry Trades Council of all temporary tenants substantiates this argument.

council survey

The Director of Environmental Health Service - Mr. D. Evans, is currently in the process of carrying out the Council's own survey of all Council temporary accommodation to see if these houses are unfit for people to live in.

Rumour has it that the final results of the survey indicate that ALL the temporary houses are in a condition of extensive disrepair and that the City Council could have in some cases housed people in houses which are unfit for human habitation. This is in total contrast to the frequent public denials by Council Housing Officers and the Housing Chairman, who have always argued that the houses are not as bad as the tenants and their supporters suggest. Coventry News asks, "What is the real truth?"

demonstration

Meanwhile the campaign to change these discriminatory housing policies is to be stepped up. Following the attempts of the



Despair and Disrepair - Coventry council housing 1979.

Housing Committee chairman (Tory councillor and prospective M.P. - Tim Sawdon) to quell the tenants activity by the issuing of a high court injunction and the Coventry Evening Telegraphs third editorial aimed at discrediting the campaign and its supporters, a demonstration is to be held outside the Council House on May 1st.

The Trades Council are organising the demonstration in support of the temporary tenants to protest once again against the City Councils obstinate refusal to house its tenants in decent homes and also to raise questions and demands about the quality of housing provision in the City generally. Members of the Trades Council Housing Sub-committee (TCHSC) point out that Coventry is

rapidly becoming notorious as a provider of bad council housing.

"With 9000 families on its waiting lists the building of new council housing for general needs has come to a standstill. Thousands of council tenants are still waiting for basic amenities and essential repairs."

Whilst 66% of Coventrys households are owner-occupiers, more and more people are looking to the City council to provide them with a decent home at a price they can afford.

Trades Council put the trend down to the present high levels of unemployment, redundancy and lay offs experienced in Coventry. As Industry pulls out of Coventry and invests abroad, well paid jobs become increasingly difficult to get and workers in

news

tenants action
continued.

Coventry are finding that they cannot afford to buy their own homes. Given the situation, the Trades Council believe it is ludicrous for the council to be directing public housing finance into schemes to encourage owner occupation and selling off council houses at a time when they are most needed.

The Temporary Tenants recognise that their campaign has to be generalised to take account of the condition of Council Housing generally in the City, and its increasingly short supply. Les Bennett - Treasurer of the Association - "Whilst the conditions of our houses are unhealthy and dangerous and we are doing all we can to make the council repair our homes to a standard fit for families with children to live in, it is obvious that our campaign will not be won until we have decent council housing for all council tenants."

"Everyday, families in poor council housing that is in disrepair, overcrowded, damp and dangerous are asking us for help - families who are not temporary tenants but who, like them, have repeatedly asked the City Council to make their homes habitable.

The demonstration is seen as a warning to all political parties that whoever is elected on May 3rd the campaign for decent housing - a basic human right - will continue."

racist rock?

Considerable confusion has been caused recently among the left and anti-racists over a rock band called 'WHITE BOSS'.

The band played several weeks ago on the same bill as the 'SQUAD' at the Heath Hotel, on Foleshill Road.

That particular gig ended in a fight amongst the supporters of the groups, and led subsequently to the banning of WHITE BOSS from the pub. Anti-racists were intending to picket the second gig at the Heath, as it was rumoured that the band was a 'Nazi' band and would have been supported at the gig by a busload of fascists from out of Coventry.

Since then, members of the band have denied they have links with the national front and the 'Nazi' label given to them in a recent leaflet in 'Socialist Worker' (the paper of the Socialist Workers Party.)

picket at Dunlop's - redundancy no answer

During the week ending 21st April, workers from the Dunlop Tyre plant in Speke, Merseyside, were picketing outside the Dunlop Engineering factories in Coventry as part of their protest against the closure of the Speke plant which has resulted in the loss of another 2,300 jobs.

The picket was aimed at stopping supplies reaching and leaving the works and making Coventry workers aware of the implications of the closure for other Dunlop employees. Speaking at the April Trades Council Meeting members of the Merseyside Action Committee explained that the "Speke factory was yet another victim of a multinational company investing millions abroad and starving British factories of much needed capital." In December 1978, Dunlops Directors were bragging in their employees paper that they were spending £6 million on a new tyre plant in Malaysia. In sharp contrast, in the ten year period 1968 - 78, Dunlop spent only 4½ million at Speke

Merseyside is an area which has traditionally become known as a depressed area. Unemployment in Liverpool is currently 24% and in some areas is as high as 47%; in Speke it is around 30%. In talking to Coventry workers on the picket line the action group had gained the

impression that Coventry people think that they can accept redundancy and the seemingly attractive payments that go with it, whilst walking into another job when they feel like it.

Whereas Coventry does not yet face unemployment problems on the same scale as Merseyside, there is certainly no room for workers to be complacent. The rate of unemployment in Coventry has more than trebled since 1974 and currently stands at 6.2%.

Research carried out by Coventry Workshop and the newly formed Trades Council Unemployed Workers team shows that this is the continuation of the trend which started over 20 years ago when Coventry was considered to be a boom city. Whilst the trend can be explained partially by the increase in the number of young people entering the Labour market and the increase in the number of women wanting, or needing, to find work outside the home, it is clear that the major contributory factor has been the overall loss of jobs in the area - 20,000 + since 1966. Much of this job loss is explained by examination of the operation of Multi-national companies (14 of which employ 50% of the Coventry workforce,) who in recent years have literally exported jobs abroad by investing capital overseas and introducing new labour saving technology reducing wage bills.

The City Council, one of Coventrys other major employers, has, in past years, offset the job losses from private industry by increasing their own workforce, but due to cuts in public spending the number of their employees has steadily been reduced.

Whilst Coventry's problems cannot be solely attributed to problems with the local economy, it is clear that employment prospects here look increasingly bleak.

organise

The Trades Council have opened a Centre to bring together the unemployed and the employed to develop a City wide campaign for no more redundancies. They are to hold a meeting to discuss this on Wed. 2nd. May. 130-30 Coundon Rd.

ALL UNEMPLOYED WELCOME.

holbrooks books

Jubilee Crescent Community Centre is spreading its wings and has just opened a new bookshop. Its aim is to stock books for all ages, and cater for special interests such as those of youth workers, voluntary workers and the partially sighted. The bookshop will supplement the library that is already at the centre.

festival

Following last years success Foleshill Community are holding their second street festival on 19th May.

It is hoped that everyone living in the area - and others - will join in at least some of the events of the day.

A carnival parade will start at Broad Street Primary Community School at 2.0p.m. with music and floats, going round about 2½ miles of the area, ending up at Edgewick Park. Here the events of the afternoon will continue with side-shows, stalls, five-a-side football, games and music. In the evening there will be a dance at Cobden St. Community Centre.

Why don't you come along and support FOLESHILL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL!

However, the fact remains that a name like 'WHITE BOSS' is in itself a racist statement and people attending the Heath Hotel gig have alleged that some of the bands fans were wearing NF insignia. Some of the bands songs were also alleged to have been racist. Until WHITE BOSS publicly deny any links with racism and the NF, they are undoubtedly going to remain to be seen as a 'Nazi' band. Coventry News would certainly be prepared to allow them to deny their nazi connections in an interview.

schools

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL WEEK. 21 - 25 MAY.

Find out if YOU live in a community education area and take advantage of the open days, do - it - yourself evenings, and facilities in the schools in YOUR area.

or
Telephone: Community Education Centre 27060.

COV NEWS

Coventry News is being produced in an attempt to provide Coventry with a newspaper through which people can share news and views about social and political activity in the city. The aim is to provide a critical paper which is keyed into the needs of the local community.

The News holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings at the Wedge Cafe, High St. News items should be sent there and anyone wanting to be involved in the paper

is welcome to attend.

We see the Whats On and Services column as important parts of the paper and will print free of charge details of any events you wish to publicise.

Apologies to all those contributors whose items we have been unable to include in this issue due to pressure of time and space.

Our thanks to the Resources Centre and all those people who have helped in producing our first issue.

benfield's blunders

Top Tory, Lord Mayor Councillor Ken Benfield, has certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons. His remarks on how well East European countries have done in rebuilding their cities, and his condemnation of the British wartime raid on Dresden as 'diabolical' have incurred the wrath of his Tory friends and that defender of democracy, the Coventry Evening Telegraph. The CET, in giving their usual 'balanced' view, conjured up pictures of Communist devils 'rubbing their hands with glee' after duping the Lord Mayor with their propaganda.

Ken was having nothing to do with this however. Returning to the fight, fists waving, he complained of being a press target and said that it was a sad day when one cannot make an objective statement. (CET please note).

Unfortunately the story has had a sad ending for Ken. He has failed in his bid to retain his position as Lord Mayor for another year. The Tories don't seem to want him any more.

starley road

Starley Housing Cooperative is now on the verge of purchasing the bulk of the properties in Starley Road, and so rehabilitation work will begin in May. This is of course excellent news for the residents in the street who were active in fighting to save Starley Road and who are founding members of the cooperative.

The majority of the houses will be purchased and renovated by the Cooperative with a loan from the Government's Housing Corporation. Two residents will remain as owner-occupiers and virtually all the remaining properties will be let by the Cooperative.

We are now in a position to invite applications from interested people in Coventry in housing need for membership of Starley Housing Cooperative. Those who are accepted will live in freshly decorated houses and flats, close to City Centre facilities, and will be part of a close-knit community. We will insist, however that future Cooperative members fully support Cooperative principles

and that they become involved in the running of the scheme. This includes attending all meetings, and taking part in decisions affecting the street, and being prepared to give up free time to contribute to the community. So Cooperative membership will not be so much a tenancy - more a way of life.

We hope to have a happy and mixed community including the single, the elderly, young couples, and a few small families, but we regret that it is not the policy of the Co-op to house large

families - the committee took this decision after much discussion - since there are very few facilities available to the children already here, and because we felt the area was not suitable for a large child population.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the registered address of the Cooperative. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Secretary, 42 Starley Road, Coventry. CV1 3JU.

fords vs. the people

A classic case of how the local state is prepared to side with big business against the interests of working class people has recently surfaced in the city around the issue of the Ford Motor Company setting up a huge Parts Warehouse in Red Lane, Foleshill without planning permission.

During 1977, local residents, together with members of the Coventry Trades Council, local M.P. and ward councillors, fought, without success, for the ex-Admiralty Depot in Red Lane to remain in public ownership. Prior to it being finally auctioned in December of that year the City Council's Planning Committee issued guidelines governing the uses to which the Depot might be put. Briefly, in these guidelines, the council insisted

1) that the only authorised use of the site was as an Admiralty Depot, and therefore all firms moving into the Depot would have to apply for planning permission.



the Council are refusing to take action against the Company. Stanton Action Group.

new diggers

The United Kingdom is the worlds largest importer of food, and overall our present food consumption depends almost 50% on imports. This country can never be self-sufficient in food with our present meat-orientated diet, but much can be done to grow more fruit and vegetables at home. It is estimated that in 1970, some £81 million worth of food was produced from British back gardens. Of course, if you live in a flat, or have a very small garden the amount of food you can grow is very limited. Hundreds of people are on waiting lists for allotments in Coventry, while at the same time there are 7 - 10,000 undug gardens in the city, most of which could be used to produce food.

The New Diggers have two basic aims: to cultivate unused gardens and to share the produce between the members and the residents. There are now 20 active members cultivating over 30 different gardens in the city. The scheme works in a very simple way; people who are unable to manage their back gardens for reasons of age or infirmity are paired with people living near at hand who do not have enough garden space to grow vegetables. All costs of seeds, natural fertilisers etc. are borne by the Diggers but the produce is shared with the other members and the residents. No money changes hands and everyone gains - tidy gardens and a supply of fresh food for the residents; rent-free use of land and fresh vegetables for the Diggers.

There are scores of old folk on our lists waiting to have their gardens cultivated, so if you agree with the aims and ideals of the New Diggers and would like to join us or find out more, please contact : Graham Partridge, Secretary, New Diggers, 33 Centaur Road, Earlsdon, Coventry. Tel: 76015.



rape crisis centre

Coventry Rape Crisis Centre was formed in September '78 in response to Coventry's high rate of sexual assaults and rapes, and its physical and emotional effects on women. We aim to provide a support service and legal and medical information for such women.

We have established contacts with doctors, lawyers and voluntary organisations, but are still in need of more women to help with the work.

Donations would also be most welcome and should be sent to CRCC, PO Box 76, Coventry CV1 2QS.

We meet every Thursday at 8.15 p.m. in the Wedge. All women are most welcome.

2) That as far as warehousing was concerned, although light industry was preferred they would wish to judge each application on its merit and particularly take into account the number of jobs created and the amount of traffic generated.

The developers claimed soon after purchasing the Depot that they would create up to 300 new jobs. Now Fords have failed to apply for planning permission and, while generating much heavy traffic as residents will have seen, they have failed to create much needed jobs. In fact, with more than half of the Admiralty now let no jobs would appear to have been created at all. Despite all this

The CARNIVAL !!

Coventry Carnival against Racism and Fascism committee was set up in May 1978. At the time, as there is now, there was a great deal of feeling against discrimination on the grounds of colour or culture, and it seemed right to give voice to some of those feelings in the form of a carnival for all cultures and ages, in the city. An application for a central site for the event was made to the Council and Memorial Park was offered BUT the offer was soon withdrawn.

The main reason given by the Council was that residents near the park were complaining about the inconvenience that the carnival might cause. The Carnival Committee see it much more as a political decision!

The Council offered an alternative, six miles from the city centre, but because it was so remote it was decided to reject the offer. A lobby of the council meeting that was held to discuss the request for a more central site did not change the minds of the councillors - or the minds of the people of Coventry who wanted to make a stand against Racist and Fascist views!

So - on October 14th last year, a carnival procession from Edgewick Park to Broadgate took place with bands, floats and speakers, and was a great success.

After this event, an offer was made by the Council of Hearsall Common as a venue for a Carnival in May 1979 and the committee started on the massive task of organising for it.

RELUCTANCE TO ADVERTISE THE CARNIVAL BY COVENTRY EVENING TELEGRAPH

Plans on the whole have NOT been helped too much by the Coventry Evening Telegraph. Obviously huge events such as the Carnival depend on Publicity and it was hoped that the Coventry Evening Telegraph, as the local paper, would at least play some part in this.

stop press

On Thurs. 26th. April the Carnival Committee organised a picket of the C.E.T. offices.

hearsall
common 2pm

However, it appears that CET may be imposing some form of political censorship on the Carnival. There have been a number of press releases sent to CET designed to inform people of the progress of the Carnival plans and also letters from individuals in support of the issues involved. None of these press releases were printed and it seems that very little has been published in support of people who are trying to combat views such as racism and fascism.

CET has said in the past that it believes racial harmony is important and agreed that multi racial events promote that harmony.

Given the obvious success of the October Carnival Procession and the Carnival

Committees explicit aims of promoting racial harmony, why the reluctance on the part of the CET to PUBLICISE such an important event?

MUCH SUPPORT

But, to look on the brighter side, the Carnival has the support of many groups in the City. Coventry Trades Council, realising the importance of the Carnival has combined its traditional May Day Celebrations with the Carnival on April 28th. Immigrant organisations, Trade Unions, the Labour Party, Community Relations Council and other groups and organisations in the City have all supported the C Carnival to ensure its success.

AFTERWARDS

BUT things won't rest here. The Carnival Committee don't see the work as finished once the Carnival is over.

Events against Racism and Fascism will continue and it is planned that a weekend conference at the end of June will be held to look at the further possible ways of tackling Racism and Fascism in the City.

So - after the Carnival look out for further events and HELP FIGHT RACISM AND FASCISM IN COVENTRY!

(Further information from 26 Queens Road, Coventry).



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N.F. - NO DANGER?

COV NEWS INTERVIEWS
SEARCHLIGHT EDITOR

Racist attitudes are part of the British way of life. The Conservative Party has an entrenched racist position whilst the Labour Party has failed to give us the lead we would like to see. Despite the success of organisations such as the Anti-Nazi League, the Campaign Against Racism

and Fascism and Rock against Racism, Maurice Ludmer, editor, of Searchlight, Britain's leading anti-racist magazine, makes the point that we cannot rest on our laurels. Coventry News interviews Mr. Ludmer as the election campaign gets under way.



C.N. Can we first ask you a question about Coventry? Despite the classic conditions for racism existing here, high unemployment coupled with a ghettoised immigrant population then hasn't as yet developed a significant right wing presence. Why do you think this is?

M.L. Well I think part of the answer lies in the centre of Coventry itself. The hardships suffered by the Coventry people at the hands of the Nazis during the 2nd World War has left a deep and lasting impression. It is also true that Coventry has had a strong labour tradition and this has certainly helped.

C.N. With the distinct possibility of a Tory victory led by a right wing Mrs Thatcher at the next election how do you expect this to affect the NF?

M.L. Well I expect this to have two main effects. In the first place Mrs. Thatcher will take away a good deal of the support that the National Front might otherwise hope to gain. So in the short term, I expect the Front to suffer a loss of support.

But despite the noises Thatcher is making she will be unable to carry out the programme of the National Front but will toughen up on the immigration laws just like the last Labour Government. For example the immigrant authorities will increase their activities in immigrant areas and make it even more difficult

for dependents to be allowed into the country,

but she will not carry out a policy of repatriation demanded by people like the Front and Powell. She can't do this because big business in Britain would not accept a situation that would jeopardise the huge profits that came from the 3rd World. In the long run therefore one might well see a drift back towards the NF by disillusioned Tories.

C.N. What sort of campaign do you expect the NF to run?

M.L. First let me say I expect it to be a very dirty one. Martin Webster has gone on record as saying "we're going to run a very racist campaign indeed! It'll be a three tier campaign. There will be real candidates in areas they've had ten to fifteen per cent of the vote. Places like the East End of London and Leicester and they'd put a lot of effort into these areas. Then they want to increase support in areas where they've got some presence already and finally there will be token candidates who will be used for propaganda purposes only.

C.N. Putting up 280 candidates is an expensive business. Where will the money be coming from?

M.L. All deposits have had to be raised locally, there hasn't been any handout from the centre. The National Parties finances are stretched at the moment because of moving into their new Headquarters and

also because they're offering their candidates heavily subsidised leaflets - good quality A4 leaflets at £3 per 1000 for example.

C.N. What are your feelings about the NF being allocated a five minute T.V. slot?

I think the unions have a crucial role to play here. As for my own union, the NUJ, their policy is clear, they will give full backing to any member who invokes the conscience clause and boycotts any racist material. In the same way it will be interesting to see the Post Office union reaction to handling overtly racist material.

C.N. In conclusion Mr. Ludmer we'd like to hear how you want to see the strategy for combatting racism develop.

M.L. Well I think it has to be on the broadest possible front. The struggle in the last year has stemmed the tide but nevertheless there is a danger of complacency. What is crucial is how the economic crisis develops. We must not relax our vigilance. It's the easiest thing in the world to get together a counter demonstration, but the difficult work is fighting on a day to day basis, particularly in the work place. It needs a broad base of people to isolate the reactionary elements in our society.

The ANL has fulfilled an important function in identifying the National Front as Nazis. But they are restricted to campaigning on this issue, what we need is a national campaign that will dramatise race as a national issue.

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elections

The Cuts

With the media and public relations industry going full tilt to remind everyone that the General Election is coming, it is very easy to forget that May 3rd is also polling day for local council elections.

Yet these local elections should be an equally important event for the people of Coventry.

The local council, at present controlled by Tories, is responsible for the implementation of much government public sector spending. At a local level, the council is responsible for 'council' housing, public amenities, social services, aspects of the health service, and education.

Nationally, a gross spending on all social services - health, education, social security, housing etc., has risen by only 7.6% over five years. The majority of this rise in expenditure has been taken up in benefits to the unemployed and pensions. Therefore other social services, such as health and education have suffered a cut.

On a local level in Coventry, the cuts have been felt by the weakest organised sectors. Maintenance of understaffing and the 'freezing of posts' in the health, education and personal social service sector, have hit those who are not in a position, so far, to organise and fight back.

Evidence of this has been seen over the past four years of public expenditure cuts. The Tories have always been committed to cutting public expenditure, particularly in the area of 'social services' which they see as wasteful. In Coventry, over the past two years they have pursued their cuts policy relentlessly. However the past Labour administration proved little better. It was a Labour government which prepared and first implemented the cuts nationally, and a Labour council which hacked away at the social service budget in Coventry.

Perhaps the most visible area of local cutbacks has

been in the field of housing. The current housing waiting list is over 9000 and the present Tory council strategy is totally inadequate to deal with this problem. The council is committed only to building new housing (except for 'specialised' housing for the aged and the disabled) in co-operation with approved Housing Associations. This policy has led to substantial inequality in the ability of people on the waiting list to obtain accommodation (due to high deposits, high rents etc.)

The council has also for the past two years been committed to the sale of council houses. Since June 1977 over 700 council houses have been sold. The effects of this policy have disastrous consequences.

The Housing Associations are remote from public control, meaning that public money cannot be held directly accountable. Secondly, the sale of council houses means that public housing stock is further reduced by every sale and cannot be re-let to those with the greatest need for them. It should be remembered that these houses were built with public money and yet the sale of them prevents the public having control over their use and allocation. Furthermore, by definition, the best maintained and most attractive houses are the ones that are sold, condemning others to live in the worst housing stock.

Whilst the above has taken place under a Tory council, it is appalling, but true, that a Labour administration is unlikely to improve the situation.

The Labour leadership nationally and the majority of its councillors in Coventry are only nominally committed to change the Tory housing strategy and are unlikely to reverse the overall cuts situation to improve drastically the social services provision to a desirable and necessary level.

The return, therefore, of a Labour majority to the council will not lead in itself to a great improvement in life for the majority of people in Coventry.

Ireland ignored

One issue which has and will receive little attention in this election is Ireland.

The British army has been in Northern Ireland for 10 years, yet peace is no nearer. Since then nearly 2,000 people have died in violent incidents and thousands of others have been injured. A blood-bath is going on with the army there.

A true picture of events has been kept from people in this country by censorship of newspaper articles and television programmes. Jonathan Dimbleby and other workers in the media have constantly complained about the restrictions on their reporting. Southern Irish and European newspapers carry very different stories.

Britain has been condemned by many international bodies for ill-treatment of prisoners - the European Court of Human Rights in 1976, Amnesty International in 1977. The recent report on the R.U.C. (the Northern Ireland police) by Judge Harry Bennett - a pillar of the English establishment - has confirmed these findings.

Britain Created the Problem

Britain created the situation which exists in Northern Ireland today. Over 50 years ago, when the Irish people, North and South, voted for independence from Britain, the

British Government decided to ignore democracy and keep a part of Ireland for itself.

It drew up the boundaries of the new Northern Ireland state so as to ensure a pro-British Protestant majority and turned a blind eye to the massive discrimination practised against the Catholic minority.

Northern Ireland is made up of six counties. In only two of these is there a clear majority of people who want to be part of Britain.

These two counties have the largest populations. Not surprisingly, trouble in Northern Ireland is nothing new. There has been a series of riots and rebellions ever since the British set it up as a separate part of Ireland.

The War in Ireland Today

The present trouble began over a decade ago when the Catholic minority began to demonstrate for better jobs and housing and a fair voting system.

Today, despite promises from politicians, figures produced by the fair Employment Agency reveal that Catholics are three times as likely to be unemployed as Protestants, and more than three times as likely to be doing the unskilled low-paid jobs.

The people fighting for their rights in Northern Ireland have been imprisoned and portrayed as criminals. According to the University of Belfast Law Department, over four fifths of convictions are secured on "confessions" alone. Trials take place before "Diplock" courts - courts with no juries. Only one judge in Northern Ireland is a Catholic.

Political prisoners are treated differently by the courts, yet they are denied political status in jail. In protest they have refused to wear prison uniform and have gone "on the blanket". They are denied the most basic needs for human existence and are being left to rot away in their cells.

TROOPS OUT

The British army in Ireland is not a peace-keeping force but an army of occupation. The bombs planted in England are an extension of the Civil War in Ireland and will not stop while we support the presence of British troops there. The Irish people should be left to sort out their own lives. Britain should get out of Ireland.

In Coventry there is now a branch of the Troops Out Movement in existence, to which the Trades Council has affiliated. The Orange lodges in Britain have announced that they will be holding a national demonstration in Coventry in June. We hope that as many people as possible will be turning out to oppose them.

Coventry Big Flame.



general advice

COVENTRY WORKSHOP

Research and advice for Trade Unions, community groups, unemployed - Tel: 27772

CONSUMERS ADVICE

Market Chambers, Shelton Square Tel: 20721

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

7, Warwick Row. Tel: 27474

legal advice

Valley Road Family Centre Tel: 447719. Weds. 2 - 4 p.m.

Willenhall Information Shop Tel: 304109. Tues. 6 - 8 p.m.

Woodend Community Centre. Wed. 10.30 - 12 noon.

Tudor House, Spon St. Sat. 11 - 2 p.m.

young people

OLD FIRE STATION

Drop in centre for young unemployed Tel: 58326

COBWEB

Bardsley House, Hill Top Tel: 23175. Advice Centre for young people.

WELFARE OFFICER

Lanch. Poly. Students Union Tel: 21167 (for ALL, not just students.)

STOKE ALDERMOOR

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Ken Hyland Tel: 447583

HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Youth Club 12-17 yrs.

Wed. 7.30

POTTERS GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Disco. Mon. evenings

ADULT LITERACY

Tel: 20660 Ask for Karen

SERVICES

race

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Tudor House, Spon St. Tel: 23089

COVENTRY CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM (CARF) Tel: 79961

LEAMINGTON AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM Tel: 97 39647

ANTI NAZI LEAGUE

26 Queens Road.

CHILEAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

40 Binley Rd. Tel: 27772

COVENTRY CARNIVAL AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM

C/o 26 Queens Rd.

political

LABOUR PARTY

30 Coundon Road Tel: 23851

COMMUNIST PARTY

28 Queens Road. Tel: 21084

BIG FLAME 13, High St.

I.M.G. 13, High St.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

S. Boyle. 51 Kensington Rd.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOMOSEXUAL EQUALITY 13, High St.

women

BPAS

24 Hour answering service. Abortion advice, pregnancy testing, sterilisation advice Tel: 597344

Hillfields Community Centre

Ladies Keep fit - 1.30 - 3.30

Haven: Refuge for battered women Tel: 25555. ask for Mike Gascoigne.

WOMENS VOICE

Socialist Womens Group. Alternate Wed. evenings - Hertford Tavern

help

WOODEND CARES GROUP

Visiting sick, housebound and elderly. Contact Woodend Community Centre Tel: 614379

EARLSDON FALLING WALLS ACTION GROUP

Jim King. 65, Broomfield Rd. Tel: 70842

VALLEY ROAD FAMILY CENTRE Offers residential care - 24 hours a day Tel: 441232

NEW DIGGERS

Graham Partridge. Tel: 76015

ALCOHOLISM INFO. CENTRE

5A Priory Row Tel: 26619/26610. 9.30 - 5.0

(Appointments can be made outside these hours) Strictly confidential group and individual counselling.

housing

TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

STARLEY ROAD HOUSING CO-OP 42 Starley Rd.

WOODEND at COMMUNITY CENTRE Monthly. Tel: 614379 for info.

TEMPORARY TENANTS ASSOC.

Tel: 56149

CVR RESIDENTS GROUP

85, Chandos St.

THE SERVICES PRINTED HERE ARE OBVIOUSLY JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG AND THERE MUST BE LOADS OF INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVEN'T GOT. IF YOU WANT YOUR SERVICE ADVERTISED OR YOU WANT SOME PUBLICITY FOR AN EVENT WHICH YOU ARE INVOLVED IN, PLEASE SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO: COVENTRY NEWS, 13 HIGH STREET, COVENTRY.

Hopefully, the information given on this page is accurate: apologies for any mistakes. Please let us know if there are any.

EVENTS

May 5

Kenderdine Nursery School, Earlsdon Ave. Nearly New Sale 10.30 a.m.

May 7

Bhm. Digbeth Hall-- Carnival Against Racism and Facism 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (see note)

May 12

Hillfields Community Centre, Yardley St. 3.00. Book/Records Sale - New and Used

May 19

Foleshill Street Festival. Meet at 2.00. Broad Heath Primary Community School, or about 3.30 at Edgewick Park.

May 19

Foleshill Festival Dance, Cobden St Community Centre. May 21-25

"Support your local school week".

welfare

rights advice

FOLESHILL INFORMATION AND ADVICE CENTRE.

436A Foleshill Road Tel: 86123 (Mrs. Dhillon able to converse in Punjabi, Gujarati, urdu, Hindi.)

VALLEY ROAD FAMILY CENTRE

Each day. Tel: 447719

STOKE ALDERMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mon; Tues; Fri; -a.m.

Thurs. - p.m. Tel: 456539

WOODEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Each day. Tel: 614379

WILLENHALL INFORMATION SHOP

Each day. Tel: 304109

DIAL

Disablement Info and Advice line Welfare Rights etc. Tel: 61101. 10-12 and 2 - 4.

senior citizens

AGE CONCERN

Advice Service Tel: 25555 advice on welfare rights, clubs, activities

PRE RETIREMENT COURSES

Enquire at Tudor House, Tel: 20381

HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

OAP's day club Mon. Tues. Thurs p.m.

Hot lunches - Mon. Wed. 12.30 35p. All Welcome.

POTTERS GREEN

Over 60's club. Mon. p.m.

WOODEND COMMUNITY CENTRE Pensioners Club. Tues p.m.

children

WOODEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mums + Toddlers Grp. Mon. Fri. a.m.

HILLFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mums + Toddlers Grp. Thurs p.m. Childrens Play Grp. (waiting)

SPON END PLAY GROUP Tel: 26848

POTTERS GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Child Clinic Tues. p.m. Tel: 614619

Play Grp. Wed. Thurs. Fri.

Under 12s Mon. Wed. evenings.

MEETINGS

May 1

S.W.P. Swanswell Tavern Public Meeting "While Tories Shriek Socialism has an answer" Sneaker - Mickey Fenn

May 7

Tony Benn, Moss Evans, Arthur Scargill, Bob Edwards. Digbeth Civic Hall Birmingham

May 8

Clive Jenkins Lecture Herbert Art Gallery

May 8

Big Flame Public Meeting Stuart Hall on "Whose Law and Order" Swanswell Tavern

May 12

Charterhouse 9.30-4.00 p.m. WEA "Women in the Trade Union Movement"

WHAT'S ON



what's on

JAZZ

MAY 3

Bulls Head 8.15 Henry Lowther's Quaternity

MAY 6

Green Dragon

Just Jazz

MAY 9

Green Dragon Colin Willets Trio

MAY 10

Green Dragon Harry Matts

MAY 16

Green Dragon Kenny Baker & Bette Smith with the Colin Willets Trio (reserve tickets)

MAY 17

Bulls Head 8.15 Splines Harry Matts Green Dragon

MAY 24

Bulls Head 8.15 Don Weller, Bryan Spring

CINEMA

Warwick Arts Centre;
May 4--Images 10.30
May 9--Duellists 7.30
May 4--Images 10.30
May 10--
May 10--Duellists 7.30
May 11--Shampoo, Suddenly
Last Summer 7.00
May 12--The Harder they fall,
Network 7.00
May 18--The Crazies 10.30
May 25--Inserts 10.30
May 29--Silent Partner,
Night Porter 7.00

Socialist Film Club.
April 30--Controlling Interest
Sidney Stringer School.

MUSIC DISCO

May 1

Bhm. Barbarella's--
Wayne County and the
Electric Chairs
Dive--
Bacchus Band

May 3

Odeon-- Roxy Music
Bhm. Barbarella's--John
Otway
Dog and Trumpet-- Atlas

May 4

Bhm. Odeon-- Roxy Music
Warwick Dog
Barbarella's-- Iggy Pop.
Uni.-- Here and Now.
Free Admission
Dog and Trumpet-- Chicanes
Green Dragon-- Cheeky

May 5

Freemasons Arms-- CAYU
Disco
Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band
Green Dragon-- Special
Clinic
Binley Oak-- Flame- S.W.P.
Disco
Colin Campbell-- Temporary
Tenants Social

May 6

Bhm. Exhibition Centre--
Mike Oldfield
Bhm. Mayfair-- Child
Bhm. Odeon-- Dennis Brown

May 7

Bhm. Odeon-- Neil Sedaka
Howitzers Club-- Disco by
ticket only- 50p

May 8

Tiffany's-- the Undertones
Leamington Spa. Chimes--
Paul Burnette
Dive-- Rock Band

May 9

Cov Theatre-- Rush

May 10

Bhm. Odeon-- Rush
Bhm. Barbarella's-- XTC
Tiffany's-- Iggy Pop
Dog and Trumpet-- Sneak
Preview

May 11

Bhm. Odeon-- Rush
Bhm. Uni.-- Fairport
Convention
Bhm. Barbarella's-- Chris Rea
Chesford Grange-- Tribute to
Elvis Show. Rupert and the
New Jersey Express

May 12

Bhm. Barbarella's--
Violinski
Chesford Grange--
Tribute to Elvis Presley-
Rupert and the New Jersey
Express
Dog and Trumpet-- No Name
Warwick Uni.-- Soft Boys
Green Dragon-- Ice

May 15

Bhm. Barbarella's-- Leyton
Buzzards
Bhm. Odeon-- Renaissance
Dive-- Streetlights

May 16

Bhm. Odeon-- Judas Priest
Bhm. Top Rank-- Penetration

May 17

Bhm. Odeon-- Judas Priest
Tiffany's-- Penetration
Chesford Grange-- Barron
Knights
Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band

May 18

Dog and Trumpet-- Paris
Bhm. Odeon-- Tubes
Chesford Grange-- Barron
Knights
Green Dragon-- Rock Band

May 19

Chesford Grange-- Barron
Knights
Dog and Trumpet-- Kidda
Band
Heath Hotel-- Extras,
Homicide, Clique.
Potters Green Community
Centre-- Tramos Ball.
Cobden Street Community
Centre-- Dance 7.30 p.m.

May 21

Bhm. Odeon-- Sky

May 22

Bhm. Odeon-- Jam
Bhm. Digbeth Civic Hall--
The Bishops
Dive-- Riot Act

May 23

Bhm. Digbeth Civic Hall--
Duffo

May 24

Bhm. Barbarella's--
Punishment of Luxury
Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band

May 25

Bhm. Barbarella's-- No Dice
and Straight Eight
Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band

May 26

Dog and Trumpet-- Cheeky
Green Dragon-- Orphan

May 29

Dive-- Reluctant
Stereotypes
Bhm. Top Rank-- the Pon
Group and the Good
Missionaries
Dog and Trumpet-- Disco

May 31

Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band

June 1

Dog and Trumpet-- Rock Band

Here and Now FREE tour
Warwick University on
4 May. Band

FOLK/COUNTRY

April 29

Warwick Castle-- The Trayne
of Artillerye(Royal Civil
War Garrison)
Dog and Trumpet-- folk group.

April 30

University-- The Yetties.(7.30)
Pitts Head-- Rock On

May 5

Barwell. Three Crowns--
Barry Skinner.
Hereward College-- John Benns.

May 6

Leicester. Haymarket--
Badgers Mate.
Burnt Post-- Richard Digance.
Warwick Castle-- Wayfarers.
Dog and Trumpet-- Chucklefoot.

May 7

Warwick Castle-- The Black
Knight..Capriot and Goliard.
Pitts Head-- Singers night.

May 9

Dog and Trumpet--Strings.

May 10

Corner House Bulkington--
Nick Dowe.

May 11

Bulls Head Brinklow.
Rod Felton.

May 12

Three Crowns Barwell--
Pete and Shiela Rigg.

May 13

Warwick Castle--The sabre Soc.
(Napoleonic drill and display
team)
Dog and Trumpet--Mike Elliot.

May 14

Pitts Head--Charlie McCall.
Culpepper County;
Cliff Whelan,Don and
Cindy,Leather and ROY
Ryan.

May 19

Three Crowns Barwell--
Tony Capstick.

May 20

Warwick Castle--
Shire horses and rural
crafts.
Dog and trumpet--
Armpit Jug band.

May 21

Pitts Head--Martin Jenkins.

May 22

Cov Theatre--George Hamilton

May 25

Bulls head Brinklow--
Mr Gladstones Bag.

May 26

Three Crowns Barwell--
Tony and Jenny Dunbar.

May 27

Warwick Castle--
Warwick Castle--The Dark
Ages Soc.(Saxon and Viking
foot combat display.)
Pitts Head--Singers Night.

WHAT'S ON



THEATRE

Belgrade Theatre

April 31st - May 26th.
Roger de Courcy, and Nookie
Bear, Charlie Williams,
Bobby Crush.
Belgrade 2

Until May 5th
Chris Bailey: "Shade"
presented by CVI.
Coventry Theatre

Week commencing April
30th

Muzumba
May 15th - 19th
Coventry Musical Play Soc.:
"My Fair Lady"

Birmingham Hippodrome.

Welsh National Opera
May 8th "Elektra"
May 9th "La Traviata"
May 10th "The Magic Flute"
May 11th "Turandot"

Universit Arts Centre
May 2-May 5 Songbook-a tribute
to Moony Shapiro-Cambridge
Theatre Co.
May 8 Ekkehard Schall-
performing songs and
dances by Brecht,Weill,Eisler
May 21-May 23 Dirty Linen and
New-Found-Land by Tom
Stoppard-Inter-Actions
British American Repertory Co.
May 24-May 26 Shorts by
Tom Stoppard.

Studio

May 3-May 4 Cy grant-Return
to my Native Land by Cesaire.
May 9-May 12 Tekel by Generaux-
University Drama Soc.
May 15-Short Wave Chris
Bailey. CVI Theatre Co.
17-19 May The Farm Show.Theatre
Danse Miraille.
21-26 May Short Cuts to
Shakespeare. I.BARC
30 May-2 June Miss Julie by
Strindberg. University Drama Soc.

Criterion, Earlsdon.

5-12 May Equus by Peter Schaffer.
17,18 May Opera.

Royal Shakespeare.

May Cymbeline
Merry Wives of Windsor.

Other Place Stratford.

10-23 May The Jail Diary of Albie
Sachs by David Edgar.

Birmingham Rep.

May 3rd - 26th
"The Duchess of Malfi"
(Main Theatre)
Until May 5th
Shiela Kelly: "Idle Rich"
(Studio)
Haymarket Leicester

Until May 12th
Raymond Allen: "Howls"
May 16th - 26th
Leicester Amateur Operatic
Society: "The Kings Rhapsody"