

painting, or whatever other fun and games are going on.

## NG7 Food Bank

For seven weeks now the NG7 Food Bank has been providing food parcels for members of our community who for whatever reason have been unable to get enough food for their households.

Currently the NG7 Food Bank is working on a referral basis from a variety of agencies, which send those in need to the bank with a collection slip that entitles them to one bag of food. Agencies include the Nottingham Law Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Organised primarily by members of the NG7 community, with the support of groups such as City of Sanctuary, Interfaith Council and Autonomous Nottingham, the food bank will be continuing for at least another six weeks. If you want to keep this project going then you could donate any spare food you've got, drop it off at the Sumac Centre on Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7 and 8, or take it down to Sure Start at the Mary Potter Centre.

The need for the NG7 Food Bank highlights, if it isn't already obvious, the damage that the government and capitalism causes for ordinary

people. In a country where shops are crammed with food and goods from around the world, there are still many who are going hungry. The government would like us to believe that this is due to our individual problems, but it's quite clear that it's the governments policy of cutting back benefits and supporting giant companies, which simultaneously evade their taxes and raise the prices of food. Whilst we still have a capitalist system, one which puts profit over human need, there will always be some who go hungry. This is a system of course which benefits the government, especially when that government is made up of men and women from the richest families in the country. Our so called leaders are men and women who wouldn't have a clue what it's like to struggle to get food on the table. It's the selfishness of the rich that projects like the Food bank try to counteract, as long as those with money and power are out for all they can get then we should be looking out for everyone in our community who might be struggling.

## Workfare still ain't Fair

The number of unemployed currently stands at 2.67 million (a rate of 8.9%). The TUC has

suggested that the real figure could in fact be over 6 million.

It is predicted that there will be 500,000 public sector job losses over the next five years. In a clear sign that the government intends to use workfare to replace the gaps left in public service delivery. The same thing is happening in the private sector. ASDA are sending paid staff home early over Christmas and using workfare to fill the gaps. A staff member from Holland and Barrett says that workfare has replaced overtime that used to be available. Argos explain: "Christmas is our busiest time of year and we are pleased to provide the opportunity for work experience during this time." All this corrupt corporate reasoning cannot hide the simple fact that workfare is costing people their jobs and wages.

There's going to be a Workfare Walk of Shame on September 29th, meeting at one by the Lions in town, before heading around town as we visit the companies which are happily benefiting from the Workfare programme.

## Other News

No to G4S is a campaign group set up to fight G4S, meeting at the Sumac Centre on September 12 at 19:00.

# ~ The ~ FOREST FIELDS FIRE

- A FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS BY RESIDENTS / JUNE 2012 -

## Victory! Debt Collection Agency defeated

On the eve of NSN's phone blockade of the Lowell Group, we had some great news. James Coll, who Lowell were threatening with litigation, received letters from the debt collection company saying that they were closing his case and pleading with him to let the Nottingham Solidarity Network know. The threat of direct action from James' enraged community was enough to make even a company as established as Lowell back down.

This is great news for James and we wish him the best of luck with his recovery, but it is also great news for the solidarity network. Our campaign worked and we hope that this inspires other members of our community to have confidence in collective action.

As a result of this good news the phone blockade of Low-

ell for Monday 10th was cancelled. But Lowell should be warned that James will let us know straight away if they go back on their word.

James contacted us about the harassment he was getting from Lowell in June. Following this we asked our members to email Lowell to ask them to cancel the debt because we did not feel that James was liable for it. Lowell responded saying that they were reviewing the case.

However, at the end of last month James received further correspondence from Lowell saying that they had passed the debt to Hampton's Legal, their legal arm, and that he would be faced with litigation to recover the money. We responded by calling for a phone blockade of the Lowell Group.

This became unnecessary when Lowell realised that we will not be intimidated and they decided to back down. Like all debt collection agency's Lowell are bullies, and when confronted with a community and not just an individual they caved in.

Collective direct action (and the threat of it) have got the goods!

Unpaid wages? Denied deposit? Unsafe workplace? Refused repairs?

Don't let bosses and landlords use and abuse you!

We are a network of working people and tenants who work to defend ourselves through direct action and mutual support. Nottingham Solidarity Network will help you get back stolen wages and deposits, get repairs made, and stop evictions.

We are a collection of Nottingham residents who have lived in the city for a number of years. We are all volunteers and anybody who wishes to show solidarity is able to join us. Each of us at some time has suffered from unjust treatment by employers, landlords, or other wealthy people who hold power over our lives.

We've learned from experience that the only way we'll be treated fairly, equally,

and with dignity is by being prepared to stand up to such people and defend our rights. It's hard to do this alone. That's why we've come together, and we're seeking out other local people with similar problems who feel the same way. Together we can find ways of dealing with abusive bosses, greedy landlords, and those who would deny us, our friends, families, neighbours and co-workers the right to a decent life.

If you wanna get involved you can call us on 07423631681

## Politician's Car Sabotaged

In May Jo White, a councillor at Bassetlaw District Council in North Notts, was sent a dead bird through the post. In August MP John Mann for Bassetlaw, and husband of Jo White, nearly crashed his car after anonymous sabotage. A car wheel nearly fell off after it was loosened and the hub cap was screwed back on to hide the sabotage.

The number of people pissed off enough by the politicians to make an attempt on one of their lives is uncountable.

John Mann drove 200 miles from London to his Nottinghamshire constituency before

discovering one of his car's wheels had almost fallen off. The Bassetlaw MP said he felt lucky to have survived. He said the Metropolitan Police were investigating the incident.

Mr Mann told the BBC: "It may well have been the work of a thief who was interrupted. But I find it strange that the hub caps were put back on, meaning I couldn't tell that anything was wrong. "I thought as I was driving up the A1 that I was having a bit of engine trouble. But it was only at the end of the journey that I saw one of the wheels had almost fallen off.

In May Nottinghamshire Police launched an investigation after Mr Mann's wife, Jo White, a Labour councillor, was sent a dead bird in the post.

In a statement on his website, the MP said only certain registered garages had access to sophisticated equipment needed to remove locking wheel nuts but he feared the keys for such security systems may be reproducible. We can only hope he's right.

## Racist Fools

Two men who subjected an Asian family to racist abuse and threatened them with a knife and saying they were EDL, were jailed. Kelvin Bar-

ratt and Stefan Davis of Bulwell, Nottingham, blamed alcohol for their behaviour.

The BNP have indicated they will be attempting to hijack a campaign against a halal abattoir in Skegness. Their new found love of animals hasn't stopped them from munching Lincolnshire sausage however, and we reckon they might be more interested in slagging off Muslims than liberating animals.

We're enjoying a good gloat about the decimation of the local BNP by poor leadership, endless splits and plenty of pressure from people who hate fascists. In 2008 Leicester, Nottingham and Derby were among the areas with the most BNP members in the country and NG16 in Broxtowe was the postcode with the most fascists. Now, Broxtowe and Ashfield branches are defunct, the party has slumped in Amber Valley and the Nottingham organiser has given up. Long may the disintegration continue!

## Bloody Bailiffs

Private bailiff firms contracted to councils, are defrauding members of the public with no opposition from the Government, Local Authorities or the Police.

Local news papers will not,

for whatever reason, report on this serious issue. They are failing in their duty to raise awareness for the many thousands of victims involved.

It seems these crimes will remain covered-up if left to the local press. It therefore must be tackled by members of the public who are prepared to expose our corrupt councils.

It has been publicized in the national press and on TV that Rossendales Ltd, who Nottingham City Council contract its bailiff services to, is a criminal outfit. Not that this seems to bother our local councillors, who are happy to turn a blind eye.

Have you been charged Unfair and Hiked-up Enforcement fees by Nottingham City Council's bailiff contractors **ROSSENDALES Ltd**? This would be in connection with either alleged or actual council tax arrears.

You can enquire by contacting the following email for a second, more seriously considered opinion: [nelc.bailiffs@talktalk.net](mailto:nelc.bailiffs@talktalk.net)

If you're getting grief from Bailiffs of any kind you can always give Nottingham Solidarity Network a call on 07423631681 or email [nsn@riseup.net](mailto:nsn@riseup.net).

## Local Cops say Ramadan causes Anti-Social Behaviour in Forest Fields

According to the Nottingham police website: Ramadan causes an increase in anti-social behaviour. This is the kind of tactless and clueless shit we should have come to expect from our cops, but it's still surprising that they could be so crass.

Apparently increased traffic and people on the street after late night prayer is automatically anti-social and a negative impact on our community which the cops have to get involved in. Here at Forest Fields Fire we're not religious types, but we love Forest Fields during Ramadan. It means busier, livelier streets with a greater sense of community. Which is what most of us want isn't it?

Or do the cops want something else? Maybe they'd like everyone inside with the roads empty and silent apart from the heavy plodding of coppers feet marching up and down the street.

## Autonomous Nottingham Street Play Sessions

Another six weeks of street play sessions on Cedar road came to an end in August. The sessions were a laugh a minute, with more and more people taking part. The sessions are organized by some local residents as a response to the lack of space available for kids to play.

The last session was somewhat marred by one copper harassing a nine year old and demanding the kid give his name and address. However, one of the Autonomous volunteers was on hand to put the cop in her place and informing her that she had no right to any of the kid's details and she backed off. It does sometimes seem that the local bobbies on the beat only have one real job, and that's to hassle children.

The kids sessions will be coming back this month, this time twice a week. On Wednesday we're gonna be on Birrell Road, and on Thursday's we'll back on Cedar Road. It'd be great to see even more people get involved, come along, kick a ball around, do some face