

# Notts-Inside

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free

a new paper for anyone unfortunate enough to be persecuted by the authorities of the state

**Illegality is a pleasurable and necessary part of any life that could meaningfully be described as life.** Theft feeds and clothes us, trespass houses us: we defend each other, ourselves, other animals and forms of life with aggravated trespass, criminal damage, riot, arson and the myriad of other criminalised tools at our disposal. To live legally, as an employee, a tenant, a consumer, is to live contained by the logic of the system. We live illegally because we are uncontainable. We are against the law, we hate the world created by the legislators. We have a dream of dancing in its burnt-out shell and we intend to realise it.

If our project is to create a new and radically other world, one that does not conform to the rules of capital and hierarchy (that is, a world that is worth living in), the machinery of their world will attack us. **The law cannot stand exceptions and**

**contradictions: its justice is absolute.** If they are able to do their job properly, the police (the armed militias of this machinery) will arrest us, evict us, harass us, search our houses, photograph and fingerprint us, fine and incarcerate us - in short, contain us, or at least make it more difficult for us to exist uncontained.

The police are what make the law a relevant consideration in our lives: so we must prevent them from being able to do their job properly. The law is relevant to our lives insofar as the police are able to know what we are doing: consequently, one of our projects must be to make this impossible. Of course, the law is largely irrelevant to the police as well: they are thugs who hate us as we hate them, and will do whatever they think they can get away with to act on this. Another of our projects, then, can be to prevent the police from getting away with anything: the police breaking the law in the course of their repression is a way of funding ourselves, because the law says we can sue them.

But the relevance of the law to our lives extends only so far as it is relevant to our breaking it. In order to torch the machinery of the world we hate, our existence must be, down to the last uncompromising fibre, unbearable to it. Our lives must set small fires, and these fires must spread. The more we compromise with what is normal and legal, the more capitalism can cope with us. **IT IS WHEN WE CONTRADICT ITS LOGIC AND ITS LAWS WITH OUR LIVES, WHEN WE LIVE AS IF WE WERE FREE, in a world we make without reference to what is legal and only with reference to our active and impossible desires: this is when their world will burn, as we have shown that its limits are no more fixed than its broken laws.**

All proceeds will be used to support important activities

(REGARDLESS OF THEIR LEGALITY)

**Nottingham Prison currently holds just over 500 inmates.**

**Last August planning permission was granted to double its capacity to more than 1,000, it is to be completed in 2010.**

**Nationwide, the prison population has increased from 40,000 in the 1970s to more than 80,000 now. The Government plans to build 8,000 prison places across the country by 2012.**

*L AWOKE in fascist town*

Step by step, we are sleepwalking into the iron-bar arms of a state ever more caring, ever more controlling, ever more geared towards racism.

I look from my doorstep. My view of my city is limited to a few hundred people. But I can relate stories of more and more people who are facing direct repression. Change is a slippery and stealthy snake, but when it's your family and friends, you feel the sting.

A pregnant lady and a young man were imprisoned, for 9 hours, for a sitting protest outside an office on Mount St. The houses of 10 people searched to find evidence of further protest. A man arrested and detained following the symbolic erection of a cardboard wall to highlight the carving up of the towns and villages of Palestine by Israel.

AND NOW, Student and teacher arrested for the study of radical material. Prestigious university colluding with police to disrupt the very activities these institutions were built for. This is a vicious persecution which must put fear into the heart of every person of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Iranian, Iraqi, Moroccan, Ethiopian descent because if you're of a certain colour of brown skin you are a potential trophy for our ever successful 'protection' by the state from terror.

UNTIL NOW, I'd venture the majority of us were, or at least felt, safe from this very frightening repression. Now I see a lump in the throat of a few more. For these terror arrests look like being simultaneously targeted to suppress and gag those involved in human rights and peace campaigning at the university. This is unacceptable and I shudder to think of the lengths required to resist this level of oppression.

Imagination and being very clear that you cannot be an accomplice to this. To speak out with actions that will resist the everyday life of the university, because an institution should not be allowed this level of control and should not - must not - be allowed to punish students they feel nuisanced by, by having them slammed up and defamed as accused terrorists. Perhaps it is time for people to refuse to play the game of moving onto the verge; perhaps it is time for the protected white activists to say, in solidarity with the randomly selected victims of the states racist methods:

*'I will act as I see fit and take the consequences,'*

For at least you can be sure you're safer than those others. For Now.

*De Letis*

**I want to talk about the importance and potential of squat solidarity. For many squatting is survival and therefore support is a life-saver.**

First an apology. I left an alarm list in a building. It may have had your number on it. (An alarm list is a list of phone numbers to call in an emergency, such as if someone attempts to break in. I try and keep an up to date alarm list in my head. Who is actually about and who is reliable? The numbers are in my mobile.)

Turning up is one of the simplest forms of solidarity, be it in an emergency or just if some work needs doing. As 'someone has to be in the building at all times', turning up so that someone else can go out is often very helpful.

Squat solidarity has the potential to be something else as well. It doesn't take a great deal for a squat 'scene' to become a squatting movement with each space a catalyst for the next, or a bolt-hole for the recently evicted. A squatting movement is a revolutionary movement if ever there was one. Squatting is direct action seizing 'property' and turning into liberated space. If only we could squat the whole world...

Squatting by its very nature defies a comprehensive history, existing as it does outside the mainstream consciousness, yet there are times when squatting breaks through into the public sphere a little - or so it could be said. The most public squat of recent years was the ASBO (A Simple Building Occupation) at Burns Street and Wildman Street in the Arboretum area. The ASBO was originally squatted in the autumn of 2005 and provided housing for around 14 people at its height, this number slowly reducing until its demise this year.

Squatting comes in all shapes and sizes and a very different kind of squat was on show for one weekend in April this year. The old County Hall on the Lace Market's High Pavement was opened up as a social space as part of the international days of squatting action. Squatting in the city centre was not easy and the occupants met owners with a capacity for heavy handedness, though things passed off peacefully. Unfortunately no one was housed for long as the occupation was only intended to last a few days and then everyone moved on. Perhaps this was just a PR exercise, or maybe just a practice.

If all the property rights were overturned that would be revolutionary. Squatting creates revolutionary space. Space for?

Revolution is a rejection of the existing power structures, making 'it's illegal' not a good enough reason to stop yourself from doing something. Copper piping in a building due for demolition may be more valuable as scrap for you than as scrap for the development company. As revolutionaries we make these moral decisions, rather than defer them.

**"There's an empty property just waiting for you to use it. Could squatting turn into something fantastic?"**

I see a lot of social change as being defensive. The change that is being offered to us is an annihilation. Our annihilation has been elevated to the status of the social order. We attempt to change the social order that necessitates our annihilation, yet in a way we are trying to preserve things rather than change them. Solidarity is the fundamental currency of revolutionary politics and survival is the basic measure of success. Squatting allows us to live lives that wouldn't be otherwise possible.

Class? The relationship between property owner and the homeless is a relationship of power, a relationship maintained by violence. Is there a relationship? The relationship is one of potential. The homeless are potential tenants and the owner is a potential landlord. To become the tenant (and cease to suffer the wilderness) the homeless must meet the owner's terms, for we live in an age when capital is the preeminent power. Property is like a monopoly over a particular bit of space - a tyranny. Housing is a definite need. If all the habitable land is covered in derelict buildings and semi-occupied yuppie flats the people have nowhere to live. They are forced to pay the terms of the property owners - that or break the rules.

So why the failure? I fell this is easiest to understand through the concept of the 'middle class', those who are neither property owner nor proletariat. The middle classes are not bound by the necessities of the proletariat and the inevitable narrative of struggle. The middle classes need not struggle. They fail to build a sustainable squatting movement as they misunderstand what housing is in a radical context.

## LOST FOR IDEAS?

**A scam was revealed whereby empty homes were reclaimed with help from the land registry...**

These ingenious outlaws would scout around for empty properties. Having spotted one of fancy, they would then access the ownership information through the land registry.

They would then go to the county court and issue a claim that the property's owner was in debt to them (to do this you need simply to fill in a single sided claim form). No evidence of the debt is required. For example, 'That property owner, he owes me £150,000, for work that I did for him/her.'

The court then writes to the owner at their empty property. As the owner is neglecting to occupy the property, they are not at home to respond to the summons, to which the court takes a dim view. The re-appropriators ask the court to issue an order for the sale of the property, to enable the repayment of the 'debt'. The property gets sold on, and the empty home-spotters bag their reward.

This scam has been successful on at least 13 occasions. The scamsters also wrote to the land registry to have the service addresses changed so they would receive post connected to the property, the soon to be ex-owners blissfully unaware they would soon be losing their assets. (In similar fashion these Robin Hood types obtained mortgages for empty homes that would later be repossessed.)

## LET'S BE MINDFUL OF THE LANGUAGE WE USE

I should not let my underlying fear of violent insurrection lead me to obscure my communications about anarchism and the need to remove institutions....

So let's publish beautiful things and make new friends. Let us not fear in being simplistic. Let us celebrate why anarchism is beautiful, be **BOLDER** in our resistance. Test that your written word still stands proud. **BE UNDERSTOOD.**

## Just Say No

From before we are aware, we are put into hierarchical institutions and systems and told to accept, respect and obey them, we are coerced to consent unquestioningly by the dominant discourse otherwise punishment ensues.

Our consent is the only thing maintaining this unjust system. A system that gives a few the power to determine the lives and actions of many and choose the consequence if one of the many disobeys the few.

**Power is only real because we choose to accept it exists**

If all humans are born free and equal who are they or we or anyone to choose the direction of someone else's life through punishment or an action that a few have decided is wrong and many have merely consented to agree.

Who is a judge, who are the courts, what is the law to decide that a human individual should lose years of their life in a cell?

When sitting in the gallery of a courtroom it is easy, to anyone willing to consider it, to comprehend that the entire system is a farce, that if we chose not to accept it it would cease to be effective, crumble. But I am all too aware that this is easier said than done, sitting in the dock the court is carefully constructed to reinforce the hierarchies that keep the prisoner compliant/suppressed, triggered are years of programming through schooling media and all other state institutions to obey state power.

We must start to undo the involuntary fear of state power, it is not real, and **RESIST.**

Without our consent they will be laid bare and exposed for the violent and oppressive regime they pretend not to be.

*Notts-Inside is written from the perspective of Nottingham, a horror of corrupt council leadership and development, a skyline of shops, commercial props, car parks and white elephants, legitimised crime ever looming over frenzied minions, law abiders, shoppers and petty criminals. Highlighting the tyranny and torture of men and women who are put into cell, to boxes and robbed of their freedom; exploring the possibilities for independence, autonomy, survival and supported dissent.*

*Next issue we will introduce correspondence from the inside.*