

Environmental magazines - Environmental hazard?

Vast amounts of paper is regularly sent to landfill or incineration from Nottingham libraries including leaflets, brochures, prospectuses, magazines, newspapers, circulars etc. as well as bundles of leftover 'Living for Tomorrow' - the Council's prestige environmental magazine - cover article latest issue: "We lift the lid on recycling"!

Incineration is dangerous and polluting. Landfill is unsustainable and polluting. Not recycling means that far more raw materials must be used to make new products such as paper. The recycling page of the City Council's website states "*We all need to strive to minimise the waste we produce in order to save money and help the environment*". Apparently this does not apply to libraries. Does it apply to other City Council departments? Let's make it our mission to put this right... www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/coun/departments/leisure.com/libraries/enquiries/feedback.asp

- C.

Safety fears over proposed fluoridisation of Nottingham's water

An article in the Nottingham Evening Post (10/09/03) reported local dentists "demanding" the addition of fluoride to our drinking water, to combat high levels of tooth decay in local children. At present some areas of north Notts already have fluoridation, but local British Dental Association spokesperson Amarjit Gill, is pressing for expansion of the scheme. Mr Gill asserts that it is "barbaric" that the Greater Nottingham area is currently fluoride-free. Contrary to Mr Gill's opinion however, there are many reasons why the addition of fluoride to our water itself would be an even more barbaric act.

The health implications are grave, particularly for children, www.fluoride.org.uk/ausfnews/novdec00/your_childs_vulnerability.htm with studies highlighting side effects including bone cancer, decreased IQ levels and higher incidences of miscarriages and Down's syndrome births. Silicofluorides are a class 2 poison under the Poisons Act, a fact which has led many opponents to question the legality of fluoridation. There are also particular cultural and religious issues involved for the muslim community, who have joined the campaign to stop fluoridation www.npwa.freeseve.co.uk. The Green Party has produced a very good overview of the situation, entitled "Sexing-up the case for fluoride : The dentists' dodgy dossier", which can be found at: www.greenparty.org.uk/reports/2003/Dodgy%20dossier,%20fluoride.htm

Mr Gill practises at the Wollaton Dental Care Centre, e-mail : info@smilesahead.co.uk (this is a general address so e-mails should be marked FAO Mr A Gill).

- Jill

Asylum Seekers And The Right To Work - Notts Refugee Forum appeal

David Amess, the MP for Southend West, has laid an Early Day Motion (EDM) before the Houses of Parliament regretting the Government's decision to deny the right to work to asylum seekers following the withdrawal of permission on 23 July 2002. The wording of the EDM is: "That this House regrets the decision in 2002 by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to prevent asylum seekers from working while their applications for residency are under consideration; urges the Home Secretary to reconsider that decision; recognises that issuing temporary work permits would reduce the temptation to work illegally; and believes that allowing asylum seekers to contribute to the British economy would reduce tensions within the local communities where they are located." Locally, the issue of work and work permits has been raised numerous times by asylum seekers. In Nottingham we know something about what happens when asylum seekers are forced into the hands of black economy mafiosi. There are also issues of human rights, dignity, economic cost etc.

The EDM is accessible at edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=1695. Please contact your local MPs, but also raise this subject in your TU, community group etc. Fax your MP for free, go to: www.ncadc.org.uk/letters/resource.html.

Notts Refugee Forum 118 Mansfield Road , NOTTINGHAM , NG1 3HL.
Ph: 0115 985 9546 / 0115 941 5599 . Email: refugees@tiscali.co.uk

Local Diary Links

Sumac Centre & Veggies Events
Diary : www.veggies.org.uk/diary.htm
Nottingham Friends of the Iraqi
People: www.nottmnowar.org
Stop The War:
www.nottmagainstwar.org.uk

Other useful alternative media links

UK Indymedia :
www.indymedia.org.uk
Schnews : www.schnews.org.uk
Veggies Newsround :
www.veggies.org.uk/news/index.htm
Buzzflash : www.buzzflash.com
Information Clearing House :
www.informationclearinghouse.info
Ned Ludds News - published
intermittently from 1997-2002
www.veggies.org.uk/neds/Ned0208.htm

****STOP PRESS**** David Blunkett has recently announced new proposals which will make it almost legally impossible for asylum seekers to enter the country, according to Amnesty International: "Punishment for this may breach international law and heap further suffering on already vulnerable people." See [www.guardian.co.uk/Refugees in Britain/Story/0,2763,1072270,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/Refugees%20in%20Britain/Story/0,2763,1072270,00.html)

Policing in Nottinghamshire

Whilst the BBC's undercover sting against racist policing has thrown police forces country wide into crisis, Nottinghamshire's Police are struggling with more problems of their own. An article in the Guardian on October 22nd referred to a "naming and shaming exercise" based on police performance figures conducted by the Home Office. The county shamed the most, at the bottom of the league table of police performance – Nottinghamshire!



When the new chief constable, Steven Green, came into post a few years ago it was widely recognized that the Notts Police were in trouble. Green instituted

"a radical overhaul" and was supported in this by the Police Inspectorate at the Home Office. Things were so bad it was decided that dramatic and far-reaching changes were needed: *"Evolution was not an option"* agreed the Home Office and the Notts Police tried their version of *"revolution"* instead! Chaos ensued: *"Every area of business was affected, from major crime investigation and the taking of telephone calls from the public... Many officers had to learn new neighborhoods,*

a new set of local criminals and a whole new style of policing. Control room staff needed to learn new radio and location codes and work with new technology...The immediate effects were adverse and significant for the public and the Force alike."

The Home Office Inspectorate supported the extent of the reorganization so it seems fair to question their advice in this matter. In a March 2003 report the Home Office inspector writes that *"aspects of the large and complex reorganisation were not well managed."* A particularly crass mistake was in regard to the reassignment of officers. This is manifested by the number of Nottingham police who appear to be out of their depth, young and inexperienced. *"Many experienced officers voted to work out of the busy city division, leaving an imbalance of staff that had to be filled by probationary constables still learning their job... Communities lost experienced beat officers, a loss that was*

keenly felt."
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/nottinghamshire03.pdf

With the Titanic in trouble the captain reorganized crewing, so the most experienced seaman, instead of securing the water tightness of the ship were given job options. They choose to crew the lifeboats...

- B.D.

Sustainable Solutions to African Food Crisis

Overseas development charity Harvest Help is bringing southern Africa to our doorstep in November. Jando Nkhwazi, the Malawian director of one of their projects, is coming to Keyworth, to speak about the transformation he has seen in his community over the last few years.

Sustainable farming methods could help to provide a solution to the ongoing food crisis in Africa, a solution seen by many as preferable to that suggested by biotech companies. Currently, there are nine projects cross Zambia and Malawi, supported by UK charity Harvest Help, helping farmers to increase food production. Alternative ploughing techniques, the use of homemade compost and planting crops, which replenish soil nutrients are some of the methods being utilised. In 2002 Harvest Help estimated around 5,000 farmers across Zambia and Malawi were using sustainable farming methods. The results have been spectacular. Harvest Help work mostly with farming communities, helping them feed their families, preserve the environment, earn a living and work towards self-reliance.

The Harvest Help Open day takes place at Keyworth Methodist Church on Saturday 22 Nov. Entry is free & all are welcome to attend. For more details contact Sharon Jackson at Harvest Help, tel. 01952 260699 or visit the charity's web site at www.harvesthelp.org

Nottingham Protest Against Bush Visit

Bush is on a state visit to Britain from 19th-21st Nov. Nottingham Stop the War are holding protest rallies in Old Market Square at 12 and 5pm on Wednesday, 19th November. There is a national demo in London on Thursday 20th Nov and coaches are going from Nottingham. Phone 07989518997 for tickets. There will be a Stop the War stall with leafleting, petitioning, etc. to publicise these events in Old Market Square from 13.00 to 15.00 on Saturdays, 25th October and 1st, 8th and 15th November. If you can help out on any of these occasions then please let me know....

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Nottingham Association of Subversive Activists (NASA) - NASA meets on the first monday monthly at 7pm at the Sumac Centre (for more info; www.veggies.org.uk/diary.htm) and is open to all those who work in a non-hierarchal manner for positive social change. Next meeting 1st Dec will focus on prisoner solidarity and support as well as the issue of forced prison labour for the benefit of commercial companies. Other up-coming events include:

- Sat 8th : Demo & leaflet drop at **New Tribes Mission**, in solidarity with the tribal peoples of the West Papua.
- Wed 12th : **Eyewitness Palestine**. Talk, video & slides from recent visitors to Palestine.
- Thurs 13th : Noise Demo Against **Bayer Cropscience** to oppose the US-led imposition of GM foods.
- Wed 19th - 21st : **George W Bush** to visit Britain. Nottm actions to be planned.
- Wed 26th : Drop Bush Not Bombs Tour. Presentation by Keith McHenry, Co-founder of **Food Not Bombs**.



Neo-Order

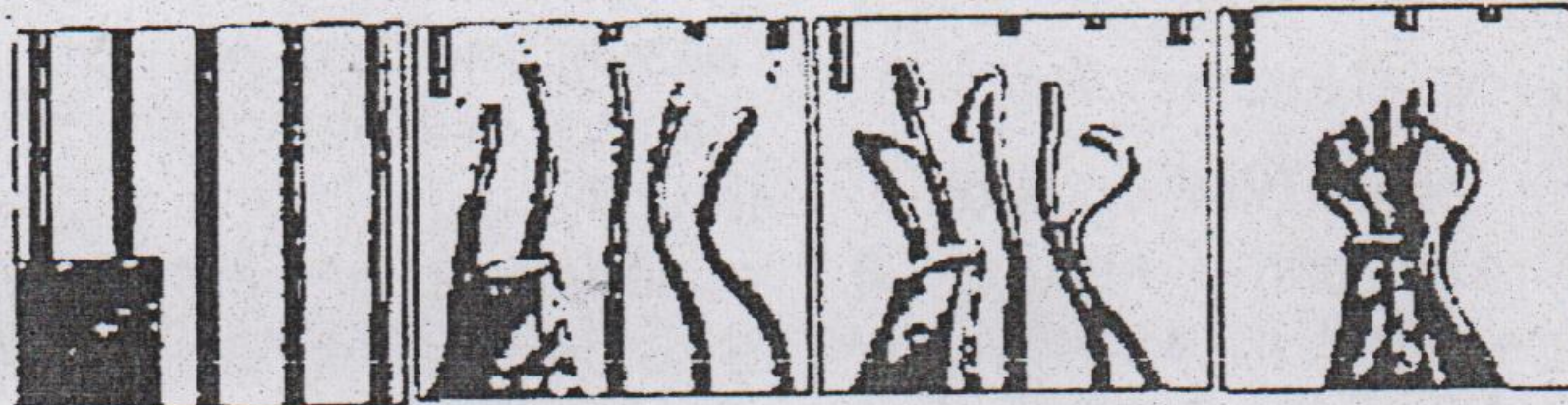
"From the governments point of view, the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill is more important for what it says than what it does- but, unfortunately, it will also manage to impose some extremely oppressive controls on vulnerable people" - Legal Action Group (LAG).

THE BILL - The Anti-Social Behaviour Bill is supposedly being put in place to give cops greater powers to 'protect' communities and deal with troublemakers such as 'deviant' kids; it also allows for the dispersal of groups of two or more young people to prevent the 'risk' of disorder.

Clause 59 of the bill, introduced quietly at a later stage, amends the Public Order Act 1986 so that police can impose conditions on 'public assemblies' also consisting of just two people! Remember the Public Order Act 1986? Then came the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, tightening the law even further. Those laws have had massive effects on festivals, protests, public assembly and free community events not approved by the cops or the

Drawing on information from the Legal Action Group and Statewatch, Tash draws attention to the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. Living in Nottingham's red light district, he's not too happy with anti social behaviour either but asks: who will the new law actually be used to tread on?

council. The rise of Neo-Labour and its crusade against 'terror' has meant further clampdowns. If this new Act is passed cops will more easily be able to ban protestors and partygoers; they will be able to arrest people 'trespassing' either outside or in disused buildings



and will be able to slap restriction orders on protestors and ravers alike. Check out LAG: www.lag.org.uk and Statewatch: www.statewatch.org

PERSONAL COMMENTARY - I knew the anti-social behaviour orders and main ideas of the bill, were to do with jobs and intimidations. But didn't have the idea that the CJA and Public Order acts were being strengthened also. Bollox! Oh no, not again. I've been through about five of these 'tightenings of the screw' and at 50, am I getting tired!!

Living in a city, I'm against some of the things that the Home Sec is trying to deal with, they influence my own life. BUT, law treads on us, whilst dealing with these issues.

Having just listened to Blunkett on the telly, launching the new initiatives; respect for neighbours, dealing with intimidation, environmental measures, investment in local community, all very fine. But I was thinking, how would this apply to a traveller, gypsy, enviro community, party persons etc. After all politics always puts the established community OVER our alternative ones.

I think we are about to trampled under-foot, again! The Home Office press release & bill can be found through www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

ALAN LODGE: tash.gn.apc.org
Email: tash@gn.apc.org



...Arrived in Blackpool, October 8th, 11:00am. Hotfooted it to the Winter Gardens, lots of police but no machine guns. Hardly any demonstrators either, three old blokes protesting about pensions and that's it! I dive into a pub opposite the conference, grab a pint and change into a white Elvis jumpsuit. Go outside and start distributing some satirical poetry leaflets. I've also written a new Tory anthem!

Over the road the media are gathering, I think I'll go over and dish out some literature. Suddenly there's a buzz, here comes IDS and his wife. I move forward to give him a copy of the new Tory Anthem. I'm immediately surrounded by a gang of young Tories. They grab me and won't let me go. "I want to give him a leaflet". "You can't", they say, "we'll give it to him". "You're just a bunch of lackeys", I reply. "I want to give it him personally, I'm the leader of my party".

The cops arrive, "you're creating an incident, sir", says a nasty looking cop, "if you carry on, we'll arrest you". "It's them who are causing an incident. They assaulted me. I like IDS, it's this lot that are a danger to him. Why don't you arrest them?" The cops aren't interested, IDS moves off, the mob retreats warily. IDS gets into his car, I try again. The cops have another go, "Give him a leaflet and we'll

An Alternative View of the Tory Conference

arrest you for obstruction", the Tory Mob jeers, "Elvis loves you but Jesus may be having second thoughts", I jeer back. The media laugh, an old Tory gives me a Countryside Alliance badge, "Do you support hunting?". "No Elvis didn't like hunting", I reply. "He hunted women". "Oh no he didn't, they hunted him", I say. The old Tory chuckles.

I go back to the pub for a pint, then another and then go outside and start stirring it again. Here comes David Davis, I give him the anthem, he jumps into a taxi. Now it's Michael Howard, he refuses. "But you're in it", I shout. He relents and takes one, jumps into a taxi and starts reading it, that should go down well with his three-course luncheon. Alan Duncan MP strolls by. "I'll sing it at the conference", he says, "If you do that, I'll vote Tory at the next election". I am bigger liar than he is.

It's late afternoon now, more delegates are coming out the conference centre. "Elvis for No 10, he's got more chance than IDS", I shout. They smile, I think I've touched a chord. I spot Portillo walking up the road, I

chase him and hand him the anthem, "Could you please move", he says softly, "Someone is trying to get past". I look & see a woman pushing another woman in a wheelchair. "I'm so sorry", I say to the women. "You're a true politician", I snap at Portillo, irritated by his smarmy do-gooder pose. The woman pushing the wheelchair says in a rough Glasgow accent, "He wouldn'ta asked you tae' move if he knew we were fucking Labour".

The delegates are flooding out, the days events are coming to an end. I used to hate the Tories but now I feel sorry for them. Their arrogance has been replaced by an air of bewilderment. The blue pinstriped suits, the well dressed women straight out of 'Woman's Own', the old guys with plummy accents and checked waistcoats. They're a vanishing species. An Old England who can't compete in a New Labour world of focus groupies, mobile clones and spin doctors on call 24/7. I've always had a soft spot for Old England; it's fusty pubs, tea and kippers, gob stoppers and Billy Bunter etc. Perhaps I should make some tee-shirts 'Save the Tories'. I wonder what the eco-warriors and the SWP would think to that? A lead free bullet through the back of the head, probably. Rule Blairtannia!

Lord Biro, Church of the Militant Elvis Party www.theplace4.co.uk/stuffdiana/

"Well since old Maggie left us, We've found a new place to dwell, It's down at the end of Moaning Street, At Liteweight Hotel..."