

# UNION CITY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF NOTTINGHAM TRADES COUNCIL

## REMEMBER THE SACKED MINERS AT CHRISTMAS!

By Steve Battlemuch, President Nottm. TUC

Six and a half years after the end of the miners strike there are still 13 sacked miners in Notts. The Trade Union movement must not forget them! The sacked miners have also had to witness the destruction of the mining industry in Notts presided over by the bosses union the UDM. We can all remember Lynk's statements that the Notts miners jobs were safe! Arthur Scargill who was pilloried at the time has been proved absolutely correct.

No one who was involved in the dispute either as an active participant or as a supporter can deny the importance of the strike to the labour movement. It came as a breath of fresh air to see a major group of workers taking on the Tory government in such a determined way. However the by-product of the defeat are those sacked miners.

We have a responsibility to those miners and their families - many of which were sacked without any proper hearing or evidence of misconduct. They were sacked for fighting for jobs!

Rush your donations to: "East Midlands Justice for Mineworkers Campaign", c/o 19, Morton Street, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 8DP.

### NOTTS. ANTI-FASCIST ALLIANCE

A new anti fascist alliance has been set up bringing together people concerned with the rise if fascists, be they British National Party, National Front, individuals etc. in the area. The NAFA will be setting out its strategy, choosing its co-ordinating group and agreeing immediate tasks (such as collecting information about current fascist activity in Arnold and Stapleford, making placards for public events, organising around the BNP candidates in the coming election etc.) at its founding meeting 7.00pm on Monday 16th December at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. Want to be involved? Come along on the night or contact NAFA via 118 Workshop, 118 Mansfield Road.

### WOMEN AND THE UNIONS EVENT

This national event organised by the Socialist Movement Trade Union Committee and Women for Socialism on November 23rd brought-together socialist women trade unionists from all over the country from NALGO, MSF, RMT, NUT, NUPE, T&GWU etc. for a day of discussion, sharing information and planning action. The day started with a rundown of the hidden history of women teacher trade unionists who forced the early NUT into hitherto uncharted territory of equality early in the century, progressed through workshops on issues such as sexual harassment, lesbians at work etc. onto separate union caucuses to look at organising in the individual trade unions and ending with a final discussion.

It was agreed to set up an open women trade unionists sub-group of the SMTUC and WFS to plan specific initiatives (such as an exchange of information on important dates for women in the different unions etc), ensure a full Women's perspective in the SMTUC and to build for a larger event in September '92. Interested in hearing more? Contact Sally Morawetz on 0602 626298.



## OUR HISTORY - INTER-WAR UNEMPLOYED ORGANISATIONS

By Richard Stevens (NUPE)

The National Unemployed Workers' Movement was formed by jobless trade unionists in 1921 to fight for better allowances and conditions for unemployed workers. It was a dynamic, militant organisation, demanding work as well as better unemployment benefits and it was organised on trade union lines. The NUWM believed in direct action: "We refuse to starve in silence."

A NUWM branch was formed in the Nottm. area in the 1920s and quickly established itself as an effective organisation, taking up issues beyond unemployment, such as the fight against Mosley's Blackshirts.

Unfortunately the TUC was hostile to the NUWM and severed links with it in 1928. In 1932 the TUC finally made a serious attempt to get trades councils to form their own unemployed associations, but a year earlier, Nottm. Trades Council had formed its own Unemployed Workers' Section, as a compromise to pressure from the left to allow the re-affiliation of the local NUWM. The Section, with 5-600 members at its height, functioned until 1940. It could not rival the NUWM in its range of activity (although some had dual membership), but it represented many hundreds of claimants before the various authorities, took part in demonstrations and organised educational and recreational activities. During its nine-year existence, thousands of people were associated with the Section, thus it helped to maintain TU links for many, until mass unemployment disappeared.....

### ATTEND!

The Trades Council meets on the third Wednesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm, at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottm. Does your branch attend? If not - why not?

## BAN PLASTIC BULLETS!

The Trades Council has recently received an appeal for financial help from Emma Groves of the Belfast-based United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets which urgently needs donations towards the costs incurred in trying to rid their community of the use of plastic bullets, which were introduced in 1973 in the north of Ireland. Since then 54,223 plastic bullets have been fired: 14 people have died, 7 of them children.

In 1981 alone 54 people were injured, some seriously. People have been blinded, maimed and killed by this so-called "safer" option. The UCAPB is run by volunteers and funded entirely by donations from the public. It is now hoping to take the campaign against these lethal weapons to the European Court and the United Nations, which will greatly add to the financial burden. Your help is needed to ban the use of plastic bullets in the 6 Counties and to lift the threat of their use in England, Scotland and Wales. Donations and/or requests for further information should be sent to:- UNITED CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC BULLETS, c/o 195, Whitelock Road, Belfast 12. Tel: Belfast (0232) 622854 or c/o Nottm. TUC, Box 5, 118, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

### NOTTINGHAM CLARION CHOIR

On Friday, 13th December the choir will be performing upstairs at The Gladstone, Loscoe Rd., Carrington at 8.00pm. Tickets are only £1 or 50p if you are unwaged. Anyone interested in joining or booking the choir should come along then, or come to a practice any Sunday at 7.30pm at the T&GWU offices on Mansfield Road. For further information contact Jenny Jackson, 0602 232410.

### AFFILIATE

Is your branch affiliated to the Trades Council? If not, raise it at your next meeting! Contact the Treasurer, Leo Keely, 204 Noel Street, Forest Fields, Nottingham. Tel: 703135 (home) for details of costs and numbers of delegates allowed.

### MORE COPIES PLEASE!

We are anxious to ensure that 'Union City News' reaches as wide an audience as possible. Therefore we are urging you to consider ordering enough copies to distribute to your Branch Committee / Shop Stewards Committee / Divisional Council, etc. From January we hope 'Union City News' will come out monthly. Ensure the activists in your union are fully informed - order today.

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Send to: Steve Battlemuch, 191 Burford Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham NG7 6AY