

DON'T PAY



GUY FAWKES

The only person
to enter Parliament
with honest intentions

POLL TAX

MORE THAN A THIRD OF PEOPLE IN NOTTINGHAM HAVEN'T PAID A PENNY OF POLL TAX YET.

THAT'S MORE THAN 70 000 PEOPLE WHO'VE DECIDED NOT TO PAY THIS UNFAIR TAX.

THOUSANDS MORE ARE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEHIND ON THEIR PAYMENTS. NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CAN'T COPE WITH THE NUMBER OF NON-PAYERS.

ITS THE SAME ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. NATIONWIDE, AT LEAST 10 MILLION PEOPLE AREN'T PAYING.

THE POLL TAX IS CRUMBLING, AS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY PEOPLE REALISE THAT WE DO HAVE THE POWER TO FIGHT BACK.

IF YOU AREN'T PAYING, SIT TIGHT. THEY'RE USING THE IDEA OF BAILIFFS TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT NOTTINGHAM COUNCIL HAVE ONLY GOT THREE BAILIFFS! IT WOULD TAKE THEM 23 YEARS TO COLLECT THIS YEAR'S POLL TAX FROM NOTTINGHAM'S NON-PAYERS - EVEN IF WE DIDN'T TRY AND STOP THEM.

IF YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED PAYING, IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO STOP. CANCEL YOUR DIRECT DEBIT OR STANDING ORDER, OR SIMPLY STOP SENDING THEM MONEY. DON'T BE SCARED: WITH SO MANY OF US REFUSING TO PAY, THERE'S VERY LITTLE THEY CAN DO.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUP RIGHT AWAY. THEY CAN GIVE YOU ADVICE AND LEGAL SUPPORT.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE!

Leaflet produced by SNAPT: South Notts Against the Poll Tax. Contact Stuart on Nottingham 703549 for more information.

LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS

If no group is shown for your area, contact GARY FREEMAN on Nottingham 607498 or STUART BROWN on Nottingham 703549.

Arnold
Aspley
Basford
Beeston
Bestwood Pk
Bilboro'
Broxtowe
Bulwell
Carlton
Central
Clifton
Forest Fields
Hyson Green
Gedling
Hucknall
Ilkeston
Lenton
Meadows
Netherfield
Radford
Sherwood
Snapewd.
Sneinton
St Anns
Stapleford
Top Valley/
Rise Park
West Bridgford

The more people who get involved with their local groups, the more effective we can be. We are going to stop the poll tax anyway, but we'll do it quicker and easier if we all stand together. If you're not paying, **LET YOUR LOCAL GROUP KNOW WHO YOU ARE**

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE POLL TAX

Update - March 1991

11 months into the Poll Tax and already the mass non-payment campaign has brought down Thatcher and split the Tories wide open. 14 million people nationally aren't paying, and the latest figures for Nottingham are that 65% (136,000) are in arrears or haven't paid anything! So far we've heard lots of talk from Heseltine and the Tories about making the tax fairer, but tinkering with it simply isn't good enough - it must be scrapped completely! They're also saying that any adjustments they do make will take at least 2 years to implement! Still not good enough when millions of people can't afford to pay it this year, let alone next year when the bills will be much, much higher.

So far in Nottinghamshire the campaign has won massive popular support, with nearly 40 local anti-poll tax groups active within the county. Local Councils are in a complete mess trying to implement the tax, with large numbers of non-payers turning up to court and the bailiffs proving to be completely ineffectual. The indications are that, just as in Scotland, more people will be joining the non-payment campaign this year.

We all know the Poll Tax is unfair so why was it introduced?

Basically it was an attempt by the Tories to force local councils to cut their spending, reduce the standard and quality of local services, and simultaneously turn the electorate against Councils trying to provide good quality services. Not to mention the fact that it discourages ordinary people not to register for the vote through fear of the tax. The tax is also a direct attack on those sections of the community least able to afford it, by transferring wealth from the poor to the rich.

Yes but everyone's going to have to pay it in the end so what's the point of waiting?

Not necessarily! After 21 months in

Scotland over 1 million people still haven't paid a penny. With even larger numbers of non-payers in England & Wales they won't be able to force us to pay either. It's only taken 9 months to get rid of Thatcher and if we keep the pressure up, and more people join the mass non-payment campaign, then the Poll Tax will be axed too. The Tories will be forced to scrap it, just as they were forced to scrap Thatcher.

But if I don't pay the Poll Tax local council jobs & services will suffer!

Local Council jobs & services have been suffering under the Tories for the past 11 years. Indeed since they came to power they have reduced Local Government grants by a massive 40 billion pounds - over 850 million pounds in Nottinghamshire alone! The Poll Tax was devised specifically to force Councils to cut their spending even further. It is the Poll Tax, and not the non-payers, that will destroy council services if allowed to continue as a form of local government funding. Already in Nottinghamshire both the County and City Councils have announced large cuts, including the closure of elderly persons homes and community centre. These cuts have nothing to do with non-payment levels - they are being made to avoid "charge-capping", a method by which the Government controls the amount of money Councils can spend on local services.

But I don't want to break the law!

Any law that penalises millions of ordinary people, that takes from the

poor and gives to the rich, that is so viciously undemocratic and unjust, deserves to be broken! Bad laws should be fought against and in this particular case people are being forced to break the law by the intransigence of the Tory Government who are not prepared to listen to the overwhelming majority of people in this country. If there was a referendum tomorrow then 84% of the population would vote either to radically change it, or scrap it altogether. It is also a fact that, for millions of people, abiding by the law is not an option. They have not choice - they simply cannot afford to pay the Poll Tax.

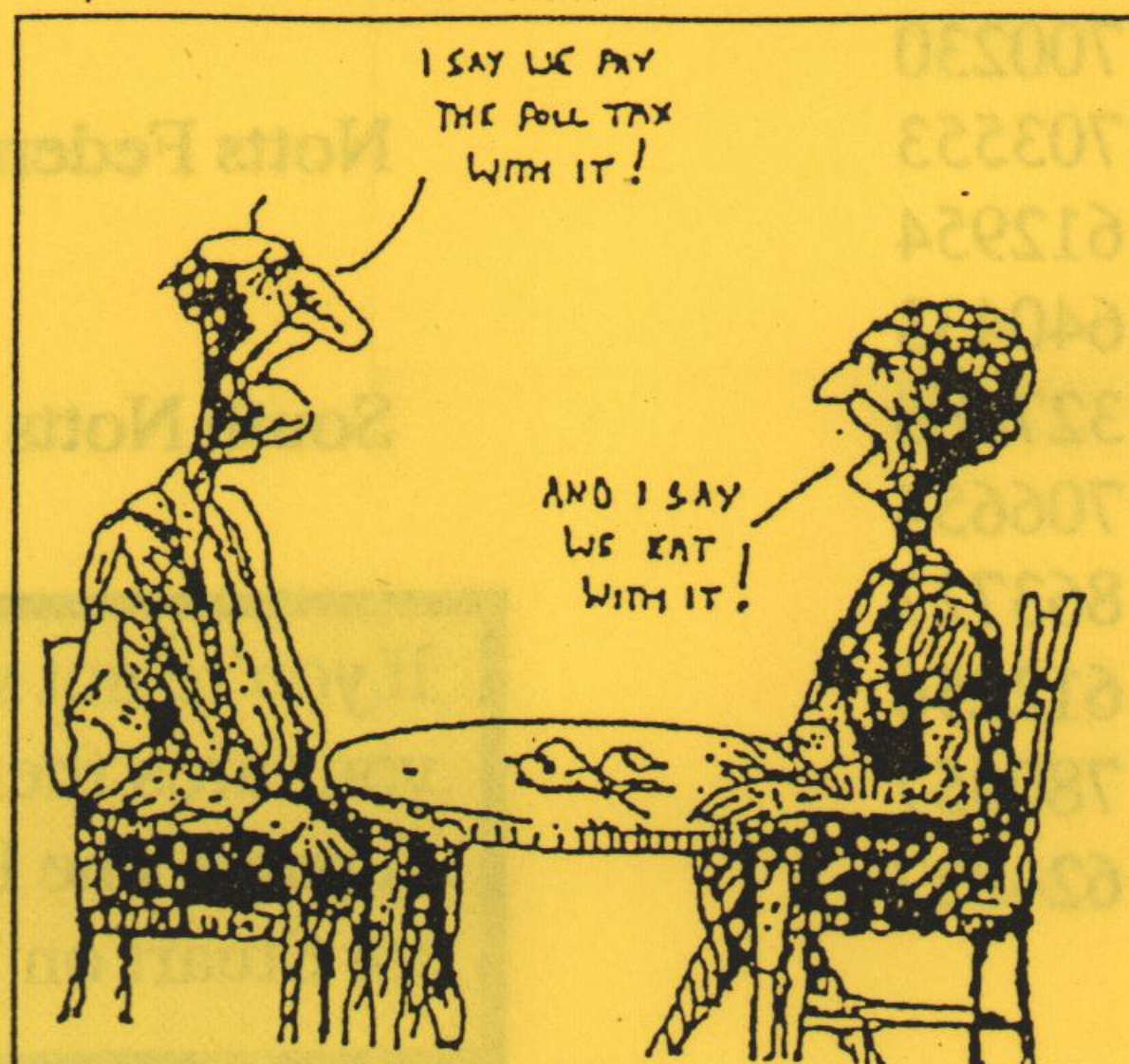
It must be remembered that non-payment of the Poll Tax is a civil not a criminal offence.

Why is it important for non-payers to turn up at court for personal hearings?

The Poll Tax non-payment courts have been set up in much the same way as the rate-default courts; that is, large numbers of people are summonsed to a single court session on the expectation that the vast majority of people won't turn up. By exercising our right to a personal hearing, we have the opportunity to challenge the legality of the tax, and also to delay the Poll Tax recovery process. This tactic has proven very effective throughout the country, as can be seen by the huge backlog of court cases!

What happens when I get a Liability Order?

Along with the liability order, the council will also send you a 'Summary Of Means' form. **Make it as difficult as possible for them to get the information!** The council is hinting that it may take you back to court if you do not fill it in. In Coventry a staggering 12,000 have not been sent back. People have been prepared to risk a fine of up to 100 pounds and a criminal conviction, and yet so far the council has taken no action. Perhaps they're short of Court time! However if this is not a risk you're prepared to take, then you can return an incomplete 'Summary of Means' form together with a



list of questions. But whatever you do - don't fill in your employers name and address, or where you are employed.

But what happens if they send the bailiffs round to my house?

Very little. In Broxtowe & Rushcliffe where private bailiffs have been in use since September no bailiffs have got past the front door. In a number of instances bailiffs have been chased off by local anti-poll tax groups, although in the vast majority of cases the bailiffs haven't even attempted to gain entry into people's homes. In the City of Nottingham the council is using its own bailiffs, but they only have 3 to get round 60,000 non-payers! In fact bailiffs have very few powers; they can't force entry - so keep your doors and windows locked; nor can they take

items that you don't own, are on HP/credit, or items recently sold to someone else.

Could I get into trouble at work for not paying the Poll Tax?

No. With the exception of the police force non-payment is not an employment issue and therefore bosses have no right to use it against you at work. However one way that Councils can recover the Poll Tax is by 'Attachment of Earnings' orders. This instructs your employer to deduct a small proportion of your salary every week/month to pay off your Poll Tax bill. Employers can make a charge of up to 1 pound per deduction to cover administrative costs.

Attempts to arrest wages should be resisted. Contact your trade union if you think you are at risk.

Could I end up in jail?

So far only one person has been jailed for non-payment of the Poll Tax. He received a 21 day sentence, but due to pressure from the anti-poll tax movement was released after only 14 days. Jailing someone for non-payment is a very lengthy process; firstly, the Council has to prove that you deliberately didn't pay the poll tax (this is harder than it sounds); secondly, the courts are only trying to send violent offenders to prison at the moment, because the prisons are so overcrowded; thirdly, most Councils don't want to send anyone to prison (it makes them unpopular, & doesn't bring them in any money); fourthly, if you can afford to pay them you can clear the debt at the last moment - even waiting until after you've been sentenced; finally, rather than imprison you the court can reduce your debt, or accept an offer of payment through instalments

If you've started paying - Stop paying!
If you've paid this year - Don't pay next year!

JOIN THE RESISTANCE

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANTI-POLL TAX GROUP NOW!

LOCAL CONTACTS

Arnold
Aspley
Basford
Beeston
Bestwood Park
Bilborough
Browtove
Bulwell
Carlton
Central
Clifton
Forest Fields
Hyson Green
Gedling
Hucknall
Ilkeston
Lenton
Meadows
Netherfield
Radford
Sherwood