

**FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN**



**ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN**

**CONTACT:**

**Box 5, Basics, 42 Foxhall Road  
Forest Fields**

**Box 5, Hyson Green Wholefoods,  
Radford Road**

# FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

## MEMBERSHIP CARD

We are a community group fighting the poll tax by building a local campaign of mass non-payment. We also support attempts to influence council workers and councillors, to persuade them not to implement the tax.

We are linked to anti-poll tax groups in Nottingham and across the country, and "twinned" with Prestonfields and District Anti - Poll Tax Campaign in Edinburgh.

473

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

MEMBERSHIP NO.....



NAME

GOOZILLER

**Fight the Poll Tax**  
**DON'T COLLECT**  
**- DON'T PAY**

ORGANISATION. UFO. LINSON GROUP  
(HAMSTER LINSON PERSON)



# TWINNED AGAINST THE POLL TAX



Anti-poll tax groups: establish direct links with an anti-poll tax group in Scotland. Learn from their experiences, share ideas and information. Exchange speakers, local news and press clippings. Meet other people who are actively involved in community campaigning, and gain strength through solidarity with them. No fees/donations needed. Send your group's contact address to:

**TWINS (ENGLISH SECTION)  
BOX 5  
HIZIKI  
15 GOOSEGATE  
NOTTINGHAM**



# R E S I S T A N C E !

We all know why we're here today in Manchester. People from all over the country are assembled here because they oppose the Poll Tax. Many of us are involved in anti-Poll Tax groups in our own areas (or should be).

\*We oppose it because it will shift the burden of taxation to an even greater degree onto the shoulders of the working class. Maggie Thatcher will have the same Poll Tax demand as a you or me.

\*We oppose it because it is a back-door attack on services, as local Councils will be forced to increase the Poll Tax or slash services. (The Poll Tax demand for the first year has been kept down in order to ease its implementation, but it's set to rise after they've got the foot in the door.)

\*And lastly we oppose it because it is an instrument of social control which will provide the State with detailed information on every adult in the country (i.e. an I.D. card even if you don't want to go to the football match!).

The point is how are we going to defeat the Poll Tax? Can we rely on the Labour Party and the TUC?

The Labour Party say they'll repeal the Poll Tax when they take power. It's nice to know they plan to change one or two of Thatcher's policies. (What a pity they plan to keep some of her anti-union laws though, in case Kinnock needs to use them in future!) The fact is we can't rely on politicians or trade union bureaucrats to deliver the goods in this or any other battle.

Now the campaign against the Poll Tax so far hasn't exactly been the biggest thing since the Peasants Revolt. Nevertheless, the implementation of the Poll Tax hasn't been as smooth as the Tories would have liked either. A Cabinet decision is imminent to scale down the Poll Tax demand in the first year to the tune of £30 per individual, because it's proving such an electoral liability for the Tories...



## SCOTLAND LEADS THE WAY

In Scotland the deadline for registration has long since passed, and yet over 100,000 Scots have managed to avoid registration altogether. The £200 fine which was supposed to follow the initial £50 fine for refusing to register has been shelved owing to the backlog of cases. Council meetings and Court sittings have been picketed by anti-Poll Tax activists. Crowds have successfully turned away bailiffs. Some workplaces have pledged to strike if arrestments are made from the wages of workers who refuse to pay.

This is the way to sink the Tory flagship, through DIRECT ACTION, not by putting our trust in opportunists like Kinnock.

\*We have to build anti-Poll Tax groups in every town and city. Every street and housing estate should be organized.

\*Ignore the Registration Form totally. Few people in Scotland have been fined so far, and those that have are people who entered into correspondence with the Registration Office as a delaying tactic.

\*The Poll Tax could not be implemented if workers refused to co-operate in its introduction. When NALGO local authority workers go on strike in the next few weeks over their pay claim they will disrupt the Poll Tax machine. We should be doing this anyway, as a matter of principle.

C A N ' T      P A Y  
W O N ' T      P A Y !



DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT (anarcho-syndicalists)  
North East Region: Box DAM, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate,  
Nottingham.



# THE POLL TAX: A STRATEGY TO WIN

Today's conference shows the potential for a mass working class offensive against the Poll Tax. Yet what is lacking is a strategy that can win. We are faced with a majority on the left who insist on maintaining a blind faith in the need for left-labour councillors to provide the movement's leadership and, in so doing, railroading the struggle up a political and strategic blind alley.

## LABOUR COUNCILS: CAN'T FIGHT, WON'T FIGHT!

Calls to "pressurise" Labour councils into refusing to co-operate with the registration, implementation or collection of the tax because "it is they who have the power to launch ...activity and who are running away from their responsibility" miss one basic point: Municipal councils, as bodies of the State, never have and never will share the interests of the working class. Indeed, in both 1984 and 1985 a "Militant" led Liverpool Labour council ended up both increasing rates and implementing Tory cuts. Their much-trumpeted fight against ratecapping ending in legal wrangling, the threat of redundancies and capitulation; all to stay within the law. Similarly Labour councils across the country have responded to Government cuts by introducing so-called "Creative Accounting" in the form of workforce and spending cuts and rent increases. In the fight against the Poll Tax will Labour councils do anything but sell the Working Class down the river? At this moment every Labour council in England, Scotland and Wales is duly implementing the tax. **When it comes to the choice between breaking the law or breaking the poor Labour councils will always choose the latter.**

## HEAD-ON COLLISION

As Anarchists we hold no illusions in the Labour leaders' "responsibility" towards the working class and our struggles. Rather than lobbying councillors to persuade them to lead our cause we must simply expose their inability to play a truly significant part in our struggle. Instead of looking for leadership from above we aim to **build** a campaign rooted in the working class. Our strategy is not abstract or utopian; it is based on hard experience of struggles led to defeat by bureaucratic, class-collaborationist leaders. This is what we need to do:

- DON'T REGISTER:** In areas where registration is incomplete a campaign of non-registration on a community and workplace basis can still be used to raise consciousness and build support for the struggle.
- DON'T PAY:** If non-payment is to succeed it must be a mass campaign built street by street, estate by estate. When necessary physical defence of communities against bailiffs and snoopers must also be organised.
- DON'T COLLECT:** Non-implementation by all workers involved in the collection process must be organised for and backed-up with strike action, official if possible unofficial if necessary.
- GENERALISED STRIKE ACTION:** As soon as non-payees are taken to court or workers are victimised political strikes must be launched throughout the entire labour movement.
- BUILD ANTI POLL TAX COMMITTEES:** Local anti-poll tax groups must be organised into delegate committees which can mobilise the forces of non-compliance. Only an independent campaign can avoid being derailed by the Labour and TUC leaders.



**Anarchist Workers Group**  
**P.O. Box B20 Huddersfield HD1 1XS**



# BEWARE

THESE MEN ARE POLL TAX BAILIFFS



DON'T  
LET  
THEM  
IN

WHITE VW VAN 5974 HUE. OR.  
BLUE Vauxhall Nova. H206 B9Y  
IF YOU SEE THESE VEHICLES RING.  
MIKE/LESLIE 257414. ALLISON/STUART 222153  
JOHN/KARON 228201 JESSICA. 431473



## WHO SAYS THE POLL TAX HAS BEEN ABOLISHED ?

Your local authority will argue that it :-

Has to issue bills.

Has to take non-payers to court.

Has to send in the bailiffs.

Has to imprison non-payers.

because it is the law, and they are law abiding.

A recent High court ruling has confirmed that computer evidence is hearsay evidence and as such is inadmissible in court. The Councils backed by the Magistrates have for the past two years been cynically manipulating the law to suit themselves. Issuing liability orders contray to their own laws.

For once the Government has acted quickly. They have changed the law to suit themselves. If they can't win the game, they change the rules.

Computer evidence is now admissible in court.

Councils now have 6 years to try and get you to court.

Broxtowe Borough council have employed 4 different firms of Bailiffs in a futile attempt to intimidate non-payers. The firms being M A Julious & Co, Gaults, John Crilley's and Chambers & Co. Nationally non-payment has increased from 14 to 18 million. In Scotland the non-payment figure stands at 56%.

The most blatant piece of intimidation to date comes from Gaults. They say in their letters "Our Bailiffs will attend your premises with transport and enforce the Liability Order by removal and sale of your goods, in your absence, if necessary". They can't force entry and an injunction has been taken out against Gaults to make them change the deliberately misleading wording.

Both the Government and local Councils claim that collection of the Poll tax is proceeding smoothly after earlier administration problems. Consider the facts :-

The Poll tax will be abolished.

Non-payment is on the increase.

Councils now have 6 years to try and get you to court.

The law has had to be changed with regard to computer evidence.

Broxtowe Council have had to employ four different firms of Bailiffs.

The misleading wording on letters sent by Gaults.

Everybody knows that Bailiffs can't force entry and as such they tend to leave empty handed. Sometimes however this isn't always true. A Beeston woman was visited by a John Crilley Bailiff who claimed he was from the council and wanted to talk to her about the Poll tax. The woman suspected he was really a Bailiff and told him where to stuff the Poll tax. Ignoring the woman's warning that her dogs were loose he lent over her gate to try and unlock it. Only to be almost dragged over by her two quick thinking dogs. This Bailiff was very lucky to leave with any hands at all. The police have since confirmed that no action will be taken against either the woman or her dogs.

OUR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT, GET INVOLVED



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE A LIFE OF RILEY?

**may 91**

WHILST CAMPAIGNING FOR  
RE ELECTION TO NOTTM  
CITY COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR  
JOHN RILEY TOLD VOTERS  
HE WOULD NOT VOTE IN  
FAVOUR OF COMMITTING  
ANYONE TO PRISON FOR  
NON PAYMENT OF THE  
POLL TAX

John Riley (LAB)  
CLIFTON WEST



**july 91**

AFTER RE ELECTION AS  
CITY COUNCILLOR, JOHN  
RILEY ON THE 22 JUNE  
VOTED IN FAVOUR OF  
COMMITTAL TO PRISON  
PROCEEDINGS TO TAKE  
PLACE AGAINST NON  
PAYERS

## CLIFTON ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN *statement*

COUNCILLOR JOHN RILEY CLEARLY CANNOT BE TRUSTED, HE HAS VOTED IN FAVOUR OF COMMITTING PEOPLE TO PRISON FOR NON PAYMENT OF THE POLL TAX AS SOON AS HE GOT THEIR VOTE, AND HONEST PEOPLE OF CLIFTON WILL NOT FORGET THIS.

HE HAS VOTED IN FAVOUR OF COMMITTALS DESPITE OUR LETTER OF MAY OF THIS YEAR, POINTING OUT THAT UNDER THE GOVT PRACTICE NOTES, IF IT IS NOT COST EFFECTIVE TO PURSUE A POLL TAX DEBT FURTHER, THEN THERE ARE NO LEGAL OBLIGATIONS ON THE COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS TO DO SO.

IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IF ANYONE IS COMMITTED TO PRISON, WHEN RELEASED THEY DO NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY OUTSTANDING DEBT, SO HOW CAN A PRISON SENTENCE BE COST EFFECTIVE COUNCILLOR RILEY?

WHILST COUNCILLOR RILEY HAS ALREADY VOTED IN FAVOUR OF COMMITTAL HEARINGS, HE ALSO HAS THE POWER ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER CONCILLORS TO STOP THEM. WE URGE EVERYONE WHO READS THIS LEAFLET TO TELEPHONE JOHN RILEY, AND PROTEST AT HIS DECISION AND FORCE HIM TO CHANGE HIS MIND.

HE DOES NOT HAVE TO JAIL ANYBODY FOR NON PAYMENT, AND HE REPEATABLY STATES "THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO."

WELL COUNCILLOR RILEY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO PREVENT IT DO SO.

WRITE OR TELEPHONE YOUR PROTEST TO  
COUNCILLOR JOHN RILEY  
11 LEABROOK CLOSE  
CLIFTON NOTTM  
TEL 213054

THANK YOU

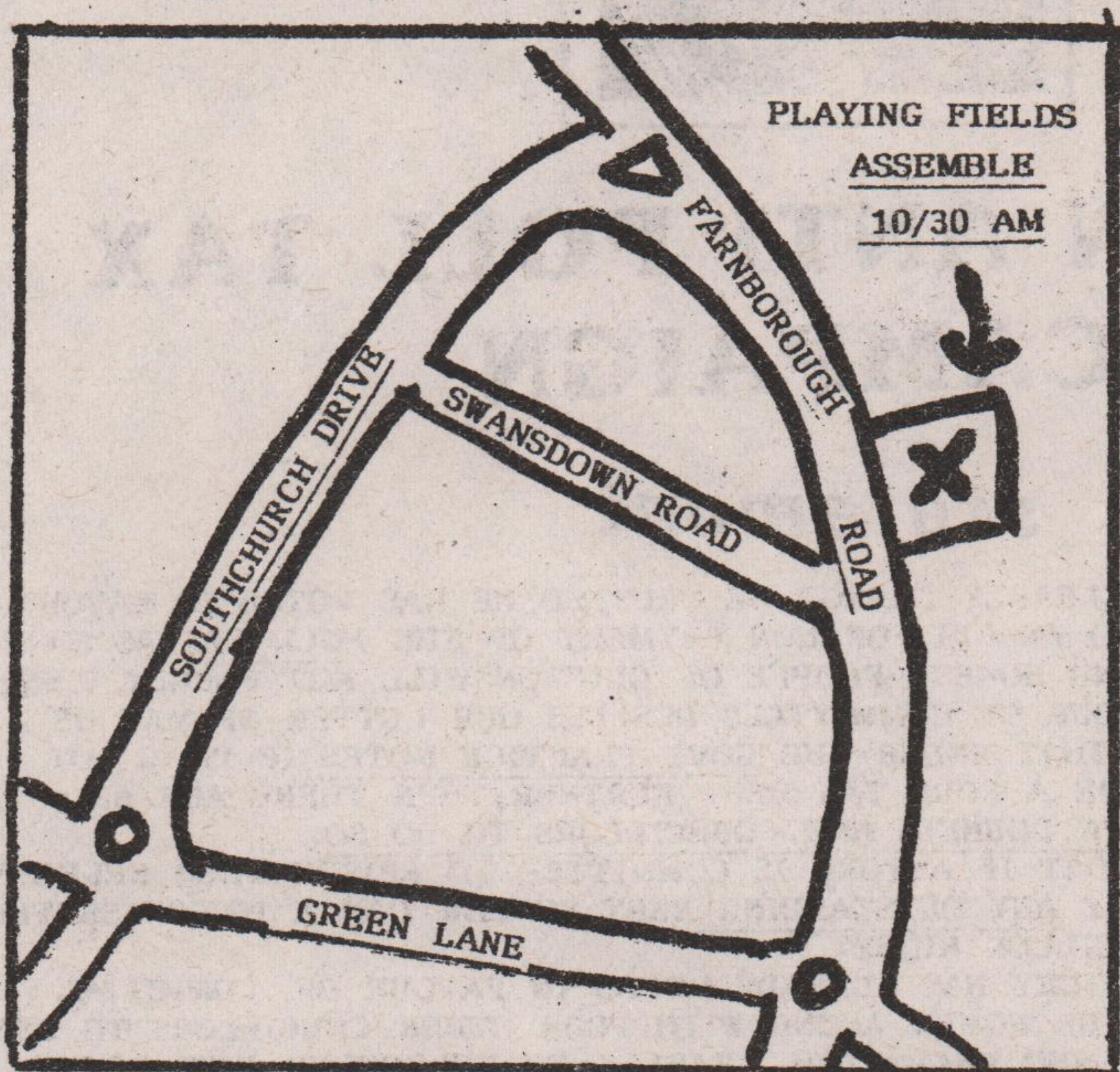


# LOBBY THE COUNCILLORS

LOBBY OF THE HARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING/ 30 8 91 AT 9 30AM ONWARDS  
NOTTM CITY COUNCIL HOUSE (MARKET SQUARE)  
THIS COMMITTEE HAS THE POWER TO PREVENT COMMITTAL TO PRISON HEARINGS  
IN NOTTINGHAM CITY,  
ATTEND THIS LOBBY MAKE THE COUNCILLORS WORK FOR THE PEOPLE THAT  
ELECTED THEM.

## CLIFTON DEMO SAT 7TH SEPT 1991 *assemble*

*10 30 am for 11am start  
playing fields farnborough road*



### *statement*

WE ARE DEMONSTRATING  
TODAY BECAUSE THE  
NOTTM CITY COUNCIL  
HAS VOTED TO PROCEED  
WITH "COMMITTAL TO  
PRISON HEARINGS", EVEN  
THOUGH THEY KNOW THAT  
THIS WILL BRING IN NO  
MONEY.

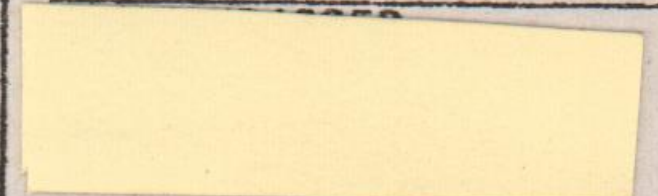
AND MAY ADD TO THE  
COST OF NEXT YEARS  
POLL TAX BILLS.

WE ASK THE PEOPLE OF  
CLIFTON, BOTH PAYERS  
AND NON PAYERS TO  
SUPPORT THIS DEMO, AND  
SHOW THE CITY COUNCIL  
PARTICULARLY THE  
CLIFTON COUNCILLORS,  
RILEY, WHITE, GIBSON,  
AND CHARLESWORTH OUR

DISGUST AT THEIR DECISION, AND DEMAND THAT THEY STOP PURSUING THIS  
COURSE OF ACTION FOR A TAX THAT EVEN THE PRIME MINISTER MAJOR  
STATES, "IS UNFAIR UNWORKABLE AND UNCOLLECTABLE".  
AND TO US UNWANTED.

**JOIN THE DEMO  
VOICE YOUR  
OPINION**

FOR MORE INFO PHONE





## RUSHCLIFFE AGAINST THE POLL TAX.

WELCOME TO THE DEMONSTRATION!

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR ALL THE  
POLL TAX PRISONERS.

On the subject of support, Soroosh Ayandeh, who was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for wilfully refusing to pay his poll tax, is not receiving much mail lately; in fact, only 5 letters a day. SO GET WRITING!

Address: Political Prisoner

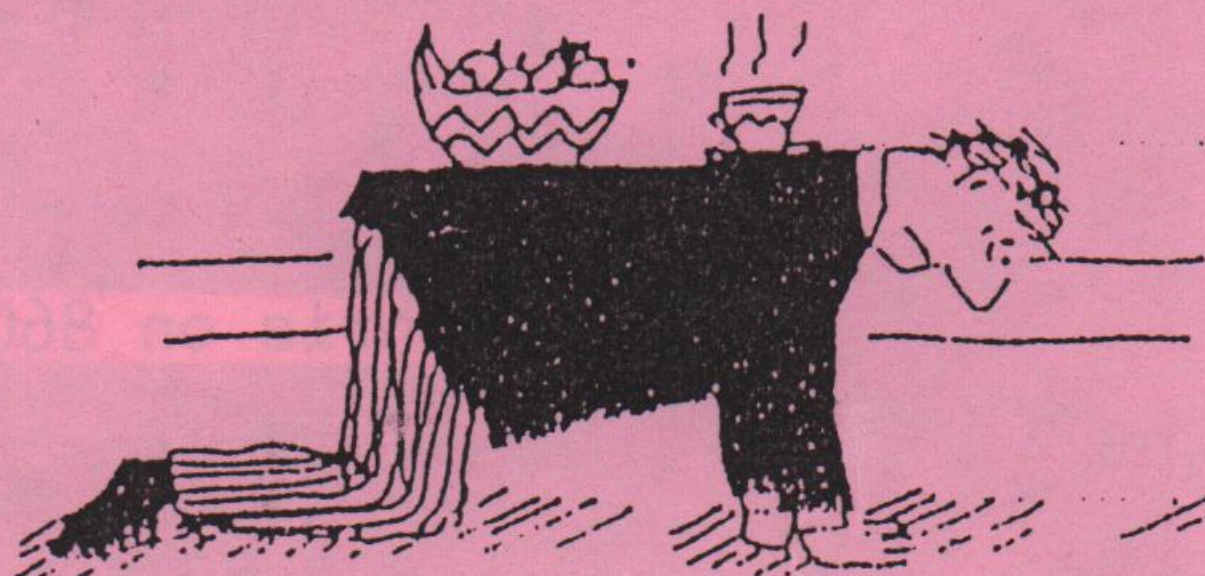
Soroosh Ayandeh JJ0 573

H.M. Prison

Greetwell Road

Lincoln LN2 4BD.

A collection will be taken on the demonstration. This will go towards Rushcliffe Against the Poll Tax's costs for the legal visit by Ward & Griffiths solicitors to Soroosh on the 29th July, and towards the cost of Tony Tiso's appeal.



101 USES FOR A DEAD COUNCILLOR

Nº 12: The Coffee Table.

If you want to express your disgust at Soroosh's imprisonment, then why not tell the people responsible? PRESSURE:

Rushcliffe Borough Council Leader, Cllr. Ray Cook tel. 311032;  
Chair of Finance & General Purposes Cttee., Cllr. Buckley tel.  
06077 4419; Mayor, Reg Gardner, tel. 231453;  
Chief Executive & Treasurer, John Saxton tel. 233876;  
Chief Financial Officer, Jean Hudson tel. 231032.

P.T.O.



## LEGAL BACK- UP.

Anyway, have a good time! If you get arrested or see someone else getting arrested, then either tell a steward or phone [redacted] (legal support number). If you are arrested, say nothing until a solicitor arrives. The march is covered by Ward & Griffiths Solicitors. Our thanks to them for all their help.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 7th August, 2.30pm : Mary and Renee in Guildhall Court for Section 5(POA) and driving charge

7.30pm : Rushcliffe Against the Poll Tax meeting, the Test Match(Stumps).

Wednesday 21st August, 7.30pm : Soroosh's Solidarity Social, Test Match Pub, West Bridgford.

Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August

: Anti-Poll Tax day-trip to Skegness (phone [redacted] 975 for details)

Saturday 7th September

: Nationwide Prison Picket called by TSDC & supported by Rushcliffe Against the Poll Tax - picket at Lincoln Prison. Keep in touch for more details.

CONTACTS:

[redacted] 0815

p&p by Rushcliffe Against the Poll Tax.



"I have seen the misery and suffering that the Poll Tax has brought to ordinary people. Therefore I decided to campaign against this evil law.

The amount of Poll Tax I have been asked to pay has never been the question. It is the very principle of Poll Tax which I have always been against - the principle which expects poor people to pay the same as millionaires. If the court can print money, we can't.

I refuse to pay because I have seen the suffering it has inflicted on the poor, the sick and the elderly. I have seen people, including pregnant women, intimidated by medieval laws such as the use of bailiffs to try to frighten them into paying. These laws are barbaric and unjust.

The government itself has now denounced the Poll Tax; yet bailiffs are still pushing letters through doors. The tax is now discredited, yet the council are still taking people to court for it.

I am refusing to pay the Poll Tax in support of all those who cannot afford to pay but have nevertheless been persecuted for it.

(The Magistrate asked to discuss 'means')

That is irrelevant. I am refusing to pay a penny of this vicious tax. I have not stood against the Poll Tax because of the amount imposed on me. I have stood because I am completely against the Poll Tax being taken off innocent people. I will continue to do so, considering the law that was passed by the government was later denounced by it.

(The Magistrate offered Soroosh 'not a few hours, but days or possibly weeks' to reconsider)

I do not need any more time. My mind is made up. I do not wish to pay any of this evil tax because of the suffering and poverty it has brought innocent people

I know what is the consequence of today and what I am saying.

I am quite prepared to accept the consequences.

I would rather lose my right arm than pay your Poll Tax."

Magistrate : "I understand the point you are making and the stand you are taking over this, and I respect you for it. Nevertheless you give me no alternative but to sentence you to 3 months imprisonment."

He dismissed the council's application for costs.



## Soroosh's Song

A stranger came from a far land  
And made his home with us  
Tall, dark and handsome and silver-tongued  
He walked among our streets  
And he saw the people who struggled,  
The poor, the homeless and cold,  
The lonely, the weary parents,  
The children and the old.

And he worked with his strong brown hands  
But he thought with his head and his heart  
And he freely gave of his time and love  
Asking nothing for his part.  
And when the people suffered,  
Attacked from every side,  
He didn't turn away from them,  
He didn't run and hide.

He stood up, brave and strong,  
And said 'They'll have to take me too'  
And willingly gave his freedom up  
In defence of me and you.  
He gave away his Summer days,  
The green leaves and the sun,  
For he wouldn't take what couldn't be  
Enjoyed by everyone.

But though they take him from us  
His spirit fuels our fight  
We have his strength to warm us  
His brightness in the night.  
So we'll stand tall and stand together  
And we'll fight on to the end  
And will proudly tell our children :  
Soroosh Ayandeh was our friend.



# POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE POLL TAX

## SOROOSH AYANDEH



Lincoln Prison

18th July 1991 - 17th October 1991

**Why did he have to go to jail on behalf  
of millions on non-payers?  
Where does the campaign go from here?**

**Come and welcome Soroosh home  
Hear what he has to say**

**THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER**

from 8pm

**THE YORKER**

Mansfield Road

**NO POLL TAX! NO JAILINGS!  
AMNESTY FOR NON-PAYERS  
AND ALL POLL TAX PRISONERS**



**GOING?..... GOING?.....**

**POLL TAX HERE  
TILL 1994**

This week it was announced that the Poll Tax is unlikely to be replaced by 1993, as promised.

That it will remain for at least a further year.

Even one more of this despised, discredited and unworkable tax is too long!

It must go now!

This year more people than ever are not paying.

Nottingham has only managed to collect 3.6% of this year's money!

500 million pounds may have to be written off in England and Wales.

If we all refuse to pay a penny the Poll Tax will be written off long before 1994.

**WE CAN WIN. WE WILL WIN.**

**OH NO IT'S NOT!**

**.....gone!**

**CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY?  
DON'T PAY! NO WAY!**



# POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRITAIN

*We are now fighting from inside*



*You keep fighting outside*

The struggle against the Poll Tax by non-payers up and down the country reaches new dimensions and causes havoc amongst those most in need.

From a 23 year old unemployed father of 3 jailed for 14 days to a 72 year old pensioner with an invalid wife who was jailed by South Tyneside Labour Council for 2 weeks (almost losing his eyesight through lack of medication).

On July 18th, Rushcliffe Borough Council made another attempt at inflicting a dint in the armour of the non-payers' campaign by threatening Soroosh Ayan-deh and 5 others with imprisonment.

This attempt completely backfired, since Soroosh stood firm on behalf of more than 10,000 people in Rushcliffe who have not paid, or are behind through no fault of their own.

He denounced the tax and its implementation in any shape or form.

The magistrate almost pleaded with him to take 'not days but weeks' to reconsider his stance. But Soroosh kept the promise he has always made to the poor, elderly, single-parents, low-waged and all those hardest hit by this vicious tax. He told the Magistrate he would rather lose his right arm than pay one penny of a tax which has brought misery to millions.

For this Soroosh was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

**Saturday 3rd August is your chance  
to show your disgust at these barbaric acts.**



**DEMONSTRATION**

**SATURDAY  
3RD AUGUST**

Assemble:

**10.30am TRENT EMBANKMENT**  
(outside the Aviary)

March through the streets  
of West Bridgford

We demand

**ABOLITION OF THE POLL TAX NOW!  
THOSE WITH NO INCOME PAY NO TAXES!  
AMNESTY FOR ALL NON-PAYERS!  
FREE ALL ANTI-POLL TAX PRISONERS NOW!**

Contact:

**RUSHCLIFFE ANTI-POLL TAX UNION**

Soroosh & Jaco

Mary



## P O L L   T A X

### TO THE NON-PAYERS OF RUSHCLIFFE

During the past 5 weeks we have had the honour of having a second firm of bailiffs (Gaults) dealing with non-payers in this area, advancing terror and intimidation tactics used by A A Johnson who have been harrassing non-payers since last September.

We have received letters containing not only threats of forceful removal of your goods (which is completely illegal and has not yet occurred), but also threats of imprisonment. Even a copy of a newspaper article relating to 3 non-payers who were facing possible jail sentences has been attached to further intimidate non-payers, whose only crime is not having the money to comply with this vicious tax.

The fact is that these bailiffs are only Council employees whose powers are very limited.

They can only deliver threatening letters (and they'd rather send them by post than hand deliver)

They cannot force entry.

They cannot value goods by looking through windows.

They have absolutely no power of arresting people, let alone sending them to jail.

They totally rely on you getting scared!

The Council has spent £18,800 on bailiff fees. That is well over 700 visits to terrorise innocent people to no avail.

After 2 or 3 attempts made by these despicable letters they return to notify the Council of their failure.

If the Council decides to pursue the matter further they can apply for a 'committal hearing'.

Even then, by going to court and explaining your circumstances, they can only order you to pay so much a week according to your income.

So far only 3 people in this country have gone to jail for wilful refusal to pay this hated tax.

2 spent 17 days between them. The third is spending 14 days from February 21st.

Under the rates an average of 400 people a year were jailed as a result of non-payment!



Rushcliffe Council admits that they have sent out a further 3920 summonses in February alone. Which means that after 11 months in an area such as Rushcliffe there is strong opposition to this tax.

Well over 50,000 people in Nottm. City have not yet paid a penny, and another 80,000 are in default.

On the front page of the Recorder (28.2.91) City Council leader Betty Higgins appealed to non-payers who could afford to do so, showing the degree and depth of resentment of this hated tax.

She now even admits that

**'the Poll Tax should be scrapped immediately'.**

Dear non-payers, it is thanks to your efforts that these councillors are beginning to pay attention to you. We must continue to stand firm, increase our activity and encourage others to join our ranks in defence of past, present and future generations.

It is our basic needs and democratic rights which are facing extinction.

**Lets stand tall and stand together !**

**Unity is our strength !**

**Together we will defeat the Poll Tax !**

Dates of public meetings/phone nos. for enquiries :

Stumps Bar, Test Match pub, West Bridgford :

7.30 p.m. March 6th, March 20th & fortnightly

Methodist Church Hall, Cotgrave :

7.30 p.m. March 12th, March 26th & fortnightly



# *WHY THE POLL TAX IS AN ISSUE AT THE WORKPLACE*

Ever wondered why you, on your wages, have to pay the same poll tax as Tiny Roland (Director of Lonrho), on an income of 1,317,000 pounds p.a. Precisely because the poll tax was designed to redistribute wealth from the poor to the rich! And that's why 14 million people are refusing to pay this unfair tax across England, Wales & Scotland. The Nottingham area, according to the Government's own figures, has a non payment figure of 60,000; a statistic which doesn't include people who've paid a little but have now stopped or those who haven't even registered to pay!

The poll tax isn't just about squeezing money out of those least able to pay, but also about cutting the amount of central government grants previously available to councils. This means that the services we all rely on (schools, meals on wheels, sheltered housing, road repairs, etc.) are seriously at risk. Locally this can be seen with Notts County Council threatening to close down 13 old people's homes and to slash the jobs of 200 teachers whilst the City Council proposes to shut down well-used community facilities such as the International Community Centre used by 180 groups! These are a direct result of the poll tax legislation and central government's own earlier cuts and certainly not because of people refusing to pay poll tax!

## So what has the Poll Tax to do with you and your work?

If you're a council worker then the links are obvious - the poll tax threatens not only the service you provide but your job as well! But the poll tax affects all working people. Non-payment by individuals should be back by support from the trade union movement - it is exactly this collective action which has always been used so well to defend the interests of ordinary working people.

A practical way for a trade union branch to support non-payers in the workplace is by opposing "attachment of earnings orders" (more commonly known as wage deductions) through negotiations and actions. Even if your workplace does not have a trade union, why not get together with the other workers to organise against the threat of wage deductions and around the Poll Tax generally. To start a workplace campaign why not:

- \* Hold a workplace meeting on the poll tax and wage deductions. (You might be surprised to hear how many other people are also refusing to pay!).
- \* Invite a speaker from your local anti-poll tax group. See the list below for contacts.
- \* If you are a member of a trade union, check what your union branch policy on the Poll Tax is (talk to your shop steward or branch officer) and if necessary look how to improve it!
- \* If you and your workmates are under threat of wage deductions approach your trade union immediately and ensure they demand that the employer refuses



to make these deductions for the council.

- \* Remember - your employer must only make "reasonable attempts" to arrest your wages. The threat of industrial action may give grounds for them not to implement wage arrestments.

**REFUSING TO PAY YOUR POLL TAX IS NOT  
A CRIMINAL OFFENCE &  
NEITHER DOES YOUR EMPLOYER HAVE A RIGHT TO  
DISMISS OR DISCIPLINE YOU FOR NOT PAYING IT!**

### LOCAL CONTACTS

South Notts Against The Poll Tax (SNAPT)  
06654

If you're not sure which group might cover your  
area then contact the  
South Notts Against The Poll Tax (SNAPT)  
co-ordinator [redacted] 06654 or  
[redacted] ham, Trade Union Liaison Officer,  
Notts Federation on [redacted]



# HAVE YOU BEEN TO COURT AND HAD A LIABILITY ORDER?

## What is a Liability Order?

A liability order entitles the council to take action against you to get the poll tax.

## After Court

You will get your liability order through the post together with a form for you to fill in & send back to the council. The council will ask where you work, how much you earn. etc. (They will also ask about your partner's earnings).

## If You Send The Form Back

Ask lots of questions, accidentally miss things out - don't tell them where you work as they will then try and take money from your wages.

## Or You Can Join The Rest Of Us Who Are Ignoring The Form

The council has got powers to fine you if you don't send the form back but no council has yet fined anyone.

## What Happens Then?

The council can choose to use bailiffs - but there are only 12 of them with 60,000 non-payers in Nottingham!

## Will I Know The Bailiffs Are Coming?

You will probably be forwarned that the bailiffs intend to visit you. At this point you ought to contact your Anti-Poll Tax Group (phone numbers overleaf).

## But The Bailiffs Can Also Call Unexpected:

Bailiffs cannot break into your home - they can only enter if you door is unlocked or a window is open.

SO IT'S EASY - DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR TO THEM - KEEP YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS LOCKED.

Bailiffs might try and see what you've got by looking through your windows SO IF YOU GO OUT - CLOSE YOUR CURTAIN!

If you have 2 doors make sure those you share with don't leave the main outer door, unlocked.

Even if the bailiffs do get in (but only if you let them) there are certain things they cannot take, e.g. anything on H.P. or anything that doesn't belong to you or your partner.

**REMEMBER-**

**DON'T OPEN THE DOOR**

**- Check who it is before you let anyone in**

**WE WON'T BE INTIMIDATED**

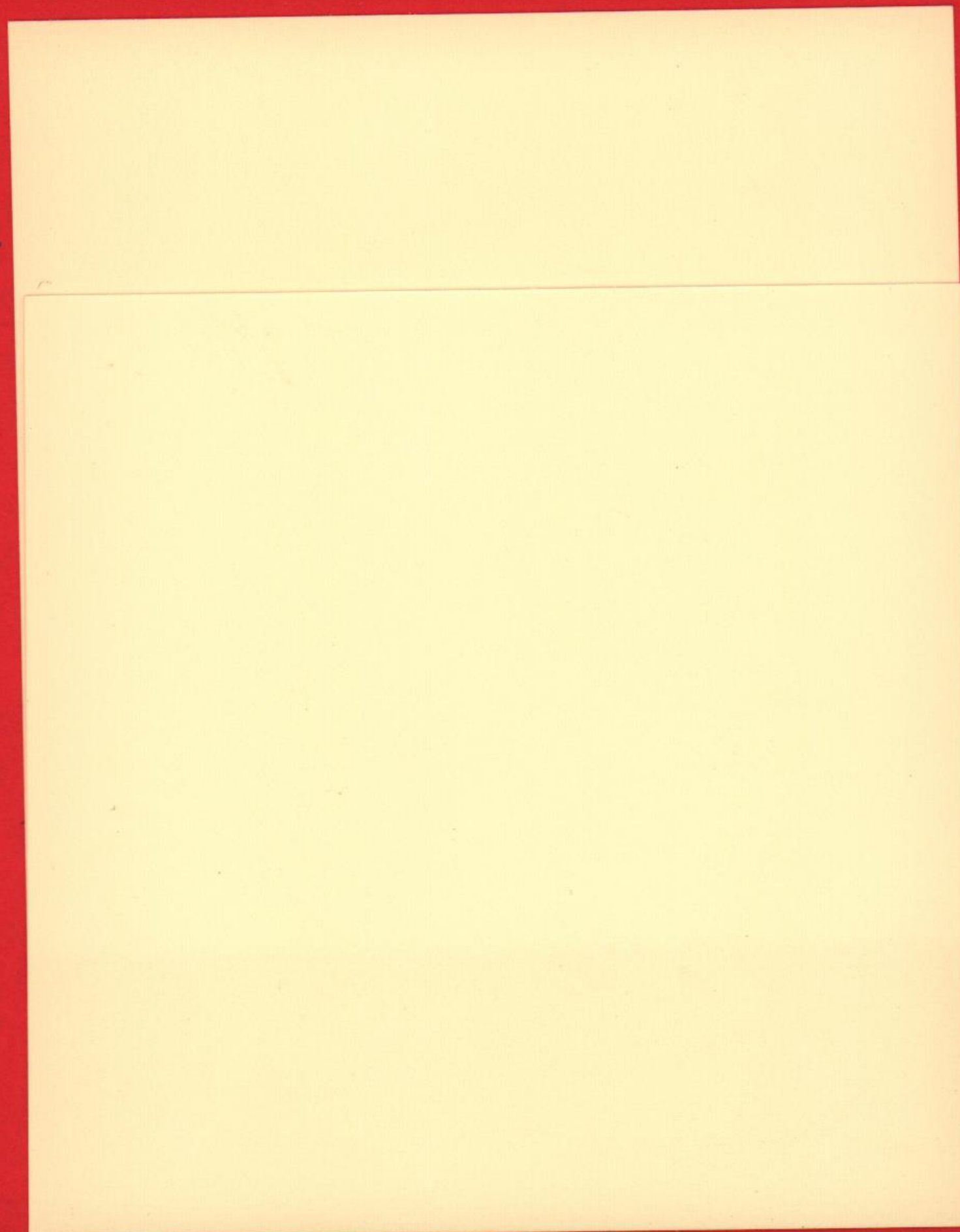
**WE'RE STILL NOT PAYING**



If the poll tax bailiffs come to your house  
contact any one of these numbers.

These are people who can give you advice  
on what to do and how to beat the bailiffs.  
They can also get local people to your house  
to stop the bailiffs from  
trying to get in and intimidating you

If you get no answer, then try the next one



**Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign**  
**have regular meetings every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm**  
**at the Indian Community Centre, Rawson Street**  
**(just past Noel Street Baths). Everyone welcome.**



# WE'RE STILL NOT PAYING THE POLL TAX

**MARCH & RALLY AGAINST THE POLL TAX**

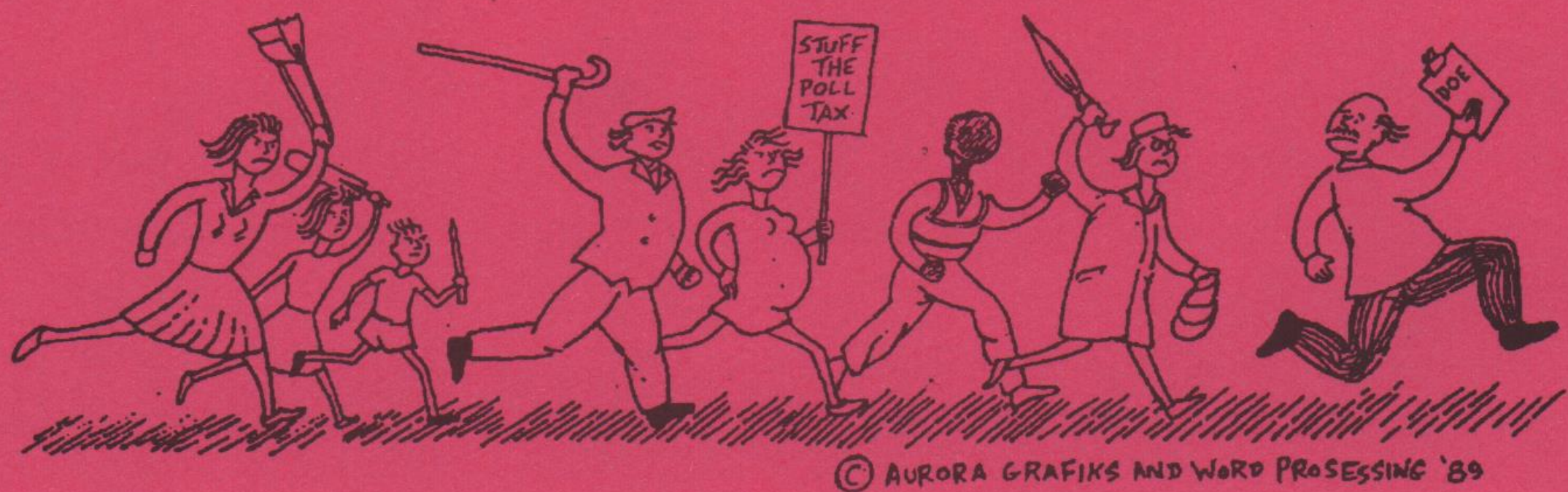
## SATURDAY 23RD FEB

Meet: Forest Recreation Ground

at 10.00am

Rally: Market Square

at 11.30am



### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:-

Dave Nellist M.P.

Brian Wright (Imprisoned for refusing to pay)

And Others.

**Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign**

## **DISCO**

**INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Rawson Street**

**SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 8 'til late**



# CAN'T PAY! WON'T PAY! DON'T PAY!!

Mrs Thatcher went, but the Poll Tax remains! We were promised a Poll Tax review - and Heseltine was brought in to do it - but so what! John Major has stated that the review won't be complete for another 15 months at least, and they won't deliver anything until after the next election. Even then the superficial changes - a weeny bit here, a teeny bit there - will make little difference.

Despite the pressure non-payers have been under - by the courts, from the media - there are still over 60,000 who are either in arrears or who haven't yet paid a penny! The campaign is still going strong.

The Government is trying to push the poll tax onto the sidelines. The media have tried to relegate it to the back pages of the press. But it remains! A vicious, unfair attack on ordinary people throughout this country.

In March, a new Poll Tax rate is being set in Nottingham. It promises to be at least 50 pounds higher! "Our" Labour Council, will try to blame non-payers for this increase, just as they will the round of service cuts being planned.

But the blame for service cuts and Poll Tax increases lies squarely with the Government who introduced it and the Councils who are implementing it. We've seen that there's money around when they need it.

Come on the march  
and show the Government and the Council  
that we won't be intimidated.

## We are not paying the Poll Tax!!!

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*For more information about how to fight the Poll Tax,  
contact*

*or come along to our regular Tuesday meetings at the Indian Community Centre,  
Rawson Street (just past Noel St. Baths), 7.30pm.*



# COUNCIL TAKES POLL TAX

## REFUSENIKS TO COURT



## AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Show your support TODAY to the protesters as the City Council takes them to Court for refusing to pay this unfair tax! Already the Council is threatening more cutbacks on top of the job losses already squeezed out following the contracts "won" in competition with the private sector. The next step is for the Council to stop money from wages or send in the bailiffs. A fine way for a Labour Council to behave - leeching off the poorest of its local workers & residents! We should be looking to refuse to co-operate with all this, not helping the weakest go to the wall!

JOIN THE LOBBY OUTSIDE THE COURTS AT LUNCHTIME OR AFTER WORK OR SIMPLY MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS POSSIBLE WHEN YOU GO PAST THE GUILDHALL IN YOUR LORRY, VAN OR CAR! AND REMEMBER THE MORE PRESSURE WE CAN PUT ON THE COURTS, THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT THE QUICKER WE GET RID OF THIS WICKED TAX!



# SUPPORT JAILED POLL TAX NONPAYERS

## Citizens

Almost 3 years has passed since the introduction of the hated POLL TAX and 2 years since the announcement of its so-called abolition.

Millions who did not pay from year one have far less chance of paying as we have been victims of one of the worst economic slumps this century. More than a thousand people of all ages, many pensioners, have been sent to jail for refusing to pay either out of poverty or principle - or both. Thousands are daily harrassed by bailiffs and courts.

Despite all this the number of nonpayers has increased in the third year as living standards have worsened with many millions on the dole and people standing against intimidation and injustice. Nonetheless, the government is determined to "chase the nonpayers to the end of the earth" as Mr Portillo ("Port-A-Loo") declared.

## UNITY

Whether it is the Poll Tax or the sacking of 89 women mushroom pickers, or 300 Timex workers, or 5,000 rail workers, or the closure of 31 pits - it is all part and parcel of a ferocious attack on the working class in this country. What is needed more than at any other time to stop such attacks which are destroying the very fabric of our society is a united stand by all decent working class people of all ages and from all industries.

## NOTTINGHAM JAILINGS

On 23rd February, Dez Atkinson, a 71 year-old pensioner, was sent down to Lincoln prison for 23 days by Nottingham magistrates; and on the 11th March, the Nottingham bench jailed Jacqueline Evans for 28 days. Her jailing has removed her from her ceaseless work against the POLL TAX and from the intensifying campaign against PIT CLOSURES.



WHAT YOU CAN - AND SHOULD - DO.

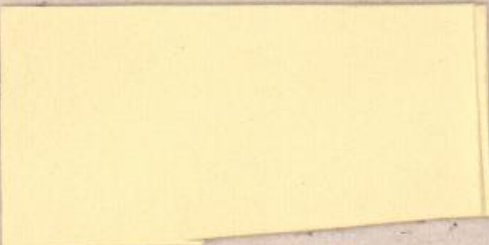
The time has come for everyone to realise that as workers we have **NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT.**

So give your support to those who have put their money - and freedom - where their mouth is, and send them a letter of support. It is the least you can do.....

**WRITE AS SOON AS YOU CAN TO:-**

Jacqueline Evans,  
F.V. 3295,  
H.M.P. New Hall,  
Dial Wood,  
Flockton,  
Wakefield,  
W Yorks, WF4 4AX

Dez Atkinson,  
JK 2735,  
H.M.P. Lincoln,  
Greetwell Road,  
Lincoln,  
LN2 4BD.

For more information, call:- 0  ; or

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not saying the whining liberal TSDC approach will never work. It may work in situations of very low level conflict. It may work if both sides obey the rules, if neither side attacks the other en masse. And in the long run, if the TSDC can guarantee that the crowd will not attack the police, the police may in turn agree to play the game.

The campaign defends the "Right to Demonstrate". Peacefully, of course. You can hardly defend the right to rampage round the streets of London attacking symbols of wealth! Peaceful demos achieve nothing. That's why the left support them. The TSDC do say they defend the right to protect protests "from attack and wilful disruption by the police". But this right already exists, and is of no use whatsoever. It hasn't stopped Trafalgar Square defendants getting years in prison for acting in self-defence.

There is a long tradition of trying to pacify the necessarily violent struggle of the working class by talking about rights, fairness, justice and neutral morality that both sides must respect. The TSDC is a tiny part of that tradition. We cannot allow these liberal bureaucrats to bury the spirit of Trafalgar Square.

DEFENDANTS AND SUPPORTERS ANONYMOUS, MARCH 31st 1991.

For more copies of this leaflet or to contact us write as follows :  
BM CAT, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

#### THE LEAFLET THEY TRIED TO BAN

The TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN was set up after the Trafalgar Square riot last year to coordinate the defence of people arrested. One of the reasons it was set up was because the official All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation advocated informing on people involved in the riot to the police. Two of the Federation's leaders went on television advocating grassing people up.

In spite of this, the TSDC have gradually moved towards a close relationship with the Federation. It has tried to suppress criticism of the Federation in its newsletters and other channels.

The TSDC now work closely with Federation stewards, who in turn work closely with the police. At its meeting on 20 March, the TSDC instructed its legal observers (the ones in pink bibs) to take notes, videos and photographs of any incident that happens, and not simply to select things that might be helpful to the defence in any prosecution. In other words, if anything does happen, the TSDC legal volunteers will be collecting information that might be useful to the prosecution. Given their close links to people who openly advocate grassing people up to the police, this could be dangerous. We must be aware of this danger.

## KEEP OFF THE GRASS

Defence campaigns are a difficult business. Even if they want to oppose the state, they have to defend the interests of defendants within the limited framework of the state legal system. Defendants' campaigns are to some extent inevitably affected by the courts. They have to argue the defence case, which is a one-sided account, emphasising the innocence and peacefulness of the victims of police brutality. However, they don't have to become campaigns for the liberalization of the state. They don't have to take photos of everything which happens on demos. And they don't have to work with people who advocate grassing people up to the police.

The TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN was set up directly after the anti-Poll Tax riot of 31 March 1990, which resulted in over 500 arrests. It has had various positive features :

It has put defendants in touch with witnesses. It has (just about) maintained a position of unconditional defence of all those arrested on the 31st, at subsequent demos, and others facing legal action from the Poll Tax. It gives out bust cards at demos, enabling those arrested to get in touch with lawyers.

It has publicized police violence.

It has done everything possible to support prisoners, such as publicizing their names and circumstances, and sending them money. It organized a series of prison pickets, culminating in the 3000-strong demo on 20 October.

It has publicized the anti-Poll Tax struggle internationally.

However it does tend to blow its own trumpet. Its legal support work has not been as effective as it makes out.

## GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN

We have more important criticisms of the campaign, which we were involved in either as defendants or supporters from the start.

The TSDC has given credibility to the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, the organisation set up by the Militant Tendency to try to dominate the anti-Poll Tax struggle. This organisation has many things wrong with it. There is not enough space to list them all here. However, since we are concerned with defendants, we must mention one crucial aspect of the Fed.. It grasses people up to the police.



Even before March 31st, Federation people directed the police to alleged criminals at the Bristol demo against the Poll Tax. Directly after the 31st, the Federation's leaders, Steve Nally and Tommy Sheridan, went on TV and in the press advocating informing on poll tax rioters, and saying they would hold an enquiry to "name names". Shortly after this, Federation hacks denounced anti-Poll Tax activists by name at a meeting in Nottingham. And on 23 March 1991, we saw Federation stewards pointing out alleged troublemakers to the police.

There are other examples. But we don't think the issue needs much discussion. The issue of grassing is straightforward. Of course, most people in the Federation don't believe in grassing. But the people who run the Federation do. The organisation is run by them and in their interests. So if you defend poll tax defendants, you should be opposed to the Federation. Anyone involved in legal defence work should have nothing to do with people who would even consider grassing.

The TSDC collects all kinds of information. At the pre-demo briefing meeting on 20 March 1991, the TSDC told its legal volunteers to take photos, videos and notes of EVERYTHING that happened. Even if the campaign's lefty film-makers tried their utmost only to shoot the "defence case", they could accidentally provide the prosecution with ammunition. Notes and films can always be seized by the police. But on March 20th, we heard the speaker from the platform specifically mention that if there was trouble, the volunteers were to write down the NUMBER OF MISSILES PER MINUTE being thrown at the police.

## CAMPAIGN IN THE ARSE

The TSDC has always failed to oppose the Fed. for tactical reasons. They don't want to undermine the unity of the movement. But the strength of the anti-Poll Tax movement has been in spite of the Federation. They have instead tried to suppress criticism of the Federation. They omitted the Nottingham Defence Fund's newsletter which attacked the Federation from their mailout, though under pressure they eventually gave in. They tried to suppress a letter in the TSDC newsletter from the Sussex Poll Tax Resisters criticizing the Federation, again unsuccessfully. They have sent delegates to Fed. meetings, telling them not to mention the "G" word. They have appeared on the same platform as Fed. grasses. When the crowd shouted abuse at the Fed. speakers on the 23rd March, the TSDC speaker defended them. When a leaflet was produced for the 23 March demo slagging off the TSDC for its collaboration with the Federation (we reproduce the leaflet below), some of the TSDC hacks threatened to beat up anyone distributing it.

We are not complaining about this, any more than we complain about police violence. After all, if you recruit "legal volunteers" to monitor potential riots, you have to defend them. The TSDC genuinely thought that our leaflet might "provoke violence" against the legal volunteers. Their attitude is encouraging. They are obviously worried about the awareness that legal volunteers might help the state. However we cannot be held responsible for violence against the TSDC. We do not advocate such violence. We simply point out to defendants and people who want to avoid becoming defendants the dangers of the TSDC's approach. We are not trying to reform the

campaign. We simply want to make people who are on our side aware of what it's about. If you work with Militant demo organisers, you are inevitably drawn into policing. The TSDC has become a channel for integrating people with basically anti-state attitudes into the left. There is a direct link through the TSDC through the Federation to the state. We want to break that link.

## Tommy Sheridan's Demo Cops?

The report on the 20 October Brixton demo made clear what the TSDC's eventual aim is. It wants to help the ruling class reorganise the police and the judicial system, which have been severely discredited.

"It is our sincere hope that this report will be read carefully and with an open mind by those with responsibility for public order, and that it will lead to a serious re-assessment of the role of the police in public order situations such as this".

People who support public order were terrified by the battle of Trafalgar Square. It was open class war. The left were simply swept aside. The TSDC report asks whether the police are capable of keeping public order - in other words, the rule of law - in situations of class conflict such as Wapping and Trafalgar Square. What they are in effect saying to the government is - leave it to us, we and our Militant friends can keep order. We won't mismanage the situation like the police did on March 31st. We won't provoke mass outbreaks of class warfare.

The 20 October report ends with four recommendations. It calls for the suspension of a top cop, the prosecution of others, and the setting up of a public enquiry. These three proposals are designed to reform, and thus help restore credibility, to the police. And they're probably not going to happen. Why should any of the police be disciplined for what they did on 20 October? They smashed a demonstration outside Brixton nick which was openly opposed to the prison system, the foundation of state power. They did exactly what they are paid to do. No public enquiry has been set up, but this may happen at some stage. As the government tries to reorganize its machinery of justice, punishment and terror, it may "seriously reconsider" whether the police can take charge of demonstrations. Then the TSDC or its successor may find a role.

The fourth recommendation is "The immediate suspension of all the charges against protestors arising from March 31st and October 20th", though the original draft continued "pending the outcome of the public enquiry". After we pointed out that this meant dropping unconditional defence, the TSDC deleted this qualification. Unfortunately, they still left the word "suspension", which falls short of a demand for an unconditional amnesty.

We don't defend people by taking photos, hoping we haven't shot anything harmful, and trusting in the judicial system which brought you the Birmingham 6, nor by talking to the scum of the national press who helped secure many of the convictions. We physically prevent arrests, grabbing demonstrators back from the police, as happened on the 31st and the 23rd. On 20 October, people were "monitoring" the police instead of defending the crowd against the police attack. Monitoring the police didn't stop them. But we are



# NO POLL TAX HERE

IF YOU AGREE, PLEASE  
DISPLAY THIS POSTER  
IN YOUR WINDOW



Higher bills are on the way

# £390 CITY POLL TAX

NOTTINGHAM people face a likely poll tax bill of £390.

The city's deputy Labour leader, Coun John Taylor, gave the strongest hint that the tax will be more than £100 above the Government's average for the country of £278 at a meeting of Nottingham City Council last night.

## WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY £390

TODAY THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE IS DISCUSSING HOW MUCH THE NOTTINGHAM POLL TAX WILL BE. £390 IS THE FIGURE THEY ARE TALKING OF. 90-95% OF HOUSEHOLDS WILL LOSE OUT.

THAT IS WHY THE NOTTINGHAM ANTI POLL TAX FEDERATION IS BUILDING FOR MASS NON PAYMENT OF THE POLL TAX BECAUSE WE CANNOT AFFORD IT.

IN SCOTLAND ONE MILLION PEOPLE HAVE EITHER PAID NOTHING OR HAVE STOPPED PAYING. ONE MILLION IN SCOTLAND MEANS EIGHT TO TEN MILLION NON PAYERS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

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I WANT TO JOIN AN ANTI POLL TAX UNION IN MY AREA.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....



# Please Support NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE FUND

Contact : Box DF,  
72 Radford Road

Or 'phone :

## What we are :

- We are a campaign that has been set up to help defend people arrested on the 31st March after the Anti-Poll Tax riots in Trafalgar Square, and on the 5th March after the Council Chamber occupation in Nottingham.

## Who we are :

- We are a group of people who are united in our opposition to the Poll Tax. Some of us are from local Anti-Poll groups, some are defendants. Currently people are involved from the Sherwood, Radford, FF/HG, and Beeston groups to name but a few. We are accountable to the defendants, and anyone who supports our aims and wants to get involved is more than welcome at our meetings.

## What we do :

- We aim to provide financial, legal and moral support for all those arrested on any kind of Anti-Poll Tax demo. So far we have contacted 12 people in Nottingham who were arrested and have held two benefit gigs in their support.
- We've contacted sympathetic solicitors, and are helping to gather information to counter the massive coordinated frame-up campaign by the police and courts.
- The Fund has payed out over £100 to defendants so far, and hope to raise much more in the future.
- We hold regular meetings - all welcome who support us - and have produced two newsletters to keep people informed about what is going on.
- We are affiliated to and in contact with the Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign in London, who are helping to co-ordinate a national campaign of defence.

P.T.O ---->

# DON'T PAY - DON'T COLLECT!



# Join the resistance

## Join your local Anti-Poll Tax Group

### What you can do :

- If you feel you want to get involved, contact us at the box number and telephone number given overleaf, we need as much support as we can get, as this issue is one that affects us all : Trafalgar Square has shown the police will arrest anyone and everyone who protests, if given half a chance.
- If you are a member of an Anti-Poll tax group, take a copy of this leaflet with you and see what people think. We've already spoken at a couple of local meetings and have had good reactions, so if you want a speaker (or two) to find out more of what we're about, we'd be happy to attend one of your meetings.
- Make a donation (Cheques made payable to "N.D.F."), or take a collection at any benefit events you organise. We're hoping to pay everyones costs, so we need every penny we can get. We can always help with leaflets like this to give out.
- Support events that we organise. We shall be having a stall at the forthcoming Peace Festival which is on the 8th July at the Victoria Embankment, and we are hoping to have a stall at the Rock and Reggae festival later this year. We're also hoping to organise a series of gigs with the help of local Anti-Poll Tax groups later in the Summer or early Autumn.
- Above all, let's stick together. Together we can beat the Poll Tax, together we can fight the system that introduced it in the first place !

# NOTTINGHAM DEFENCE FUND

Contact : Box DF,  
72 Radford Road

Or 'phone :



# ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS IN NOTTINGHAM

This list was made at the beginning of March 1990, so some of it may be out of date by the time you read it, since new groups are appearing so rapidly at the moment. Phone one of these numbers for more information about what's happening in your area - now!

Aspley / Broxtowe:	phor
Basford:	phor
Beeston:	phor
Bestwood/	28 L
Bestwood Park	(no p )
Bulwell:	phor
Clifton:	phor
Forest Fields/:	phor
Hyson Green:	phor
Radford:	phor
Sherwood:	phor
Sneinton:	phor
St. Ann's:	phor
West Bridgford:	phor

PUBLIC MEETING

## Getting Organised To Beat The Poll Tax

**Monday April 2nd  
at 7.30 pm  
The Yorker Pub,  
Mansfield Road  
(near the Victoria Centre  
clock tower)**



# **FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN**

## ***Who we are -***

**We are a group of local people working together to try and stop the poll tax. Independent and non-party political, we are united by our opposition to this unfair tax. IT CAN BE BEATEN.**

## ***What we do -***

**We give out information about the effects of the poll tax in this area. We organise meetings, raise funds, and co-ordinate local protest against the poll tax. We produce posters, leaflets and a regular newsletter. We link up with trades unions, community and anti-poll tax groups in Nottingham and across the country.**

## ***How we work -***

**We've organised the campaign in four areas - three in Forest Fields, and one for the whole of Hyson Green. People work in their own local areas, giving out newsletters and posters and talking to people, as well as doing work for the campaign as a whole. In three months we've got more than 300 members. As the campaign grows we hope to set up street groups, neighbours who will support each other in the fight against the poll tax.**

## ***How you can help -***

**We always need to draw more people in. In the Hyson Green area especially, we need more people to get involved. Even if you can only offer to give out a few newsletters once a month, your help is more than welcome. We've arranged a short meeting for people in the Hyson Green**

**We've arranged a short meeting for people in the  
Hyson Green area, at St Pauls Community Centre on  
Monday November 6th at 7.30pm.**

**A creche will be available, so that you can bring your  
children. Please come along and join the  
fight against the poll tax.**



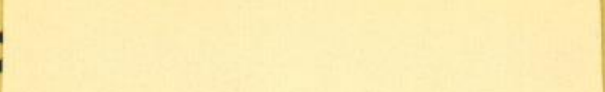
**OPEN MEETING**

# **POLL TAX: THE REAL OFFENSIVE**

**MEETING ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY  
AT 8 PM, THE YORKER PUB,  
MANSFIELD ROAD.**

**ORGANISED BY FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN  
ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN.**

**SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS  
IN SHERWOOD, RADFORD AND ST. ANN'S**

**F  FOR MORE DETAILS**



# **POLL TAX:**

## ***organising the fight back***

The first poll tax bills are due to arrive at the start of April. Even now, the poll tax levels are being set. The latest estimates for the poll tax in Nottingham are in the region of £350 – and this assumes that our council simply maintain their current level of spending.

Despite many people refusing to register, the council claim to have registered 95% of potential poll tax payers in Nottingham. Since they have access to many sources of detailed information – the electoral register, and the names of rates payers, benefit claimants and tax payers – this is hardly a great achievement on their part, and shouldn't demoralise the campaign.

We could never have stopped them from compiling a register. But we can stop the poll tax from working, by building a mass campaign of non-payment and non-implementation.

Anti-poll tax groups have sprung up in many parts of the city. So far, only in Sherwood, Bulwell and Forest Fields / Hyson Green are these groups large and more-or-less effective. A lot of good work has been done: door-to-door canvassing, street stalls, mass leaflet drops, and today's demonstration.

Yet much more work remains to be done. Some areas of the city have not been touched. How can we develop and extend the campaign? We need to organise mass leafletting, local public meetings, and look at ways of taking the campaign into the workplace. Communication between groups in different parts of the city needs to be improved.

The potential for success is already there: seventy percent of the population of Nottinghamshire will be worse off if the poll tax is implemented. In Scotland, the non-payment campaign is succeeding. In Edinburgh, Glasgow and some other areas, councils won't be able to take even half of their non-payers to court before the next round of bills appear. Boosted by the strength of the non-payment campaign, workplace resistance to wages arrestment and fines has begun. Let's get that message across in a big way.

We have organised a meeting at 8pm on Monday 22nd January, at the Yorker pub on Mansfield Road – just up from the Victoria Centre clock tower. The more people that are involved, the more effective we will be – so this meeting is open to EVERYBODY.



## BEEN TO COURT ?

Got a summons, been to court, getting worried about what happens next?

Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti Poll Tax Group will be able to let you know what's happening with procedures or progress on poll tax wage and benefit deductions or use of the bailiffs by the City Council as well as the mass non-payment campaign generally.

Come along to the next meeting of the poll tax group to find out what action we'll be organising next and to get the latest news!

We meet 8pm Tuesday 18th December  
8pm Tuesday 8th January  
and every Tuesday after that at the  
Indian Community Centre, Rawson St.,  
New Basford at 8pm. Come along!

Or if you can't make the meetings  
but want some advice or information  
ring any of these numbers ....

\* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

P&P; Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti Poll Tax Group

JOIN IN !

LATEST NEWS !

UPTO DATE  
INFORMATION !

GET  
INVOLVED !



6. Anarchists believe that we can create a new society, based on equality, co-operation, creativity, individuality and mutual aid and trust.

Please tick box:

☐ Please send me details of anarchists ideas and beliefs. I enclose an S.A.E.

☐ I enclose a donation to Portsmouth Anarchist Group for printing costs.

Send to: Box A, 167 Fawcett Road, Southsea,  
Portsmouth, PO1 0DH

P.S. Feel free to write to us, giving your opinion of this leaflet, or any of our ideas. All constructive criticism, or enquiries welcome!!

**ORGANISE  
AGAINST AN  
ORGANISED  
STATE!**

# THE NEW POLL TAX

## WHAT WILL IT MEAN TO YOU?

When the Tories were re-elected they said that they would introduce a "Poll Tax", and abolish the rates. Despite the fact that it is obviously another Tory plan to help the wealthy and take yet more money off the rest of us, none of the other political parties made it an election issue as they did not think that it was important enough!

The poll tax will take the place of the rates system that we have now. It is due to become law in Scotland in April 1989 and the rest of Britain gradually by 1990, so it is very possible that we will find ourselves paying rates and the poll tax at the same time!

The rates are a tax on property, so if you own a small terraced house with no garden, you will pay much less than someone who owns several large houses in London and a country estate! If you can't afford to buy a house, then you do not pay any rates. So the amount that you pay depends on how wealthy you are, which is how it should be!

There is one big criticism of the rates system though. Two families may live in houses of the same value, yet have different incomes. So charging them the same amount is unfair.

The new poll tax however takes no account at all of your income or wealth. EVERY ADULT HAS TO PAY. So if you live in Portsmouth and earn £5,000 and someone else earns £50,000 you will both pay the same amount! So the poll tax is not fair at all! It will only benefit the rich, like the rest of Thatcher's laws. The rich who own millions or hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of property will be much better off as they will only have to pay a few hundred pounds, which they will not notice anyway! The average family though, will find themselves paying a lot more.

In Portsmouth the average rates bill last year was £374 (this is just an average; lots of people either pay much more, or much less). With the new poll tax every single adult will have to pay approx. £187 each! Many householders pay less than this amount and so will lose out. Some will be better off, i.e. those with valuable property, or perhaps single householders. But those households with two adults and daughters/sons over 18, (who may be unemployed or on a badly paid MSC scheme), or/and elderly dependant parents will be very much worse off.



The poll tax will also affect those people who cannot afford to buy houses and who therefore do not pay rates (e.g. students who get less money than unemployed people, once they have paid the very high rents that are demanded). Also the half a million people whom the government has made homeless by their housing policies will have to pay hundreds of pounds a year!

Like a hell of a lot of Tory laws, the poll tax will affect the unemployed badly, as they will have even more money taken away from the miserly sum they get.

Some of the Tories have said that the unemployed will have to pay 20% of the poll tax. But they have not promised this and even if they did, like all other politicians they wouldn't keep their word! (Remember their promise to aid health care - there are massive waiting lists; or their promise to improve education - since 1979 they have closed down 1,887 schools! The Tories may say that the unemployed (and students) will only have to pay 20%, but they will change their tune after all the fuss has died down - and will probably make them pay all of it!!

Even if the unemployed had to pay 20%, this would still mean that they would have to pay more money out of the very low amount that they get now. The poll tax is a typical case of screwing out as much money as possible from the poorest people, to fund the rich, who don't need it anyway!

The amount each person has to pay depends on where s/he lives. If you live in Camden, you will have to pay £782 every year. If you live in the Isles of Scilly, you pay £93! So there are huge differences in the amount you pay, depending on where you live.

So the poll tax can in no way be called fair or equal. Those who are rich do not pay more than those who are not. If you have an income of £250,000 for example, or are one of the many millionaires in Britain, then you will benefit from the poll tax! If you are one of the millions of people who are not rich though, then you will lose hundreds of pounds each year, especially if you have a large family!

There are many other problems with the poll tax though, e.g. the huge number of council snoopers and bureaucrats, who will be paid to check to see who is living in our houses!! This is another step backwards for personal freedom.

The Tory government will push the poll tax through Parliament if we don't do anything about it!! *It is time to protest - NOW!!* Don't leave it to councillors or MP's who may promise to help but won't! Act yourselves!! If everyone refuses to pay the poll tax, the government could not do anything about it - they can't jail everyone!! We have the power to stop it, if we act for ourselves!!

This leaflet was written by Portsmouth Anarchist Group, to tell you what is happening. We anarchists believe in:

1. An end to the capitalist system which creates wars and destruction, and nuclear weapons which will destroy us all.
2. An end to unequal society where there are many millionaires, whilst millions of us starve, or live in poverty.
3. An end to exploitation by those who employ us and steal the wealth that we have created, i.e. profit, and more leisure time to enjoy our lives.
4. An end to oppressive society, where we are not free to do as we like, e.g. by the police. The police do not protect us despite what they and the politicians tell us. We have had decades and decades of policing yet, more than half of the population are afraid to go out alone in the evenings, and the crime rate generally has been rising all the time! What the police are needed for is to repress us and stop us protesting about society. The new Public Order Act is another example of this. It makes it illegal to organise a demonstration without getting police permission about when to hold it, where it will go, how long it will last, and even, how many people are allowed on it!
5. An end to this farce that we call "democracy". You think that we have a choice of what political party to vote for, but this choice is very limited. Which ever party you vote for they all agree on the same things, such as keeping capitalism, and therefore inequality, keeping (dangerous) nuclear energy, taking more and more money off us to give to the rich etc etc. The main thing they agree on though is that they should rule us and control our lives. They make us promises so we vote for them, then break them once they get into office. We can't do anything about it except vote for another party 4/5 years later, which will do exactly the same!

We anarchists do not vote for political parties as we do not believe in them. Most politicians will do anything to gain power, and keep it, e.g. making promises that they do not intend to keep. They do not do what we want them to, e.g. they haven't stopped crime happening or stopped poverty occurring.

Anarchists believe in real freedom in letting everyone control their own lives; their work time and leisure time, by meeting together and voting on issues. Obviously everyone worldwide can not meet together at once in the same place. So every workplace, or street committee will elect delegates to act on behalf of them. They will not be MP's as they can be sacked immediately if they go against what the factory/street committee members have told them to say.

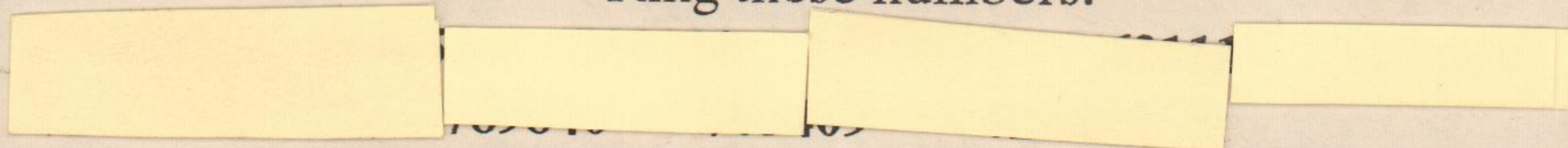


*Have you had your  
FIRST POLL TAX REMINDER?  
SECOND POLL TAX REMINDER?  
OR COURT SUMMONS?*

# DON'T PANIC

If you can't pay, won't pay or if you're thinking about not paying,  
and need advice or want someone to appear in court with you;

Ring these numbers:



We can give you information about what's likely to happen if you  
don't pay and what support we can offer.

You're not alone - thousands of people in Nottingham are not  
paying because they can't afford to or because they oppose this  
unfair and unjust tax.

**DON'T PAY  
THE  
POLL TAX!**

Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign  
Box 5, Hyson Green Wholefoods, Radford Road or  
Box 5, Basics Wholefoods, 42 Foxhall Road.



# **DON'T PANIC!      DON'T PAY!**

# **PUBLIC MEETING**

Poll Tax reminders are already going out in Forest Fields and Hyson Green. Court summons for liability orders can be expected during the second half of October. Some people from Rushcliffe, Beeston and the city have already been to court to have liability orders served.

**Now is the time**

**when we really do need**

**to stick together.**

We've organised this public meeting so that we can talk about what to do next. If you have any ideas, concerns or questions bring them along. Remember people in this area are not the first to receive these summons - and they won't be the last - so don't panic and don't be intimidated.

## **SPEAKERS**

include

A representative of Beeston Anti-Poll Tax Group

A speaker from The People's March Against The Poll Tax

A speaker from NALGO

**Wednesday 3rd October,**  
**The Family Centre,**  
**Russell Road, Forest Fields.**  
**7.30pm.**

## **The Peoples March Against The Poll Tax**

A three pronged march is already on its way to London. They are set to arrive there on October 20th. The contingent from Glasgow will get to Nottingham on Friday 28th September. In the tradition of the Hunger Marches and the People's March For Jobs, these marchers are telling the whole country that the Poll Tax is unfair and that it has to go.

*For further information contact:*  
**Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign**  
*Address overleaf.*



*Appeal to DSS Workers from Nottingham's Anti-Poll Tax Campaigns*

# **DON'T IMPLEMENT** **THE POLL TAX**

Thousands of people in Nottinghamshire are not paying the Poll Tax. According to the Guardian, in Nottingham 144,000 haven't paid which is 66.7% non-payment. In Britain 14 million ordinary people up and down the country are challenging the tax which charges the Duke the same as the dustman or a cabinet minister the same as a low paid DSS worker.

In Nottinghamshire 71% of people are worse off under the Poll Tax. People on Income Support are no exception. Even only paying 20% means finding £78 a year - a massive amount if you have to survive on £28.80 a week.

Local councils are now taking non-payers to court to obtain liability orders. If someone is on Income Support, the local council can apply to the DSS to have the Poll Tax deducted from their Income Support.

We would ask you not to get involved in doing this work. We believe it is wrong for the Government to force you to implement one of their failed policies especially with the current problems and disputes over staffing in the DSS.

Many of us in the campaign are members of Trade Unions - we appeal to all members of CPSA and NUCPS to stand side by side with those who can least afford to pay this tax - those on Income Support - and refuse to deduct the tax from claimants' benefits.

If you take this stand we promise you the wholehearted support of Nottingham's Anti-Poll Tax Campaigns.

Produced by S.N.A.P.T. (South Notts Against the Poll Tax)

Contact [redacted] 70 [redacted] for more details.



**If you want to get involved in your local  
community campaign then contact:**

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



# Don't Collect! Don't Pay!

On this demonstration there are thousands of trade unionists and anti-Poll Tax campaigners committed to getting rid of the Tory's hated Tax.

As NALGO, whose members are supposed to implement the Poll Tax, have rightly said, defeating the Tax is a task for the whole labour movement, not just council workers. And council workers will only have the confidence to take the kind of action needed to stop the Poll Tax if they know that they have the support of other trade unionists and local communities. All trade unionists should be taking up this challenge today.

But it's not enough to go on marches, pass resolutions, preach to the converted at branch meetings, or even take "General Tea Breaks". As we struggled to build unions, for the vote, for the welfare state so we have to fight now against the Poll Tax.

From the Tolpuddle martyrs, to the suffragettes, to the Pentonville dockers and the miners we have had to take action in *defiance of the law* to defend our rights. We all know that the Poll Tax is unjust, unfair and undemocratic — the Poll Tax can only be defeated through mass non-cooperation, even if this brings us into conflict with the law.

But effective action — like boycotts, strikes, and obstruction — won't happen without building support and organising in the workplace now. There are a growing number of workplace anti-Poll Tax groups, working alongside shop stewards' committees where possible, that are building resistance to the Poll Tax. Let's join Nalگو, the Fire Brigades' Union and the Agricultural Workers' are already committed to supporting non-payment.

London Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups



## **Don't Collect! Don't Pay!**

The London Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups, a broad-based, non-sectarian of local groups, believes that the only way to defeat the Poll Tax is through collective action of workers, tenants and community groups. In London we are organising resistance to registration in order to build the basis for a mass non-payment campaign next April. We also support trade unionists who are taking action against the implementation and collection of the Poll Tax.

Council workers alone can't defeat the Poll Tax, and community resistance alone can't defeat the Poll Tax — but by working together and by taking action where we are strongest we can build the kind of mass campaign, that reaches into every street and workplace, needed to make the Poll Tax unworkable. Workplace anti-Poll Tax groups need to be involved in local community-based groups to get support and find out what action other workers are taking against the Poll Tax.

Many of the speakers today will tell us that we have to "wait for the next Labour government" to get rid of the tax for us. Well, we've been waiting for the last 10 years and we can't afford to wait any longer. And if the Labour Party isn't prepared to take on the Poll Tax, there's no guarantee that there will even be a "next Labour government".

Norman Willis can afford to pay the Poll Tax — most of us can't. Paying the Poll Tax will lead workers into debt — mass non-payment, combined with action by workers to stop deductions at source, will defeat the Tax. Let's follow the lead taken by the 1,000,000 non-payers in Scotland.

Let's also take a leaf out of the transport workers' book and fight back now. It's our fight, we are the ones who will suffer most from the Poll Tax, and we are the ones that can defeat it. Organise now for a long, hard, victorious fight!

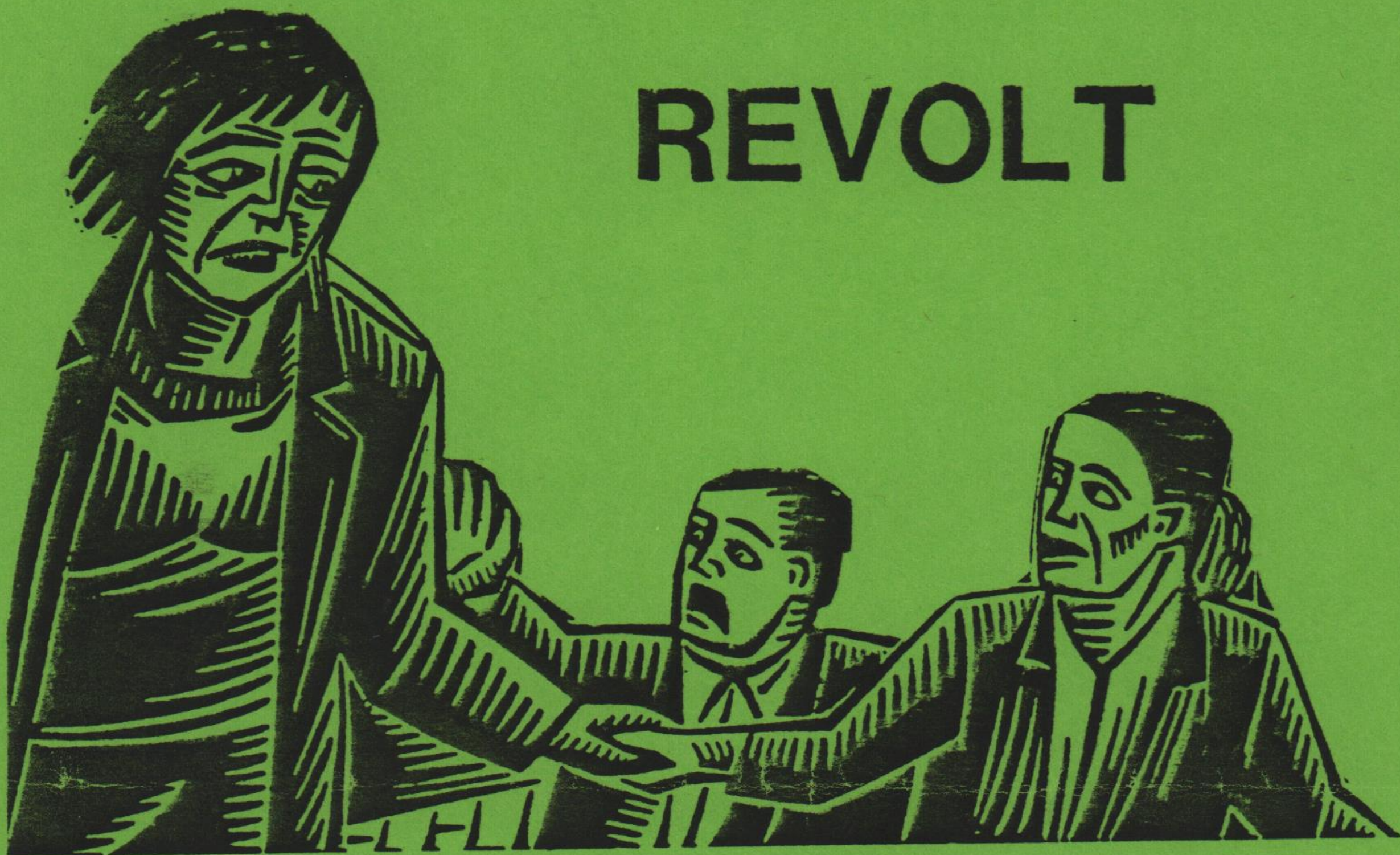
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The London Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups can be contacted  
c/o TAPT, 72 West Green Road, London N15



# POLL TAX

## REVOLT



## CAN'T PAY



## WON'T PAY



# JOIN THE POLL TAX REVOLT

In April the Poll Tax bills will begin to arrive on our doorsteps. Nottingham's Councillors estimate that the local tax will be in excess of £350. This means that 70% of the people in Nottingham will be worse off. But we'll not only be financially worse off, if the Poll Tax succeeds councils will be forced to cut back vital services - for the elderly, for the unemployed - in an effort to keep the tax down. This is what the Government wants.

Throughout Britain people are expressing their anger at a tax which gives handouts to the rich whilst penalising the rest of us. This march is one such expression.

We must stop the Poll Tax  
We must make it unworkable

# JOIN THE POLL TAX REVOLT

In Scotland the non-payment campaign is succeeding. Over 600,000 people still haven't paid a penny of the tax. A further 500,000 are over 5 months in arrears. The Poll Tax is in chaos there. There are too many non-payers for the councils or the law to do anything about it. Let's learn from the Scottish experience. As individuals we make easy targets but by coming together and organising mass, community campaigns of non-payment we can resist and beat this tax.

Across Nottingham such campaigns have already started. In Hyson Green and Forest Fields; in Sherwood, St. Anns and Sneinton; in Radford and elsewhere people have been getting together to organise the fight back.

We need you!!  
Together we can stop the Poll Tax

# JOIN THE POLL TAX REVOLT

Contact:

Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign,  
Box 5, Hyson Green Wholefoods, Radford Road and  
Box 5, Basics Wholefoods, 42 Foxhall Road,  
Forest Fields, Nottingham.



# FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

## *Who we are -*

We are a group of local people working together to try and stop the poll tax. Independent and non-party political, we are united by our opposition to this unfair tax. IT CAN BE BEATEN.

## *What we do -*

We give out information about the effects of the poll tax in this area. We organise meetings, raise funds, and co-ordinate local protest against the poll tax. We produce posters, leaflets and a regular newsletter. We link up with trades unions, community and anti-poll tax groups in Nottingham and across the country.

## *How we work -*

We've organised the campaign in four areas - three in Forest Fields, and one for the whole of Hyson Green. People work in their own local areas, giving out newsletters and posters and talking to people, as well as doing work for the campaign as a whole. In three months we've got more than 300 members. As the campaign grows we hope to set up street groups, neighbours who will support each other in the fight against the poll tax.

## *How you can help -*

We always need to draw more people in. In the Hyson Green area especially, we need more people to get involved. Even if you can only offer to give out a few newsletters once a month, your help is more than welcome. We've arranged a short meeting for people in the Hyson Green

We've arranged a short meeting for people in the  
Hyson Green area, at St Pauls Community Centre on  
Monday November 6th at 7.30pm.

A creche will be available, so that you can bring your  
children. Please come along and join the  
fight against the poll tax.



## **RUSHCLIFFE AGAINST THE POLL TAX**

**"THAT WHICH IS UNJUST IS UNLAWFUL" (George Washington).**

Dear Non-payer,

Please read the important new developments overleaf. We have fought the Poll Tax all along on the grounds that it is UNJUST. It is now being shown that the recovery methods used by councils and rubber-stamped by magistrates are also ILLEGAL. However, this would not have come to light without the massive and continuous opposition of ordinary people to a feudal law.

The media have played down the extent of the NON-PAYMENT campaign, and councils have tried to suggest that people are now paying.

THIS IS NOT TRUE. There were even more non-payers in the second year of the Poll Tax than the first (despite the so-called "reductions" in the amount, which were clawed-back through higher VAT and reduced public services).

Since 8 million summonses have been issued for non-payment, about 2,400 arrest warrants issued and 170 people gone to jail (and may now be able to claim compensation for false imprisonment). Derbyshire police have refused to chase-up Poll Tax warrants, and other areas have threatened the same. In desperation, Nottingham City Council is employing a private company to telephone non-payers to try to "persuade" them to pay something. The Government's own working party has recommended that debts of those due to pay 20% should be cancelled, as it costs two and a half times as much to collect than the amount due.

FACTS: 1. The big local firm of M.A. Julious (bailiffs) has packed-up pursuing Poll Tax cases.

2. Those who go to prison DO NOT have to pay the Poll Tax when they are released.

**WE CAN GET THE POLL TAX ABOLISHED NOW. DON'T PAY ANYTHING!**



## 7m poll tax orders could be invalid

Magistrates courts all over the country are adjourning liability order hearings, following a decision by Bury St. Edmunds magistrates that computer evidence is not acceptable as proof of liability.

On 16th January 1992, Nottingham magistrates adjourned cases against Rushcliffe non-payers who disputed the validity of computer evidence.

The Government is now deciding what to do. It can amend the law immediately - so that the courts can accept computer evidence from now on - although this would mean that it accepts that all liability orders issued since April 1990 have no legal status. Under the two-year rule, councils would then have only until April this year to serve valid liability orders (a physical impossibility!); after that date, the "debts" for 1990/91 become null and void, i.e. all those who haven't paid will not have to do so.

It is likely, in these circumstances, that all liability order hearings will be adjourned pending the decision of a Clerkenwell stipendiary magistrate (expected at the time of "going to press") and probable appeals and/or submission to a higher court (which will take months). If you do receive a summons, however, you should argue that computer evidence is not admissible, and/or request an adjournment pending clarification of the legal position.

**WE ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION  
WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS.**

Rushcliffe Against the Poll Tax meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, Stumps Bar, the Test Match pub, Gordon Road, West Bridgford.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 1992 (Speakers will include local non-payers who have been to jail).



# How to stop the bailiffs

## What do bailiffs do?

Bailiffs are usually private debt collectors who will try and collect payment for poll tax or a fine for non-registration.

The council must first get a liability order against you from a magistrates court — then it is the council's decision whether to use bailiffs or not.

The legal term for what bailiffs do is 'distress'. If they can't persuade you to pay the debt they can try and take some of your personal possessions to the value of the debt.

## Are bailiffs like the police?

No. They have no powers like the police and are not employed by the courts. You cannot be in contempt of court and the criminal law is not involved.

## What powers do bailiffs have?

Their powers are strictly limited and the procedure is different to that in Scotland. There is no equivalent in England and Wales of a 'poinding' — valuation of goods — prior to a warrant sale.

The court must provide a warrant for the bailiffs in addition to the liability order. This is just an administrative step, with no additional court hearing. They might tell you about the warrant just to put the frighteners on.

Putting the frighteners on is what the bailiffs try and do — they hope to intimidate you into paying. Bailiffs are adept at getting into homes and will try every stroke in the book.

## SO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.

For more information contact:

1) As soon as you get wind of the bailiffs contact the anti-poll tax union (see below). The bailiffs don't want any hassle and will retreat when we mobilise hundreds of people against them.

2) If bailiffs come they should show identification and give you a copy of Regulation 39 and Schedule 5 of the Enforcement Regulations 1989.

3) If you are not in they may leave a note saying when they will return. Make sure the anti-poll tax union is warned.

4) Otherwise, the bailiffs can only get into your house if you let them in. **THEY CANNOT FORCE THEIR WAY IN** but can climb in through an open window.

However, they may be within their rights to force a second door if they've been let in the first one, as in flats with a communal entrance.

If they push past you and force their way in you can call the police to have them removed.

5) Bailiffs can only come in daylight hours. Put pressure on the council, through the anti-poll tax union, to publicise the dates and times when bailiffs are coming. This makes it easier to mobilise people outside your home to keep the bailiffs away.

6) If the bailiffs get in they can 'lay claim' to goods that belong to you. But they cannot claim fixtures and fittings, or goods that do not belong to you — ie. things on HP or things you have just sold to a trusted friend for a nominal sum!

7) The bailiffs will ask you to sign an agreement to pay something by a certain date (including something towards their costs). If you sign and they leave the goods in your house this is a 'walking possession'. If they take the goods with them it is a 'close possession'. You then have a time limit to pay before they sell the goods at auction.

8) Once in possession, the bailiffs can return and forcibly enter your home and take your goods. It is a criminal offence to remove goods after they have been 'laid claim' to.

9) So everything hinges on the bailiffs getting into your house. They might claim to have 'walking possession' just by looking in the window. This is nonsense — they cannot know what is yours and you haven't agreed to anything as the regulations require.

10) They may claim that looking in the window is a valuation — this is waffle to make you think they have started a process. Don't worry, they're panicking.

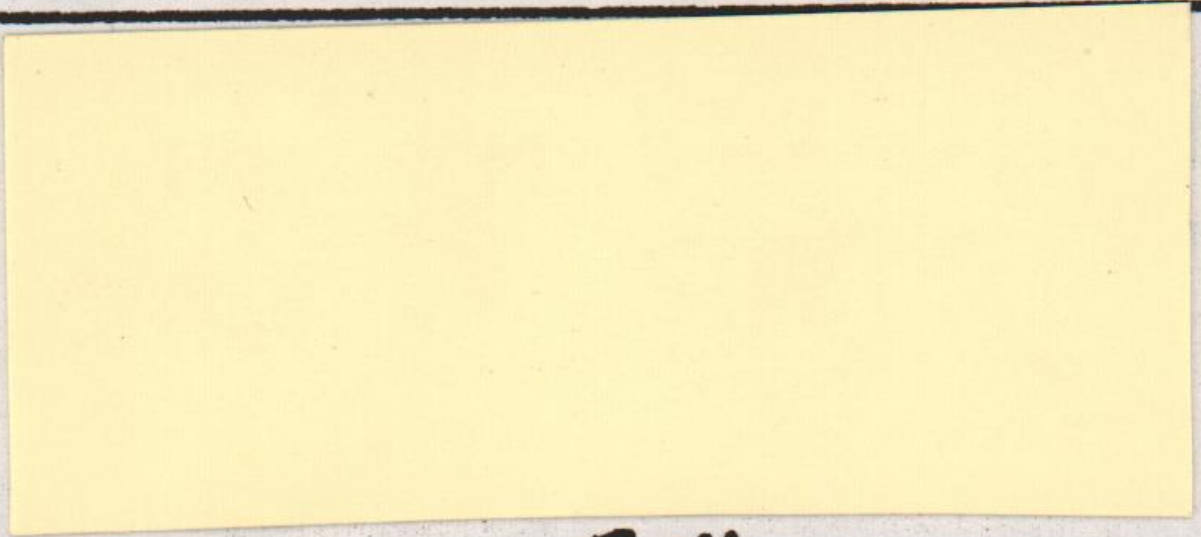
Remember, bailiffs are the only real power that councils have in Scotland and they have got nowhere after 17 months! In Scotland the bailiffs — called sheriff officers — have a procedure to use force but still have not succeeded.

There are only 1,000 bailiffs for all the councils in England and Wales. They don't stand a chance against 14 million of us — the poll tax non-payers — as long as you know they can't get in unless you let them. The anti-poll tax unions are ready to back you up!



# WEST BRIDGFORD ANTI-POLL TAX UNION.

Phone  
or



## Poll Tax News - Bills go out in Rushcliffe!

By now, you will probably have received your poll tax bill. For many people, this represents an unacceptably high increase compared to their rates; many will be wondering where, and if, they can get the money to pay.

West Bridgford Anti-Poll Tax Union is advising you to return your bill to Rushcliffe Borough Council at the Civic Centre, with a note telling them you are doing so because you believe the poll tax is unfair. If enough of us do this, it will show the Council exactly what we think of the poll tax, and create extra work, thus slowing down the collection process.

Thousands of people across Nottingham have joined their local anti-poll tax unions - why don't you do the same? (Next meeting: MON. MAY 21st, 7.30pm social on Friday May 11th, Stump Bar; disco, late bar, food, etc.)  
Test Match

DON'T PAY — DON'T COLLECT!

DD by W.B. Anti Poll Tax Union



## HAS THE POLL TAX BEEN ABOLISHED ?

Well, if it has, you needn't take any notice of the bill that will be coming through your door very shortly, need you?

Yes, the 3rd year's bills of this 'abolished' tax are on the way.

The tax that in its first year the government's own figures indicated some 10million people couldn't afford. The tax that this year increases by 3 times the inflation rate.

### LAW BREAKERS :

Your Local Authority will argue that it has to issue bills, has to take people to court, has to send in the bailiffs, has to imprison defaulters, because it is the law, and they are law abiding.

So now that it has been stated in the High Court that for 2 years councils (with their solicitors), backed by the magistrates, have been issuing Liability Orders contrary to the law, will they now apologise and withdraw them?

Of course not ! They continue to harass the poor, elderly, single parents and everyone else issued with these invalid orders.

And the law is to be changed to suit them!

Just as the law wiping out a debt uncollected within two years was changed overnight when it was realised that this didn't suit them. It is now 6 years.

(You'll note, however, that it takes them considerably longer to change the law to 'abolish' the Poll tax ! ).

As if this cynical manipulation of the law by these 'law abiding' people wasn't enough, not only are councils using your money to send bailiffs in to intimidate people (mainly unsuccessfully, we're glad to say), Notts. City Council even pay a private company (Capita) large amounts of your money to harass people by 'phone.

It seems little has changed since Robin Hood's day !

NOTTS. AGAINST THE POLL TAX



6

## WE WILL ABOLISH THE POLL TAX

Legal or illegal, the POLL TAX is evil and contrary to common justice.

When a Poll Tax was first introduced, over 600 years ago, it was defeated by the united defiance of ordinary people.

And that is how we will defeat it - by MASS NON PAYMENT.

As the 3rd year's bills are being prepared millions have still not paid a penny.

There were more non-payers in the 2nd year than the first.

There should be even more this year, because :

POLL TAX is unjust. Millions cannot afford to pay.

Stand firmly together against injustice.

Bailiffs have no right of entry - don't let them in.

Don't talk to Capita if they ring you - hang up.

If you received a Liability Order in the last 3 months, appeal immediately - it is invalid.

But, most importantly DON'T PAY A PENNY !

We demand : Abolition of the Poll Tax NOW.

No use of bailiffs

No jailing over Poll Tax (this is the only country that imprisons for civil debt)

No income - no tax

Wiping out of all Poll Tax debts.

For advice/information phone any of these numbers :

### Public Meetings :

2nd Wednesday of every month - Stumps Bar, (8.00)

Test Match pub, Gordon Rd., West Bridgford —

25th March - White Horse, Radford (8.00)



# RUSHCLIFFE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

## WHAT NEXT, AFTER THE COURTS?

If you're one of the people who has been summonsed today, we hope you found it worthwhile coming along. But the campaign still has a long way to go. We hope you're still determined not to pay your poll tax, but we realise that you are probably worried about the bailiffs, etc. That's why it's important to be in contact with your local group. Rushcliffe has anti-poll tax contacts in several areas of the borough - their names and 'phone numbers are at the bottom of this leaflet. Also, we meet regularly. The next meeting of the West Bridgford Anti-Poll Tax Group is on Tuesday 28th August, at 7.30pm in the Stumps Bar of the Test Match Hotel, Gordon Rd., West Bridgford. Please try to get along. If you can't make it, then 'phone your local contact. We will be defending people against the bailiffs and continuing to do our bit in ensuring that the poll tax is defeated, and replaced by a fairer system.



I told the judge tax was  
for holding down carpets..

## CONTACTS:

EA 85

0097

## DON'T PAY - DON'T COLLECT!



6

## RUSHCLIFFE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

To all Non-Payers and those who sympathise : 23.5.91

### THE FIGHT GOES ON

Dear Residents

This evening we were informed, to our disgust, that Rushcliffe has sent out their latest batch of threatening letters, giving non-payers 7 days to pay the unpaid PollTax of last year or face a committal hearing; i.e. threat of jail if you flatly refuse to pay at all.

The point is that first of all no-one can be jailed before attending their committal hearing and wilfully refusing to pay any Poll Tax.

The truth is that millions of people, even if they wished to pay, cannot afford it.

This is the last weapon the council has to intimidate people into paying.

The fact remains that the Poll Tax will be with us for at least 3 to 4 years, according to the Environment Department working group this week.

We have stressed all along that as long as the Duke and the Dustman must pay the same we are not paying.

The recent changes in the published figures of Poll Tax bills at April 1st this year in the Chancellor's March budget is merely window dressing; since :

Firstly it was our campaign that forced them to inject £1.4 billion into local government

Secondly, the so-called £140 reduction - which, incidentally, does not apply to everyone - is financed by raising VAT to 17½%. This increase raised £4.6 billion. That means that those on the lowest income pay far more in VAT than the wealthy. Worse still, even those under 18 years of age are all contributing to the Poll Tax when buying items like sweets, clothes, etc.

Thirdly, these so-called reductions were also forced on this government as a result of the May local elections and the forthcoming general election.

The Poll Tax is still with us; and these cosmetic changes do not reduce its abhorrence.



There are no guarantees what the Poll Tax level will be next year, or the year after.

The newly announced 'council tax' does not guarantee any better.

The above mentioned Poll Tax working group has admitted that the threat of court summonses, liability orders, bailiffs, and even prison, has not worked in relation to more than 80% of the non-payers. The reason given is that people have learned their rights, and know about the bailiffs' limitations.

When you finally receive your letter to appear for your committal at the Magistrates Court - which is very unlikely, since so far only 18 people have been put in jail for a few days each for non-payment of the Poll Tax - you will choose either to refuse to pay no matter what (wilful refusal), or to admit that you wish to pay but you can't (culpable neglect). Then, after they have assessed your income and outgoings, they can deduct so much a week according to a table of figures.

All councils in the country, even if they wished to jail us, can't, since there are millions of us ( 15 million plus 3½ million who have 'disappeared', according to the Audit Office).

Let's stand with millions of non-wage-earning house  
workers

Let's stand with 9 million pensioners

Let's stand with 2.2 million unemployed

Let's stand with all those who cannot afford this  
hated tax.

Let's prove that we are the true descendants of the 1381 revolt which abolished the first Poll Tax.

For information :



# **ANTI-POLL TAX GROUPS IN NOTTINGHAM**

This list was made at the beginning of March 1990, so some of it may be out of date by the time you read it, since new groups are appearing so rapidly at the moment. Phone one of these numbers for more information about what's happening in your area - now!

PUBLIC MEETING

## **Getting Organised To Beat The Poll Tax**

**Monday April 2nd  
at 7.30 pm  
The Yorker Pub,  
Mansfield Road  
(near the Victoria Centre  
clock tower)**

es.  
(et)



## ***Join the Poll Tax Revolt !***

£390 for each adult in your house. Can you afford to pay it? Even if you can, do you think you should? Do you think its fair that factory owners only pay the same poll tax as the people who work for them? And do you realise that it isn't only our pockets the poll tax hits? Under the poll tax, our council services will be cut back even further, when already they're not good enough.

## ***Fighting Back in Scotland !***

Up and down Britain, people have been getting together to fight this unfair tax. In Scotland, over 600 000 people still haven't paid a penny of the tax. An extra 500 000 started off by paying, but later realised that they too could refuse. Its a now a year since the first poll tax bills came out in Scotland, and so far not one non-payer has been successfully prosecuted.

## ***Fighting in the Workplace !***

Already, union members have taken action against the tax. DSS workers in London have been on strike over attempts to force them to hand over personal details about claimants to poll tax officials, and in Scotland workers and anti-poll tax campaigners together have stopped employers taking poll tax arrears from people's wages.

## ***Winning the Fight !***

Its great that so many people have come on this demonstration against the poll tax. Its important to feel how strong we are when we all stand together. But by itself, sadly, this march wont change anything. We know from ten years experience that this government doesn't even pretend to listen to public opinion. What we have to do is hit the poll tax where its weakest - in our own homes and workplaces.

## ***Neighbourhood Campaigns***

There are now 16 anti-poll tax groups in Nottingham. Check the list on the other side, and see if there's one in your area. If there is, call them soon and ask what you can do to help. If there isn't a group in your area already, perhaps you'd like to help start one up?

## ***Getting Organised***

For everyone here today, there must be ten other people at home who don't like the poll tax. We need to speak to all those people, let them know they're not alone, give them the confidence to throw their poll tax bills straight into the bin. Its a lot of work, but its much easier than you might think - and you'll get plenty of help from the other, established groups. And don't be put off because you can only do a bit - your help is still valuable.

## ***Come to a Meeting***

Not boring speeches, but the chance to meet other people actively involved in fighting the poll tax, and learn from them how to organise in your own area. We held a meeting like this two months ago after the demonstration in Nottingham, and two new groups were set up as a result.

## ***Its Time To Fight Back !***



# **IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED ONE OF THESE FORMS CONTACT YOUR ANTI POLL TAX UNION**

THE CITY COUNCIL IS DISGRACEFULLY CONTINUING TO TRY TO COLLECT THE POLL TAX. OVER 90,000 PEOPLE ARE NOT PAYING IN THE CITY. ( 43% ) THEY ARE SENDING OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION FORMS TO TRY TO STOP THE POLL TAX OUT OF YOUR WAGES OR YOUR INCOME SUPPORT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO WITH IT. THE COUNCIL IS HINTING THAT THEY MAY TAKE YOU BACK TO COURT IF YOU DO NOT FILL IT IN. IN COVENTRY 12,000 HAVE NOT SENT THEM BACK. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO RISK A FINE OF UP TO £100 & A CRIMINAL CONVICTION. THE COUNCIL HAS ,AS YET, TAKEN NO ACTION. PERHAPS THEY ARE SHORT ON COURT TIME. OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO SEND IT BACK NOT FILLED IN BUT WITH A QUESTION. e.g. They don't understand the form; why does it have to be in block capitals? or they started their name in ordinary handwriting & then realised it should be in capitals. Or why are the council asking how much they can take? BUT WHATEVER YOU DO BE AWARE THAT IF YOU PUT YOUR EMPLOYERS DOWN THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE THE MAXIMUM THEY CAN. SO CONTACT US FOR ADVICE. WE WILL SUPPORT PEOPLE NOT FILLING THEM IN. IF YOU SEND IT BACK WITH A QUESTION , KEEP A COPY OF YOUR LETTER, IF POSSIBLE. SAY IN YOUR LETTER YOU HAVE NOT REFUSED TO FILL IT IN BUT..... & then ask your question. And try & send the letter recorded delivery. FOR MORE HELP CONTACT



City Treasury  
The Guildhall  
Nottingham NG1 2DE  
Telephone (0602) 483500 ext. 4134/4125  
Telex 377459

City of  
Nottingham



S.H.E Stares  
City Treasurer  
D McMurdo  
Deputy City Treasurer

COMMUNITY CHARGE NOTICE REQUIRING INFORMATION OF EARNINGS/BENEFITS

AREA BILL REFERENCE NO. SUMMONS NO.

Date of complaint.

4TH SEPTEMBER 1990

CHARGE TYPE

PERSONAL

CHARGE FOR 1990/1991 £390.00

PENALTIES	£0.00
COSTS	£10.00
CREDITS	£0.00
TOTAL DUE	£400.00

ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 1990 AT  
THE GUILDHALL NOTTINGHAM

A LIABILITY ORDER WAS GRANTED IN FAVOUR OF NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIABILITY ORDER GRANTED BY THE NOTTINGHAM MAGISTRATES

COURT ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 1990 I AM EMPOWERED TO REQUEST PERIODIC  
DEDUCTIONS FROM YOUR EARNINGS/INCOME SUPPORT UNTIL THE SUM SHOWN ABOVE HAS BEEN  
PAID.

I MUST THEREFORE ASK YOU TO COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE REVERSE OF THIS LETTER AND  
RETURN IT TO ME WITHIN THE NEXT 14 DAYS.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER MAY RESULT IN YOU BEING BROUGHT BEFORE THE  
MAGISTRATES COURT AND MAY RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL FINE.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DEDUCTIONS FROM YOUR EARNINGS MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL  
ADMINISTRATION COSTS TO BE PAID BY YOURSELF DIRECT TO YOUR EMPLOYER.

IF YOU WISH TO AVOID THIS ACTION THE BALANCE SHOULD BE PAID IMMEDIATELY.

S.H.E. STARES  
CITY TREASURER.

PLEASE ANSWER ALL THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS USING BLOCK CAPITALS

1. EMPLOYMENT

(a) What is your full name?

Surname

Forenames

Mr/Mrs/Miss

(b) By whom are you employed?

If you have more than one employer give answers in respect of each.

If you are not employed, say so and give the name of your last employer, if any.

If self employed enter "self employed" and send a copy of your latest income  
tax computation and disregard the remainder of this form.

(c) Where are you employed?

(d) In what capacity are you employed?

(e) What is the address of your employer's Head Office if different from (c) above?

(f) What is your works number  
and pay reference

2. PAY AND INCOME

(a) What is your pay before deductions? £ per week/month

(b) What overtime, bonuses, fees, allowances

or commission do you receive? £ per week/month  
State whether on a regular basis or otherwise.

(c) Give details of deductions which are  
normally made from your pay. £ per week/month

(d) What is your usual take home pay?

(e) Do you receive (i) a pension?  
(ii) any state benefits?  
(iii) any other income?

3. OTHER DEDUCTIONS

Do you have any other attachment of earnings?  
If so please give details.

4. PROPOSAL FOR PAYMENT

What sum would you be prepared to have deducted from your earnings in order  
to satisfy the outstanding charge? £ per week/month

If you are sick/unemployed what date do you expect to return to work? 19

ADDRESS

SIGNED

DATED



# THE POLL TAX: A STRATEGY TO WIN

Today's conference shows the potential for a mass working class offensive against the Poll Tax. Yet what is lacking is a strategy that can win. We are faced with a majority on the left who insist on maintaining a blind faith in the need for left-labour councillors to provide the movement's leadership and, in so doing, railroading the struggle up a political and strategic blind alley.

## LABOUR COUNCILS: CAN'T FIGHT, WON'T FIGHT!

Calls to "pressurise" Labour councils into refusing to co-operate with the registration, implementation or collection of the tax because "it is they who have the power to launch ...activity and who are running away from their responsibility" miss one basic point: Municipal councils, as bodies of the State, never have and never will share the interests of the working class. Indeed, in both 1984 and 1985 a "Militant" led Liverpool Labour council ended up both increasing rates and implementing Tory cuts. Their much-trumpeted fight against ratecapping ending in legal wrangling, the threat of redundancies and capitulation; all to stay within the law. Similarly Labour councils across the country have responded to Government cuts by introducing so-called "Creative Accounting" in the form of workforce and spending cuts and rent increases. In the fight against the Poll Tax will Labour councils do anything but sell the Working Class down the river? At this moment every Labour council in England, Scotland and Wales is duly implementing the tax. **When it comes to the choice between breaking the law or breaking the poor Labour councils will always choose the latter.**

## HEAD-ON COLLISION

As Anarchists we hold no illusions in the Labour leaders' "responsibility" towards the working class and our struggles. Rather than lobbying councillors to persuade them to lead our cause we must simply expose their inability to play a truly significant part in our struggle. Instead of looking for leadership from above we aim to **build** a campaign rooted in the working class. Our strategy is not abstract or utopian; it is based on hard experience of struggles led to defeat by bureaucratic, class-collaborationist leaders. This is what we need to do:

- DON'T REGISTER:** In areas where registration is incomplete a campaign of non-registration on a community and workplace basis can still be used to raise consciousness and build support for the struggle.
- DON'T PAY:** If non-payment is to succeed it must be a mass campaign built street by street, estate by estate. When necessary physical defence of communities against bailiffs and snoopers must also be organised.
- DON'T COLLECT:** Non-implementation by all workers involved in the collection process must be organised for and backed-up with strike action, official if possible unofficial if necessary.
- GENERALISED STRIKE ACTION:** As soon as non-payees are taken to court or workers are victimised political strikes must be launched throughout the entire labour movement.
- BUILD ANTI POLL TAX COMMITTEES:** Local anti-poll tax groups must be organised into delegate committees which can mobilise the forces of non-compliance. Only an independent campaign can avoid being derailed by the Labour and TUC leaders.



**Anarchist Workers Group**  
**P.O. Box B20 Huddersfield HD1 1XS**



S T O P

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STOP THE JAILINGS

It is now 15 months since the Poll Tax was introduced into England and Wales.

In this time this vicious and unjust tax has been opposed firmly and massively by people from all walks of life - the 'gainers' as well as the 'losers'.

The government has itself admitted the tax to be both wrong and unworkable.

And yet it's still here :

With millions of pounds still unpaid from the first year, people are now receiving a second year's bills.

Councils are still sending out summonses and bailiffs to harass and intimidate those who do not have the money to pay these bills, and those who, in solidarity with the poor, refuse to pay them.

And now, in Rushcliffe, they are bringing people to court for committal to prison.

What will this gain anyone ?

Imprisonment doesn't bring in the money (in fact it costs more money !) - it is purely intimidatory and victimising.

In June a Nottingham Magistrate handed out sentences of 1 month in jail to a young student, unless he finds £5 a week; 1 month in jail to a young, low waged man with a baby on the way, unless he finds £20 a week; 3 months in jail to an unemployed man, unless he finds £50 a month.

This month more committal proceedings are to be held.

But they cannot jail 18½ million non-payers !

And it is clear that people are prepared to go to prison in the fight against this draconian taxation.

Give your support to these people.

We will not - we must not - stand quietly by and watch the poorest or the bravest amongst us being picked off.

Go to the Guildhall on July 18th (and future hearings) to voice your opposition and give support to those summonsed. Write to your councillors to protest.

NO JAILINGS !

NO VICTIMISATION !

NO POLL TAX !



RUSHCLIFFE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

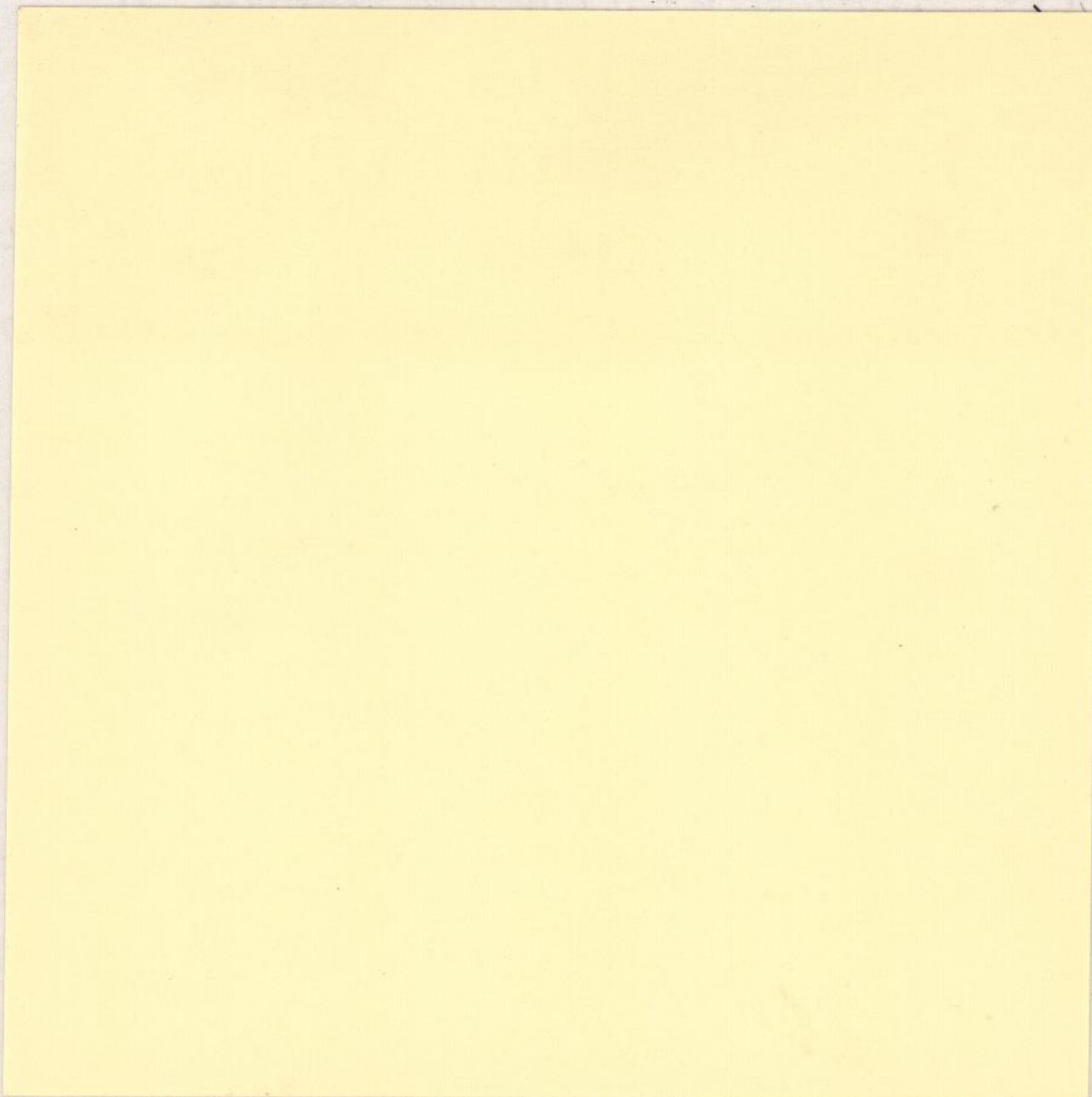
Meetings : Wednesday 10th July  
and fortnightly

7.30 p.m.

Stumps Bar, The Test Match Pub  
Gordon Road  
West Bridgford

(extra meeting this month - 17th July)

Contact Numbers :





# After Your Court Case

## - What Next ?

If you admitted liability today you will receive a form asking for information about your wages etc. When you get this form, or if anyone you know gets this form, make sure you contact us on one of the numbers below.

If you denied liability today your case was probably adjourned and the council can do nothing to you until your case is reheard. However, a few people have received forms requesting details of wages even though they were granted an adjournment. If this happens to you make sure you send it back uncompleted with a letter saying your case was adjourned and giving the date. Again, phone us.

After a week or so it's an idea to phone the City Treasury to confirm the date of your second court appearance.

Remember, 27% in Nottingham haven't paid a penny and another 36% are in arrears or have stopped paying.

You are not alone!!

Contact us for any information or advice on:

553

Hyson Green and Forest Fields Anti-Poll Tax Campaign meets every Tuesday at 8.00pm at the Indian Community Centre, Rawson Street (near Noel Street swimming baths). Everybody welcome.



# **CLIFTON ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN**

## **WHAT NEXT ?**

IF YOUR CASE HAS BEEN ADJOURNED TODAY, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR OWN PERSONAL VICTORY AGAINST THE POLL TAX. THE COUNCIL WILL NOW SUMMONS YOU AGAIN, BUT DON'T RELY ON THE COUNCIL TO NOTIFY OF THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR NEXT HEARING. THEY HAVE FAILED TO NOTIFY OTHER NON PAYERS AND THEN DELT WITH THEIR CASES IN THEIR ABSENCE.

YOU MUST TELL THE CLIFTON APTC THAT YOUR CASE HAS BEEN ADJOURNED SO THAT WE CAN HELP YOU AT A LATER DATE. THE IMPORTANT THING THAT YOU MUST REMEMBER TO DO IS TO CONTACT THE CITY TREASUREY AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK (EVERY DAY IF THIS IS POSSIBLE) ON NOTTINGHAM 483500. YOU SHOULD ASK TO SPEAK TO GORDON EDGE AND DEMAND TO KNOW WHEN YOUR CASE WILL NEXT BE HEARED.

WHEN YOU KNOW THE DATE AND TIME CONTACT THE CLIFTON APTC ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WE WILL HELP YOU AT THE COURTS AND SUPPORT YOU AGAINST WHAT EVER THE COUNCIL TRY AND TAKE AFTER THE COURTS.

B,

## **DON'T PANIC DON'T PAY**



# **CLIFTON ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN**

## **WHAT NEXT ?**

IF YOU HAVE HAD A LIABILITY ORDER GRANTED AGAINST YOU TODAY, DONT WORRY, THE COUNCIL STILL HAVE NOT GOT ANY MONEY FROM YOU, THEY HAVE ONLY THE PERMISSION OF THE COURTS TO COLLECT THE MONEY.

THEY CAN DO THIS BY EITHER WAGE/BENEFIT ARRESTMENT OR BY USING THEIR BAILIFFS. YOU WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL WITH A PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM ENCLOSED. THIS FORM REQUESTS INFORMATION ON WHERE YOU WORK AND HOW MUCH YOU EARN ETC. DO NOT FILL THIS FORM IN UNTILL YOU HAVE CONTACTED THE CLIFTON ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN. IF YOU ARE PAID A VISIT BY THE COUNCIL BAILIFFS OR RECOVERY OFFICERS AS THEY LIKE TO BE CALLED, DONT PANIC THEY HAVE NO LEGAL RIGHT OF ENTRY UNLESS YOU INVITE THEM IN. ASK THEM TO COME BACK AT A MORE CONVEINENT TIME AND THEN CONTACT THE CLIFTON APTC AND WE WILL PREPARE A WELCOME PARTY FOR THEM THAT THEY WILL WANT TO FORGET.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE CLIFTON ANTI POLL TAX CAMPAIGN OR WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN OUR FIGHT WITH THE BAILIFFS, THEN PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

G

**DON'T PANIC DON'T PAY**