

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS' CAMPAIGN AFFILIATES

### APT's

Abercromby APTU  
Aberdeen ATPT  
Abbeyhill APT Group  
Adswold APTU  
All Scottish APT Federation  
Avon Fed of APTU's  
Aylesbury Vale APTU  
Barnsley Campaign ATPT  
Basingstoke APTU  
Bath University APTU  
Beacon Lough APTU  
Bedminster APTU  
Borstal APTU  
Brent APT  
Bridgwater APTU  
Bristol Healthworkers APT  
Broughton APTG  
Broughton/Inverleith APTU  
Burley APTU  
Burnley APTU  
Cambridge APT Campaign  
Camden Stop The Poll Tax  
Canton APT Group  
Cholsey APT  
Chorlton APTU  
Cinderford APTU  
Clapton APTU  
Clifton / Hotwells APTU  
Colchester ATPT  
Crawley APT  
Craylands APTU  
Crookesmoor ATPT  
Doncaster APT Campaign  
Downs Estate APTU  
E.Dulwich APTU  
East Herts APTU  
East Oxford APT  
Easton APTU  
Elswick & Benwell ATPT  
Frome APTG  
GAPTA  
Gravesend APTU  
Green Lanes APT  
Greenwich ATPT  
Hackney APTU  
Hackney ATPT Fed  
Hammersmith Fulham APT Fed  
Haringey APTU  
Haymarket/Tollcross APTC  
Headingly APT Campaign  
Heeley ATPT  
Hertfordshire APT Fed  
Highfields APTU  
Hornsey APT  
Hounslow APTU

Huddersfield APTU  
Hunters Bar APT  
Ibex-Cessnock ATPT  
Isle of Dogs APTU  
Islington ATPT  
Kettering APTU  
Kilburn APT  
Kingsdown APTU  
Ladywell APTU  
Leeds Fed of APT Groups  
Leeds Gen Infirmary APTG  
Leicestershire APT Fed  
Leith APTU  
Lewisham APTU  
Lincoln APT Campaign  
Liverpool University APTU  
Llandrindod APTU  
London APT Fed  
Long Eaton APTC  
Longsight ATPT  
Merchiston/Morningside APTU  
Middlesborough ATPT  
Middlesex Students ATPT  
Mildmay APT  
Milton Gardens APTU  
Muirhouse Community Res APT  
Newtown APTU  
Nightingale APTU  
Norwich APTU  
Nottingham APT Fed  
Pembury ATPT  
Peterborough APTU  
Pitstop  
Plymouth APT Fed  
Pollokshields ATPT  
Prestonfield & District CR-APT  
Pudsey APTU  
Reading APT Coordination  
Rochester APTU  
Rotherham APT Federation  
Rugby APTU  
Sciennes/Marchmont APTU  
Sheffield ATPT  
Silverdale APTU  
Southside APTU  
Southville & Ashton APTU  
Splott & Adamsdown APTU  
St Albans ATPT  
St Andrews APTU  
St Werburghs APTU  
Stamford Hill APTG  
Stockbridge-Newtown APT Group  
Stockport APT Federation  
Strood APTU  
Sunderland Central APTG  
Sussex Poll Tax Resisters  
Sutton ATPT

Swindon APT Fed  
TME Cmte. of the Belper APTU  
Taunton Deane APTU  
Tottenham APT  
Tower Hamlets ATPT  
Town Fields & Wheatley APT  
Undercliffe APTU  
Victoria APTU  
W10/W11 APT Campaign  
WALAPTU  
Waltham Forest No Poll Tax  
Wandsworth ATPT  
Warrington APTU  
Warwick & Leamington APTU  
Watford APTU  
West Hampstead APTU  
Winchester ATPT  
Wirral ATPT  
York Against the Poll Tax

### Trade Unions

AEU' Colchester  
Barnsley TUC  
Barrow Trade Union Council  
Bath TUC  
Bath Trades Union Council  
Bloomsbury Health Branch Nalco  
Brighton, Hove & District TUC  
CPSA, DHSS Central Branch  
Camden Teachers' Association  
Camden Trades Council  
E. London Oil Trades TGWU  
East London Teachers Ass (NUT)  
GMB TU 200  
Hackney Nalco  
Hammersmith & Fulham TC  
Haringey Nalco Local Gov. Bra.  
Haringey TUC  
Hyndburn TUC  
Kilburn 1/724 TGWU Branch  
Knowsley Nalco  
Lambeth TUC  
Leeds Area Teachers' Ass. NUT  
Leicester & District TUC  
Llanelli Trades Council  
MSF 245 Branch  
MSF St. Pancras Branch  
NALGO, Greenwich  
NALGO, Leicestershire  
Newcastle Poly SU  
Newcastle U.T. TUC  
Newton Aycliffe & District TUC  
North Staffs. Trades Council  
Rank and File Teachers  
Southwark Trades Council  
Swindon TUC  
TGWU 1/250 London Taxi Drivers  
TGWU 6/538  
TGWU Neasden 1/1938 Branch  
TGWU Region No. 1  
Tameside Nalco  
Tameside TUC  
V.O. Branch NALGO  
Wirral Trades Council  
Wisbech and District TUC  
Yorks Trade Council

### Other Groups

Advisory Service for Squatters  
Bradford 1-in-12 Club  
Bradford ABC  
Cambridge Anarchist Group  
Chumbawamba  
Class War Federation  
Cleveland NCCL Group  
Deptford DAM & IWA  
Deptford Labour Party  
East London Red Action  
Federation of Claimants Unions  
Gabalfa Labour Party  
Greenleaf (Quarterly)  
Hackney CDA  
Hackney Solidarity Group  
Hammersmith SWP

Haringey Unwaged Centre  
Haringey Senior Citizens CC  
Hither Green Labour Party  
International Socialist League  
Lancaster Anarchists Anonymous  
Leeds ABC  
Leeds Anarchists  
Lewisham Women & Empl. Proj.  
Liverpool Anarchists  
London ABC  
London Anarchist Communist Fed  
London Greenpeace  
London Institute Student Union  
London Labour Briefing  
London RCG  
Manchester Class War  
Manchester Socialist Outlook  
Mutual Aid Centre  
NUS London  
Newham Green Party  
Northern Counter-Information  
Nottingham Defence Fund  
Oi Polloi  
Oxford PTRSG  
Plymouth Solidarity Group  
Plymouth Sutton Labour Party  
Reading Anarchist Group  
SE Region DAM  
Sheffield Univ Students Union  
Southampton Anarchists  
Southampton Class War  
Stirling Anarchists  
Stirling Univ Anarchist Group  
Sunpower Books & Crafts  
The Inmates  
UK Resist  
ULU  
Unemployed Workers Charter  
Woodford Green Peace Group  
Workers Power  
Wrekin Syndicalists

### Overseas

Agappa  
Autonome Bibliothek  
Blitz Bookshop  
Brand (magazine)  
Coffee-shop Bollocks  
Ermittlungsausschuss  
La Procedure  
Nabate  
Network Uitkeringsgerechtigden  
Odessa Helsinki Group  
Ravage (Newspaper)  
Schwartz Markt  
Sofia Anarchists  
Viva  
Warzone  
Wolnitsa

And many, many individuals.

Apologies to any group whose name has been inadvertently omitted.

Of course, if you haven't yet affiliated...

I/We wish to affiliate to the TSDC:

Name of organisation/individual:

Address:

Phone:

Contact person:

£5 - Local

We enclose £.....

£10 - District

£25 Regional & TU's

Donations desperately needed for welfare of the Poll Tax prisoners. £.....

Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign  
c/o 205 Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London  
WC1N 0AP  
Telephone 071 833 8958

# STAND FIRM

No 6 SUMMER 1991 PAPER OF TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEFENDANTS CAMPAIGN

## PICKET!

The TSDC Prisoners' Support Group is now holding regular monthly actions in support of all the poll tax prisoners and to demand a complete amnesty and compensation. These actions will take place on the first Saturday of every month and, in London will focus on picketing those prisons that are holding the poll tax hostages.

The idea is to keep up public pressure on the authorities to give a complete amnesty to the poll tax protesters. Why not do something in your area? See page 6 for ideas of what you could organise locally.



**STANDING FIRM:** A steady stream of prison pickets over the last year has been a successful tactic in highlighting the plight of the poll tax prisoners. This one was at Pentonville last year - lets keep up the pressure until they're released.

**POLL TAX VICTORIES - NOW WE DEMAND...**

# AMNESTY!

THREE YEARS of mass non-payment and non co-operation, community organisation and protest has achieved some resounding victories. The government has been forced to "promise" to scrap the Poll Tax and its principles, to admit it is now uncollectable and to abandon any new Register as unworkable.

Now is the time to launch the next stage of the campaign - total amnesty for all non-payers and prisoners.

### Amnesty for non-payers

All debts must be written off. Councils are already appealing to the Government to give them powers to scrap debts built up due to hardship - and to abolish bills for those on benefits and students. In any case we will gradually make this a reality as tax collection efforts become

progressively undermined. The State has massive resources to squander on wars, motorways and other junk - let's make it pay up for OUR needs.

### Amnesty for hostages

Every Poll Tax prisoner is held as a hostage to try to intimidate the population from joining the non-payment movement and our demonstrations.

Attacks on our protests failed to divide and discredit the campaign. The TSDC and other local defence campaigns have ensured this. However, every jailed demonstrator must be freed and compensated. The whole movement must demand this.

Despite over 14 million not paying, only about 20 people have been jailed,

Continued on page 2



# AMNESTY!

continued from page 1

for short terms, for debt. Widespread local anger and activity in response have ensured special 'status' and treatment and often early release. In any case the prisons are already overflowing and it seems that local authorities are deliberately and cynically terrorising people with the threat of jail committal hearings as their 'last card'. In reality they are forced to accept compromise deals to repay or to impose suspended sentences. We have refused to be intimidated, but we now have a duty to those inside - FREE THE PRISONERS.

## Enforcement defied

The authorities have attempted to use the repressive machinery of courts, forced deductions of wages and benefits, bailiffs and jailings - but mass defiance has so far rendered them largely ineffective in most areas. (Latest official report indicates that 80% defy all legal threats). Local councils are reduced to regularly sending out millions of increasingly threatening letters. These do frighten some people, but the threats in them are hollow when countered by consistent local anti-poll tax activity and the high levels of determined non-payment. Soaring non-registration levels are further sabotaging collection of the tax.

Government efforts to defuse the crisis by planning to scrap the tax has only strengthened the resolve of the non-payers and encouraged the waverers to

join them. However it has had the effect of undermining the momentum and direction of the campaign, and the involvement of people in local activities. This has temporarily weakened the movement just at the time when the repressive measures are being employed. In England and Wales, councils are only now beginning to seriously use all methods to intimidate and force individuals to pay.

Whilst the letters, summonses, visits and threats have caused some fear, this has tended to subside over time except in areas (eg suburban) lacking a "resistance culture" and organised opposition. As each stage is ignored or bypassed by local non-payers new threats are employed.

## Our demands now

Many people, including some activists, feel that the main arguments and battles have been won and that passive individual non-co-operation is enough. However, as well as the amnesty campaign, the fight continues to scrap the Tax now, not in 1993/4. And what about any new Tax (Tory or Labour)? Millions won't wish to pay it. In any case, real community solidarity work against courts and bailiffs etc is now essential. And we need to continue to oppose the savage cuts in local services, demanding all cuts be restored.

We should be learning from the strengths and experiences of the campaign and developing general solidarity networks and groups to take up

wider struggles. (This is already happening in a number of areas). It's up to us - all Councils have proved themselves to be agents of the State, and left-wing parties have generally fought to control or use the campaign for their own ends.

## The way forward

The movement still has enormous potential and responsibilities. The All Britain 'Federation', in the iron grip of Militant, is opposed to all genuine self-organisation and independent thinking. It has refused to lift a finger (or a penny) in real support for those tried and jailed for defending our demonstrations, and in fact has done almost nothing to spread information and encourage direct co-operation amongst local groups. It is little more than a bureaucratic shell controlled by a political clique for their own purposes. Most groups are not affiliated.

Meanwhile, the genuine regional and national networks and initiatives now need to be developed to the full. Many groups, including the TSDC, are organising a National Anti-Poll Tax Conference in the autumn (see box). Such direct co-operation will take the fight forward. For the TSDC, this means stepping up the demands for a total amnesty for the non-payers and all the anti-poll tax prisoners.

We send our solidarity to all organisations and activists - let's STAND FIRM together.

DAVE MORRIS

## NATIONAL ANTI-POLL TAX CONFERENCE Autumn 1991

To discuss and share experiences and ideas for the way forward, and to strengthen the flow of information and co-operation throughout the movement. It is being organised democratically by APT groups and federations through open Planning Meetings. The TSDC calls on all groups to participate.

(National Delegates Meeting Sunday July 14, 2-6pm, Manchester Town Hall)

### Conference contacts:

South of England: Haringey

Yorkshire: Yorks

North West: N.W. APT For

South West: South West

Scotland: APT Action Netw

# CAMPAIGN NEWS

# COURT CIRCULAR

THE FIRST three months of this year for the TSDC were dominated by two main areas of work. Firstly, basic support for defendants in the continuing trials, especially those at Crown Court on more serious charges. And secondly the preparations for the National Demo on March 23rd.

## Organising for the demonstration

We worked hard to ensure: a) that the march went ahead and passed Trafalgar Square (which we booked to ensure this) b) that defendants' and prisoners' solidarity was a main issue and c) that the whole movement took seriously its responsibility to organise effective legal backup and monitoring of the police.

To this end, we did national mailouts of briefing packs, phone rounds, attending all London and national meetings (including all stewards meetings) and so on. We recruited and briefed about 150 legal volunteers to cover the march, including camera crews and a co-ordination office - these along with the sixty or more contingents who had come with legal volunteers ensured that the police were watched and the movement prepared. Over 20,000 bust cards were distributed.

We feel that this successfully inhibited the police and helped to prevent arrests. We also hope that this serves as a model for all who call future protests and claim to take the welfare of participants seriously.

## Backing those on trial

The magistrates courts trials are gradually coming to an end and the ones on more serious charges at the Crown courts have been monitored and prepared for extensively in most cases.

However, with one or two exceptions, and despite some victories (for example, the prosecution failed to win a single 'riot' charge) we didn't manage to get the sort of national publicity and outrage which would have caused the prosecution to abandon the cases, and to prevent a lot of heavy sentences.

## Supporting the prisoners

The activity of the Prisoners Support Group has gradually grown and is likely to be the main work for the next couple of years. Also the TSDC's priority is now to get the whole APT movement and others to campaign for an Amnesty for all those inside.

## Organising the campaign

Weekly general meetings of 12-25

people have continued all year, although, as the trials end, the number of defendants taking part has declined. This is also due to the TSDC office being opened for defendants to get advice, view videos etc. We have to move in June, but wish to publicly thank the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers for virtually handing over their entire office to us for a year for free.

Although our work is changing, we still have to produce reports of the March 23rd demo and the February Solidarity Conference, as well as some kind of Guide for organising legal defence for demos and people on trial. But money is a serious problem especially as we now need every penny for basic prisoners' welfare.

## Reviewing our activity

We are naturally part of the APT movement, but also linked to other self defence movements and campaigns. At the same time our priority has been practical support for every defendant and prisoner. These varying tasks and issues have led to some debate.

Questions such as: "... 'How do the TSDC aid defendants to win court cases (mostly arguing 'innocence') whilst prominently advocating the right to self-defence?'... 'Have we become so 'legalistic' that we have failed to get over the real politics of the Battle of Trafalgar?'... 'Were we right to have cooperated with, and tried to APT Federation in the light of their hostility to the defendants and the TSDC?'... 'Have we succeeded in getting the APT movement to really defend its prisoners - or is there a big gap between policies and actual practice?'... 'Is there a need for permanent local/regional police monitoring and defence organisations - and how can we aid this to happen?'... 'What are the roles of, and relationships between, defendants, active supporters, affiliates, and now prisoners and their families?'.

## The future

Some of these ideas will have been discussed at the TSDC National Meeting for defendants and supporters in June. This has been such an important and complex campaign - and exciting (and exhausting) for those of us involved. We can only hope that we have achieved some or most of our original aims, and played an important part in the movement to defeat the poll tax and to defend the right to demonstrate. The struggle continues.

SINCE THE last issue of Stand Firm in January, the number of court cases has tailed off considerably, particularly since April. There has been a high number of acquittals but many have also gone down for lengthy sentences. This is reflected by the fact that, post-Xmas, most court cases have been for major offences such as Section 1 (Riot) or Section 2 (Violent Disorder) rather than the relatively minor crimes such as Section 4 (Threatening Behaviour) and Obstruction which dominated the magistrates courts last year.

The first riot trial began in mid-January with Tim Donaghy, Darren Healey and Nikki Wadleigh in the dock. Tim and Darren were cleared of riot after a 17 day trial, as was Nikki who walked free of all charges. This was a victory of sorts despite the fact that Tim and Darren were sadly sent down for Section 2 offences, because to date the Crown Prosecution Service has never achieved a satisfactory conviction for Riot since the Public Order Act was introduced in 1986.

In February Paul Bowman and Shabaz Fazal were co-defendants on various minor charges, who the CPS decided to try separately. Shabaz was unfortunately found guilty but two weeks later Paul's case was dismissed as the CPS failed yet again (after about 5 adjournments) to produce the right coppers in court.

In March Paul Jacobs was sentenced to four years at the Bailey. He was facing eight charges including riot - five of these were dropped and after a year on remand he pleaded guilty to two Section 2 and Handling Stolen Goods. The judge was clearly out to make an example of Paul though as he received the most savage sentence yet.

In April Alastair Mitchell's appeal began. Having lost it, he immediately applied for judicial review and a further appeal. At the time of writing his case is continuing.

Good news is there has been at least 30 acquittals so far this year (including charges dropped and appeals won). There are approximately a dozen cases outstanding which we expect to be over by August. We hope to see more acquittals and successful appeals. At least 10 defendants are currently suing the police.

We continue to demand that all the charges be dropped and a general amnesty for all poll tax defendants.

Self defence is no offence!



# FREE THE POLL TAX HOSTAGES!

WHY ARE (at least) 30 people still in jail for up to four years for protesting against or not paying the poll tax? These people were nicked, many at random, and framed up or charged with things that were obviously self-defence. The prisoners got heavy sentences to deter us from demonstrating - many did nothing at all - in this sense they are hostages to force us to pay this rotten tax which is nothing more than robbery with threats.

The police report on Trafalgar Square skips over the time when the trouble started (though it admits that it was they who lost control, giving grounds for new appeals by the prisoners) but all the videos show clearly that the police started and provoked it, that they divided the crowd and began a series of ever more brutal attacks, driving thousands of people together into a dangerous crush, while blocking all exits from Whitehall. Only luck and the restraint of demonstrators prevented a panic which could have killed dozens of people.

## Heroes jailed

A good example is that of Matt Lee, chair of the Birmingham Anti-Poll Tax Federation, who was trapped in that crowd. The only possible escape was blocked by a line of police, and Matt was seen on a video calling on others to push that line aside. An attack on the police... but one which could have saved lives in the huge crowd behind him. The videos prove this, yet for that brave action Matt Lee went to prison for 30 months and will miss the birth of his first child.

Another example among many - as the angry crowd joined those in Trafalgar Square the police were overwhelmed and made a series of wild and murderous attacks, not only with horses and riot police but by charging the crowds in their vans at up to 50mph, with "bodies bouncing off them". Some brave and angry people tried to stop it by attacking the vans - if they had not the police



might have continued, causing certain deaths. For attacking the vans Tim Donaghy got three years in prison. Darren Healey received two and a half years and Nicki Wadleigh spent 9 months on remand (nearly being driven to suicide) before being found not guilty. Another van victim is Robert Robinson who received a two year sentence for kicking a police van which had just driven over his foot!

## Defendants betrayed

How did the police get away with this? None have been even disciplined for their crimes. How did they cover up their responsibility for starting the trouble and put the blame on "hooligans, anarchists and mindless thugs"? One reason is that when the police finally cleared Trafalgar Square they drove people in front of their charges into the West End which got smashed up as a result. The media focussed on this damage, ignoring the fact that 200,000 people had marched (peacefully until attacked) against poverty, debt and exploitation. Thatcher, her ministers and the Labour Party ranted and raved on TV against "mindless, intolerable violence" but we know that it was they who ordered the first violence.

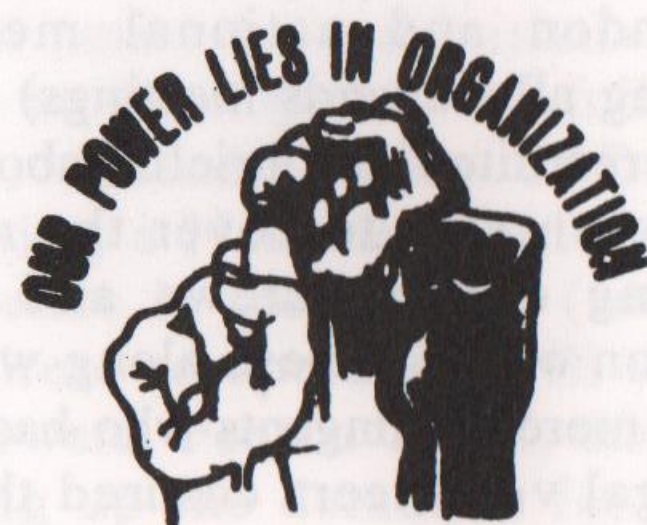
## Federation sells out

Those claiming leadership of the anti-poll tax movement also went on TV and condemned the demonstrators (giving police the green light to victimise anyone they happened to catch). These were Tommy Sheridan and Steve Nally, officers of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation who, with no mandate whatsoever, denounced those who fought back, on TV news, offering to "name names" of anyone in the Fed who had resisted and to conduct their own investigation to find those guilty.

Instead of denouncing the police crimes they attacked and betrayed the thousands of brave people who had stuck by each other, thus allowing the police, politicians and media to begin a witch hunt. But why did they do this? Because both Sheridan and Nally are members of the Trotskyist Militant Tendency which had previously infiltrated and taken control of all the key positions in the Anti-Poll Tax Federation - their hidden agenda seems to be to get themselves soft jobs in the Labour Party and pick up new members - to this end their leaders have centralised and often

denied access to information and sabotaged anything they cannot control. Defending each other was not on their agenda, they had NO legal back-up on the demo and disowned those arrested and beaten up and those who fought back for fear of damaging their political future.

Today, with thousands of people facing court cases, bailiffs, and possibly prison, and two years of poll tax to come, the political hacks from many sectarian parties are pulling out of the campaign. Again abandoning and betraying those suffering or already in prison.



After the Trafalgar Square demo the non-aligned Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign was set up as an emergency response by defendants. To start with we were overwhelmed by the huge number of arrests. Up to now over a thousand have been arrested at many anti-poll tax demos; most have been fined or given non-custodial sentences, while over a hundred have been sent to prison. At the moment 30 are inside (two for non-payment) with two given 4-year sentences and more trials still to come. Over 20 new defence campaigns have been set up around the country to support victimised anti-poll tax protestors.

## Trial by media

After Trafalgar Square the police had a free hand, with 120 officers investigating fulltime. They handed back photos seized from journalists to the yellow press who printed "rogues galleries" with lots of media hype of "wanted" people. They invaded people's homes in a series of dawn raids and arrested activists, only one of whom was ever successfully convicted. They urged people to grass each other up, obstructed the defence in every possible way and invented packs of lies to convict those arrested. They prosecuted people they had beaten up for attacking them. they denied bail, or

## MY ADVICE TO NEW PRISONERS

I'd just like to thank you again for your time and effort devoted to supporting me and other poll tax prisoners. It's well appreciated and very heartening to know of a group of people organised for our welfare.

Being sent to prison is without doubt a confusing and upsetting experience, especially for anyone who's never been sent down before. As I look back on the two months I've now done, what advice and reassurance would I have given myself on arrival, had I known what I know now? Well firstly I'd have begun by reminding myself that this is a situation not of my choice and that my priorities are; to get out as early as legally possible and to make my life as tolerable as possible in the meantime.

To these ends I would have said that it is essential to try and accept and get on with prison life. Avoid making enemies. Obviously this isn't always down to you, but an attitude of quiet co-operation with prison life will certainly serve better than one of rebellious disaffection. Remember you have rights, but in reality demanding things is more likely to lose you privileges than gain what you believe yourself to be entitled to. Quiet, polite approaches to the authorities get results. Hostile demands don't. Having said that it is also essential to have the respect and co-operation of your fellow inmates. So it's necessary to tread carefully, to find the balance between working the system to your advantage and not upsetting fellow inmates by being too friendly with the officers. Fellow inmates, especially established ones, are usually the best way to discover how to do things. Use whatever chances you get for association to this end.

It's usually best to get advice, on whatever you want to

achieve, from several sources. Remember it's no use getting angry in prison. However frustrated you feel, publicly expressing your anger, however justified, will achieve nothing positive and may have rather bad consequences. As you begin to learn how to work the system start applying for everything that will make your time more busy. Classes, work, gym, cell cleans, etc. Being busy is the key to making the time pass more quickly and tolerably. It's also the best chance of turning your sentence to any possible benefit to yourself. Try not to dwell on what's missing from your life, though don't forget. Never lose sight of the fact that one day, the sooner the better, you're going to get out. As an inmate said to me the other day "Being inside is time to do all those things (those available anyway) that you didn't have time for outside" - getting fit and/or educated for example. Look out for advantage takers. Don't be too generous with your baccy, toiletries, etc. In prison it's essential to maintain yourself. Keep your self respect.

Finally, try and keep in touch with the outside as much as possible. Send as many letters as you can afford: getting replies is a boost to your morale.

It must be said that this approach has worked for me but I've been lucky. Being a metal worker I quickly got a job (£2.75 a week, ed.) on the works at Wandsworth. Though I wouldn't choose it my prison life is quite tolerable. I've tried to avoid specific advice as prisons vary, I hope it may be of some use to someone however.

MARTIN BENFIELD

asked for impossible amounts (like £10,000) and ridiculous bail conditions. They put poll tax prisoners on 22-hour lock-up. In this they were enthusiastically helped by the judiciary and prosecution, urged on by their political bosses.

## Support the prisoners

But all this repression has failed to scare people into paying, and we have defended those arrested as best we could, and got better at it. Mass resistance has worked, we have broken the law and won, by sheer weight of numbers and local organisation and despite manipulation by political groups. Many court cases have been won and at least 10 people are now suing the police. We are succeeding in smashing the poll tax but it's not over yet. Don't let people disband your local group - surely we should defend every single non-payer, and fight to the end for a general amnesty. And as for the prisoners, those inside on our behalf, we should and could create so much agitation that the powers that be will have to back down. We've shown that we can win - without and despite the Parties and leaders who try to channel our dissent for their benefit.

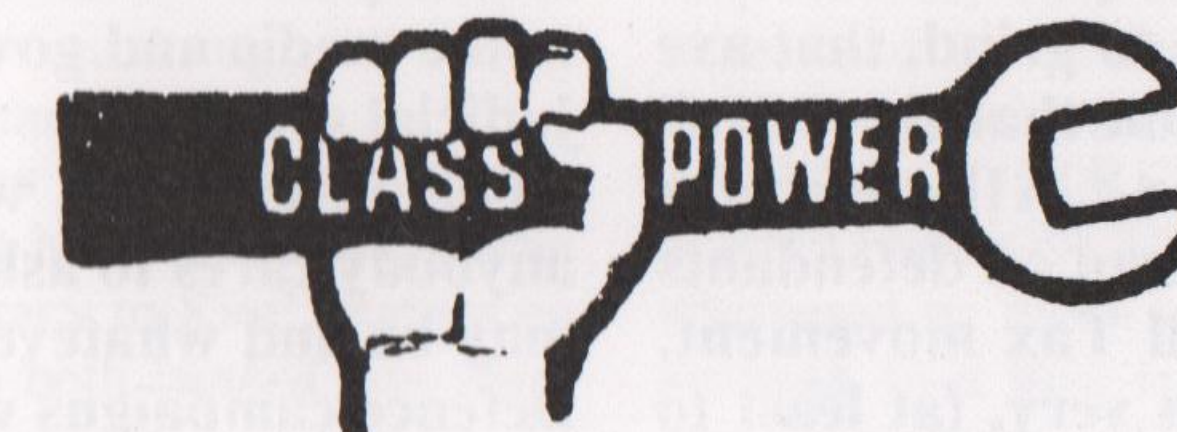
We are calling for pickets and

demonstrations on the first Saturday of every month to publicise the plight of the prisoners and demand amnesty and compensation. (see the prisoners newsletter). The idea of the days of Action (starting on June 1st) is to focus attention on the prisoners. It would be great to picket all the prisons with Poll Tax prisoners, but if there's no such prison near you, you could do local demos on courts or police stations, give out leaflets, collect money for prisoners, write letters to them, try to get publicity about them.

Not until all are released and compensated and non-payers are amnestied will our victory over the poll tax be complete.

**FREE THE POLL TAX HOSTAGES NOW!**

Mike and Ilya (Prisoners support group)



## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

*So the Polltax will be gone by the end of 1993 - ha ha ha - Victory!! We broke the law and won!! But hang on, in most places the bailiffs are just starting to move in. In Scotland they've been stopped by Anti-Bailiff organisation. basically getting a mob of us in front of the door, and intimidating them IN OTHER WAYS, as well as advising everyone of their rights. They have none if you DON'T LET THEM IN.*

*One problem is finding when they're coming, getting an advice worker with a posh voice to ring up can help. Lets organise ourselves, who needs the political parasites who are now leaving the movement in droves, and lets support anyone jailed for non-payment.*



# A WARNING ABOUT SOLICITORS

IF YOU are facing, or ever find yourself on a charge which you feel you should be found not guilty of, or are pleading not guilty to, I can't stress enough the importance of finding yourself a good sympathetic solicitor/barrister.

I found myself arrested and charged with various Public Order offences after the Brixton demo and although I already have a very good solicitor he is based in Sheffield and the problems of him defending me over such a distance added to the fact that he was already representing me on 2 other charges, I decided to use a London based firm.

On my first bail hearing I used a duty solicitor at Horseferry Road, not surprisingly due to my outstandings, I was remanded (in custody), but the solicitor was very optimistic about me being found not guilty at trial, so I decided to continue using him. After Xmas I had still not received my

depositions and as I'd written several letters asking him to visit with the barrister, to which I had received no reply or visit, I wrote informing him I was in the process of sacking him and seeking advice from an excellent and sympathetic firm.

Unfortunately in the process of this I was called up for trial at Southwark Crown Court. I arrived at court totally unprepared, never having discussed the case with a barrister or having read my depositions. Five minutes before going up for trial I told the barrister and solicitor's rep that I considered them totally incompetent and instructed them to seek an adjournment so a proper defence could be prepared. I was remanded back to Brixton Jail for four more weeks.

The solicitor visited me during this time and after a very heated argument he assured me he had found a good barrister and had prepared a good defence.

Although I was now very sceptical, four weeks left me no time to find a new firm and prepare a new case.

Relying on this solicitor's word that everything was prepared and the three witnesses I had asked would be called, I waited for my trial. I went to the Old Bailey and met my 'new, excellent' barrister - the only good thing he did was buy me a packet of cigarettes. Only one of my witnesses was called, and during the trial it was impossible to distinguish the prosecution from the defense!

Although I am now in the process of complaining to the Law Society this is little consolation for the 12 months I now have to spend rotting in Wandsworth Prison. So I give you this warning - for fuck's sake NEVER use a duty solicitor. Find a solicitor who is interested in your case and not your money.

DANNY ATTWOOD

## THE GRASS IS FINE ON THIS SIDE OF THE FENCE

I HAVE read an anonymous leaflet entitled "Keep off the Grass", about the TSDC and sent to many of its affiliates, and my initial reaction to it was the people who had written and published this tract have an axe to grind, that axe being the allegation that the TSDC is helping the All Britain Federation to inform on defendants and the Anti Poll Tax movement. They also made a very, (at least to me), annoying and spurious charge, that the TSDC legal back up system was of virtually no use to the defendants.

Speaking as a defendant and a member of the TSDC, I feel that if nothing else, the TSDC gave me the help and support I needed to help me fight my case. The plain facts are, the TSDC did not, does not and will not inform on defendants or willingly reveal any information concerning defendants under any circumstances. The TSDC is not here to aid and abet the police, judicial and government hierarchical systems of this country. Despite the fact I lost my case and was sentenced to two weeks imprisonment, it was the presence of the TSDC that ensured I did not receive a longer sentence.

The decision to co-operate with the All Britain Federation was mainly a tactical one which most of the members of the TSDC had reservations about. The main aim was to present a united public front to the media and governmental and judicial groups.

This is a point I will maintain if anybody cares to ask, whoever they may be and whatever the occasion. Defence campaigns will always be a tricky business by dint of the fact that any defence campaign requires you to rail against the system. Even if it is viewed as fighting from within, ie collaboration, it is still a very active threat against the system, and that system will view any sort of self defence as a serious threat to its power. The people who wrote "Keep off the Grass" may well feel that bureaucrats are taking over the class struggle, but as a fully "unpaid" up member of the working class, organisation - any organisation - against the system needs to work on more than one front.

NOEL

NB The TSDC has a policy of never passing on any information to the authorities under any circumstances

## CHATS PALACE MASSACRE

HACKNEY Anti-Poll Tax Action held a benefit on the 22nd March at Chats Palace which ended with an attack by the police.

Towards the end of the benefit a small fight broke out which was dealt with by benefit organisers and the staff of Chats Palace. Twenty minutes later, the benefit over, as people were leaving 30 police officers with four dogs arrived in three vans. Unwarranted, excessive physical force was used to clear the remaining few people who were on their way out.

One woman was pulled through the doors in a headlock, another frogmarched straight into a police van. Groups of people were followed and indiscriminate arrests made hundreds of yards away. Nineteen people were arrested including two at Hackney Police Station when they went there to ask about friends.

Seventeen people were held and taken to Highbury Magistrates Court the next day. Two people were freed without charge, six pleaded guilty to Drunk and Disorderly receiving fines up to £75, one was remanded in custody and the rest released on bail.

Of the 11 pleading not guilty: four have been acquitted and three are now suing the police. Four are still to be heard and only three convictions; one D&D, one obstructing the police and one obstructing the highway.

As the police arrived well after the incident was over. It is obvious that their presence and the arrests were unnecessary. So not content with attacking demos they are now making attacks on social events.

# IN THE TEMPLE OF THE LEATHER APRON



TODAY, in STAND FIRM we debate the events of March 31st with a sector of society that before we rejected as surplus to our requirements - *Judges and Magistrates*. We asked a leading London Stipendiary to pick out an outstanding member of the Judiciary and quiz him on our behalf. This month *Roger Rabid* chooses a MYSTERY MASON and asks;

JUDGES: MASONS or MANSONS??

On the Feast of St. Berni, at the three-quarter moon, I wait with breath bated at the tree of wild Metcalfe; His Honour to bestow his Wisdom and Wonder on the wonderful spooky world of *trouser-rolling Ritual*. This dark night, on uttering an unspeakably foul Oath, I feel his presence rush toward me. Spongy clouds swirling about his garish satin outfit, alive with wriggling mycelium; his face mirrors the despair of those in England's dungeons. I avert my eyes, solemnly curtsy with obsequience true, and girdled with apron resplendant; I seek audience... So Mote It Be!

*Roger Rabid*: Your incredulity; I have long been in awe of your tremendous career and many acts of charity. Although the unenlightened Crown Courts of Knightsbridge, Bedfordshire and the Old Bailey have conspired that you may not perform your works therein - You, today, are exiled to the South East Circuit, unleashed in the shadow of the Tower, within the very precincts of Southwark Crown Court itself. Umm, why did you get thrown off the St Albans Crown Court lists in '82?

*Mystery Mason*: Let us move on... I know well the habitual heresies of the populace. Their Journals constantly strive to trumpet the views of Poll Tax Terrorists! *Roger Rabid*: I know that your fair judgements have been sorely tested with such unworthy ones.

*Mystery Mason*: In my own quiet way I have ensured that those before me on these matters postulating "Reasonable Doubts" against the unimpeachably honest evidence of the police have been incarcerated with or without the encumbrance of a jury. It's for an old military man like myself to mete out the punishment in direct proportion to ungodly sin.

*Roger Rabid*: I confess I once harboured 'doubts', falsely, on the paramilitary operations of 31st March...

*Mystery Mason*: The Met fell deep into their own trap - too concerned with a 'Community Image' the disgraceful cowardice of the Press Office in their

inept handling of the situation turned certain victory into a shameful retreat. There should have been no shilly-shallying. Properly equipped Cavalry Lancers in at the first hint of heckles - follow-up with sarin drums from helicopter gunships... after that a thorough strafing of the West End would've routed 'em! But none of these practical solutions were sought, bayonets went unfixed, water cannon left to rust; an absolute shambles...

*Roger Rabid*: Some people claim to have started the Riot - but who finished it?



"...a threat to society and a danger to women — but enough about me..."

*Mystery Mason*: Well, obviously the Police came clean about their lack of lawful authority, but much as I would like to enhance the promotion prospects Brothers, it is a tedious business sorting wheat from chaff, and it would not do to ruin a Brother even though 10 others obtain early retirement.

These *Luddites* may boast of being packleaders but it has proved impossible to prefer 'Conspiracy to Riot' charges on the mobsters who both *bunked tube fares* and *sawed-off franchise logos on the trotskyist placards*. Some of their number would attack almost any conceivable manufactur'd device especially if it were primarily for the use of the disabled or aged; on the grounds that capitalist society must be deprived of all bourgeois distraction, pending its imminent destruction. I actually agree with their means - but not with the end! I simply object to all my taxes being used to feather-bed the weak - all spent on runaway wives' refuges and other fundamentally unchristian covens. I also feel that loss of property was regrettable... What, after all, is one man's misfortune - but the making of another's - particularly if a glazier with a funny handshake?

*Roger Rabid*: Given that some of the 'Leaders' on the march offered their services to the nation even whilst the riot raged... It must be safe to conclude that not all the crowd were hell-bent on chanting slogans?

*Mystery Mason*: The tragic guilt which

emanated from Scotland Yard gave the lie to those who 'came out' as Copper's Narks. They remain as dangerously ineffective as ever. I am not deceived by their leaders. Their only hold on authority came from attending meetings at which they would sell their newspapers, to each other and, fully intoxicated by the Kinnockites they would attempt to out-bore allcomers at countless Layabout Party shindigs. Democracy should start and finish at the House of Lords where natural British leaders enshrine all that is dear to our hearts. The Toytown Revolutionaries in the Labour Party thought they were helping to patch things up when they blamed everybody but themselves!

*Roger Rabid*: A stringer from Hello? Magazine tells me that your first marriage tragically collapsed under the weight of two Court Orders restraining you from your charming first wife, Eva. Was it true that...

*Mystery Mason*: SILENCE, Roger!!! I contemplated using reporting restrictions to shield my wife's misery from a merciless public. But I felt that they had a right to know that a Circuit Judge was, if anything, more severe at home, than when in Court. I am very conscious of a Judge's duty to balance evidence.

*Roger Rabid*: Your Excremence has been described by scurrilous scribes, er, somewhat uncharitably as 'THE ONLY ANWYL CURRENTLY EXPERIMENTING ON HUMANS' and it's whispered by those who dip their nibs in anthrax that you tried donating your entire body to the Natural History Museum in return for a first option on the Gallows at Wandsworth Prison?

*Mystery Mason*: How dost such treasonous talk come to be bandied about in the land without the heavens lacerating the Wrongdoers? I pull wings off butterflies, get shaky at the knees. I am Grand Master - No one loves me! Everybody hates me!

*Stand Firm*: Very touching - How could'st these volumes from (V)ermin Be spoke? When Anwyl's such a lucid Bloke?

Tales of "the Beast" at Southwark Crown Court URGENTLY sought from clerks, sol's, barristers and of course Defendants for forthcoming documentary on 'Beast's Life and Times.' TSDC Box '400 years'



# COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY AND SELF DEFENCE

The statement below was agreed by the final session of the Solidarity Conference called last February by the TSDC, on the theme: Against Police Attacks And To Defend The Right To Demonstrate. Despite the most atrocious weather for decades sealing off half the country, nearly 200 people from 70 organisations attended. There were discussion groups on black struggles, the labour movement, Irish solidarity, anti-poll tax movement and the lesbian and gay community - and also on organising demonstrations, legal back-up and monitoring the police, defence campaigns and prisoners' support.

The aim was to bring a wide section of community-based groups and activists together, not only to share ideas and experiences, but also to encourage practical co-operation and initiatives. There were useful and wide-ranging

discussions in an atmosphere of determination to organise ourselves to fight State attacks.

It has so far proved difficult to effectively set up the practical initiatives (such as the networks of prisoner support groups and defence campaigns). However, a fuller report is being produced (available on request, donations welcome) and the aim is to continue the groundwork and goodwill achieved by the holding of the conference.

The purpose of organised groups, campaigns and protests is to encourage resistance to oppression to remain firm, to spread and to become ever more effective. For this reason such groups must always be aware of hostility and harassment from the police and the need to successfully combat this.

## SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

Through our experiences we are aware of, and oppose, oppression in our society. It is deep rooted and exists in many forms, and is upheld by repressive institutions, laws and the police.

We recognise that wherever there is oppression there is resistance to it. We support all those who fight back - their self-expression, self organisation and self defence - and support those grassroots campaigns, organisations and movements, temporary or long lasting, thrown up in such struggles by those affected.

Our aim is to build up the awareness, confidence and strength of our communities to enable them to effectively withstand and overcome state aggression, and to be able to win

their campaigns and struggles for justice.

We are committed to encouraging and developing practical solidarity amongst all working class and oppressed people, both within our own communities and across the whole country and continent - especially to those engaged in self defence against state repression. Specifically:

i) We advocate, encourage, and support protests against, and defiance of, oppressive laws, policing operations, or bans/restrictions on our right to protest.

ii) We resolve to work towards a network/alliance of - defence campaigns- prisoner support groups and we encourage organisations to support each

other practically (for example by affiliations, distribution of each other's information, etc.)

iii) We urge that all those who call or organise protests take seriously their obligations to defend those participating, especially if people are arrested, tried or imprisoned.

iv) We support similar local/regional/national initiatives called by organisations and activists to share their experiences and develop solidarity, where these have a genuine commitment to grass roots/community struggles.

v) We resolve to produce and circulate a report of today's conference and to call another National Solidarity Conference next winter.

## FINANCIAL APPEAL

THE TSDC is running out of money. It may seem to many of you, with the trials virtually over, that our work is coming to an end. But this summer we have thirty prisoners doing time that the TSDC Prisoners' Support Group has pledged to take care of the welfare of.

This is currently costing TSDC around a £1,000 per month (each prisoner receives £10 per month spending money for toiletries, extra tobacco and so on, plus newspapers costing up to £10 per month, plus a radio and other sundries that they

may need). Most of these prisoners will be inside for up to two more years and somehow we must find the money to continue providing for them.

In addition to these outgoings TSDC has all the usual campaign costs to cover such as phone bills, mailouts, stationery etc, not to mention the money shelled out towards the cost of fares for court appearances or visiting prisoners.

We are appealing to everyone in the anti-poll tax movement to contribute towards the TSDC financially. Many of

you have been more than generous enough already but we ask you to dig deep yet again.

If your group has not yet affiliated, why not fill in the form on the back page? Or you could hold a benefit gig or jumble sale - large donations are a terrific boost! Individual supporters could take out a standing order at their bank - great for us as it gives a guaranteed monthly income to use for the prisoners.

Please give whatever you can afford - we must not forget our comrades inside who will continue to need our support until their release. We are pledged to provide that support but we cannot do it without your help.

# MARCH 23rd - A PERSONAL VIEW

ON MARCH 23 the second national anti-poll tax demo took place in London. About 25,000 protestors marched between Embankment and Hyde Park, passing through Trafalgar Square, which was stuffed full of cops in full riot gear.

The demo was something of an anti climax after the drama of last year. Certainly the numbers present were down to a fraction of those previously. Also the political impact was negligible by comparison, due to the fact that the government had announced the scrapping of the poll tax just two days before.

The explanations for this vary. The main reason I think is that the political dynamism of the anti-poll tax movement has been temporarily undermined, and this remains a problem which the movement still needs to address. Along with that, many people must have been intimidated away from the demo by the police attacks of last year.

On the demo itself people found that in addition to the huge (multi-clad) police presence, the march was hurried along the route with almost indecent haste. The stewarding was also extremely heavy handed, and some were on occasion very offensive to demonstrators. (Note: our speaker at

the rally in Hyde Park now wishes to publicly withdraw his hasty comments that the TSDC 'has no complaints about the stewarding'). There were just two arrests for minor offences.

The first comment I would make on this is that at least there WAS a demo - the police had been muttering for a while about banning all national anti-poll tax demonstrations outright. The TSDC had continuously campaigned since its inception for the movement to be back on the streets in force, particularly in Central London.

It was the TSDC which called the October protests, and following those campaigned for a return to Trafalgar Square even if it meant defying a ban. In fact we booked the Square ourselves for the day to ensure the route was adhered to by the police and the Federation. This was a success and so we agreed to drop any plans for a separate rally. (Despite this, none of the money collected on the day was passed on to the TSDC for the defence of those arrested and jailed for defending last year's protest).

All the evidence in the past indicates that the stronger and more militant a movement is, the more likely the state is to back off from imposing bans and conditions on demonstrations. If the

state was to rob us of the ability to hold large national demos we would have suffered huge defeat. But in spite of the demobilisation of the movement the general mood was to go ahead regardless with a celebration.

The strength of mass action helps protect us against the cops and bailiffs and other agents of the state that we come in to confrontation with in the process of dissent. What is important here is our militancy and the determination to show our anger.

As the actions around the courts and bailiffs continue, we need to feel confident in carrying through the struggle and taking part en masse, supporting each other and providing the maximum possible back-up.

The TSDC role on the day was to provide a full legal back-up operation in case of any problems. This consisted of up to 300 legal observers to note arrests and monitor police activity, backed up by a fully staffed legal co-ordination centre linked by mobile phones to the observers to instantly collate and interpret incoming information from the street, and provide sympathetic solicitors and support for anyone arrested.

This involved a huge amount of pre-planning and the whole point was to ensure that never again would demonstrators be randomly arrested, dragged through the magistrates courts and found guilty because no witnesses were found who could contradict the lies of the police.

The aim was also to subject the police to continuous surveillance in order to greatly inhibit any police violence (from individuals, groups and the force as a whole). In this we were successful.

The TSDC is still in the process of compiling a full report of the March 23rd demo, which will be able very soon. If anyone has anything to contribute to this about their experiences on the demonstration, they should write down their thoughts about the day and send it to the TSDC, whether it is information on the policing, comments about the stewarding, legal back up, or just general comments about the demo being unable to express its anger.

NIGEL FISHER





# FUEL FOR THE FIRE

## FROM MUSIC TO REBELLION

**THE ABOVE is the title of the German tour in January of two British bands; the Dik Ugly Ensemble and the Beggars. The aim of the tour was to raise money and support for the TSDC and Anti-Fascist Action. The tour was organised by Red Action in Britain and Red Aid in Germany.**

The tour was accompanied by a film showing struggles in Britain since the miners' strike - inner city riots, the Wapping dispute, the anti-poll tax campaign with the battles outside town halls and at Trafalgar Square, and the Strangeways riot. The film also showed the history of the skinhead movement in Britain. Although this is becoming popular in Germany there is an ignorance amongst many German skinheads of the working class multi-cultural roots of skinhead. This film set the record straight and put the movement in its proper historical context. This is an account of the first leg of the tour - from Hamburg to Bremen.



The first gig was in the Hafenstrasse in Hamburg. this is a famous and well organised squatted area. We arrived just as the news was breaking that the authorities were ending the agreements that recognised the rights of the occupiers of squatted houses. The future of the Hafenstrasse and of the people who live there is uncertain. As one person put it: They could try and get us out in days, weeks or months. We got the feeling, as we were to get later, that political events

were overshadowing the tour.

In Frankfurt we had a good sound and the audience was lively, getting into both the film and the music. This was the case as we travelled back up north playing in Detmold, Eutin in Schleswig-Holstein, and Kiel. People at the gigs generally had a good knowledge of what the poll tax was about and everywhere we were struck by the hospitality of the people who gave us food and beer and put us up. Even at gigs in small towns like Eutin there was a contingent of SHARP skins (SkinHeads Against Racial Prejudice) who showed a lot of courage in standing up against the local fascist boneheads.

The Kiel gig was followed by Rostock in what was East Germany - the DDR. Everywhere we'd been, people told us that it would be very dangerous playing there as there was a risk of being attacked by the strong fascist movement in the East. As it turned out there was no trouble. Rostock was more of a shock to someone from the West of Germany, where the standard of living is much higher, than it was to us. In fact it reminded us of England. That night the first reports came through of the coalition forces in the Gulf attacking the Iraqis and the next day the school students marched out of the schools and through the streets of Rostock demonstrating against the Gulf War.

In the West everyone we talked to was against unification - many saw the East Germans as just trying to grab a bit of the wealth of the West. I talked to a young Rostocker who had been a bricklayer and was now unemployed. He felt bitter about unification as he had either to go west and work for low wages or stay in his home town and stay unemployed. All unification meant was that he'd lost the guaranteed job he'd had before while gaining none of the riches of capitalism.

It was difficult coming from Britain to understand the distrust between workers

on either side of the East/West divide, but it seems obvious that the capitalists, the con-men and the Nazis will pick up the dividends from this division. As we left the house where we were staying, the record on the turntable was by a German fascist band. The reply to our protests was; "I'm not a Nazi but this is East Germany." We set off on the long drive to Stuttgart discouraged and confused.



Stuttgart, in the south, was a different scene to the gigs we'd played in the north. Although this is a wealthy area the automatic solidarity and hospitality we'd found in the north where people shared their homes and food with us without wanting anything in return, was not forthcoming. A member of the Stuttgart FAU-IAA (the German section of the Anarchist-Syndicalist International) told us of the difficulty of organising in the south in the face of political apathy.

However, the next gig, in Crailsheim, only 80km away was different. Here more people watched the film and as we drove away from the venue the next day, people gathered in the car park ready for the town's anti-gulf war demonstration.

Overall the reception was good, the people hospitable to a fault and everywhere we found a lot of interest in the anti-poll tax movement and other struggles of the British workers.

David, Dik, Rob, Spewsy,  
And Andy;  
The Dik Ugly Ensemble

## DEFENCE CAMPAIGN CONTACT LIST

## SUPPORT THE ANTI FASCIST ACTION PRISONERS

ON MONDAY 18 September last year, after a week long trial at Wood Green Crown Court, three members of Anti-Fascist Action were sentenced to a total of 11 years. Their conviction on a charge of causing GBH to Nicky Crane resulted from an incident following the annual Bloody Sunday commemoration in Kilburn in January of the same year.

As the rally broke up Crane was spotted in the vicinity. The defendants, suspecting a fascist ambush, challenged him. A fight broke out and Crane was

left lying in the road unconscious. All three were arrested at the scene.

Thirty year old Crane's career as a Nazi organiser and agitator goes back to 1978 when he led an attack by hundreds of skinheads against the Asian community in Brick Lane. In 1980 Crane was branded by a judge at the Old Bailey "as worse than an animal" when sentencing him to 12 months for attacking a black family at a bus stop with a bottle.

Throughout the decade he spent four

## PRISONER'S LETTER

Dear ALL of "us" (if you know what I mean) that are left,

One year on, and certain pincer tack-tics taking their toll (HE IS). Me name's Brian Tavares and I got GRASSED UP two weeks after the Mighty People's Revolt of 31/3/90, (maybe kids in school 5 yrs from now might be learning of the Heroes of the People) "Aye" Brothers and Sisters, wot a day. My only regret is that I could not defend the Men, Women and Children of this land from "their" onslaught. Christ knows wot I was feeling when I could see people getting battered senseless, my only wish there and then as I stared at the Sun (in the sky) was that I was the Man destined to wield "EXCALIBUR" and that I'd have a "Warp Spasm" - (A mystical battle frenzy in which earth energy pours through the body "Warping the Warrior"). "The Irish Cuchulann is the most famous 'warped' warrior but other Celtic heroes had similar battle frenzies - King Arthur for instance, at the Battle of Bath". - Taken from Pat Mills 2000 AD comic strip of 'SLAINE - The Horned God'.

At the thought of The People being defiled by their "OWN" people I thought that I could go completely berserk' and rush forward into the ranks of the Police Men, and mow down great swathes of them with the People's Battle Sword EXCALIBUR, and that I wouldn't slacken my onslaught until I had killed One thousand and 80 Police Men, and hear this, People of this Land, I, BRIAN OF ENGLAND would not think this too many, in fact I would not think it enough!! Maybe if I had... the future...here and now would or could "POSSIBLY" be different. Need I say more? no I don't!! The Nonces and Grasses and Traitors do though!!

Anyway, back to reality, I'm FUCKIN GUTTED at my sentence, the only half caste geezer, until Tim Donaghy, to get bloody 3 years, even the bloody prosecution said I was only fringing on the Riots. Ya know wot it was that got me 3 years? I'll tell ya. cos I didn't give it that Golden Handshake shit, I didn't go up to the beak and, in a manner of process of train of thought, say aloud in my head, "Mister judge Man, I was (HE IS) at the Poll Tax Riots so that here and now I can add to the confusion of Men, Women, Children, families and the Nationwide, Worldwide sorta crap, so 2 years, one suspended, wouldn't go amiss, which would leave me 6 months".

My appeal was refused cos the single judge said I'd been a major participant of the Riots, that I'd attacked a police Sgt, which I don't even remember, so..."was it worth it?" ... I'd be lying if I said it is worth it to be here and now... PEOPLE!!! yep... always... My only hope is that one day I'll be able to be a Guardian of the People, to make my People HAPPY, to bring the Sun back into their lives to lighten their Darkness, Most of all TO FREE THEM FROM FEAR, by Jesus Christ + EXCALIBUR. And so, People of this land... ah yes... already...

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, DON'T LET THE BASTARDS GET YA DOWN COS THEY'RE FULL OF PLOP, WOTS MORE THEY KNOW IT... DON'T CHA PEELER!!! IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN THAT GREAT BRITAIN MIGHT BE THE BIRTH PLACE OF WORLD PEACE.

Let us pray, your servant, friend and Brother - BRIAN OF ENGLAND

P.S. Thanx for the £10, TSDC... B of E. XXXX

and a half years behind bars for politically related offences. In between prison terms, he had been a member of the Leader Guard of the British Movement, a National Front activist, and most recently a leading light in the international neo Nazi music group Blood and Honour.

Nobody, least of all the defendants, would deny that the offence was political. What is equally clear is that the verdict and especially the sentence were clearly political as well.

The judge stated in her summing that no matter how repellent the views of Crane, the political stance of the defendants did most damage to the rule of law and was therefore the greater potential threat to the status quo. All three defendants were fully aware that to fight fascists effectively usually means breaking the law and always means rejecting the power and legitimacy of the public forces of law and order.

The actions of the anti-fascist street fighters will always be seen as politically extreme in the context of the bourgeois state, especially when it involves a form of behaviour (ie physical violence) which middle class culture avoids and condemns in everyday life.

As a result, David, a building worker aged 21 of previous good character, got three years. Tony, a hospital porter, and Mark, an unemployed labourer, got four apiece. Because of the nature of the charges there is no basis for appeal against sentence and little likelihood of parole.

The prisoners offer no excuses or apologies for their actions then or now, but they do need, and we on their behalf ask for, your political, moral and financial support. As the fascists limber up across Europe, it is of vital importance that the lads are not only supported financially but are seen to be supported politically as well.

With that in mind, AFA has set up a Defence Fund for them and other activists who may fall foul of the law in future. Cheques should be made payable to Anti Fascist Action Welfare, BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX. Write to Tony David, David Phelan and Mark Malin c/o the same address. Letters will be passed on.

### WANTED

Leaflets, posters, cartoons, newsletters, banners etc for a major exhibition on the art of the Anti-Poll Tax Movement. Send all contributions to: Ston The Tax, Terrace, London