

Poll Tax Problems?

DON'T SIT AT HOME AND WORRY,
Stop paying and get
organised!

Join

Broughton / Inverleith
Anti Poll Tax Group

Meetings

Every Wednesday 7.30pm
Drummond High School

Who're you gonna call?

Scumbusters!

Hotline Numbers

Local: 556 0903 - 556 6291
- 556 8999 - 557 3215
Edinburgh: 557 1595

Why not join Our Phone Tree?

Broughton / Inverleith Anti- Poll Tax Group

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Poll Tax

Inside:
Ten things you
should know to
beat the poll
tax.

What is
happening?

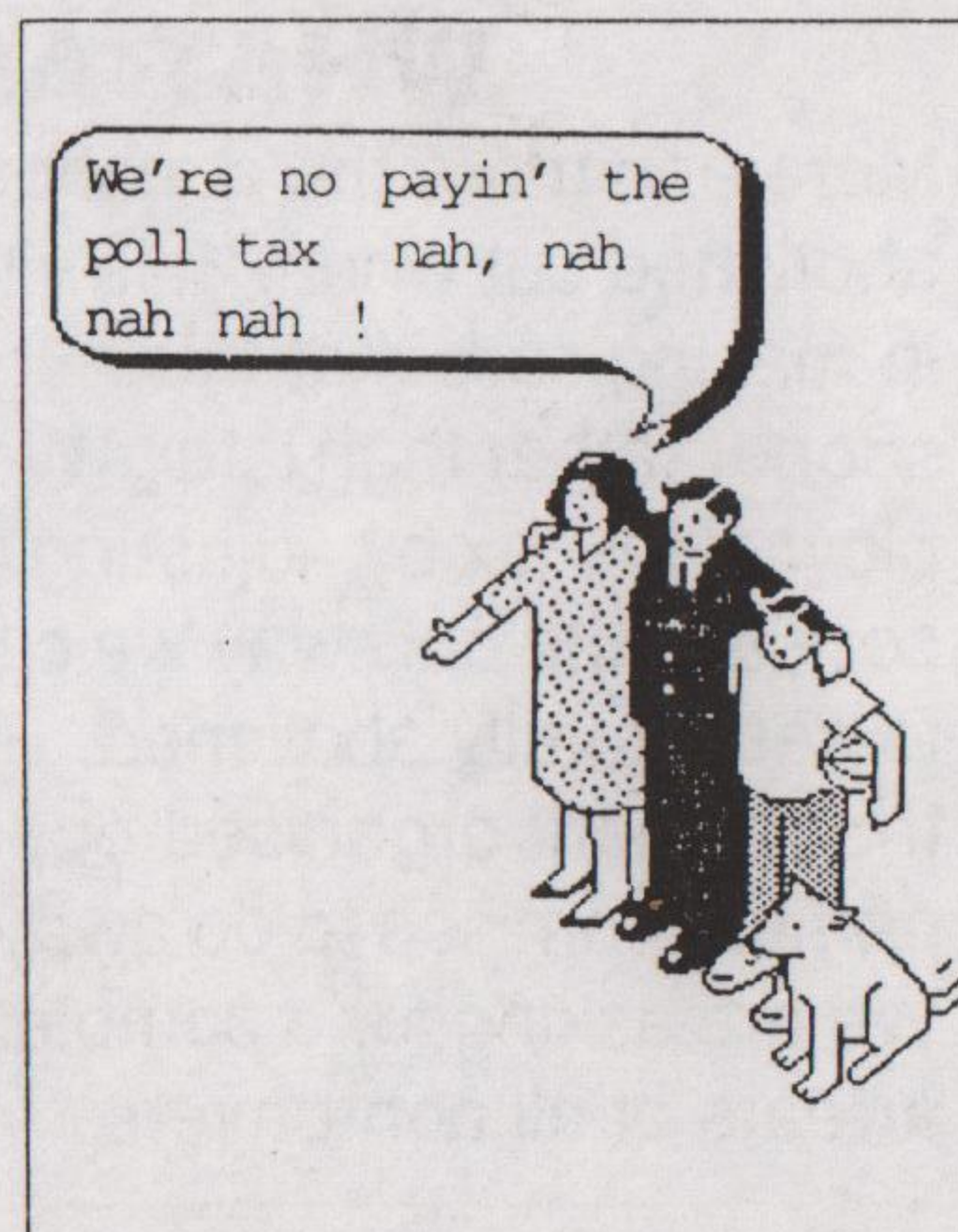
Picture:
Our group

The Poll Tax

The Tax they just can't collect

Thatcher can no longer kid anyone that the poll tax is "settling down " in Scotland. Even the Home Office in a recent circular refer to non payment in Scotland as a massive **one and a quarter million**. A growing mass campaign of non payment is a reality that just won't go away in spite of the vigorous efforts of both the Tory and the Labour parties.

However, it would be foolish to think that the fight against the poll tax is over. Indeed now in Broughton/Inverleith we face our greatest challenge yet as our local council is threatening to send in The Sheriff's Officers to try to scare us into paying up. This act is a desperate measure from a council that repeatedly declares its opposition to the poll tax but lacks the political will to refuse to collect it. Now, more than ever, it is vital for non payers to get together and get organised.



What's been happening in Edinburgh

Already we have seen tremendous successes in chasing the Sheriff's throughout Lothian. Our campaign got off to a flying start in January with the original **SCUMBUSTERS** mission in Musselburgh. Since then the Sheriff's have been tracked down and chased away from The Old Town, Wester Hailes, The Grassmarket, Muirhouse and the Stockbridge areas of Edinburgh.

Each of these campaigns featured local people with help from the city wide network of community anti-poll tax groups. Their task was simply to protect households in their area and to physically defend them against poindings (the valuations of goods before a warrant sale). The encouraging thing about all of these campaigns has been the spontaneous and large scale community support all alerts and calls for support have received. Indeed many of the reports of sightings of Sheriffs have come from people never before actively

involved with the anti-poll tax campaign. Nonetheless in spite of the Sheriff's almost total failure to carry out poindings up till now we must be prepared for their tactics to get both cleverer and dirtier in future. Past experience has shown that the Sheriffs are eager and willing to use trickery and violence in pursuit of non-payers. Like most people in Scotland we believe that the Sheriff's work is totally unacceptable. What is certain is that warrant sales will be met with **vigorous community resistance everywhere they rear their ugly head.**



WHAT AFTER THE POLL TAX?

More and more the question people are asking us is not if the poll tax will be abolished but when. It is vital that we realise how important our efforts will be in making sure that this huge burden of debt is lifted from people's shoulders sooner rather than later. We must not be fooled by Tory attempts to soften the blow of the tax by adjusting it by subsidies and rebates. The tax is unfair to the core and the only way we can keep our families and our services safe from it is to see it totally abolished. Remember subsidies have a habit of disappearing the moment organised opposition disbands. We must also be wary of other parties promises to do away with the poll tax at some vague time in the future. We are asking for a complete end to the poll tax NOW and an amnesty for the arrears of all non-payers.

Ten things you should know to beat the Poll Tax

1. **You can't be fined and you can't go to jail for not paying.**
2. **Warrant Sales will meet mass resistance.** 45 Sheriff Officers v 200,000 non payers = no contest. You can join our phone tree and protect yourself and your neighbours. We can put you in touch with people in your area. We can give you advice and practical help to start a new group in your district or workplace.
3. **Warrant Sales are not a realistic threat;** They can't take clothes, beds, linen, chairs, settees, tables, lights, heaters, carpets, curtains, cookers, fridges, washing machines, irons, vacuum cleaners, cupboards, toys and items for children, tools and up to £500 worth of educational items and tools of trade. Simply, they can only touch luxury items. These can easily be moved if you are threatened with a poinding. Anything on H.P. is safe too.
4. **Don't let them find out where you work and they can't arrest your wages.** Even if they do there are limits on how much they can take at any one time (e.g. for £100 per week £13 arrestment). If you are worried contact your local group.
5. **Your pension (state or occupational) is safe.**
6. **Disability payments, redundancy payments, housing benefit and unemployment benefit can't be touched.** Income support may be arrested at £1.85 a week for individuals £2.90 for couples. You can appeal against this.
7. **Student Grants can't be touched.**
8. **Only 6% of attempts to freeze bank accounts succeed.** Its safest to close accounts with the bigger banks and building societies (or leave a small sum in to act as a decoy).
9. **You can keep your cash safe by opening accounts in a different version of your name or in a totally new one (this is legal in Scotland).** Or open an account from a good friend or relative's address.
10. **You can join your local anti poll tax group.** You'll feel much safer and stronger when you see that you're not alone.