

# The Underdog Annual Event

## It's all about YOU

Sick of politicians?  
Want to do something about it?  
Then don't just sit there - Get organised and active!

For the past five years Walthamstow's only truly independent newsletter has gone out free, consistently reporting the news that other media won't cover:

- » About ordinary people organising and sticking up for each other whether campaigning against dangerous mobile phone masts, fighting the Whipps Cross hospital cuts, workers organising for better conditions and wages, trying to stop politicians making war, or making our streets safer to live in.

- » Reporting and commenting on how chaotic and destructive life is under a capitalist system - where big business and politicians put profit before people, and showing how this rips off local people

- » Exposing the philandering, tricks and downright lies of Waltham Forest councillors and other politicians.

- » Posing a practical, creative, organised, tried and tested alternative of running our world, that puts ordinary people in control, and makes politicians and bosses redundant.

- » Showing how anarchism starts with looking after each other and providing a practical, community-based way of changing and improving our society now, that anybody can get involved with.

But we have a problem. At the moment, The Underdog is seen by a lot of people as something "other people do" and for everyone else to read. This sort of contradicts what we are trying to do. What we would like is to build on what we have, and make The Underdog a real community resource that is part of people's day to day lives, and that everyone can have a part in.

### Sticking together

Ordinary people often get together to change something - like stopping a dangerous phone mast from going up, or saving your allotments from being tarmaced- (Yes, that's happening in this Borough as we speak!). They start lively, creative and motivated campaigns, with lots of ideas. Then before you know it, this campaign you and your mates thought you had control over, and a say in, is hijacked, compromised, bureaucratised, stifled or just co-opted by politicians. And in no time, you've lost sight of what you originally wanted!

We'd like to help break through this cycle, so that those of us who do get a glimpse of real community-controlled direct action (not the pretend stuff you see at Community council meetings) are strong enough to keep control of it. We'd like to use The Underdog to help create a situation where people who are organising themselves, outside of the constraints of political parties, can start to work together, and build on each others' experiences. Ideally, we'd like to be part of a situation where people eventually come together to form a network of grassroots-based, local groups firstly to defend our communities, but also to begin to create real social change that would benefit everyone.

If you would like to talk more about the issues we cover, and want to come along for a chat, what have you got to lose? There will be books, pamphlets and a chance to talk to us and other people about how we can all make things better together, and we'll give a short talk on why we do what we do and a chance for everyone to have their say about it. And there's tea and biscuits. And there's no pressure - we're not a pushy political party or a fundamentalist religious group - just local people who want to build a better world. And you never know you might feel like getting involved.

## The Underdog Annual Event - It's all about YOU

Saturday 2 June 2007, 2-5pm, Quaker Meeting House

Stalls, books, refreshments, chat  
1A Jewel Road (off Hoe Street)

For more information, contact the Walthamstow Anarchist Group  
PO Box 49592, London E17 5WZ, Telephone: 07910 393 284,

Email: wag.walthamstow@yahoo.co.uk, Web: www.walthamstowanarchy.org.uk



# THE UNDERDOG

Issue 15 - Spring / Summer 2007, Free / Donation

Walthamstow's rabble rousing rebel rag

## NO ARTS CENTRE! NO CINEMA! NO MUSEUMS?



Much has been written in recent weeks about cuts to the William Morris Gallery and the Vestry House Museum; so what can The Underdog say that's any different to other reports.

Firstly let's be clear that central Government funding to LBWF has been cut.. There is no doubt that Government money is less because they in their wisdom need to pay for the war in Iraq, the replacement of Trident missiles and the Olympics in 2012. The council has statutory obligations - education, social services and the like that aren't cut drastically, but as the council has agreed not to raise Council Tax by more than 2.5% for three years other non-essential services face swingeing financial cuts. The original proposals for cuts in opening hours at the Gallery and Museum meant a much higher percentage cut than elsewhere.

Currently the Gallery and Museum are open Monday to Friday and the first Sunday of every month. Without any consultation with the staff or the public, the original proposal was to only open at the weekends. After protest from the public and the Friends of the Gallery, the council rethought and came back with revised opening hours of Thursday to Sunday with extra days in the school holidays.

The Underdog has highlighted the rigmarole with the arcade site and the promised Arts Centre in recent issues. Waltham Forest is the only borough in London without a cinema. As a borough we could be without any cultural centres for residents. Stop this happening. There is an online petition to sign and comment at [www.petitiononline.com/savewmg](http://www.petitiononline.com/savewmg). Also there will be a march on Saturday May 5th at noon from the Vestry House Museum to Walthamstow Town Square.

Once we save the Gallery and Museum this year, because of the council's agreed cap on Council Tax rises, this could be an ongoing fight every year. One solution would be to transfer the management of the Gallery to the Victoria and Albert Museum, like the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green. This would save the expertise of the staff by preserving their jobs and save the collection for Waltham Forest residents and visitors.

What do you think? Contact us on 07910 393284 or [wag.walthamstow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wag.walthamstow@yahoo.co.uk)



Let's drink to  
the senseless  
waste of public  
money

## Sponging, opinionated, tax-dodging parasite stages surprise visit to Walthamstow

And Council Leader was also accompanied by Prince Charles

Last month, Walthamstow residents were treated to a surprise visit by our very own, lovable and charming, Council leader Loakes, who took time out of his busy schedule to stage an impromptu walkabout at the High Street Market, to find out what workin' class people looked like.

Continued on page 4



# People power defeats Olympic land grab of Leyton's Marsh Lane Fields

February brought the first bloody nose for the London Development Agency (LDA) who are currently carving up and grabbing green space from local people like there's no tomorrow, to make room for the Olympics. But their attempt to grab one of the few peaceful, green spaces in Leyton, was turned down after local people, and the Lammas Lands Defence Committee, mounted a successful campaign to persuade Waltham Forest Council to reject it. The LDA was applying for planning permission for allotments on Marsh Lane Fields where they want to relocate the existing Manor Gardens allotments, currently located within the proposed Olympic Park.

Local residents were allowed three minutes to argue their case. They talked passionately against the loss of their open space, which they describe as a piece of the countryside in London. The LDA was less convincing, when they tried to sell the loss of this open space on the back of the supposed advantages of the Olympics in general.

Users of the existing Manor Gardens Allotments - which is bang in the middle of the proposed Olympic Park, do not want to leave their site. It is a beautiful place with a real sense of community. They have been campaigning and organising to save their land.

**Years of history lost for a couple of week's advertising**  
Much of the land the LDA wishes to secure for the Olympics has a rich history. Manor Gardens was given by Major Villiers, a friend of Winston Churchill, to be used "in perpetuity" as gardens by local people. The Gardens' proposed relocation site at Marsh Lane Fields is what is known as Lammas Land, and is in theory protected as metropolitan open space.

Hackney Marshes are also former Lammas Lands. These were



meadows on which parishioners have the right to graze cattle. These rights date back to before the Norman Conquest, and possibly pre-date the Roman era. Locals at Marsh Lane Fields use these rights to graze their horses. The LDA's plans to take various other open spaces including part of Hackney Marshes for a car park



serving the Olympics are likely to face legal challenges due to this status.

Within and surrounding the proposed Olympic park are many areas that have been off the developers' radar and have consequently grown organically to develop their own flavour and authenticity. An authenticity rarely found in London, rare places in London where money doesn't have to be spent for recreation, their character is not contrived or there for anyone's profit. Somehow romantic places where people graze horses, dig their veg, or just hang out and chat over roasting chestnuts. Consequently many determined campaigns led by local people are springing up to save places under threat from what many see the Disneyfication proposed by Olympic planners. How the squeaky clean Olympic brand identity can sit with the authenticity of the existing area is an interesting question.

After this small but important victory Waltham Forest's debating chamber echoed with the sound of cheering of locals people. However as Rosemary Johnson, who gave evidence against the proposal, says ... "the LDA will be back" She's right. They've mounted an appeal, which will be heard in July - and so the battle for Manor Gardens Allotments and Marsh Lane Fields is far from over. It is however a least a serious delay for the LDA who are under enormous pressure as the clock ticks relentlessly towards 2012. It is one of the main battles the LDA will face, with many who remain unimpressed by the Olympics.

## It's been done before

Defence of the land erupted on August 1, 1892 when 2,000 men, women and children gathered to defend the encroachment on the area by a railway line. The tracks were torn up and in the resulting melee two local councillors were arrested by the police - obviously local councillors then were made of sterner stuff than today's pathetic breed!

For further background information read the following article on the Games Monitor site:  
<http://www.gamesmonitor.org.uk/node/167>  
More information on the campaign to protect Manor Garden Allotments can be accessed at [www.lifeisland.org](http://www.lifeisland.org)

# Hospital closure

With the protests about the possible closure of Whipps Cross hospital, the closure of another hospital has been overlooked. North East London Mental Health Trust (NELMHT) is due to shut Stonelea acute mental health unit in Leytonstone, meaning the most deprived areas of the borough, Cann Hall and Cathall will be without acute mental health care, leaving patients and families a longer and more difficult journey to Naseberry Court in Highams Park.

The closure of the Victorian Asylums such as Claybury in 1986 was supposed to put mental health care into the community. In 1986 there were 29 beds at Stonelea, 41 beds at Naseberry plus the Eastern Forest Unit at Goodmayes. Currently there are 16 beds at Stonelea, 39 beds at Naseberry only and occasionally patients are sent to other parts of NELMHT.

The plan is to close Stonelea and transfer 11 beds to Naseberry, losing 5 beds. NELMHT says there will be concentration of facilities and staff skills mix, including psychological services input at Naseberry Court. Obviously the reduction of bed numbers is achieved by much shorter stays for patients, not always a good thing.

This could be an interim measure with services moving to Whipps Cross if the hospital survives the Fit for the Future consultation in October. In the long term services could move once again to one site for the whole of NELMHT at Chapters House in Goodmayes. In other words instead of moving patients into the community, patients from three old Asylums - Claybury, Goodmayes and Warley could all end up on one site - Goodmayes, meaning more travelling for family and visitors and making phased discharge more difficult.

Oh and by the way, Stonelea has only just been extensively refurbished and they wonder why the NHS is short of money.



## CAUGHT SHORT

We hear that Waltham Forest will be shutting all its public toilets on the advice of the police to stop anti-social behaviour. The alternative apparently is to pay shopkeepers £500 a year to allow the public to use their toilets. In order to make this work an awful lot of £500s would have to be paid out.

Surely this money would be better spent on employing toilet attendants to keep the toilets clean and stop the anti-social behaviour.

What do you think?

07910 393284 or [wag.walthamstow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wag.walthamstow@yahoo.co.uk)

# THE UNDERDOG'S Survival Guide

STANDING UP FOR OURSELVES - Health & Safety

Over the past few years Walthamstow has seen a large influx of newcomers coming to work from Eastern Europe. Bosses have seen this as an opportunity to try and exploit all of us by dropping wages, and clamping down on workers' rights. Casualisation and so-called flexible working are ways of undermining working conditions and exploiting us more than ever. They also make permanent jobs more vulnerable. So casualisation does not only affect temporary and agency workers, but all workers. Employers will sack workers they do not like, knowing full well that many are reluctant or unable to go through an employment tribunal.

It is not enough having a few statutory and contractual rights at work; we need to all stand together to ensure that the rights long fought for are respected. Luckily, there are a number of these workers who have experience in organising against this sort of attack, and it's an opportunity for all workers - wherever we are from, to take on the bosses together collectively. Only by standing together can we prevent bosses from intimidating and victimising us. We cannot leave it to the Government, the bosses, political parties, or the established trade unions. The most effective way of defending our rights is by organising ourselves and taking collective direct action. By forming our own groups where everyone is equal, we can resist exploitation and enforce our rights at work effectively. So in this issue we print some basic workplace rights and protections for workers around health and safety law. We plan to translate this into Polish and Czech in the near future.

## The Working Time Regulations

The basic rights & protections that the Regulations provide:

- a limit of an average of 48 hours a week which a worker can be required to work (though workers can choose to work more if they want to)
- a limit of an average of 8 hours work in 24 which nightworkers can be required to work.
- a right for night workers to receive free health assessments.
- a right to 11 hours rest a day.
- a right to a day off each week.
- a right to an in-work rest break if the working day is longer than 6 hours.
- a right to 4 weeks paid leave per year

## HEALTH & SAFETY BASICS

Employers should:

- Provide safe and healthy working conditions;
- Provide proper information and training for everyone in all types of workplaces;
- Draw up and circulate procedures for dealing with risks at work;
- Inform all workers of Health and Safety agreements, policies and practices before we start work.
- Health and safety in the workplace costs money and time and hits profits, so bosses inevitably try to avoid their legal responsibilities. By law, they have to provide health and safety for all workers in their employment. Remember, you have a legal right to walk off the job if you feel in imminent danger.

The information above has been re-printed from information produced by the national anarchist organisation Solidarity Federation as part of an ongoing campaign against casualisation. They can be contacted at: Solidarity Federation, PO Box 469, Preston PR1 8XF. You can also write for free advice on employment and health & safety.

## Blair outlines his plans for East Londoners in 2012: "you can all clear off"



"Here's the plans for East London so far:

Firstly, we'll evict hundreds of East Londoners from their allotments - they're clearly in the way. Next, we'll tarmac over Hackney marshes where hundreds of local people play football, and turn it into an Olympic, world-class car park for the rich.

To complete the project we'll raid £100 million from Sport Aid, which funds local, community-based sports projects, forcing them all to close down.

What people don't understand, you know, is that come 2012, when me and my select group of distinguished friends - Berlusconi, Putin, Richard Branson - come to watch the Olympics, we don't want to be catching sight of any of those dirty, smelly, working class oiks that hang around the East End."



# May Day - It's an anarchist thing

Police brutality, frame-ups, agent provocateurs paid by the state to discredit communities or political movements as "terrorists".... We only have to look at the first May Day, and the struggle for an eight-hour working day 120 years ago to find none of these things are new.

May Day became International Workers Day over a century ago when workers in the United States were fighting for an 8 hour day. They demanded that it start from 1st May 1886. In the months prior to this date workers in their thousands were drawn into struggle for the shorter working day. Skilled and unskilled, black and white, men and women, native and immigrant were all becoming involved. In Chicago alone 400,000 were out on strike. When on May 1st 1886, the "eight hour" strikes convulsed that city, a mass meeting was held by 6,000 members of the 'lumber shovers' union who had come out. These movements were heavily influenced by anarchist ideas and methods of organisation. The anarchist August Spies addressed this meeting which was attacked by the police killing at least one striker, seriously wounded five or six others and injured an indeterminate number.

## Protest

Spies and other anarchists immediately composed a circular calling on the workers of Chicago to attend a protest meeting the following night. The meeting took place in the Haymarket Square and was addressed by Spies and two other anarchists active in the trade union movement, Albert Parsons and Samuel Fielden.

Throughout the speeches the crowd was orderly. It was close to ten in the evening when Fielden was closing the meeting. Only about 200 people remained in the square. Suddenly a police column of 180 moved in and ordered the people to disperse immediately. A bomb was thrown into the ranks of the police. It killed one and injured about seventy others. The police opened fire on the spectators. In all, seven policemen and at least four workers were killed in the riot, however the exact number of those wounded or killed by the police bullets was never ascertained.

## Trial

Eventually eight men stood trial for being "accessories to murder". They were Spies, Fielden, Parsons and five other anarchists who were influential in the labour movement. The candidates for the jury were not chosen in the usual manner of drawing names from a box. The eventual composition

of the jury was farcical; being made up of businessmen, their clerks and a relative of one of the dead policemen. No proof was offered by the state that any of the eight men before the court had thrown the bomb, had been connected with its throwing, or had even approved of such acts. In fact, only three of the eight had been in Haymarket Square that evening.

That the eight were on trial for their anarchist beliefs and trade union activities was made clear from the outset. On August 19th seven of the defendants were sentenced to death, and Neebe to 15 years in prison. After a massive international campaign for their release, the state 'compromised' and commuted the sentences of Schwab and Fielden to life imprisonment. Lingg cheated the hangman by committing suicide in his cell the day before the executions. On November 11th 1887 Parsons, Engel, Spies and Fischer were hanged. 600,000 working class people turned out for their funeral. The campaign to free Neebe, Schwab and Fielden continued. On June 26th 1893 Governor Altgeld set them free.

## The end?

The authorities had believed at the time of the trial that such persecution would break the back of the eight-hour movement. Indeed, evidence later came to light that the bomb may have been thrown by an agent working for the Police, as part of a conspiracy involving certain steel bosses to discredit the labour movement. When Spies addressed the court after he had been sentenced to die, he was confident that this conspiracy would not succeed: "If you think that by hanging us you can stamp out the labour movement...the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in misery and want, expect salvation - if this is your opinion, then hang us! Here you will tread on a spark, but there and there, behind you - and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out."



## Prince Charles visits Walthamstow

Joining in the fun was his good friend Prince Charles, who, Councillor Loakes commented, was a fine example of someone taking the takings of public office very seriously. Councillor Loakes commented that his friend's use of taxpayers' money was "an excellent example of enterprise and innovation".

He particularly highlighted the fact that the Prince had his personal costs run to £2m in 2006, including paying for some 22 full-time staff including secretaries, chefs, grooms, valets and gardeners, as "something all Walthamstow Councillors would do well to aspire to".

Councillor Loakes went on, "Of course, I myself was only able to screw out of local taxpayers a total of £40,000 last year, which only just doubled my expense account in a year, so I've got a lot of catching up to do. Mind you, those Olympics perks we've negotiated will provide no end of.....". Mr Loakes was then interrupted by a member of the public asking why the Borough's libraries were being closed down, and library staff being sacked. Luckily, the man was quickly bundled off by police, searched for weapons and threatened with anti-terrorist legislation if he returned to upset the Council leader again.

(continued from Page 1)

# What anarchists think - Sexism

Sexism means any form of prejudice and discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexism exists in all societies regardless of whether the equality of sexes is declared by the constitution or not. There are societies that are quite openly sexist, where women are denied access to public life, politics and sometimes even education.

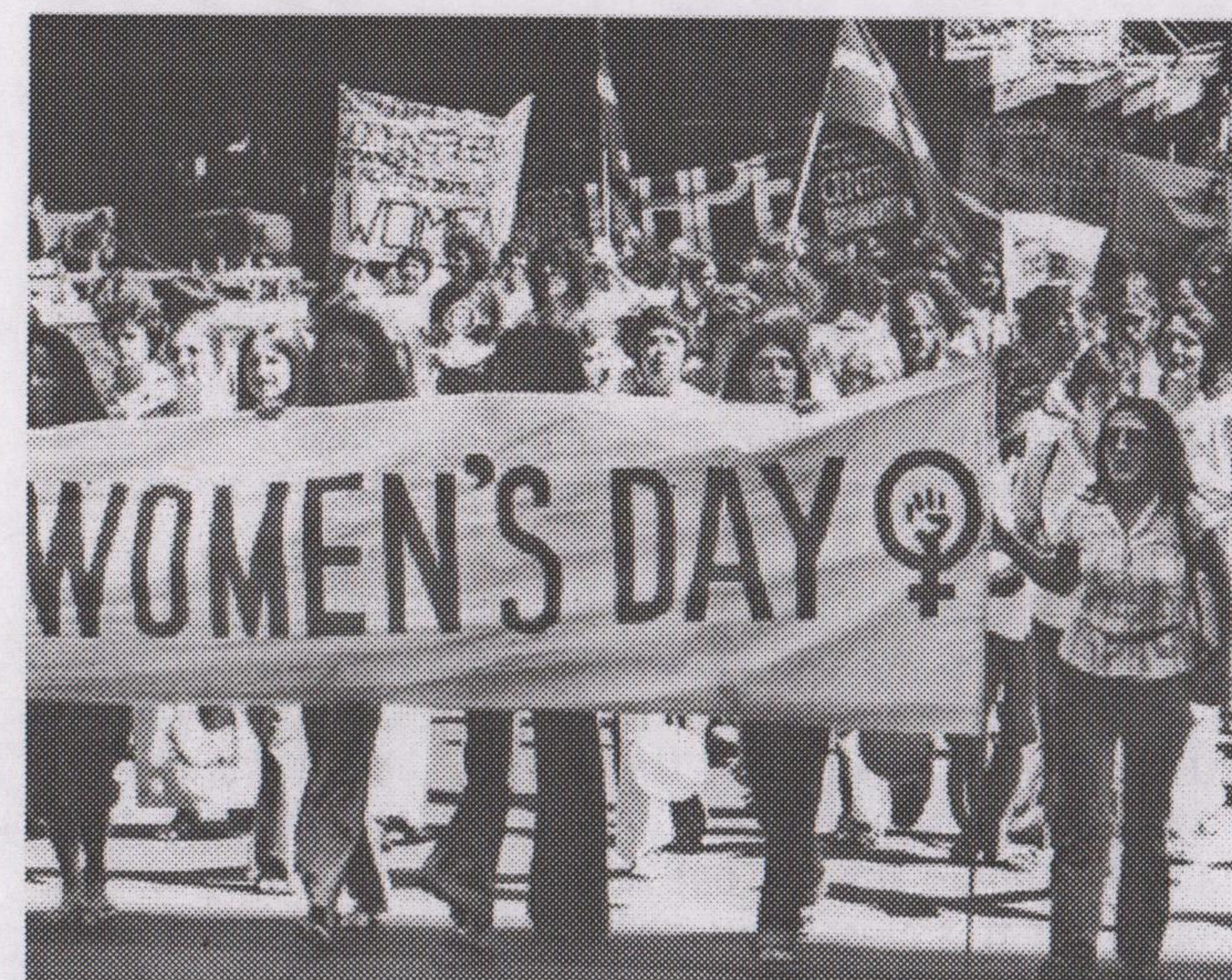
Sadly there are still countries where dangerous rituals such as female circumcision or genital mutilation are practised because of tradition and fundamental religion and others where women are denied access to contraception and abortion. But sexism doesn't only take such obvious forms and affects both sexes, not just women. The sexism that most of us notice in our every day lives is based on prejudice about ascribed gender roles. The discrimination can also come from the society's institutions (e.g. courts deny the rights of fathers to look after their kids in case of divorce).

But if we look further behind the obvious we realise that this is only a part of the whole problem and that sexism is one of the basis the capitalist society stands on. As anarchists, we believe that it is women who are especially oppressed as a sex (they face oppression as women as well as due to their class position) although it doesn't necessarily mean that it is men who benefit from this oppression.

Anarchists believe that women's oppression is in the direct interests of capitalism and the State.

Women are potentially more expensive workers than men; because they can demand maternity leave and benefits, the bosses meet this problem by hiring women as part-time and casual staff. In these ways, the bosses use women's oppression to create a cheap, right-less workforce that receives no non-wage benefits. By giving women the worst work, with low job security, the bosses create a flexible workforce that they can hire and fire at will. By paying women lower wages than men the bosses are able to increase their overall profits. Because women often have no real job security they can be fired when they fall pregnant, meaning the bosses do not have to pay extra benefits or maternity leave.

Women's unpaid work in the household supplies the bosses with the next generation of workers at no extra cost, as



women are doing the cooking, cleaning and child rearing for free. They also take care of the sick and the elderly in the same way. The bosses used to say that women's low wages are justified because men are the "breadwinners" in the family (although just the fact that all this it is illegal now doesn't mean that the thinking of the bosses changed with the law). But most working-class women do the housework as well as join the workforce. In this way, they work a "double shift" at great personal cost.

Women's oppression and the sexist ideas that try to "justify" it divide the working class and the poor. By using the threat of replacement by cheap women workers, the bosses are able to undermine the conditions of male workers, and thus reduce the overall wage bill. By promoting hostility between men and women, the bosses and rulers weaken workers' organisation and resistance. This increases the power of the ruling class.

This means that it is only the class struggle that can ultimately defeat sexism. It is not multi-class "women's movements". Although the class struggle against capitalism and the State is in the interests of all working class and poor people in any case (these systems exploit, impoverish, dominate and humiliate them), women have an additional reason to fight this battle: capitalism and the State's usual oppressions are compounded by the special oppression of women that these systems inevitably produce.

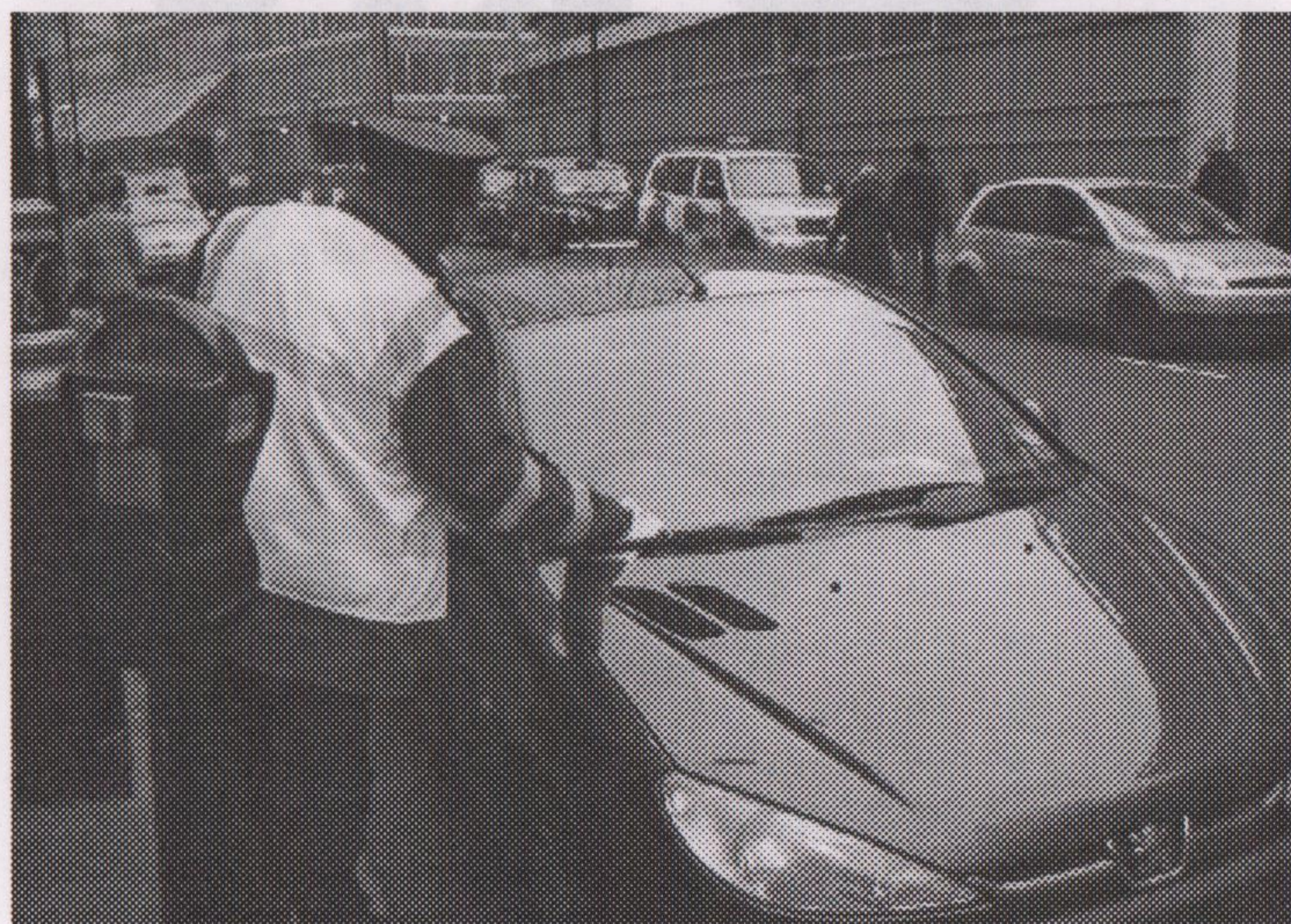
We thus disagree with those feminists who think that all you have to do is for women to become bosses and politicians to achieve equality. We want to destroy the existing structures of domination and exploitation. The struggle for women's liberation is the struggle against capitalism and the state. And it is both a struggle against sexist institutions (like capitalism) and sexist ideas (as internalised or accepted by both men and women); both are essential to the success of the revolution and the realisation of its full potential.



# NCP legalised robbery

**They nick your car, and then ask for a ransom. Then they double the price if you can't get the money together straight away.**

**It's the billion-dollar rip-off NCP - and they're working for the Council**



The activities of Waltham Forest's "parking attendants" continue to be a daily reminder to local people of what a crazy system we live in. While councillors tell us they have to cut our services, they're still happy to pay millions to NCP, a profit-making company that, on a daily basis, puts hundreds of workers on our streets to harass and extort money from us, or worse, nick a car off anyone trying to park around the Borough.

It's now perfectly clear that the role of "parking attendants" has nothing to do with road safety or easing traffic flow. It's simply an unashamed scam by the Council to rip us off for every last penny. Just watch an "attendant" at work: If there's a car parked in a dodgy place, causing an obstruction, instead of having a quiet word with whoever's at fault, and getting them to move on, they'll slap a ticket on when they think they can get away with it. Then there's either an aggressive and ugly row - often involving racist abuse - then a few minutes later, the whole street literally comes to a halt, while a crowd forms and some poor sod's car is nicked by the recovery lorry and taken away. The shocking reality is that Councillors have sat down and deliberately planned and created this daily situation within our community - either out of stupidity or greed - by forcing the attendants to work for commission, therefore taking away any control they have to use their discretion and common sense.

## Give the NCP an ASBO

So what's the answer? For a start, we're not going to get anywhere if we take it out on the individual workers who are desperate enough to find themselves in this job. Many of us are desperate for work, and end up doing stuff we don't want to do, with bosses who bully us into stressful dangerous conditions. Waltham Forest bosses and their friends at the NCP are no different with their divide and rule bullying tactics. By introducing a profit motive, and making workers' pay reliant on booking an impossible amount of people for offences than is physically possible, they have created a dangerous and anti-social situation on our streets. If any

other group of people went round systematically causing distress, anger and chaos around the Borough, through bullying and extortion, they'd have an ASBO slapped on them. But because it's about ripping us off, they let it go.

The only way we can hope to cut across this is for traffic wardens to collectively organise, with the support of the rest of the community. It's in all our interests that traffic wardens have a decent wage, and don't have the pressure of commission over them. Then they'll be able to do an honest job, based on looking after traffic safety - without harassing people, and everybody would be happy. Yes, bosses at the NCP won't be able to have that extra holiday in the sun, and our councillors will have to look elsewhere for their massive hike in expense allowances, but ARE WE BOYVERED?

## Fighting back

In February, parking attendants and traffic wardens in Enfield took their fourth day of strike action to demand that their employer, NCP, recognises the union. Over 80% of the workforce, mainly composed of African migrant workers, are in the GMB union, and on an 85% turnout they voted 100% for strike action after NCP refused them recognition and suspended their union rep.

A striking parking attendant said "We should be treated well, but when we get injured in the street we're not catered for. If we're not back to work straight away they threaten dismissal. These things haven't just happened to me, but to all of us. The bosses have no respect for us."

"Our bonus is paid quarterly, based on a ticket count. At 10am every morning and 4pm every afternoon they phone up to check ticket counts. There is immense pressure if the bosses don't think there are enough tickets issued. They think if we don't get the right number according to the performance indicators then there's something wrong, they just want the tickets issued regardless."

So, we have the obscenity of the multi-millionaire NCP bosses raking in millions from this chaos, as their mainly migrant workforce in Enfield are forced to lose pay by going on strike to get their union the right to negotiate their pay and conditions and to end the bullying, harassment, violence and chaos that their bosses have created in the first place.

All the individual moaning, appealing, and abusing individual staff will not put right in the long term: What's important is directing our anger at the bosses and politicians who have created this, and supporting strikes like the one in Enfield. The hope is that we can create a situation in Waltham Forest where our own traffic wardens are confident enough that they have our support, that they will start standing up for not just themselves, but for all of us. And that the community is behind them. That really is the only way we are going to get this mess changed.

## New traffic cameras

If you drive in Walthamstow and surroundings you may have already noticed. Driving down the Lea Bridge Road there is a new installed post with a small, cute yellow box on the top. Yes, it's a new traffic camera.

This wouldn't be anything special but this one clearly looks different. It is a new generation of speed cameras aimed to squeeze even more money out of the motorists.

The main difference from the common, older generation of cameras (called Gatso) is that with Gatso it was a lottery as to whether you would receive a NIP after having been flashed (because they use film that can run out). These cameras store all the information digitally in control box near the camera until they get downloaded. It is also clear that soon there are going to be (if there already aren't) cameras that can transmit all the images via an ADSL (broadband) link straight to the Metropolitan Police office.

The other difference also seems to be that the new cameras have the trigger speed much lower (approx. + 10% + 2 mph) comparing to the conventional cameras (e.g. about 45 mph in a 30 mph limit).



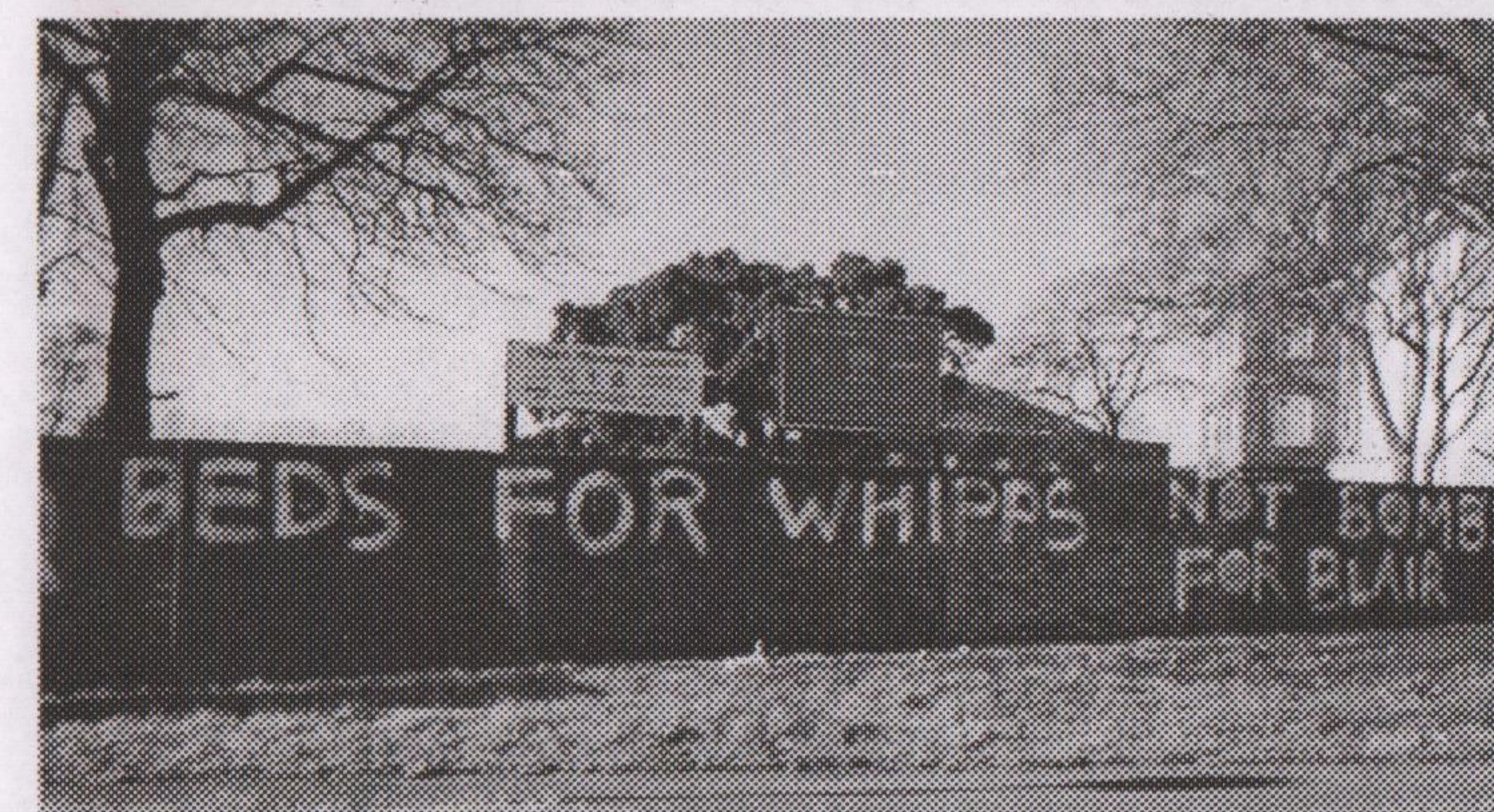
We would also like to point out that we don't approve reckless and dangerous driving at any time. Some of our members have been involved in the traffic calming campaigns such as Streets for Living. On the other hand speed cameras are used only because they generate massive profit. It's been proven that they don't lower the number of accidents nor the deaths on the road.

So, motorists be aware and also take into consideration public transport prior to the journey!!

**Here's a list of locations where these cameras could be found:**

- A3 Clapham High St, SW4 x1
- A5 Edgware Road, Colindale, NW9 x1
- A24 Morden Road, Merton, SW19 x2
- A40 Western Avenue at Savoy Circus, W3 x2
- A41 Finchley Road, NW3 x1
- A104 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E10 x1
- A124 Rush Green Road, RM7 x2
- A125 Rainham Road, RM13 x1
- A219 Parkside, Wimbledon, SW19 x1
- A400 Kentish Town Road, NW5 x1
- A406 Waterworks Corner, Woodford, IG8 x1
- A503 Seven Sisters Road, N4 x1
- A4020 Uxbridge Road, Southall, UB1 x1

## Whipps Cross hospital crisis: WAG demo says "Beds for Whipps not bombs for Blair"



After the successful mass demonstration in support of Whipps hospital in February, Walthamstow Anarchist Group followed-up the week after, by protesting next door to the hospital at the Walthamstow's Territorial Army Barracks.

The protest highlighted the massive amounts of money spent on war, as against the chronic shortage of money for the NHS. During the protest, a human banner message was held up outside the base spelling "Beds for Whipps not Bombs". This coincided with local people graffitiing the barracks with a similar slogan (See photo)

Leaflets distributed pointed out that last May, the bill to tax payers for the war in Iraq was £2.75bn. This same amount could, for instance, have:

- Paid for over three million heart bypass operations,
- Trained over 70,000 nurses, or
- Met the salaries of 154,000 new nurses.

A spokesperson for the Group said:

"If we want to save hospitals like Whipps, we have to recognise that the money is being wasted elsewhere. The money spent by the Government on weapons of mass destruction should be spent on hospitals like Whipps Cross, which is just next door to the army barracks. It is an affront for politicians to continue to come into our community to encourage young people to fight and kill or be killed by other people just like us around the world, just because politicians want to save their careers."

Meanwhile, Walthamstow Anarchist Group's campaign to persuade young people not to make themselves willing cannon fodder for the armed services continues. Copies of our leaflet "So you want to join up?", aimed at recruits, are available from us on request, for distribution in Youth Centres, careers fayres etc.

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