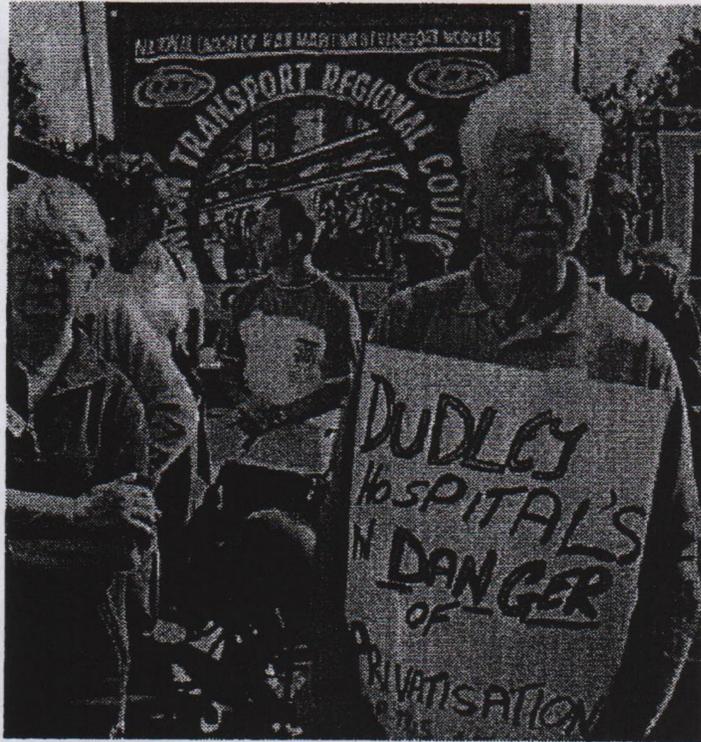


LEVELLER

NEWSLETTER OF NOTTM & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL

Demonstrate Solidarity With NHS Workers On STRIKE



MASS MEETING VOTE TO ESCALATE STRIKE ACTION

Unison Dudley Group of Hospitals is fighting against plans to transfer over 600 members from the NHS to a private consortium, Summit Healthcare. This is planned as part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project which involves the closure of one hospital and all wards at another leaving Dudley with 73 fewer hospital beds at a time when the Government has identified the need for more. Donations payable to UNISON Dudley Group of Hospitals, Union Offices Wordsley Hospital, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8

Demonstration
Saturday 4th November
Assemble 12.30pm ~ Stourbridge Town Hall
RALLY
Stourbridge Town Hall 2pm

To Win They Need Your Solidarity ~ Defend the NHS

Nottingham & District
Trades Union Council



"Up for it since 1890"

The Nottingham Trades Council is where branches of all the different local trade unions come together to exchange information & ideas.

- ★ To provide support to workers in dispute
- ★ To encourage all workers to join their appropriate trade union.
- ★ To campaign on issues of concern to trade unionists at local, national & international levels.

The Trades Council is the Nottingham area's representative of the TUC and feeds back our views into the national movement.

The next meeting of Notts Trades council is Wed 15th November at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham 7.30pm - 9.30pm

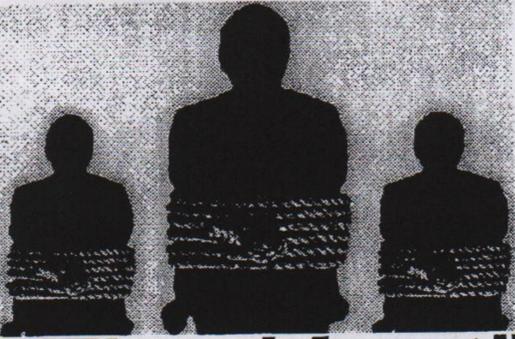
AGENDA FOR 15th NOV

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Correspondence
- 5 Reports
- 6 Motions
- 7 Disputes
- 8 A.O.B
- 9 Date of next meeting

**The Next Trades
Council Meeting
Is 15th Nov 7.30pm
@ The International Community
Centre, Mansfield Rd, Nottm**

Please Display This Newsletter On your Works Notice board

Certain Curtain Theatre Presents



"The Knot"

An Award Winning Drama
By John Wouldberg & Claire Moore

Wed 15th Nov 7.30pm

At The Winding Wheel,
Chesterfield

"The Knot" is a fast moving, hard hitting play that pulls no punches. Tense drama and black humour fuse to present a powerful story of one family's refusal to confront the knot of secrecy & denial that is slowly choking it to death.. Leading to the explosive confrontation that will finally unravel "The Knot"

Troops Out Movement Policing in the north of Ireland

Public
Meeting
Wednesday
22nd Nov
7.30pm

@ International
Community
Centre
Mansfield Rd
Nottingham

Speaker

Eddie Magin, from Relatives For Justice

Banner Theatre in association with Nottingham & District TUC & Nottingham Playhouse presents

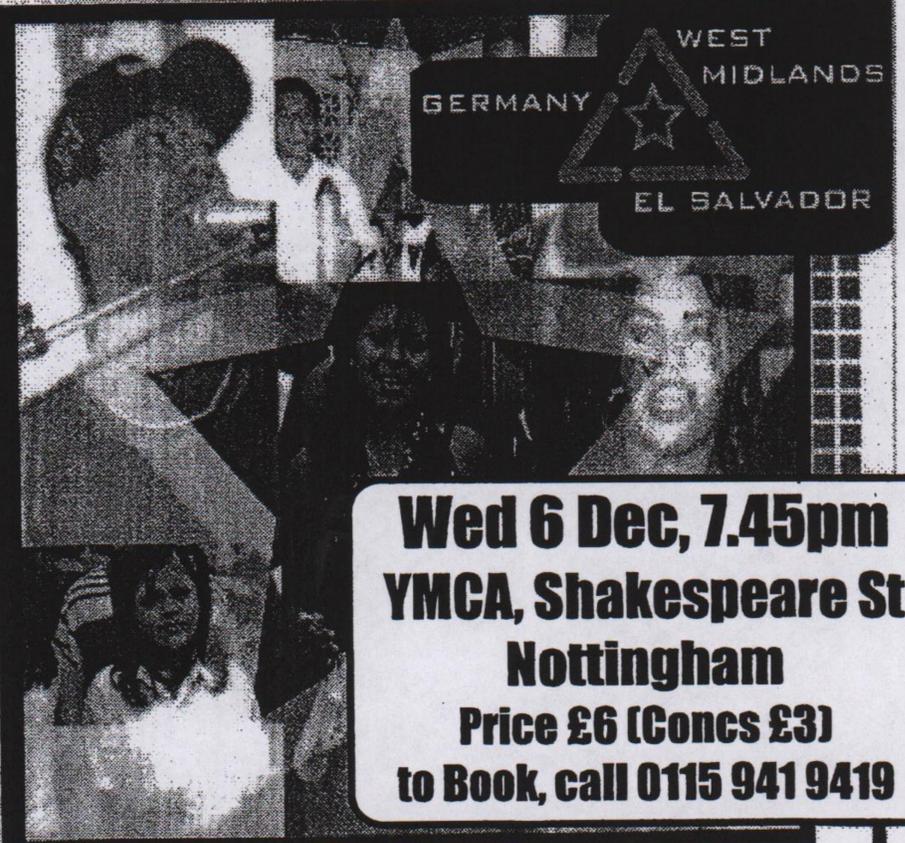
Reclaim The Future

An eclectic brew of cross-cultural arts brings together 25 young people from the Midlands, El Salvador and the former East Germany.

In a vibrant performance combining physical theatre, multimedia projections and diverse sound scapes ranging from Asian scene to authentic Latin American cumbia, the young performers challenge corporate icons of a global economy to define issues of race, equality and cultural identity from the margins.

Come and experience the genuine dawn of a new Millennium through the eyes of tomorrow's generation as they seek to "reclaim the future"

"RECLAIMING THE FUTURE"



Wed 6 Dec, 7.45pm
YMCA, Shakespeare St
Nottingham
Price £6 (Concs £3)
to Book, call 0115 941 9419

Nottingham & District Trades Union Council C/O Nottm City UNISON, 4-6 Perth Street, Nottingham NG1 3LU
Email maydayuk@yahoo.co.uk, CONTACT NUMBERS:- Dave Green 0115 961 5745, Wendy Lawrence 115 987 0247, Gail Squires 0115 9705788 / 981 0405, Bob Watt 0115 977 3152, Bill Walton 0115 9112726

S26 and all that...

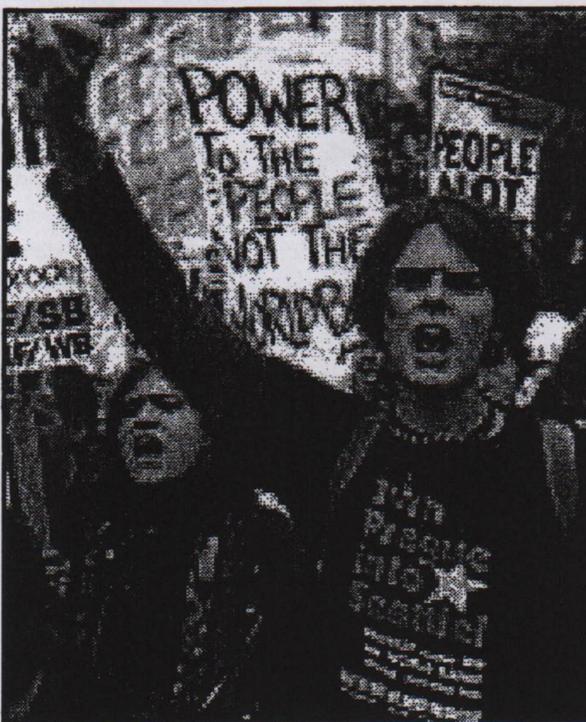


In late September, you may remember seeing news footage of tear gas and numerous outlets of McDonalds in need of a glazier's attention.

It was probably the coverage of the demonstrations in Prague against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) that you were watching, although there's far more to the real story than TV sensationalism. How do I know? Because during the second week of my holiday fortnight in the Czech Republic, I gave up more conventional tourist activities for a while and took a look for myself.

The World Bank and the IMF are coming under mounting criticism for their actions. One of the World Bank's central roles is to ensure that developing countries have the physical infrastructure necessary to engage in the global economy. However, in many cases this has led to environmental damage and the displacement and intimidation of indigenous people, while topping-up the bank accounts of transnational corporations in the process. The IMF gives loans to cash-strapped developing countries in return for "structural adjustment" (now called the "Comprehensive Development Framework") within that country. This can mean cuts in health and education, privatisation and the deregulation of labour markets (sound familiar?). Not surprising then that the meeting in Prague of the IMF and World Bank this Sept attracted thousands of protestors from around the world. The protests culminated in a mass demonstration and marches to the conference centre on Sept 26, designated the "People's Global Day of Action".

We first had a taste of the crackdown to come when reports came through of



trains and buses being turned away from the Czech borders in anticipation of the demonstration. Figures of around 10,000 people being refused entry have been estimated. (My friend's arrival from England was delayed by almost 2 hours thanks to unusually thorough border searches).

Come the 26th, the day started good-humoured enough, with protestors splitting-up into three marches; blue, yellow and pink. The idea was to surround the conference centre and, hopefully, to stop the proceedings. We were on the yellow march, which included trade unionists, environmentalists and socialists. At the front of the march was Ya Basta!, the Italian direct action group.

When the march reached the bridge leading towards the centre, we were met with Czech riot police, a water cannon and a tank (they're bigger than you think!), and the march was declared to be illegal. Ya Basta! spent over two hours trying to dismantle the police barricades, during which time they were beaten and heavily contaminated with pepper spray. We could hear the sound of stun grenades exploding beneath the bridge, where the blue march was also coming under attack.

Although protestors didn't get into the

conference centre, neither could the delegates get out for several hours. A peaceful occupation of the Opera house stopped the delegates' social event, so they had to make do with a banquet on the edge of town.

Later in the evening, trouble broke out on Wenceslas Square, when riot police armed with teargas and stun grenades decided to clear the square, assaulting and arresting tourists in the process. Later that evening and over the following couple of days, police arbitrarily arrested people, often for doing no more than walking down the street. Out of the hundreds rounded up, detained and/or deported, only a handful has been charged. More worrying still have been the accounts of police brutality against those arrested. I met several people who had visibly been severely beaten in the police cells just before and following the demonstration who were then released without charge, and spoke to numerous others who had witnessed acts of violence in the Czech police cells. Unlike the images of protestors attacking McDonalds or throwing stones at police, these are stories that most of the press has chosen to ignore.

So was it all worth it? Well, whatever you think about the protests, it's a fact that many people who would otherwise never have heard about the World Bank or the IMF are starting to ask questions, and from a personal point of view, it felt good to be part of that process. Finally, if you still think globalization is nothing to do with us, I came back to the news that Johnson Controls, a factory in Mansfield, was closing with the loss of 600 jobs. The reason? They are relocating to the Czech Republic, where labour costs are a fraction of ours. The people making vast profits at the expense of people like you and me went global along time ago. It's about time we did the same.

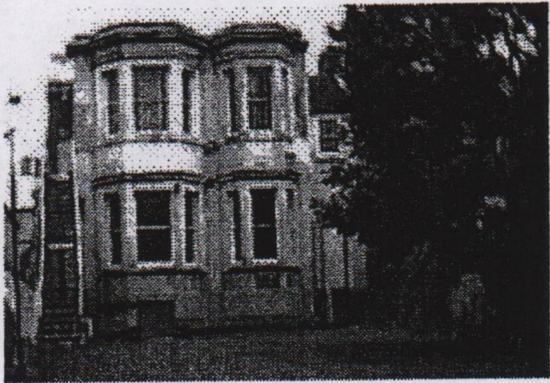


Gail Squires. (The author of this article would like to assure readers that no burger places were harmed in the making of this report)



Reports on the events in Prague (with photos) are available at the Indymedia web site at www.indymedia.org.uk. This site also includes an open letter to send to the Czech President against police brutality.

Veggies & The Rainbow Centre Moving On



■ Since our beginnings in 1984/5, sharing an office in a single building together with Nottingham's FoE and CND groups, The Rainbow Centre and Veggies Catering Campaign have expanded to burst the seams of a 7-unit terrace of shops, offices, cafe, library, campaign resources and collective housing.

Many projects and many volunteers have come and gone over the years, but in this new millennium the time is right to break out of the confines of rented accommodation and seek a permanent base, purchased as an investment in the future, and as a statement of our ongoing commitment to the causes of human and animal rights, environmental protection, peace, co-operation and social justice.

We have given notice to quit our Mansfield Road premises, with a new Centre 'under offer' to buy, subject to our raising £22,000 deposit (offers welcome). An Ecology Building Society mortgage is being sought for the balance. We may be ready to move late December or early in 2001.

We are writing a detailed business plan, which will be on line in a week's time, and would be greatly helped by donations, as this will reduce the amount we would have to pay back in interest on a bank loan.

Can You Help ??? !!!

Our address and phone numbers have literally spread around the planet, as part of a 'vast and extensive' network. If you wish to keep in touch with the Rainbow Centre or Veggies please return the form included in this mailing.

Nottingham postal workers

win five day week

■ Postal workers at the Nottingham South delivery office have scored a fantastic victory and set an example for postal workers across the country - winning a five-day week by refusing to do duties beyond the call of their job descriptions.



Massive non-delivery of letters took place at Nottingham South postal delivery office for the past few weeks after most workers refused to work uninsured - for free! - before 5 am, and refused to use their own cars.

Instead, we insisted on our right to refuse overtime, to take meal breaks at the right time and to have sacks of mail delivered to us on our rounds.

Management have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds in just two weeks of our action. Up to 80 members of management and 50 specially-drafted in agency staff proved themselves unable to cover the work that we are normally forced to do for free!

The dispute arose after plans to give a five-day week - a major demand of postal workers across the country - to half the workers at Nottingham South was over-ruled by the Area Manager.

His intervention meant virtually no-one was offered a five day week - and that second deliveries were five times the size of first deliveries. Our work to rule forced managers to shift the mail: it was very enjoyable seeing bully managers from all over the area stacking mail.

We will never go back to the attitude of the pre-action days. There has been a

sea change in workers' attitudes because of this victory and we all know we now hold the key to improvements in our conditions and quality of life: solidarity.

Messages are arriving that other offices are following our example, and Distribution (mail lorries) are also balloting for industrial action.

Even though all levels of the union - up to and including the national level - have so far backed us, we know our union does not control us as we have not had industrial action, so it is not their legal duty to support or "repudiate" our action: all we've done is do our jobs properly! A few individuals decided to insist on their rights; the rest joined them as their own individual decision: this was not industrial action in the eyes of the law.

We are, though, acutely aware that the law and judges and the media would not be as soft as they have been on the oil companies, hauliers and farmers taking part in the fuel protests as they would be on us in the event of any legal challenge to our action. We plan to sponsor a public meeting on the law and industrial action and also to make links with anti-capitalist protestors, anti-fascists, fuel protestors and local labour movement bodies.

Forward YOUR workplace News To
Nottingham & District Trades Union Council
C/O Nottingham City UNISON, 4 - 6 Perth
Street, Nottingham NG1 3LU or E-mail
maydayuk@yahoo.co.uk

WORKPLACE NEWS

- LOCAL - NATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL -

**Independent
electoral
campaigning
by trade
unions in
Notts
Saturday
Nov 11th,
12pm
@ SNTA
(Cawley
House) Canal
St, Nottm**

■ Brother / Sister

Following a discussion and resolution at the Regional Council of NATFHE, the Notts Area Committee of NATFHE has decided to call a meeting to which trade union organisations in the area are invited.

NATFHE, in this region, has been greatly disappointed by the performance of this New Labour government, on the funding of education and the failure of the government to reverse Tory anti-union legislation and increase workers' rights.

We are aware that dissatisfaction is felt not only by our members, but also the members of other unions, on the wider failures of the government to restore welfare state provisions on health and pensions, and to protect the public services. We have therefore decided to consult other unions about the possibilities of joint campaigning in the period up to the General Election. We believe that, given the policies of this government, trades unions are compelled to campaign for their policies independently of the main political parties. We believe that such policies, particularly that of greater spending on the welfare state, enjoy great support not only amongst our memberships but also amongst the electorate.

Representatives from your union organisation would be most welcome.

In solidarity

Pete Radcliff,

NATFHE Notts Area Committee



Simon Jones Campaign

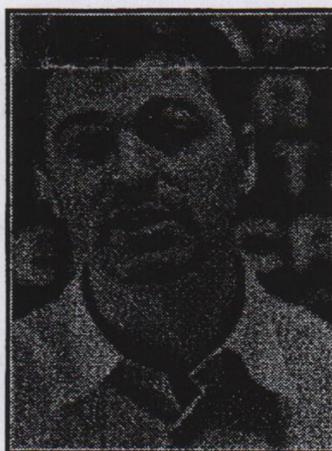
■ The CPS have finally decided to prosecute - unfortunately rather

than prosecute anyone for Simon's death, they've decided to prosecute one of the campaign's supporters who was simply exercising his right (along with about 80 of us) to protest outside the CPS offices in London.

Warren was arrested during our demo on 1st September, and has been charged with assaulting a police officer (like the rest of us, he was just trying to avoid being crushed onto the pavement by the police). Our solicitor Matt Foot of Christian Fisher is appealing for witnesses. If you were at the demo, or saw anything, please call him on 0207 691 4394.

Meanwhile we've still heard nothing from the CPS as to whether they have any intention of prosecuting the real criminals...

Thanks for your support,
The Simon Jones Memorial Campaign



Defend Glenn Kelly

■ After Bromley UNISON's branch secretary, Glenn Kelly cross-examined management at his reconvened

disciplinary hearing, his case was adjourned until 1st November.

Bromley Council in South London have suspended Glenn Kelly, UNISON branch secretary, chair of the Campaign for a Fighting Democratic UNISON.

Bromley acted after Glenn, as secretary of the public sector union UNISON, played a leading role in campaigning to save the Night Care service for the elderly living in the council's sheltered accommodation.

■ Keep sending letters / Faxes of protest to Jeremy Ambache, Director of Social Services and Housing, Bromley Council, Civic Centre, Bromley BR1 3UH. Fax 02083134620 or Chair of Social Services on 020 8290 0608
Solidarity messages to Bromley UNISON, Civic Centre, Bromley. Tel 020 8313 4405 or Fax 020 8313 4885

BRANCH WEBSITE OF THE Month

Notts County
Branch Of
UNISON

www.pages.unisonfree.net/nottscounty/

MSF members vote for 'super Union'

Workers have voted to create a "super" trade union with more than 1.1 million members. Up to 90 per cent of members of the MSF union voted to merge with the AEEU. It will be the second biggest union in the UK.

Notts TU News

The next Issue of
Notts TU News
available
(25.11.00) From
MUWC 1-5 Beech
Ave, Mansfield
Notts NG18 1EY

The World Will Never

Be The
Same Again



Saturday 2nd December 2000

Light the flame Rally

3.30pm- Assemble outside
Westminster Abbey for
procession past Treasury &
Downing St

For coach details phone
020 7739 1000 x236

Website:

www.jubilee2000uk.org

Notts Socialist Alliance

The A-Z of New Labour disappointment goes on and on: scapegoating asylum seekers, selling off council housing, under-funding education, failing to protect the environment from big business, the fuel crisis, privatization of the National Health Service, a pathetic minimum wage, excusing police racism, failing to act on rail safety and the list goes on and on. Come to the Socialist Alliance launch rally, hear the socialist alternative to New Labour's pro-big business politics and take part in the fight back for a fair and decent society.

PUBLIC LAUNCH RALLY
Thursday 16th November 7.30pm
@ Congregational Centre Church
8 Castle Gate (Near M&S)

Speakers:

- ★ Dudley NHS Worker
Fighting against NHS Privatisation
- ★ Weyman Bennett & Janine Booth
London Socialist Alliance Election Candidate
- ★ Jean Thorpe
UNISON NEC Member
Personal Capacity

NSA
Notts Socialist Alliance

NOTTM & DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Any branch of each Trade Union affiliated to the TUC and based in the Nottingham & District Area is entitled to become a member of the Trades Union Council. If your branch is not already a member then invite a speaker to come to your next branch meeting to talk about why you should join, or simply fill in the form below and send it direct to: Nottm & District Trades Council, C/O Nottingham City UNISON, 4-6 Perth ST, Nottingham NG1 3LU

Delegate Numbers for Monthly Meetings

- ★ Branches with less than 100 members are entitled to 1 Delegate.
- ★ Branches with more than:-
- 100-250 members are entitled to 2 delegate.
- 250-500 members are entitled to 3 delegate.
- 500-750 members are entitled to 4 Delegate.
- 750-1000 members are entitled to 5 Delegate.
- 1000-1500 members are entitled to 6 Delegate.
- 1500-2000 members are entitled to 7 Delegate.
- 2000-2500 members are entitled to 8 Delegate.
- 2500-3000 members are entitled to 9 Delegate.
- ★ Branches with more than 3000 members are entitled to 10 Delegates.

Name of trade union.....

Name and/or number of Branch.....

Branch Secretary.....

Branch Address.....

Number Of Members.....

Membership Fee Due.....

To Be paid Quarterly 6 Monthly
 Annually Please Tick

| MEMBERSHIP RATES | |
|---|--|
| Membership rates are (£10 Minimum for any branch) | |
| | 10p per member per year for the first 1000 branch members |
| Plus | 5p per member per year for branches with 1000-5000 members |
| Plus | 2p per member per year for branches with over 5000 members |

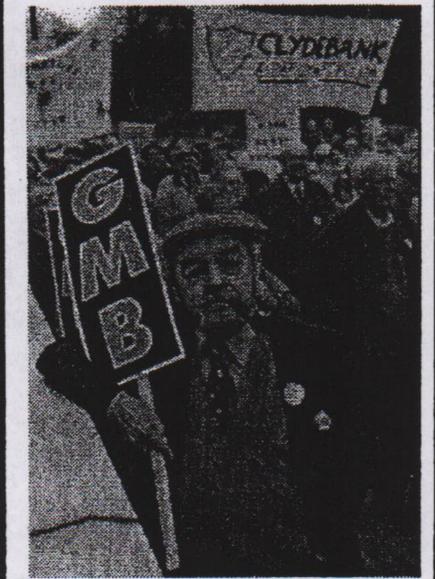
Diary Dates

Grants Not Fees



NUS National March
Wed 15 Nov
 assemble 11.30am,
 ULU, Malet St, London
 Called by the National
 Union of Students

National Pensioners Convention



Mass Lobby & Rally
 "Increase Pensions
 Now- Link Pensions to
 Earnings"
Tue 7th Nov
 12 pm. Presentation of
 petition at
 Buckingham Palace