

RUFFORD CAMP SOCIAL was held to thank all who have supported us throughout this campaign and it was really good to see so many enjoying themselves with us.

Thanks to Taff of Rufford NUM for helping to organise the disco and special thanks to Claire for negotiating with the excellent comedy group the Chuffinelles.

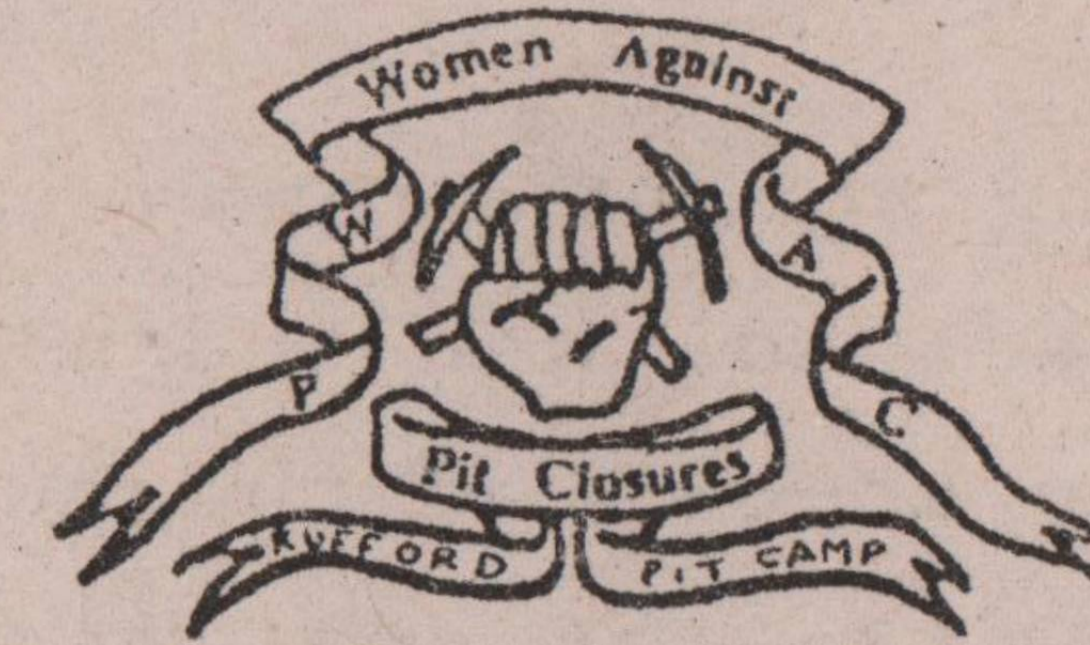
If you didn't make the Social, you are still more than welcome to come to the camp anytime to see us.

KEEP THE STRUGGLE GOING

You can help us, and yourselves!, to continue building the campaign for the mines, and all the other jobs & services under threat, by:-

- * sending us messages of support
- * asking for a representative from WAPC to come to speak to your union, Labour Party, women's, etc group meeting to hear & act on the latest information
- * keeping the donations coming
- * visiting us at the camp and, especially, arranging to spend a day or night on the rota to keep the caravan staffed continuously
- * women joining our monday meetings 7.15pm Rainworth.

RUFFORD PIT CAMP



Kirklington Rd, Rainworth, Mansfield Notts.
0623 - 490080

MAY NEWSLETTER

May day rallies have been held across the Country and the Women Against Pit Closures movement has had representatives on most platforms.

Coal must be kept in the news and not swept under the Tory carpet:-

OUT OF SIGHT

MEANS

OUT OF MINES!

and that means the Tories will have got away with the crime of the century.

We at the Rufford Camp have vowed to go on campaigning against the Tory onslaught on the mining industry. We will not be deterred from speaking out against this government's decisions to close down our mines.

We need your support to sustain our camp and to provide a base for our fight. 1

RUFFORD PIT

* No coal is being cut at present at Rufford. Having decided that the mines can only produce top layer so-called cheaper coal, thousands of tons of coal, and our mining future, is now being sacrificed for no good economic reasons! A new face is being "developed" at present.

* Market testing (normally called privatisation) has been introduced to Rufford. The U. Don't-worry-about-future-jobs-coal-or-health-&-safety. M. have sold out our lads by agreeing to a new shift system on 7 days a week. For generations miners fought for a 5 day week; guaranteeing a decent rest, time with family & friends, proper regard to safety inspections & work etc.

* Although miners are being transferred to Rufford from other threatened or closed pits (UDMers primarily - most of the NUM miners refusing "voluntary redundancy", despite threats of huge financial penalties, are being sent to totally inconvenient pits on the opposite side of the County from their homes) there is still no security.

With this new market testing, and lack of governmental support for british coal, many of the miners believe that the pit will close within the year. Already the Pit Manager & Deputy Manager have been "let go", alledgedly for "mismanagement". Indeed it seems likely from the most recent news from the pit that the UDM^{members} will be pushing for a ballot for Rufford to be shut down. The Pit Camp and the NUM are gearing up for a campaign to save our mine.

We remember only too well when Blidworth Pit was shut; they closed the shafts & buried equipment totalling over £1million. We're facing political decisions not economic arguments under this Government.

* Talk to your friends, workmates and neighbours. Make sure that they know that the temporary reprieve for some of the pits cannot last as long as our citizen's charter Government supports massive subsidies for (unsafe) nuclear energy rather than for coal. We need a coal industry, a safe energy policy & security for future generations!

WHAT WE SAY . . .

* The NHS. The Tories are proposing £30 a night bed charges for hospital stays & £5 for a visit to your GP. [Already longterm patients wanting televisions on wards have to pay the rental themselves in many hospitals in our region!] This is unacceptable.

* The Fire Service. Having agreed to a national pay formula for the fire service workforce to ensure that this so crucial service is not disrupted & fire fighters' pay keeps pace with others, the Tories are now proposing to break the commitment to abide by this long established formula. This is unacceptable.

* British Rail. Trains are being slashed left, right & centre in the run up to privatisation. The last train from London to Nottingham for instance is now 4½ hours earlier than before at just after 7pm - don't expect to be able to spend a full day in our capital unless you can afford a hotel! This is unacceptable.

* Post Offices. The Tories are looking to close all sub post offices in the run up to privatisation. This means, for instance, that pensioners, mothers etc. will have to travel to the nearest town, with all the extra expence, difficulties & security worries, to collect their entitlements. This is unacceptable.

The miners have started the fightback against this vicious Government, successfully saving 10,000 jobs, while other workers at Burnsalls, Timex etc are also leading successful disputes. We all know that the Government will try & shut the other pits through the backdoor over the next 12 months. We need, now more than ever, to join together and add to the fightbacks from our workplaces & communities in defence of all our jobs and services!

WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES

The Government boasts about Britain as the cradle of parliamentary democracy. Wish we could say the same about equal access to news for all citizens. There has been an almost blanket censorship on the various actions, rallies and occupations going on around the mining areas. We've had very successful WAPC occupations at Kive ton Park, Markham Main Parkside and Trentham Pits, we've seen Littleton Pit occupied by the local NUM, we've seen Markham Main WAPC Camp suffer a burnt down caravan to be replaced by the NUM under Scargill etc etc. Invite us to your meetings & we'll let you know what's really happening behind the Tory media's conspiracy of silence!

UP & COMING EVENTS

5th June	National WAPC Sheffield
11th June	Banner Theatre Co. Mansfield
12th June	Northumberland Picnic
19th June	Yorkshire Gala Wakefield
25-27 June	USA Women Miners' Conference
10th July	Durham Gala

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED: North West March
Against Unemployment &
Pit Closures
&
Picket & Action
Against Attempt To
Shut Rufford Pit