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# POLL-AXE !

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST FIELDS & HYSON GREEN ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

ISSUE 1

AUGUST 1989

FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN



ANTI-POLL TAX CAMPAIGN

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This is the first Newsletter of the Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti-Poll Tax Campaign (suggestions to shorten the name are welcome!). You will probably know we've been going since late June when we held our first public meeting. We have since held regular organising meetings, published leaflets, stickers & posters and held a second successful public meeting. We have a large (300 +) list of members/supporters and for the purpose of organising leafletting and increasing local membership our campaign is divided into Hyson Green, Forest Fields East, Forest Fields West and Forest Fields Central groups.

Our policy, evolved by consensus of our active members, is to build a non-payment campaign, to urge non-implementation of the Poll-Tax and to delay the registration process. However, we aim to embrace all forms of opposition to the Poll Tax and welcome new ideas and different views. We are a broad-based local campaign consisting of people of various political persuasions.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep all our members in touch and to persuade you all to become active members!

### The Banner

On a dark & sleazy night in July, 6 people gathered and turned a white sheet, 2 poles, 5 cans of paint and ten cans of lager into six pairs of red and black hands, 15 empty cans and a magnificent banner. The banner made its first appearance at the NALGO picket line the following morning and there have been numerous sightings since.

P.S. watch out for the one legged person on the banner.

### Rock & Reggae

We had a stall at the Rock & Reggae festival on Saturday & Sunday 29 and 30 July. Plenty of people turned up to help and we collected about 30 names, gave out information and stickers etc. The rain on Sunday cleared up in time for an afternoon of good music from local bands including Nye Roshni and Hop Hazard.

## PAST.....

### First Public Meeting

The first public meeting, at which the group was launched, was held at the Green Community Centre on Tuesday 27 June. Over 100 people attended and the meeting was addressed by a member of the group and a NALGO Steward from Nottingham finance department (from which the Poll Tax is being administered).

The first speaker talked about what the Poll Tax would mean and how we could oppose it. The second talked about the need to take the fight into the unions, particularly NALGO whose members will be doing much of the work needed to implement the tax. He said that at NALGO national conference they had agreed to a campaign of non-implementation of the tax if enough support from the general public was forthcoming.

### T.U.C. Demo

On Saturday 1 July 3 coaches of people from Nottingham CPSA, NALGO, Pork Farms and FF & HG APTU arrived in Manchester for the TUC Anti-Poll Tax rally. 30,000 People from APTU's nationwide, Trade Unions and political groups marched from the city centre to Maine Road. At the rally the weather and Norman Willis competed for the wettest contribution to the day - of course Norm (mines a double scotch) won. Two young single mothers gave the best rousing speech on how they wouldn't pay the poll tax even if they could afford it. David Yip (Brookside) gave an emotional speech & 1 minutes silence for the democracy movement in China.

**RESIST THE POLL TAX**

**CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY**

### Second Public Meeting -

#### Lessons From Scotland

Members of the campaign felt that lessons could be learnt from Scotland (who are one year ahead of us Poll Tax wise). A meeting was arranged and a Scottish anti-Poll Tax campaigner described events where he lived. Despite threats of imprisonment to non-payers, there has been no such evidence of this happening in Scotland.

People claiming benefits are wiser to simply not pay the Poll Tax as the fine is less than the payments themselves (the Government is only allowed to confiscate £1.75 a week from your benefit and that starts from when they catch up with you!). Whole estates in Scotland are simply refusing to pay and Poll Tax collectors and bailiffs have been chased away by angry residents. A million people have not paid their Poll Tax.

The meeting gave people the chance to ask questions and air their views.

## PRESENT.....

### The Stall

We run the stall every Saturday from 11.30-12.30 outside Gateways on the corner of Gregory Boulevard and Radford Road. There is information, advice, posters & leaflets available and you can also become a member of the campaign. Volunteers are always welcome, so come along and join in.

### N.A.L.G.O.

Links with NALGO have been established from the beginning of the campaign.

We felt it was vital to do so as employees in NALGO actually process and send out the Poll Tax registration forms. 2 Members of NALGO spoke at 2 separate public meetings and members of our campaign supported them on their picket lines.

Due to the mass strike action by NALGO members nationwide, demonstrating against the proposed appallingly low pay rise, the employers gave way and upped the rise from 7% to 8.8% . Outrageously the Government has now stated that the Poll Tax will now be higher to pay for this rise.

### Money

Our first Public Meeting raised about £200 of which £150 from a benefit gig was kindly donated by Ruth and friends - thanks to them. We collect money at organising meetings to pay for hire of the hall and creche. We also ask new members to make a small contribution (say 50p) when they join. We have opened a bank account in the name of Forest Fields & Hyson Green Anti Poll Tax Campaign (donations welcome!). We hope to soon be holding fund raising events.

## FUTURE.....

### Social Scene

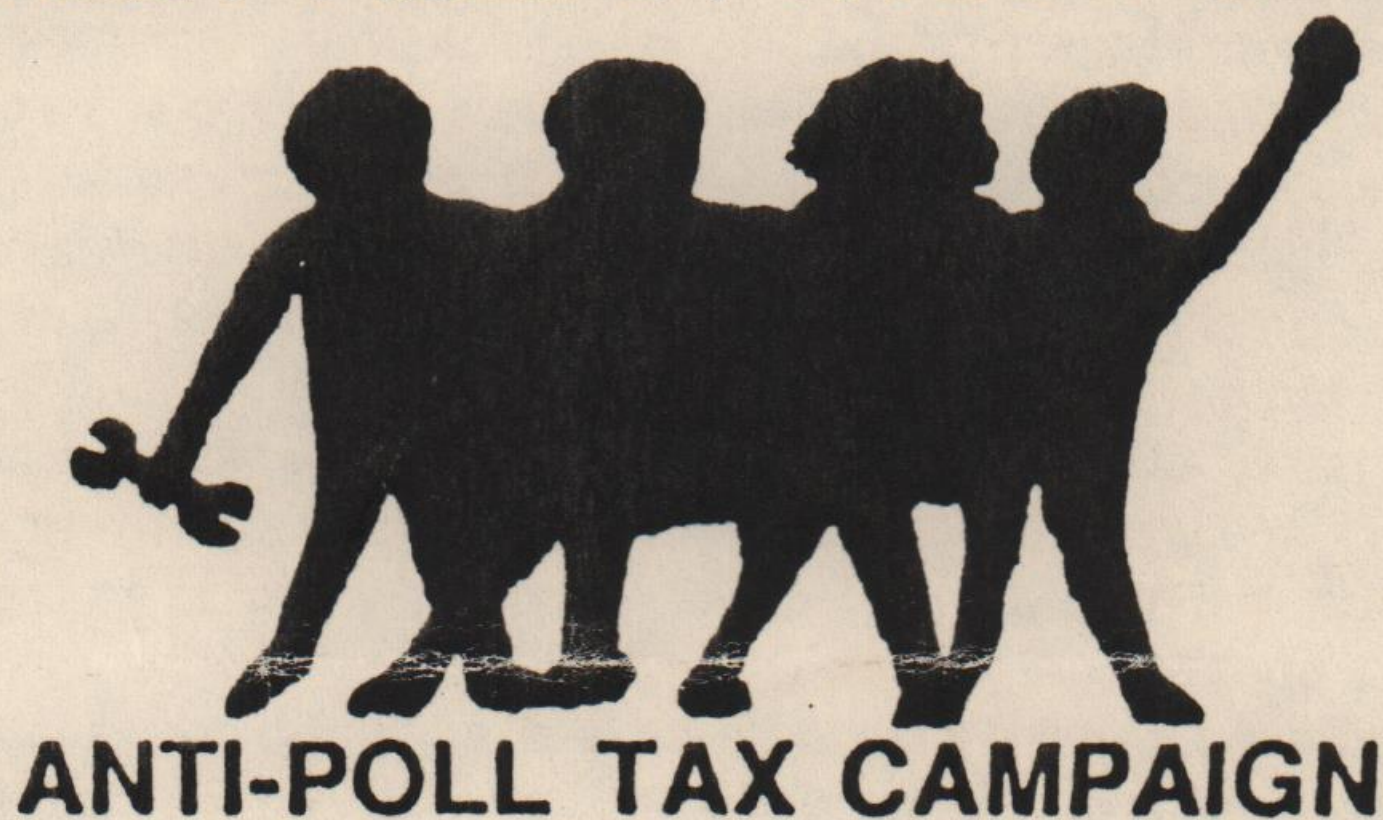
So far we have had lots of hard work and people have asked for more social events. We have plans for a benefit gig in the near future - hopefully featuring local bands Wholesome Fish and Hop Hazard.

We have arranged a "Picnic on the Forest" on Sunday 20 August at 2pm, please bring food/drink.

### District Labour Party Meeting

There will be a joint meeting of the District Labour Party and Labour Councils at 7.30pm on Friday 8 September at the TGWU building on the corner of Mansfield Rd and Forest Rd. At this meeting they will decide the recommended Poll Tax rate for Nottingham - its therefore essential that everybody gets down and lobbys this meeting to show our opposition to the tax. We should be pushing that the Labour-controlled Council plays no role in setting or implementing the Poll Tax and that it doesn't fine anybody that doesn't register or pay. This lobby is supported by all the Anti-Poll Tax Unions.

## FOREST FIELDS / HYSON GREEN



The next 2 meetings of the FF & HG Anti Poll Tax` Campaign will be at 8pm at the Green Centre (corner of Gregory Boulevard & Noel St) on Tuesday 22 August and Tuesday 5 September.

Creche facilities will be available.

Please! Please! come down to these meetings  
as we need as much input & help as possible.

