

Anti-Prison Gathering 2012

Many of us have been screwed over by the prison system, and even more of us have seen it happen to our friends and family. People getting locked up because we have to do what we need to do in order to survive. The prison system is big business with private companies making a fortune out of imprisoning people of the working class.

On Saturday the 28th of April starting at 11am at the Sumac Centre we're going to spend some time talking about how the prison system attacks us and how we can defend ourselves against it. We'll be talking about how we can support those who are already inside as well as those who are currently being threatend. If you want to know more contact antiprison2012@riseup.net

Nottingham Solidarity Network

On March the 31st Nottingham Solidarity Network got right down to business. About 20 or so Nottingham residents stood side by side with another whose depoist had been stolen by his dodgy as fuck landlord. We turned at the landlords place of work just as he was getting into his car. The car was quickly surrounded and the former resident handed his ex-landlord a demand letter. A letter that made it clear that if the deposit wasn't returned then there would be further action.

Nottingham Solidarity Network exists in order to fight bback against cheating landlords and shitty bosses who try to take advantage of individuals. Whether it's unpaid wages, eviction threats or whatever else they throw at us, we make sure no one stands alone. The idea is that we are stronger together than we do alone., and with Nottingham Solidarity Network one persons problem becomes the problem of many, and the chances of sorting out the problem grows. If you want to get involved then come along to the Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone street on Thursday April 12th and 26th at 7pm.

If you've got an issue you want us to work with you on then you can email nsn@riseup.net or call 07423631681

MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY

May Day is almost upon us, and as is customary the rich bosses are currently are having a great deal of fun making everyone elses lives as hard as possible. Benefits are being cut, people are being forced into very low paid work via workfare and other work schemes, and loads of people are having their secure jobs taken away. It seems as good a time as any to kick back against the bastards in charge. On May 5th people will be gathering in the city centre. Lets go along, not to listen to people talk talk talk talk us all to sleep, but to let those cowardly rich bastards know that we won't be beaten down anymore.

The Forest Fields Fire

April 2012

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WEASEL?



**Councillor
JON COLLINS,
corrupt
landlord and
enemy of the
people, lives
in this area.**

If you've got something to say, and wanna say it in the Forest Fields Fire then email us at autonomousnott@riseup.net

Well he kind of He lives over in Sherwood, but that's too close for our tastes. Jon's a general irritant in the side of the Nottingham people. Whether he's being the chairman of the police authority and using that power to clamp down on the poor, whilst ignoring the behaviours of the rich. Or if he's teaming up with NCH to evict people out of their houses and then hand them to his mates

le's currently trying to distract us with all this nonsense about the role of the Nottingham Mayor, but it's obvious to us that whether the mayor has power or the council does, it's all the same. just different arrogant politicians looking after themselves and happy to screw the rest of us.

The government says that people who allow their children to take part in riots don't deserve to live in housing "subsidised" by the tax payer. However, a council tenant is not 'subsidised'. Council house tenants are merely paying a reasonable rent for their home to the local authority, unlike a private tenant who is paying an unreasonable rent to a private landlord. Who is subsidising who?

Grant Shapps, the Housing Minister wants to change the law so that council tenants convicted of offences which are not connected to where they live can be evicted in new fast track procedures, in addition to fast track evictions already planned for people who behave anti socially in or around their homes. The decision to evict whole families based on the actions of one member is nothing less than collective punishment.

If the council continues in its efforts to make families and children homeless in order to look tough on crime they can be assured that there are members of the public in Nottingham who will respond and make their disgust felt.

Demolishing Lenton Flats

A couple of us went to one of the meetings regarding the demolition of Lenton Flats in March. It was the third of three meetings held during the day by NCH and the two local councillors Susan Piper and David Trimble.

The meeting began with the usual council info share nonsense, where those chairing the meeting explained to the residents what NCH would be doing for the residents, and how supportive and caring they intended to be.

During the meeting the following points were covered.

- During the same time frame as this, social housing in Strelley, St Annes, Meadows and Radford will also be demolished. In total around 900 homes are to go, at present there are 150 available social housing places.

- The only new social housing they said would be made would be a sheltered scheme on the site of Lenton Court, which the pamphlet says will be for Newgate residents.

- If residents find suitable housing during their designated time slot, and if they've been a resident for over 12 months prior to the demolition being approved, they will be entitled to £4,700, any existing debts will be subtracted from that.

- The councillors and NCH dude weren't stupid enough to promise that everyone would get rehoused in Lenton, or any other area in particular instead referring to support in finding suitable available housing.

There was then a q&a. I reckon there were about fifty plus people at the meeting, some drifted in and out, around 20 or so asked questions. The councillors also constantly blamed the current government for the situation, saying that it was the Tories who were demanding that local governments re-structure and finance their social housing provision.

According to the councillors and the NCH there are no set plans on what will happen to the land after they are demolished. One councillor said over her dead body will they be turned into student housing. But the possibility of new social housing being built there was not emphasised, which if it was even remotely likely it would have been sung from the chandeliers. I think it's clearly going to be sold to developers, with student housing in mind, this was a view shared by many of the residents. Many of the questions focused on individual issues of ensuring they'd get the 4,700, or the help they'd receive in moving house.

I'd say that there were a good number of people in attendance who were distrusting and frustrated with what was happening, and their questions represent this.

It's been pointed out with the residents of the Lenton Flats being placed on band B, a whole load of people on lower bands and already waiting and bidding for housing are going to be pushed further down the list. One dude in attendance pointed out that he'd been searching and bidding for 13 months prior to the announcement of the demolition to no success.

Reasons to engage with what the NCH and the city council are doing to social housing in Nottingham.

- 1) The sheer number of people being forced out of their long term homes due to the current governments reckless austerity measures, and the local councils ineptness and feeble attempts to protect those it claims to represent.

- 2) This is going to have a dramatic effect on the homeless situation in the city. Homelessness has already risen due to evictions and repossessions, this is a very real effect of capitalism, one that is drastically enhanced as the system attempts to defend the rich bosses.

- 3) There are a lot of pissed off people in the flats, many of who have already been massively screwed over by capitalist society.

We refuse

This is aimed at the growing underclass of people who are excluded from participation in society. It is an incitement to revolt.

There is an insistence that social status is based on merit, in spite of the fact that those who do the most essential and taxing work in society are condemned to the lowest ranks in it. As a result, it is usually those who cannot or choose not to engage in the emotional prostitution of work who face the spite of those who feel they have some place and some future in the system as it is. Take the current wave of hatred against the disabled, who are assumed to be faking it in order to leech taxpayers money. Or what about the endless suspicion of benefit fraudsters who are supposedly too lazy to get a job and are lording it up at the expense of the "wealth creators", those tax dodging millionaires we are supposed to adore. The misery of our existences is unknown to the smug tossers whose outstanding merit is to incite hatred in the daily papers.

They pick on our poor education, our poor health and our lack of 'proper' work and say we lack aspiration. Of course they took away the funding from our schools and health system and destroyed any opportunities we might once have had. And who would ever aspire to be a mindless drone on a production line anyway? We are damned if we buy into the system, accept their shitty jobs, mindnumbing work, health problems and despair and be thrown to the dogs if we refuse.

If we accept this division of society into an army of drones working for the benefit of a tiny elite and a derided underclass who do not work at all we have effectively lost any chance of improving our lot. Despite all the patronising talk from the wealthy, there are virtually no routes for the privileged circles. Even if you win the lottery, you will still be looked down on and refused entry into the club. The only way we can take back some dignity is by refusing the role we are given as arse wipers to the rich.

That means coming together to demand what we want. As long as the ruling classes can rely on divisions between those who work in good jobs, those who work in precarious jobs, and those who have no work, between racial and ethnic groups, between men and women and between different generations, they can stop us from finding the only worthy targets- themselves. Because they are the ones who hold the purse strings, who own the property and who makes the decisions. They are the ones holding us down.

We have been taken for a ride by the rich and their propagandists in the media and the state apparatus for centuries. But discontent has never been greater. Many look to the revolutions not far from our shores and begin to think that they're not such a bad idea.

Every inferno was once a small fire. Every fire needs a spark to start it. Start making sparks, everywhere.