

Nottingham Solidarity Network vs Debt Collection

A few weeks ago Nottingham Solidarity Network were contacted by James Coll. He informed us that he had been receiving demand letters from the Lowell Group, a debt recovery company based in Leeds. They had bought a debt from Shop Direct and were now intent on collecting the money from Mr.Coll. The account had not been opened up or used by Mr. Coll, he had not signed for anything, and was both unwilling and unable to pay the debt. The Lowell Group are now threatening litigation in order to collect the debt. Nottingham Solidarity Network and James Coll ask you to email the Lowell Group the letter drafted below their email is post@lowellgroup.co.uk or write a letter to them at PO Box 172, Leeds, LS11 9WS. The letter is addressed to Mr. Andrew Bartle the company director of the Lowell Group and the

signatory of the demand letters.

To Andrew Bartle,

We are writing to you regarding account number 94884193. As you know this is a debt purchased from Marshall Ward and their company Shop Direct. At present you are sending Mr. Coll letters threatening litigation due to an outstanding balance of £1541.27. We ask you to desist with these threats immediately. Mr.Coll has been in touch with you via Aid Uk, who informed you that the original Shop Direct account was not opened up by Mr. Coll, but a third party. We believe that you know of this third party, and that you have been in contact with them, but as they were unable to work out a payment plan you have continued to direct your focus on Mr.Coll. Mr. Coll was in hospital at the time undergoing treatment for cancer, treatment which is still ongoing. The account was not opened with his blessing nor knowledge. He did not sign for the account nor knew about it until the letters that you have sent to him. Furthermore, Mr. Coll does not have the means nor the inclination to pay for a debt built by a third party, and believes that you are unfairly targeting him at a time in his life where he needs to be focusing all his energies on dealing with the cancer treat-

ment his doctors are providing him with.

We believe that you would be gravely mistaken to pursue further action against a man who is seriously ill and who had nothing to do with the account to begin with. We are members of Mr.Coll's community, and will be supporting him throughout this process. If this matter is not dropped we will take further action. We hope that this letter finds open ears and sensible minds.

Sincerely James Coll and Nottingham Solidarity Network

Nottingham Solidarity Network are a collective of individuals who aim to support others in their fights against bailiffs, landlords and bosses.
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Kids Street Play continue on Cedar Road

Every Thursday from 5pm until 7pm. Football, face painting, and lots of other fun and games. Everyone is welcome, under 5's need to be with an adult.

~ The ~ FOREST FIELDS FIRE

- A FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS BY RESIDENTS / JUNE 2012 -

Nottingham East M.P Chris Leslie witnesses Police Brutality and doesn't do a thing.

Chris Leslie M.P for Nottingham East witnessed a racially motivated attack by the cops on a Forest Fields family, and did nothing to intervene. The attack which happened last August left two teenagers and their father with bruised bodies, swollen faces, burns from c.s gas and cuts to the arms.

The attack began after midnight, when a three uniformed cops stopped three teenagers yards from their doorstep. One eye witness tells us that "the lighter skinned boy was allowed to leave, whilst the two darker lads were stop and searched". Another witness states that it took only a few

moments for the situation to quickly get out of hand, with one cop screaming "When I ask you a fucking question why can't you answer it." Within ten minutes their were two riot vans and four police cars. One local resident came to his door to see what all the noise was for, and was greeted with the sight of a dozen armed police running down the street. "They seemed so happy to be getting their guns out." the resident tells us, "I've been here since the mid 90's and never seen anything like it.". Another residents explains that "this incident has left me feeling uneasy now when it gets dark, and that I've lost faith in the police."

One local who came out of his house early on says "The dad who had come out to speak up for his kids was grabbed and pushed up against a car by one police, at the same time he was calling out for everyone to calm down.". Residents consistently describe the police as constantly antagonistic towards the family, and the family as co-operative throughout the incident.

So, shocked were a number of the residents by the behaviour of the police towards the family that they arranged to speak to Nottingham East Member of parliament Chris Leslie to express their concerns. These residents say that Mr. Leslie stated that he and his assistant Josie had been in the riot vans driving around Forest Fields that night. He then encouraged the residents to hand over their statements so he could "take snippets from them". Whether Leslie was in the riot van as part of regular exercise or because it was also a night where the T.V series Coppers was being filmed is unclear.

This not the first nor the last case of attacks by police officers on Afro-Caribbean or Asian teenagers. Earlier this year national newspapers highlighting police racism with two cases in particular. Fireman Edric Kennedy Macfoy who was abused, assaulted and shot with a stun gun, whilst another 21 year old man was strangled by a police officer who was recorded saying "you'll always be a n---". Of the latter case Estelle

du Boulay, director of the Newham Monitoring Project, said: "Sadly, the shocking treatment of this young man at the hands of police officers – both the physical brutality he describes and the racial abuse he claims he suffered – are by no means unusual; it compares to other reports we have received. What makes this case different is the victim had the foresight and courage to turn on a recording device on his mobile phone."

There have been various complaints of police harassment by people of all backgrounds living in Forest Fields and the rest of NG7. And a number of formal complaints are currently on going. What these situations tell us is that we must look out for one another, According to one resident "the cops just pick on those who might not fight back, those who'll give them an easy time, so they can make an example of them." its up to other residents to ensure this doesn't happen. To make sure that no other resident has to deal with police harassment and brutality alone. If you have a report of stop and searches, police harassment contact newsdesk@gvmedia.co.uk or nsn@riseup.net or join C.R.A.P a Nottingham Campaign to reduce abusive policing Facebook group <http://crappost.weebly.com/>

What do Argos and the Jubilee have in common? Answer: Workfare

A group of long-term unemployed jobseekers were bussed into London to work as unpaid stewards during the diamond jubilee celebrations and told to sleep under London Bridge before working on the river pageant. Up to 30 jobseekers and another 50 people on apprentice wages were taken to London by coach from Bristol, Bath and Plymouth as part of the government's Work Programme.

Earlier this year, Argos admitted it was using forced unpaid work to cover its "busiest time of year". Then under pressure from the public and media, Argos said it would suspend its involvement in workfare. Here's one persons story of being forced to work for Argos;

I'm currently being forced to do mandatory work experience at Argos. They have

three of us and we were doing 10 hours extra a week more than any member of staff at our level so they're obviously doing it so they don't have to give overtime to their current members of staff.

It was only when I phoned up Seetec and complained about the amount of hours extra we were doing compared to everyone else that they cut us down to 16 hours, it makes you wonder how many other people who are too scared to speak out against it are doing huge amounts of hours for no pay.

Seetec failed to contact me about the placement at Argos until 20 minutes before I actually had to be there (my Seetec advisor's excuse for not letting me know sooner was that she was in Barcelona on holiday, must be nice for some)!

I was sent by Seetec to do work experience, they told me there was a job at the end of it and that I could quit at any time if I wanted, but I have received nothing in writing about the placement and was threatened with loss of benefits if I quit it. As soon as I turned up at Argos they said there were no vacancies at the moment.

I'm doing it for four weeks but when I started there was a person that was referred

directly by the jobcentre who was doing it for six weeks. My advisor at Seetec was very patronising over the phone and I could tell she thought I was a 'jobseeking scrounger' as you must well know people in my position experience when it comes to signing on.

Since Argos found out that if they get people from Seetec they only get us 16 hours a week, they've moved to other work providers as they will give people over for 30 hours a week. So they've got two more people starting next week to cover the lack of hours from the current work experience people. Really shows they're going out of their way so they don't have to pay people to work there.

As the list of companies signing up for workfare grows, it is becoming clear that it is now taking place on a massive scale: no surprise since the government intends 250,000 placements on the Work Experience scheme alone.

No figures have yet been published on how many of the 850,000 people expected to be sent on the Work Programme by the end of the year are being made to work without pay. Added to the tens of thousands on Mandatory Work Activity and the other schemes, organisations which should be paying a

living wage are being handed millions in taxpayer subsidy at the cost of the unemployed.

So, the names we have been told we need to add to the hall of shame are: The Works, B&Q, Sue Ryder, Haven House Children's Hospice, Marriot Hotels.

Even recruitment agencies are at it! Blue Arrow are advertising 8 weeks unpaid as an office admin and Tate Recruitment are offering 8 weeks doing recruitment admin. Yet more evidence of paid work being replaced by workfare.

Like Argos, Superdrug suspended their involvement in February but are now back at it again. And one we should have mentioned sooner... Hilton Hotels. They are proud enough of their involvement to feature in a DWP press release. The need to stop workfare now couldn't be clearer. If you want to get involved in the week of action against workfare July 7th-14th then email at nottsnowworkfare@riseup.net or text us at 07758867265 If you are on workfare scheme or know someone who has been sent on one then let us know. The more we know, the more we can do to challenge the idea that people should be forced to work for no wages, while big businesses

profit via tax payers subsidies to the tune of billions. Help us expose the companies and organisations that really are getting something for nothing. Remember fighting them together makes us stronger.

NG7 Food Bank is asking for donations

Some NG7 residents are setting up a food bank for the area. It's for anyone who needs it. If someone or their family is running low on food for the week they can collect a parcel of food from the food bank. As well as a free meal at one o'clock.

Starting on the 27th of July at 245 Gladstone street. If you've got any non-perishable items especially tins. Then bring them along to 245 Gladstone street on Monday evenings.
