The Diary is updated continuously, based on info displayed in the Nott FIN newsletter and in the Free Information Network area at Nottingham's Rainbow Resource Centre, where more details and more up-to-date event info may be found.

To receive further editions send the required number of self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the Rainbow Centre. Or tell us where you picked up this copy, or saw it displayed, and we'll try to distribute future copies at the same place.

July 1998

Sat 4th Save Northern Swimming Baths Campaign - Fun Day! Stalls, side shows, music. Parade/march from Bulwell Market at noon to Northern Court (opposite the Baths on Vernon Road). Call: 916 2215 / 915 3868 Nottm Animal Rights Confederation. '1st Sunday' meeting & campaign planning. Sun 5th Mon 6th

Greenpeace Support Group meets 1st Monday monthly at The Navigation, Wilford St, nr Canal St. Nottm Action for Southern Africa meets 1st Monday monthly 7.30 at The Lincolnshire Poacher, Mansfield Road. Contact Mike on 970 2120, or Box 6, 118 Mansfield Road, Nottm NG1 3HL.

Undercurrents Video Premiere, & Earth First! Meeting, 7pm The Canteen 188 Mansfild Rd, Notts Thur 9th

Hillgrove Cattery Demo, Transport available contact the Rainbow Centre. Sat 11th

Ambient Green Picnic, Millmead; Guildford. Free. Sat 11 th

Friends of the Earth. 2nd & last Tuesdays. 7.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St.

Nottm Claimants Action. Fortnightly meeting. 7.30pm at the Rainbow Centre Canteen.

Thur 16th Green Party Discusion, on Amnesty International 8pm ICC Mansfield Rd. Fri 17-18th Derby Punx Picnic, Victoria Inn, Picnic & camping at Bass Rec Protest site.

Sat 25 th Environment Fair Redhill Youth Centre Redhill Road.

Sun 26th Ecoworks Community Day, Hungerhill Allotments, St. Anns. Wed 29 th Big Green Gathering: Info; PO Box 123, Salisbury, Wilts. Ph: 01747 870667

Lugnassad, Pagan Festival of first fruits, everywhere!

Mon 6th

Fri 31st ? Nott FIN / Ned Ludd News editorial workshop. 7pm Rainbow Library (back door);

August

Sun 2nd Protest walk/picnic against the Bestwood Quarry. 11am Lodge & Winding Engine Car parks, picnic Nr Adventure Playground For further details please contact the Rainbow Centre.

Shell Picket - Fridays at 5.30pm at London Road. Contact June / Dave / Rainbow Centre to confirm. Nottm Hunt Saboteurs Assoc. To help with fundraising or active wildlife protection contact Brent c/o Rainbow. Prevent Unwanted Pets. To help with fundraising or in any other way call 941 8872. Sanctuary Working Party. Helping local sanctuaries where no healthy animals are ever destroyed. Details from Rainbow.

CONTACTS: RAINBOW CENTRE: 176-188 Mansfield Road, Nottm NG1 3HW. 10am-5pm. Ph: 958 5666 Contact these c/o the Rainbow Centre: NottFiN - the Free Information Network; McLibel Support Group; Animal Rights Confederation (also Angie on 974 6814); Kirkby Cats Home (also Phil on 01623 756592); Enough - Nottm Anti-Consumerism Campaign (also c/o Women's Environmental Network on 913 3029); Earth First!; Friends Of the Earth (also Jill on 953 8843); Nottm Windpower Project (also 948 0829); Prevent Unwanted Pets (phone on 941 8872); Vaccination Awareness Network (also 948 0829); Vegetarian & Vegan Society (also Tracy: 981 7620); Veggies Catering Campaign (also Lunchtimes at Clinton St East); ALSO: Green Network News has news & dates of many more environmental activities. Phone Tim Gray on 941 7849. Campaign Against The Arms Trade: 89 Crossman St NG5 2HL. Phone: 960 3693 (eve) / 970 6994.

NED LUDD'S NEWS

In Yer Face

national importance.

more SINC's.

trees.

plant

evapotranspiration.

Education & Events:

children a year visit.)

Bestwood is used by businesses,

community groups and schools, the

quarry will disrupt or stop all of these.

- It has been rumoured by the Education

Department that if the quarry goes ahead

that no schools would be prepared to

visit. (currently approx. 10,000 school

- the park is renowned for its youth

environment work this would have to

- the majority if not all the events held at

the park would be damaged.

SINC (Site of Importance for Nature

Conservation) due to its unimproved acid

grassland habitat, and is extremely rare

in the country. Next to the site are 3

- evidence from other sites suggests that

the hydrology (water flows through the

landscape) would be badly affected, causing die back of trees over a substantial

area. The main trees to be affected would

be oaks, and recently coppiced or planted

- Dust pollution on ancient woodlands,

meadows, ponds would have serious

effects on habitats hindering

photosynthesis, and interfering with

- Noise pollution will affect the breeding

of birds, and habits of small mammals.

reproduction

ecologically. It is one of the few surviving remnants of Sherwood Forest and

Heritage; - apart from being part of Sherwood Forest contains species of local, regional, and the quarry would be right next the Winding Engine House a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a ranger found a - the sit of Bestwood one quarry is an

1st July Free/Donation

NottFiN 10

from the quarry site. Location:

- for Bestwood 1, they plan a hole 100ft deep on a site of approximately 32 acres. Right next to the most heavily used are of the park, next to the adventure playground, picnic area, Enviro Camp Site, etc... It couldn't be more damaging unless it was in the middle of the park

Neolithic axe head no more than 30 metres

- Bestwood 2 is to be an extension of a disused quarry alongside the park.

Health & Safety;

- this is one of the major issues. Having such a deep hole in a area that attracts thousands of children. There have already been accidents involving young people and the old quarry site, which is 1/3 of the depth, including broken limbs. Fences and signs don't stop them as they are just ripped down, and quarries are exciting play areas.

Transport;

- The quarry proposal would involve 150,000 vehicle movements, which equates to one Tarmac wagon every 12 minutes of the working day.

So, it's up to you we can either have a beautiful Country Park for ourselves and our children to enjoy or a Multinational Corporation, blackmailing our local council, making profits at our expense, and adding sand to the over 7 years worth we've got stockpiled in the county already

Everybody come and see the site on Sunday the 2nd of August, 11am There will be two short walks, one starting from the car park at the south (City side) of the park Near Bestwood Lodge. And a shorter one starting at the car park near the Winding Engine House, at Bestwood Village, Bring stuff for a picnic, banners and anything else you would like to find. There will be a guided nature walk, and activities for children, talks on the proposed development and what we can do about it! See Diary. Contact Notts EF!

Bring all your Family and friends defend your park and communities from reckless profit driven developments. "The barracade blocks the road, but opens the way!"

PEOPLE OF NOTTINGHAM, DEFEND SHERWOOD FOREST!

Multinational earth rapists Tarmac, (Twyford Down, road stone to Newbury Bypass, 2nd Runway at Manchester Airport, 1st Kids Prison at Cookham Woods, all round nice guys!) Have planning permission for two quarries at Bestwood Country Park, just 5 miles north of the city centre, one of the last remnants of Sherwood Forest.

Planning permission was given for the quarries in 1963 when environmental regulations were almost non existent. It was updated under the Environment Act 1995 to impose modern conditions on the development, but the Council Planning Department could not stop it -The hillside for the main quarry Bestwood 1, can be seen from as far away as the M1.at this stage as they would have wanted due to the huge levels of compensation that they would have to pay to Tarmac (his would run into millions of pounds.)

So as our Local Councils hands are tied by the corporation, it's up to us as its our park to defend it from the developers out for even bigger profits.

Potential Impact:

The impact of the quarries will be severe on the Country Park, the community of Bestwood Village, and the wider communities of Nottingham.

Landscape & Views;

- the immediate view from Bestwood Village would be Destroyed.
- The view from the park would be ruined and the quarry is next to the most heavily used bit of the park.

Recreational Use;

- Up to 500,000 people visit the park each year. They come for freedom, safety, quiet, and to relax from the stresses of the city. All these features will be destroyed.

Ecological;

- the park is extremely important

Act Now! Then send your words to Nottingham Free Information Network c/o Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3. Better still email veggies@innotts.co.uk

:ssarbbA Name:

Donation (payable to Rainbow) enclosed

'commercial' groups. Campaign fliers distributed free). future FINs. (Suggested donation £3 per 100 for Please distribute the enclosed fliers with

Please send extra copies which I will distribute

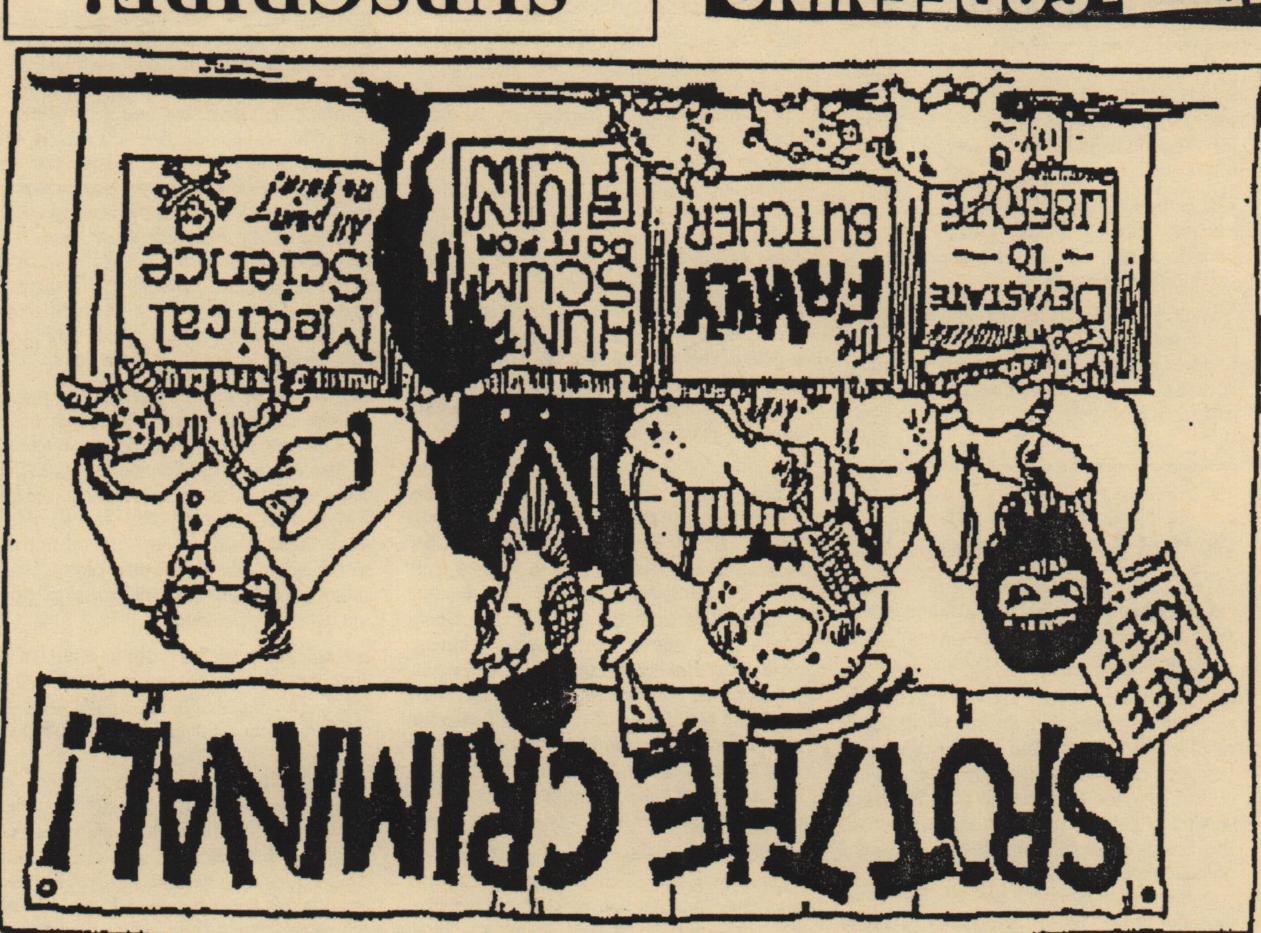
(Enclose stamps for postage & towards print costs) Please send the next issues of Nott FIN.

Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW. send to NottFIN, c/o Rainbow Centre, 180 funding. Please copy the following details and You are invited to help with distribution or

points around Nottingham. print, and is distributed to various drop-off updated every fortnight. It costs 6p per copy to This Free Information Network Newsletter is

SIBSCHIBE





I VECELIEA. AVAIL ABLE IN Imtd.ben

RainForest/Vines/4111/ www.geocities.com/ the internet at http:// Thanks to Nigel & Andy NottFin is on

4 mins from Victoria Centre Bus Station) with Huntingdon St, near Elm Avenue, Rd, Nottm (yellow back door at junction Rainbow Centre Library, 182 Mansfield on Friday 31st July?, at 7pm at the Join us at the next editorial workshop

the views published herein. NottFIN does not necessarily agree with

publication. Stuff censorship. free to reproduce and part of this Ned Ludd's is anti-copyright, please feel

of the TV and do nothing! we fully expect you to sit at home infront action considered illegal under any law, necessarily condemn or condone any The publishers of Ned Ludd's do not

... Interested?

fund-raisers typists, layout designers, distributors, Your help is welcomed. We need writers, collective of Nottingham campaigners. This Mewsletter is produced by a

can help in the organising. run a stall or collection at the event. We then do a benefit for us, or invite us to keep us free. If you organise gigs/parties then give us some eash. Only donations about local issues. If you like Ned Ludd's writing and sending us stuff, particularly from this network, we also rely on you Although we obtain much information

FINs and similar publications around Ludd's News is just one of a network of exploitative and oppressive system. Ned fightback against this earth-raping, information on subcultures and the community based paper providing The Free Information Network is a

Network! Information Nottingham Free

Don't be part of the experiment!

is easy and free/cheap at the central library. www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html internet use where they are check info on http:// sites in Nottinghamshire to find out There are four or five more genetix test

an agricultural show. demonstration plot being prepared for Loppers destroyed a genetix group calling themselves the Lincolnshire been decontaminated in Scotland. And a

Since then two more release sites have

and the Regions Biotechnology Unit. from the Dept of Environment Transport register of deliberate releases available Note: The codes refer to the GMO public

releases. Monsanto. GMO public register of deliberate plus one 'fast-track site' not listed on Derby - 3 sites: 98/R22/13, 97/R22/9 East Lodge Farm, Kings Newton,

Holdings. Lincolnshire 97/R27/1. Perryhall Rothwell,

* Nickerson Farm, 97/R19/17. Agrevo.

* Hall Farm, Kneeton, Nottinghamshire

Genetics Systems Circncester, Gloucester 97/R 15/22. Plant

Dryleaze Farm, Siddington, 95/R24/2. Pioneer Genetique. * Thorn Farm, Inkberrow, Worcstershire

unwanted. bodies. They are also unnecessary and released into our environment and our uncontrollable and as yet untested when

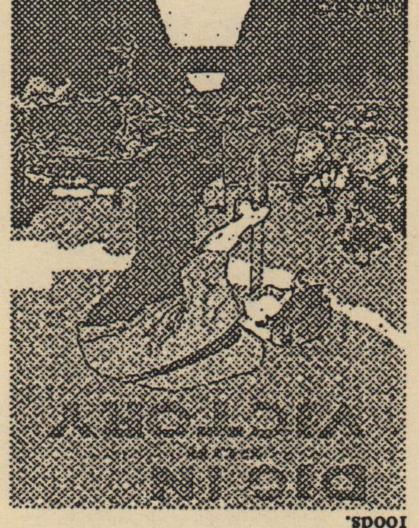
unpredictable, dangerously crops have long argued that they are 1. Opponents of genetically engineered

Notes to editor -

2. The sites visited were -

genetix.html www.envirolink.org/orgs/shag/ found on the internet at: http:// taken by the activists responsible, can be 9516 or page 07666 750473. Photos,

Engineering Network on 0181 374 For further information - call the Genetic



were happy with genetically engineered Guardian ICM poll showed only 14% be banned in the UK. Thursday a genetically engineered organisms should Consumers Association concluded that Sainsbury, Genetics Forum and the Tuesday a 'citizens jury' organised by context of mounting public unease. On These seven actions have occurred in the

to a safer world."

direct actions, we are seven fields closer morning, due to responsible and peaceful interests then we've got to. This government can't act to protect our driving seat on this issue. Well, if the recently stated that he was not in the halted yet Jeff Rooker [UK food minister] agencies have called for those fields to be mouths. Four government conservation being consulted on what goes in our dislike them and yet we are not even Frankenstein foods, most people actively it. Nobody has asked for these our environment, genetic engineering is profits before the safety of our food and agrochemical companies placing their "If ever there was a clear case of

explained: 'cropper' calling herself 'Miss Jean' In a telephone statement to GEN, a

destroyed. down because necessary data is now engineered oilseed rape has been slowed commercialisation process for genetically crop failures. It may be that the feeling the effects of public distrust and significant blow to companies already will have been sustained. This is a of thousands of pounds worth of damage and bare hands. It is likely that hundreds cut down using common gardening tools approximately 10,000 sq metres were The crops which together cover

Genetique and Plant Genetics Systems. companies: Agrevo, Monsanto, Pioneer by the following transnational least 300 nationwide, were being trialed The deliberate release sites, part of at

particular controversial crop coming to nightime activities could prevent this in the UK to 19. It may be that these known genetic field 'decontaminations' chosen and brings the total number of They appear to have been strategically

reliable anonymous source. direct actions on the 4th of June by a Network was informed of these peaceful the UK. The Genetic Engineering engineered rapeseed were destroyed across seven separate crops of genetically action against 'frankenstein food', at least Last night, in an escalation of popular

Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire. Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Fields in One Night; Derbyshire, Direct Action Stops the Gene-Crops - 7

for the low down. with the Genetic Engineering Network Nottinghamshire area. We got in touch you and me!) including one in the were decontaminated (that's trashed to at least 10 test sites around the country that is sweeping the country, last month the new wave of "civil responsibility" Some of you may have seen in the papers

DECONTAINATED KELEASE SITES

Project Work! Welfare to Work!

What's the difference? - it's all forced labour.

When the Labour government was elected some assumed that it would act more fairly to people on benefits than the Tories did. Job Centres in Nottingham suspended the Project Work programme, waiting for Labour to cancel it. But now the government has told them to carry on and force claiments on to Project Work placements until Labour's own brand of forced labour - Welfare to Work - part of the so-called New Deal which this month is extended to the 25 and over age range.

Now that Project Work is up and running, and Welfare to Work is being introduced, many claimants aged 18-50 are being forced to waste their time in useless training and work placements for only £10 on top of the normal dole and the bosses get paid £60 -£75 a week by the government for our labour. If we complain they say we are lazy scroungers.

This is all based on the ridiculous work ethic of New Labour, they don't ask questions about why we work, what it will contribute to society? They seem to think that work, what ever it is, is a useful thing in it's self. Why take some one out of voluntary work to make them toss hamburgers for Mc Death. Welfare to work will also undermine the position of paid workers. Why would a business employ some one when they can get paid to take on a slave. Well maybe because they want a trained worker who wants to do the job, which leaves claimants in the hands of the multinationals who want cheap untrained labour. In New York where the Workfare scheme (which inspired both Project Work and Welfare to Work in Britain) has resulted in 20,000 city council

DEPARTMENT OF

workers being laid off and replaced by the unemployed. Unemployment is a fact of capitalist society, you can't punish people just cause your systems fucked. It would be far more beneficial if people prepared to live simply and thats all you can do on the dole, were allowed to without harassment.

In Nottingham Help The Aged and Nottingham Council for Voluntary Services refused to take part in Project Work.

To resist the schemes contact: NCA c/ o PO Box 192, Nottingham NG1 1FJ or leave a phone No. on the pager and we'll get back to you. Tel; 0839 046175.

Dole Chaos!

Just for fun we lifted this one from the Schnews, Ta.

We, ve been sent a copy of a DSS internal Memo which we found hilarious. On Wednesday afternoon Police were called to a Benefits Office to remove a drunk. As officers were removing him, another police car arrived and seeing the first car stopped to see if any help was needed. On entering the building they saw someone they wanted in the office and arrested him. Another police car driving passed, seeing the 2 cars outside, stopped and, on entering, saw someone they too wanted to arrest. Yet another passing police car seeing the first three, entered the benefits office. As they did so two customers hurled abuse at them, the police followed them inside and cautioned them. Due to the fact that four police cars were parked outside, a passing riot van stopped to give assistance, thinking a full on riot was going on. On entering, one of it's officers saw someone he wanted to arrest; his mate decides to have a go and is also arrested. There are now 4

LALYOU IN RECOPT OF BOMESYT

FROM THIS OFFICE OR DO YOU WANT TO REGISTER A NEW CUMM TO BENEFIT IN RUSHEST OF A TERMINATION IN YOUR EMPLOYMENT

cars, 1 van, 5 customers and 9 policemen all doing their own thing in our office. By now other guilty customers are also getting the wind up and are leaving left right and centre. A customer in room 4, having a go at a supervisor, dashes out and falls over a woman PC. Shock on his face, he asks if the law are here for him, not waiting, he makes a rapid exit. So the total outcome of the action - 4 cars, 1 riot van, 9 police, 5 arrests, 8 legging it, 1 problem customer gone and 13 blank tickets.

Dealers in Death -

the Heckler & Koch/Royal Ordnance factory owned by British Aerospace was the site of another Nottingham CAAT protest in an ongoing campaign against their sale of arms to oppressive regimes. The theme of the protest ,timed to coincide with the EU summit in Cardiff technology for the manufacture of 200,000 assault rifles in Turkey,a country renowned for its human rights abuses and for waging a genocidal war against its Kurdish population .The timing of the demo was because of the EU's recent release of a code of conduct for ethical arms sales and Turkey's attempts to gain entry into the EU - the deal for the technology being granted to a British company as a bribe during our presidency.

A 30 - strong picket arrived outside the gates at around 8.30am with placards and banners which were tied to the fences. Two Earth Firsters! quickly scaled a pair of lamposts and proceded to spend two and a half hours dropping an impressive 12 metre banner reading "Heckler & Koch - Dealers In Death". As this continued

passing motorists.

With Kurish protestors and CAAT campaigners from London, CND activists from Derby and Leicester, and a large turnout from local CAAT supporters - as well as another bout of guerilla catering from Veggies - a successful escalation of the campaign was seen. There was substantial press interest and the campaign will continue!

revisited

,was the licensing of the export of the

flowers and white ribbons were also tied to the fence. At about midday a coach load of 35 Kurdish people arrived from London, bringing flags, banners and lots of enthusiasm. Traditional Kurdish dancing was performed by the roadside with local activists' participation. A symbolic blockade of the entrance then ensued, lasting for around five minutes and gaining lots of attention from

For news of further events please contact Christine on (0115) 9603693.

Animal Help!

Local animal sanctuaries desperately need volunteers. No experience necessary. Transport provided most Sundays. Contact Brent on 916 0300.

Dogs, cats & rabbits in need of good loving homes. Lots of different sizes, types, and ages, always available. Contact Celia on 01623 753 883.

Child Prisoners Riot!

This last month 9 children had to face 30 cops in riot gear when they kicked of at Medway Detention Centre at Cookham Wood in Kent. The kids started smashing windows in the prison when they were stopped from playing pool and weren't allowed to see the end of the world cup matches. Medway holds up to 40 12-14 year olds who have committed 3 imprisonable offences and broken a supervision order. The private prisons were built by Tarmac (the nice people who are preparing to quarry our Country Park at Bestwood!) and our beloved Group 4 (or Grope 4as the female road protesters called them at Twyford Down.) and it costs the tax payer between £4000-5000 aweek per child to keep them there. The Childrens Act - which gives children in care rights to visits, phone calls, access to independent inspectors an so on - do not apply to these prisons.

Fran Russell of the Howard League for Penal Reform commented; "These child gaols, apart from being repugnant, will simply not work. Putting vulnerable, disturbed children hundreds of miles from their families and communities is no way to get children to stop offending.

The only similar place for children in this age range in the U.K. is at Lisnevin in Northern Ireland and the reoffending rate there is 100%"

"The whole point of these gaols is to demonise children, to make out that small children are a threat to society who need to be banished as far away as possible. Inevitably, there will be bullying, self-harming, and suicides in these institutions and the children will come out more likely to offend than when they went in. We hoped we'd got over all this when Michael Howard went - but this Home Secretary seems just as keen as his predecessor to portray children as evil and dangerous."

After the riot the Home Offices comment was that it was not concerned and it was an internal matter for Group 4. They intent to build more prisons for children at Onley in Northamptomshire, Medomsley in Co. Durham. There is also one planned for Gringley-on-the-Hill in Nottinghamshire but due to local protests this is going to public enqury.

Anyone who thinks that these places are anything more than warehousing for venerable children that society doesn't want to deal with is mistaken. They want these kids out of sight so they don't have to take a hard look at the society that created them.

For prisoner support information, and benefit tapes contact: Sheffield ABC, PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 3FF.

or Spirit of Freedom at Earth Liberation Prisoners, BM HEAL, London WC1N

send your old books to Haven Distribution - BM Haven, WC1N 3XX. (they distribute books free to prisoners.)

which prison

de you went to go to

when you grow up

at Medway young offenders unit

It le boy?

one!) - they're gnarled looking and light brown in colour and a bit spindly. The florets of tiny white flowers are easy to identify. Don't take too many, else there'll be no berries left for September wine making. The best way to remove flowers from the stems is to take 2 or 3 florets and roll them in your hands, using a sheet of newspaper to catch the flowers. While doing this, 8 pints of water should be on the boil. Put the flowers and lemon rind in the pan(s) of boiling water, turn off the heat or cover, leaving to stand for 4 days in a warm place. Later strain through fine muslin into a demijohn (about 50p each from 2nd hand shops), and stir-in the sugar and lemon juice, and leave to ferment in a room with a decent temperature (65-70 degrees Fahrenheit). Just before it finishes fermenting, strain it once more, and bottle it. It should be ready to drink in about 4-6 weeks or you can leave it to mature for a couple more months. It's great for festivals, which reminds me, I'm off to get smashed with me old pals

Oliver Reid's

Wine Column.

Being the rich Hollywood giant I am,I

like nothing better than a glass (or a few

bottles, let's not be mean!) of top dollar

champagne, however, for all you

Sneinton midgets, here's a money saving

Elderflower wine (sparkling):

1 oz. ginger or grated lemon rind.

alternative.

You will need;

3 lbs of sugar

1/2 oz of yeast.

1 pint elder flowers.

8 pints boiling water.

to each gallon of juice add:

Juice of one lemon (organic)

- check hedgerows playing fields and

woods for elder trees (you're going to

have to be quick off the mark on this

It's Yer Cheetin' Recipe Column.

Richard Harris and Liz Taylor, cheers!

here's one for all you veggies who are sick of committing murder and supporting live exports, and veal crates for the sake of a lump of cheese!

Cheetin' Cheese:

Melt some hard vegan Marg. (eg. some Granose.) and stir in an equal quantity of soya flour. Flavour it with yeast extract (the one called Natex gives the "cheesiest" flavour.), soy sauce, herbs etc ... Then chill it and allow it to harden. It can be cubed or sliced to serve in salads or sandwiches.

Police launch plan to control the

NOW IF YOU GRE US MB MENEY I'LL BY OFF

(Politically Active Not Seeking Employment)



Undercurrents productions spent a year uncovering the co-ordinated plans by the various British police forces to control the news reaching the nations screens and newspapers. As Channel 4 dragged its heels in commissioning the investigation, undercurrents productions took it upon itself to expose the plan. The video feature "BREAKING NEWS" will be shown nationally at co-ordinated national screenings for the first time on July 9 1998. It will also be distributed on Britains only alternative news video, undercurrents.

The feature follows the story of one freelance journalist who has been arrested six times in the last two years merely for doing his job, reporting newsworthy events. Television journalist Roddy Mansfield claims that-

"In all the times I have been arrested the police have never respected my press credentials and held me until all my deadlines are passed and then I am always released without charge. In one case the Met.police erased my tape, however they left the microphone on as they erased in the custody suite thus giving us concrete evidence of news management "

His story is backed up with similar stories of arrests and beatings of journalists, photographers, and Televison workers. One HTV producer received two broken ribs from a truncheon blow while

reporting an event in Manchester. For the first time ever the public will see the video footage and photographs that the police have been intent on suppressing over the last year. The investigation also includes exclusive footage of the first journalist being arrested under the new harrassment laws merely for filming Thames Valley police behaviour.

Director of undercurrents productions Paul O' Connor was quoted as saying

" It seems that news and currents affairs programmes now rely so much on the police for fly on the wall documentaries, that to risk upsetting the police force is seen as not good for business. That probably explains why reports of police management of the news are not getting through to the public. That is why any form of alternative distribution of independent news documentaries is so important "

Breaking news will be distributed as just one of twelve features on the award winning news video undercurrents 9. With an ever expanding audience of 60,000 in Britain alone, over 100,000 in Australia and cabled into the homes of 7 million homes in the USA an emerging news network is coming up from the grassroots.

Contact Paul O' Connor for more details on: 01865 203661 or 0973 298359 (mobile)

Undercurrents should be shown at the rainbow centre on 9th July Ring to confirm!

Nottingham in Bloom?



Yes, it's that time of year again when Nottingham is suddenly covered in hundreds of horrible coloured flower arrangements in an effort to convince us that this city really is pleasant to live in.

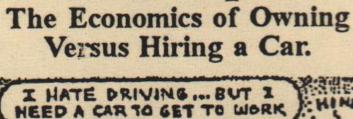
It might seem mean spirited to be cynical about flowers, but the whole event does appear completely mad. Why spend thousands of pounds, litres of grim pesticides and so much effort on creating displays which will only last a few weeks. Wouldn't it be better to spend the time, money and effort on actually making Nottingham a more pleasant place to live in all year round. We could have a

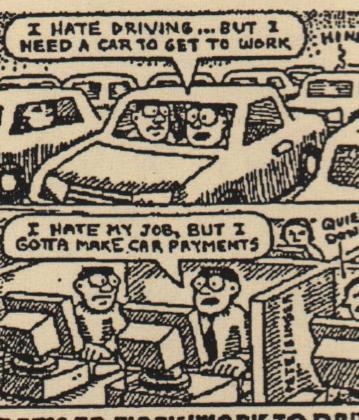
week of tree planting, creating wildlife areas, natural sculptures, doing up parksrestoring the balance between grey concrete and green living spaces, where we could all relax.

To be very suspicious it would seem that Britain in Bloom is another attempt to convince us that we do live in healthy pleasant spaces not concrete wastelands, an attempt to further decrease our desire to actually improve where we live, by encouraging us to decorate our towns and cities with brightly coloured flowers once a year. To demand diverse, green colourful spaces all year round, doesn't quite fit in with Mr. Blair's agenda. It might just cause us to question why we should be forced to live in such grey, depressing, polluted places, just in order to serve the capitalist machine. The last thing that the people behind Britain in Bloom want us to do is to dream, use our imaginations and demand real change.

If Nottingham wins Britain in Bloom again, will it really be anything to be proud of?

Is it cheaper?





DRIVE TO WORK/WORK TO DRIVE How expensive is it to run a car or bike? Around 70% of car costs are fixedoverheads, paid whether or not you drive it. Perhaps 20% of readers would enjoy a better quality of life by selling their car. Cycling locally, with trailers for loads, plus taxis and hiring a new car when needed is a viable alternative.

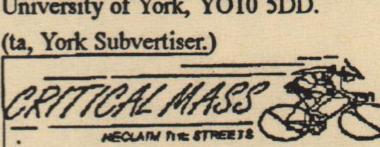
Ownership of my F-registration Vauxhall Astra was £1,700p.a. for depreciation, spares, third party insurance, road tax, interest lost (3%), parking, breakdown cover, M.O.T., servicing and cleaning.

Petrol was £790 for 9,000 miles. I was paying £2,490p.a. (1998 prices) to own a car used occasionally for long journeys - £48 per week. I'm taxed at 24% plus 8.4% National Insurance, so thats an income of £70 per week for a car.

Cycling is green, healthy exercise, usually quicker for city trips, fun and very cheap. A £200 - £500 bike with all the safety essentials and £45 p.a. of servicing/spares only costs £3 per week to run before insurance.

A way to save a lot of money is to get rid of your car. From a "poor car owner" you could become a "wealthy cyclist" able to afford the best of everything. Economy car hire is from £20 a day, £50 a weekend or £120 a week inclusive of insurance for damage beyond £250. You could hire for 12 weeks (at £140 a week) or take 480 taxi rides for £3.50 instead of owning a car. Remember the most pollution a car will ever produce is in the manufacturing stage.

Send a SAE for a free sheet on how to calculate your own car's cost. Anna Semlyen, Centre for Health Economics, University of York, YO10 5DD.



On the final day of Green Transport Week critical cyclists occupied city centre streets in Nottingham. Sick of choking and being cut up by dangerous drivers about 20 cyclists created a pleasant car free space by cycling at walking pace across all lanes. A police escort added safety, and a stereo strapped to one cyclists back added the good vibes, and a pleasant time was had by all. Except maybe the motorists, but we have to face their selfishness every day, they can make way for a positive alternative once a month.

The police called a halt to our summers evening ride by blocking off two lanes outside Vicky Centre with a riot van (a little over the top!)

Another critical mass is planned for the last friday in july. Meet 5.20pm at Old Market Square. Bring banners, whistles, sounds etc... Scateboarders and rollerbladers welcome.

BRAMBLES.

Radical Routes to Mutual Aid. "The only ethical decision is to take

responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. Make it now." (Bill Mollison.)

Brambles Housing Co-operative is situated in Pitsmoor, an inner city area of Sheffield, just to the north of the city centre. The housing co-operative was set up in 1991, the focus of the co-operatives work has shifted towards concern about the environment. The co-op currently houses five adults and six children in two adjacent houses. They are trying to develop structures for people to live low impact lifestyles in urban areas.

Brambles is a member of Radical Routes, a secondary co-op of both housing and workers co-ops.

All members of Radical Routes cooperatives are required to commit themselves to working 15 hours per week towards social change, and also to limit their income to twice benefit levels. Although brambles is quite an intentional community, all members of the coopersative eat vegan meals together at least once a day, share responsibility for caring for the children in the co-op and full members income share, we also believe that we must play an active role in the wider community, helping to build a grass roots movement of community activists. to this end the ground floor of one of our houses is used as a resource centre, providing a meeting space, office facilities and a library of radical and alternative books and periodicals to local community groups, such as Education otherwise, Pitsmoor Credit Union, the local permaculture Forum and its spin off the Sheffield peasants Collective and a local mutual aid group, many of which were set up with help from members of brambles.

For some time there had been dissatisfaction amongst some members of the Sheffield LETS scheme that many of the inequalities found in the conventional economy, particularly to do with attaching different values to peoples skills, were being mirrored. This led to people from deprives areas such as Pitsmoor, being exploited by middle class liberals who valued their skills more highly than ours. After some initial discussion on setting up a local LETS scheme for the area, it was decided that it was more appropriate to start a Mutual Aid Group. The group organises fortnightly collective work days, either at a members house or some local community project, where we work together and share skills, knowledge, and also meet new friends, building up a social network of people who we can call upon to help us when we need it.

Members of the group are committed to mutual aid, helping others in the community in the knowledge that help will be freely given to them. This helps to re-build communities in a way that LETS schemes, which are merely different economic and trading systems cannot, as they do not involve forming new personal relationships between people. the Mutual Aid Group has also started a monthly collection of waste for re-cycling from people's doorsteps, and is working towards extending this to collect unwanted items that can be redistributed to others who can use them.

To date we have hosted a full design course and two introductory weekends on urban permaculture in the resource centre. unlike many permaculture courses, these are free to people claiming any state or council benefit, and the charges to others are kept to a minimum. These couses help to skill up local people with the tools they need to develop sustainable lifestyles, and a local Permaculture Forum provides provides a networking space for people to share their knowledge, skills, ideas and experience on a regular basis.

After the first permaculture design course, several people who had been on the course decided to set up the Peasant's Collective, inspired by a similar collective in Bradford. The group works together to grow food and medicinal herbs for ourselves on allotments, derelict land and peoples gardens. Members are expected to put in about three hours work per week to grow enough food for themselves for most of the year, with all produce being shared amongst members. The small surplus that we produce is sold at low cost to the local community, with concessionary prices to those on benefits, in order to cover the cost of seeds, tools and allotment rents.

By organising in this way, local people can eat locally grown organic produce which they would they would otherwise be unable to afford, while ensuring that land in the city is used productively and environmentally. The collective is also experimenting with various horticultural techniques; we have had good results from growing on sheet mulch beds made on derelict land and will now be using this method to clear reclaimed abandoned allotments, and we are using vegan organic methods on three of our allotments. At Brambles we are particularly concerned with empowering individuals to take control and to accept responsibility for their own lives. This is equally applicable to the children living in the co-op, and three of the five school aged children here have decided to deschool themselves and to take responsibility for their own education.

The adults as cares do not try to impose a time table or curriculum, but act as facilitators when the children need help in their learning. We believe that the only useful education is that gained by living. The children take part in all the activities that co-op members are involved in, have regular contact with other adults and children, some of whom are also de-schooled.

Brambles can be contacted at 82 Andover Street, Pitsmoor, Sheffield S3 9EH, Tel. 0114 2797164. We welcome visitors who want to come and help us in our work and to learn more about what we do, but please do arrange visits with us beforehand. We all lead busy and hectic lived and their are time when we need a break. We also expect to be looking for new members early next yearanyone out there interested in what we're doing and fancy living in a non-smoking, vegan, child-orientated mad house community? Get in touch.