

# IF YOU DON'T HIT IT .... .... IT WON'T FALL

NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION SHEET

no 4. phone 71756 or 600337

c/o 41 Cope St., Hyson Green.

free

1st - 22nd January 1976

## OPEN LETTER

This newsletter came together about two months ago because some people new to Nottingham and some not-so-new, felt it was hard to find out about local political activity.

How much resistance is there to clearance schemes or to rent increases? How effectively are people pressing for more and better nursery provision or abortion on demand? What's going on in the conflict in the Victoria Centre between the management and the (mainly black) youths who find it a good, warm place to meet their friends? How easily can someone contact a gay liberation group? What are the effects of redundancies at Plessey and in the hosiery trade? How do the various active groups and individuals link up with what's happening?

The newsletter has been fairly well received with donations and kind words coming easily. This seems to show the need for better channels of communication. (Why do people communicate so little at the moment?) However, we're not at all sure that it should continue in its present form - or even at all. In the last few issues we've tried to do at least two things:-

- \* A news summary has been written using the Evening Post. This is obviously very limited because the Post is a reactionary paper and because the summary isn't based on direct contact with those in the item. However, it tries to present what's happening locally in general - which otherwise might be totally ignored.
- \* We've tried to encourage active groups and individuals to use it as a way of explaining their aims and their problems to a wider audience. Exploring the problems of activity, collectively and honestly (without presenting a false front) is vital to finding out how to move forward.

CONTINUED. HALF-WAY DOWN, NEXT PAGE





Two residents associations and Nottingham students' union decided to stage a picket of the condemned County Hotel to protect at the Council's priorities. With an increase in the Council waiting list of 13% last year to 12,217 it was felt that money should be spent on more, and improved housing, rather than a £5m prestige Festival Hall complex which is proposed for the site of the County Hotel.

Seventy people turned up on the Saturday morning with placards and banners displaying slogans such as 'Housing before Prestige Projects' and 'Use the County Hotel as a refuge for battered wives and homeless families'.

Amazingly, the front door was open. Building contractors were ripping out the interior. The protestors hurriedly conferred and decided not to take the opportunity to walk in the front door and occupy the building. The reason was it was felt there had not been sufficient preparation for a squat.

The Evening Post sent along a photographer who duly posed the pickets in a photogenic group around the entrance. It was a waste of time because no picture appeared in the paper. In fact, the total publicity was a couple of column inches and a brief mention on local radio.

This raises the whole question of the method of campaigning on local, political issues such as housing and social rights. The exercise makes one ask whether these seventy committed persons who attended the picket might have been better employed working in a slum clearance area knocking on doors to explain to people their housing rights and encourage them to form their own independent resident's organisation.

The purpose of the picket was to gain publicity in the local (pro-establishment) media. The results of the 70 person-hours activity were pathetic.

Meanwhile, the Council is preparing to move in with the bulldozers and press on with the Festival Hall complex from which private contractors will make a fixed 12% profit whatever the cost. Consultant architects have already been paid £119,400 for three months work. Yet the Council have just axed Community Centres at Top Valley and Queen's Drive. Whose interests are the Council representing? Big Business or the working people of Nottingham?

#### CONTINUED FROM OVER PAGE

300 or 400 copies have been distributed free each fortnight through Down to Earth, Pathfinder and Mushroom Shops as well as meetings and friends. A small number of people have done the typing and duplicating.

#### WHAT NOW?

The most important issue seems to be what activity and ideas lead to worthwhile and effective change? If this newsletter remains 'worthwhile' it should continue. However, there is no God Given reason why it should; other changes such as more direct contact between activists, or a Nottm-based paper, or a political discussion group could make it redundant.

We're not at all sure what the next step should be? So we've produced this issue for three weeks and arranged a meeting to discuss the next step. It's unlikely that the newsletter will continue if it's left to us.

So:-

PLEASE DO COME TO THE MEETING

STATE YOUR VIEWS

Do you find it useful? Is there something else you'd like to see happen? Instead? As well?

NEWSLETTER MEETING WEDNESDAY 21st January

10 Milner Rd., Sherwood, Nottm. 8.00

(catch any Arnold bus up Mansfield Rd)

p.s. One way it might develop is to carry more critical information, for example, reviews, letters and articles which take a political position. At the same time, interviews with Hosiery workers, tenants etc might be useful

A QUOTE FROM DESPERATE CRY: "It must be the revolutionaries and not the fascists who bring to the level of political consciousness, the questions that are usually considered personal, and begin to fight for a new self identity, the identity of the class for itself"



EAST MIDLANDS ALTERNATIVE GROUP

RESOURCE LIST : People, Skills, and Tools.

Taff Thomas, 6a Chestnut Grove, Mapperley Grove, Nottingham.

Assorted small tools, electric drill, access to duplicators for small amounts.

West Midlands A.T. Group, c/o Peoples Centre, 761, Bristol Avenue, Selly Oak, Birm'n.

Are welding equipment, occasional access to bench drill, small tools, electronics expertise, windmill experiments.

Celia Huggins, 8, Foxhall Road, Nottingham.

Small tools, small amounts of photocopying, gas analysis, chemical analysis, engineering expertise.

John Merdus, flat 2, 37, Wiverton Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.

Spanners, small tools, Reliant 3 wheeler for transport, small space for working in, small amounts of photocopying, building expertise.

Jill Harker, 12, Cranmer Grove, Nottingham.

Small tools, Mini with roof rack for transport, possible contact for alternative medicine.

Chris Martin, 66, Exter Road, Nottingham.

Small tools, planning regulations expertise.

John Cathoel, 25, Cromwell Street, Nottingham.

Phil Maher, 22/2 Lawson Street, Nottingham.

Bicycle parts and tools, hopes to grow into a bike workshop.

Jan Bang, Dave Wilde, Grange Farm Cottage, Orton, Notts. Mansfield 882001

Cars for transport, small tools, spanners, electrical drill space for construction projects, arrangements can be made to use extensive workshops through Jan.

Andy Brown, Old Hall Farm, Cropwell Bishop, Notts. Nott'n 892237

Lots of 12 contacts throughout the country, also keen on recycling schemes.

Manuel Morone, 10, Milner Road, Sherwood, Nottingham Nott'n 600337

Small tools, large van, use of large space, various skills, carpentry, car mechanics, house wiring, gardening etc.

SMALL VAN FOR TRANSPORT,  
WELDING EQUIPMENT.



EAST MIDLANDS ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY GROUP

There is no reason why technology can not be used to help people, rather than enslave them. With this in mind I thought it might be useful to try to get people together who share this view, and are prepared to act upon it. This having been done, it's now up to the people concerned, most of whom are listed overleaf, to get things going in their own way. The first project we undertook was the building of an ecological toilet, to digest shit into a safe and useful fertiliser. This has run into difficulties, and requires some modification.

I had a letter from Pat Stephens in the Shetlands. S/he wants any women interested in installing wind generators, and ecological toilets (that work!), to come up and give a hand. Interested in hearing from you too. Address to write to: Unifirth, Bridge of Walls, Shetland Isles.

There is a small patch of land, less than one acre, available for projects. It contains several fruit trees, the soil is quite good, but it's very overgrown. It is at Hagtherpe, near junction 27 on the M1. Details from me if you fancy doing something there. Quite legal.

Manuel is getting together a community centre at Hysan Green. Building a wind rotor to generate electricity for the place, other AT schemes might be useful too. This could be a good space to have meetings, work days, teaching and discussion groups. Anyone with anything to get off the ground, see Manuel about this.

I now have some good literature in recycling, and other contacts with recycling plants. There seems to be money in this, as it would provide a worthwhile livelihood, occupation or supplement to the dole. Andy Brown is very keen to get something going, so get in touch with him.

I have managed to get a list of tips, it's all very illegal, but I'm still quite into it. Some time I'll try to set aside a couple of days and track round to see them all. If anyone has any good info, please pass it on, and I'll try to prepare a guide to good rubbish.

Ailish D'arey is thinking about constructing a dome greenhouse, so if anyone is into domes, or fancies getting into them, contact her, 2 Wiverton Grove, Bingham Bingham, Notts, Bingham 37277.

Those who are burning weed this winter, the Forestry Commission let you take it away for £4.50 a ton, cheap if you live north of the city.

Keep it going Jan



## GAY WORKING PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The Gay Working People's Campaign has been set up by gay women and men active in trade union and union gay caucuses to work out a policy and strategy which will enable gay people to take a more active part in the labour movement, and at the same time to encourage (through joint discussion and action) trade unionists to take up a position of defense of gay people which goes beyond tolerance, well-intentioned liberalism or 'gay rights'. We see our contribution as a more positive one than simply joining the end of a demonstration and providing the eye-shadow. Coming out for us is a process of political education, not only for ourselves, but for our comrades in TUs etc., and it will be by stating our position on many issues (not solely 'gay' ones) that can contribute to the strength of our movement.

We have organised a national conference, which will take place in Leeds on February 14th/15th at the Polytechnic, and which has been supported by resolutions from local branches and from recognised TU gay groupings.

We are holding a National Conf. Planning meeting here in Nottingham at the International Community Centre on Jan 10th from 10 to 6 pm where we will be deciding on the structure and content of the Feb Conf.

We welcome the growing support of gay working people and their trade unions with their personal contributions and also (which is very important) their union backing.

If you would like to contact us for more information on our campaign etc please do so via the People's Centre and we will send you a copy of our newsletter. There is still time perhaps for further resolutions to be gotten through at branch level and at Trades Council etc., and we feel that support of an actual event with positive feedback to the membership is much more likely to raise the issue in a meaningful way than something negotiated at 'high levels of union management'.

It is also important to remember that the campaign is not yet fully worked out, and don't yet plan to relate only to one section of the gay community. So if you are wageless workers, we still welcome your support criticism and involvement. We intend to get together leaflets on 'How to work in TUs' 'Sexism in the workplace' 'Lesbians and Work' and a host of other captivating subjects. All these, and related subjects will be discussed at the Nottingham and Leeds meetings, so please come along and join us.

GAY POWER TO THE STRUGGLE. GAY WORKERS UNITE!! Roneo (GWPC)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE in LEEDS	PLANNING MEETING	Nottingham GWPC
FEB 14th/15th Polytechnic	International Comm	c/o People's Centre
	Centre Jan 10th	33 Mansfield Rd
		Nottingham

## THE BUILDING

"What building?" Well, a large building consisting of a large hall and 6 rooms is available in Nottingham, of all places, for left/alternative people and/or groups. A meeting has been arranged at the PEOPLE'S CENTRE on Wed 14th Jan. JANUARY at 8p.m.

If you're interested in using it or working to get it together come to the meeting or phone either 600337 or 71756. If anyone has any usable knowledge/skills - e.g. heating, etc. we'd love to hear from you. Some ideas for the building that have been talked about are: meetings, for different groups, social centre, workshops- printi ng, pottery, painting,



\*\*\*\*\*))\*\*\*\*\*

? ? ? ? ?

Portugal may seem a long way off and the media here has given us a distorted picture of military machinations and coup d'etat. However it is essential that the Portugese people are not isolated in their struggle. A defeat for them would be a defeat for us all.



The first meeting of the Nottingham support group will be at the International Community Centre on Tuesday 13th. January at 7.30pm. We urge anyone interested to come along to discuss future activities in the Nottingham area.

????????????????????????????????+++++=====?

love      Keith

\* The Nalgay article - about the gay group in National Association of Local Government Officers - described the aims and activities of the group.



I N F O R M A T I O N      P A G E

WOMEN'S GROUPS

The Women's Liberation Group meets every Thursday, at 8 p.m., at the Women's Centre, 26 Newcastle Chambers, Angel Row, Nottm. We try and have discussions every week. Next meeting is Jan 8th. All Thursday meetings are for women only. For more details phone Women's Newsletter Collective : 75985.

National Abortion Campaign's next meeting is on Tuesday January 6th at 8pm at the Women's Centre. Discussion on perspectives for action around NAC in the New Year, building up to the national demo on 3rd April. Meetings fortnightly after that. Phone 45689 (daytime) or 42808 (evenings) for more details.

Sex Discrimination Campaign. The bill is soon to become an act. This campaign wants to work around the act - bringing cases before the tribunals - and agitate for all the things the act has left out. Meeting to discuss all this on Wednesday, 7th January at the Women's Centre.

Refuge for Battered Women Campaign now has a hostel!!! However, the Council are selling it to a Housing Association to own. The campaign will only be tenants and the Council shirk responsibilities. At present the house is being improved. Hope to be ready in 3 months. An attempt is now on to get District Councils to offer accomodation to women leaving the hostel. An important meeting will be held at the People's Centre (33 Mansfield Rd) on Monday 5th January at 8 p.m. with the Housing Association.

Nursery Campaign are holding a stall in the Victoria Centre on Saturday 3rd January to explain about the activities of the campaign. Although Nottm haven't cut back on provision for the under 5s, it's still not good enough. Radio Trent had a Phone In programme on Dec 31st on this subject. For more details of the campaign phone Margaret 865894.

Write On Sisters! A group of women in Nottingham are hoping to start a magazine of women's writing, called Write On Sisters. At the moment we're trying to raise money for the first issue before we produce it. Any women interested in this project - or anyone wanting to give money towards it - contact 7.34 Victoria Centre or phone 43081.

GAY GROUPS

Lesbian Group meets every Monday from January 5th. For details: Char, Maggie, Helen 75985.

Gay Liberation Front meets Wednesday January 14th. (phone 75985)

Gay Workers Conference planning meeting. January 10th. International Community Centre. (Mansfield Rd) All day. details c/o People's Centre.

Nalgay can be contacted c/o Howard, 108 Foxhall Rd., Forest Fields, Nottingham.

Gay Shop please bring useful items for a money-raising 'Nearly New' Shop to 36 Kenilworth Terrace, Portland Rd., Nottingham.

Defend the 14 meetings - THE 14 HAVE ALL BEEN ACQUITTED!! - phone Jules 74963  
Solidarity Campaign with Portugese Working Class. First meeting on Tuesday January 13th at 7.30 at International Community Centre.

Campaign against Criminal Trespass Law details phone 602510. The new Squatters Handbook has just come out (10p) from People's Centre, Mushroom and Pathfinder Bookshops..

The Building as mentioned later (page 3) and it's possible use will be discussed on Wednesday 14th January at 8 p.m. at the People's Centre.

IF YOU DON'T HIT IT...IT WON'T FALL MEETING - please everyone come - at 8 p.m. at 10 Milner Rd, Sherwood on Wednesday 21st January. phone 600337

Can anyone write a leaflet on squatting? or the McKenzie legal system?

This issue of 250 cost £2.50 for paper, £1 electrostencil, 50p stencils.

CONTENTS

1	OPEN LETTER	pages	1 & 2
	PICKET OF COUNTY HOTEL		2
	GAY WORKING PEOPLES CAMPAIGN		3
	THE BUILDING		3/4
	COMMENTS ON NALGAY AND GAY WORKERS		5
	SOLIDARITY WITH PORTUGUESE WORKERS		4
	ADDITION SHEETS ON ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY		
	INFORMATION PAGE		6
	CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW		4