

When Paper
Was A Thing

Nottingham Prints

Zine But Not
Forgotten

EXHIBITION

Radical and Alternative News Media from Five Decades
@ Nottingham Contemporary Sep 27-29 2019

FEATURING

 Nottingham Voice

**Nottingham
Anarchist
News**

nottingham
women's diary

Nott Fin

NOTTINGHAM EXTRA

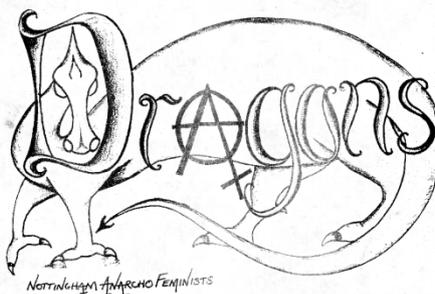
**NOTTINGHAM
AGITATOR**

NOTTINGHAM

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT
NEWSLETTER



FOREST FIELDS PEACE GROUP



Nottingham Anarchist Feminists

CITYWISE
NOTTINGHAM'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

POLL-AXE!

nottingham
bulletin.

Unity 
NOTTS ANTI FASCIST ALLIANCE



**And many
more!**

—Free Event—
—Just Drop In—
—Accessible Venue—
Weekday Cross
Nottingham
NG1 2GB

Organised by
The Sparrows' Nest Library and Archive
Curating materials documenting Anarchism in the UK and Beyond and Local Radical History
Kindly hosted by Notts Zine Library & Nottingham Contemporary

Information Struggles – Part of our Rebellious Heritage

This exhibition celebrates our rich local heritage of alternative and independent news media.

Nottingham's turbulent history is full of people taking matters into their own hands.

Persons of all genders, backgrounds and ages have for centuries organised and fought fierce social struggles to improve and defend their lives.

Issues regarding the access to and control of information lay frequently at the heart of these struggles.

Over the last couple of centuries, many groups and individuals took the production and distribution of news media into their own hands.

Susannah Wright defending her Goose Gate bookshop against riled up bigots in 1826, the Working Class run Operatives' Libraries in the mid-19th century, and not least the abundance of radical papers, zines, etc. were crucial in establishing proud local traditions of independent thought and direct action.

Although hard copies of publications like the *Queer Bulletin* and *Left Lion* continue to be circulated, and groups like the Notts Zine Library are still creating printed materials, most independent content producers have now moved online.

Until very recently however, Nottingham was home to a very active scene of radical and alternative printed news media. This exhibition features examples of these titles from the 1970s to the 2010s.

(Re)Discovering this Heritage remains a Work in Progress

The materials featured in this exhibition, as well as all the numerous items in our collections, are far from a comprehensive representation of local radical and independent materials.

Due to the focus of our work at the Sparrows' Nest, and the background and age group of many persons who donate materials to us, we have a clear collection bias towards anti-authoritarian materials from the 1980s.

This exhibition can only give you a glimpse into this often neglected side of our local heritage.

We hope to:

- 1. (re)introduce these fantastic materials to local audiences, to**
- 2. (re)connect with people involved in the production and distribution of these titles and with their original audiences, and to**
- 3. learn from your specialist knowledge.**

Please help us and others to learn more about the materials and their context, and to further explore the echoes of struggles past, also to help fight the struggles of today.

Were you involved in the production or distribution of local papers?

Would you like to share your stories?

Do you have a box or a folder of awesome materials and would consider either donating or lending them to us for digitisation?

**Please share
your
information
today or email
us!**

Please note that we usually respond to email enquiries quite fast, but that our reply might end up in your spam folder, so if in doubt, please check there.

info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk

Marginalised Voices Organise

Read how disgusting we are in the Press
The Telegraph, People and Sunday Express.
Molesters of children, corrupters of youth.
It's there in the papers - must be the truth.

'Glad to be Gay', Tom Robinson Band, quoted in *G.E.M. Gay East Midlands* #06 (1983)

Persons who were at best marginalised and usually vilified by most media and wider society could use radical and alternative publications to express and organise themselves.

Often a new title came out of a specific struggle, such as a strike at the *Nottingham Post*, which led to the publication of *Grassroots* and *Nottingham Voice*.

Others were started to inform about long term struggles such as Women's Liberation or nuclear disarmament.

The Citywise alternative

CITYWISE is Nottingham's alternative paper - alternative to the established media and the established views they present.

Our pages are open particularly to groups whose access to the conventional media is limited, such as women's groups, black groups, trade unions, the peace movement, gay groups, environmental groups, and tenants' associations and other community groups.

Our guiding principle is that self-determination and freedom from oppression and exploitation are everyone's right, and that concentrations of wealth and power are its chief enemies.

Within this framework, we cover the widest variety of action and opinion. Where possible, groups and individuals are asked to speak for themselves, and editing is kept to a minimum. However, we reserve the

right to reject or amend anything libellous, racist, sexist or inaccurate, and to edit down articles which are too long. Contributors should give an address and, if possible, a 'phone number, so we may consult them about alterations.

We prefer articles to be signed (by an individual or group), though we accept that sometimes there are good reasons not to.

We ask contributors to check their facts carefully. We also ask readers to let us know if they find inaccuracies - we prefer to get things right, and we are always willing to publish corrections.

Citywise is run collectively and informally. New people are always welcome, though of course they should be in sympathy with our aims. Readers are invited to our open meetings, announced in each issue. ●

Citywise #04 (1984)

diary

FEBRUARY

SAT 28 ♀ Centre Disco. 8.00pm at Hearty Goodfellow.

MARCH

SUN 1 National Anti Nukes Day (see W.O.N.T.)

MON 2 ♀ Centre Discussion Group 8.00pm.
♀ and Photography 11.00 - 3.00pm at The Building.
Rape Crisis Group. (see contacts)
Lesbian Line 7.00 - 9.30pm ♀ Centre

TUES 3 ♀ Disco 8.00pm. Hearty Goodfellow
Pregnancy Testing Meeting 8.00pm ♀ Centre. Open to all women
Pregnancy Testing 6.00 - 8.00pm ♀
Mansfield Health Group 7.00pm 49 West Hill Drive

WED 4 University ♀ Group 7.30pm Films: "A Country of Unnatural Acts" and "Home Movie" N.S.Q.R. Portland Building
W.O.N.T. 8.00pm ♀ Centre.

THUR 5 Social. 8.00pm The Yorker. Suggested Topic - "The Abortion Issue - What Do We Think and Feel" introduced by N.A.C.
Pregnancy Testing (Bulwell) 5.00 - 7.00pm The Family Centre
50 Langclose Court, Crabtree Farm.
Finance Group 7.00 - 8.00pm ♀ Centre

SAT 7 Pregnancy Testing 10.00 - 12.00 ♀ Centre

Nottingham Women's Diary #01 (1981)

In the days before the internet these zines and papers filled niches which today have been taken over by social media and other online content, providing information, event listings, contact opportunities etc.

The Other First Draft of History

Although many publications had a specific focus, almost all covered a wide range of subjects.

The longevity and high frequency of many titles exemplifies the devotion and commitment of the content creators, even more so given the technological restrictions of the time, and as almost all of these publications had to be run on a shoe-string budget.

The legacy of the work of these people provides us with invaluable, fascinating, moving, sometimes infuriating, often hilarious and always inspiring records, covering numerous subjects, such as:





The Sparrows' Nest

Library & Archive

**Documenting Anarchism in the UK and Beyond
and Local Radical History**

We curate tens of thousands of books, papers, pamphlets, journals, fanzines and unique documents, thousands of which are already in our Digital Library, with more being added all the time.

Besides our local collections we hold many papers including *Freedom*, *Anarchy*, *Black Flag*, *Direct Action* and thousands of other titles. Pamphlets, punk zines, leaflets, posters, as well as extensive collections of books on history, philosophy, economics and much more are available to be explored.

**Visit us in St Ann's and ACCESS ALL DOCUMENTS
featured in this exhibition and thousands of other
records for FREE in our Digital Library.**

<http://thesparrowsnest.org.uk>

<http://twitter.com/SparrowsNestLib> info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk +44 (0)7388417325

Please support our work!

We are a tiny organisation, completely relying on donations. For information on how to support us, please visit our website.