

NOT the Socialist WORKERS

ANTI-POLL TAX NEWS

Wandsworth retreats after disruption threats

The Council which set the lowest poll tax in England is to rethink its plans to prosecute 4800 people who have failed to pay their first instalment after threats of demo's & disruption in the courts.

STOP PRESS:

SOUTH TYNESIDE
COUNCIL WITHDRAWS 12,000 SUMMONSES, AND CANCELS COURT APPEARANCES 'TIL FURTHER NOTICE

34% have paid nothing

ISLE OF WIGHT
52 OF 3800 ARREARS CASES DEALT WITH, REMAINDER THROWN OUT - COUNCIL FAILED TO ALLOW 14 DAYS BETWEEN REMINDER AND SUMMONS.

GATESHEAD
27% have paid nothing.

LEVELS OF NON PAYMENT IN ENGLAND AND WALES
from: ANTI POLL TAX FEDERATION

PRESTON : 48%	(Taken from Guardian 2 June, 90)
CARDIFF : 45%	
ROCHDALE : 50%	

THE REGIONAL APTF HAS DECIDED TO STEP UP ACTION IN SOUTH TYNESIDE IN RESPONSE TO THAT COUNCILS HEAVY HANDED APPROACH TO NON PAYERS.

15,000 LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN THE AREA. WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER ACTIONS!

US & THEM!

Sunderland Central APTG started after a meeting in the Labour Club. We continued to meet there although informed that we could not use it as a postal address which we were first told we could do. After the second meeting we were told that the group could not use the meeting room but could continue holding meetings in the bar, which we did despite the noise.

However we later discovered that at least one person who turned up was told that our meetings had been banned.

It seems that the Labour Party cannot accept people openly discussing the Poll Tax in 'their' club.

In view of the Labour Party's intolerance the meetings have now been moved to: The Bunker, Stockton Road at 7.30 pm every Monday.

STOP THE POLL TAX

CLOG the COURTS

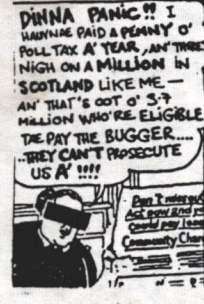
THE MAGISTRATES COURTS WILL TRY TO LUMP POLL TAX DEFAULTERS TOGETHER IN THE DOCK TO SAVE TIME. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO REQUEST A PERSONAL HEARING ON RECEIPT OF A COURT SUMMONS.

THIS WILL COST THEM TIME AND DELAY OTHER COURT CASES.



Isle of Wight

Despite the magistrates' determination to hear the cases, it was becoming clear that the attempt to tax every adult was raising many administrative problems. A six-year-old boy was summoned to appear before the courts for non-payment, while an unemployed man complained that the only reminder to pay was posted second class and arrived a day before the court summons.



DON'T PANIC. DON'T PAY. MORE THAN A MILLION OTHERS ARE NOT PAYING EITHER

SPOT THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER



ABOUT US:

Sunderland Central Anti Poll Tax Group was formed March 1990 as an integral part of the Sunderland Anti Poll Tax Union in order to foster and support local resistance to the Poll Tax. After contributing to the Sunderland Demonstration of 24th March 90 in which 2000 plus marched through the streets to a mass rally at Wierdmouth Hall. Most of the group attended the London rally of 31st March 90, unfortunately suffering one arrest after clashes with representatives of the 'neo fascist' state apparatus** in the vicinity of Trafalgar Square.

24th April saw a successful turnout from the central area to lobby Sunderland Borough Council demanding that no legal action should be taken against non payers. A petition was handed over to this effect by Councillor Clay on behalf of Sunderland Anti Poll Tax Union, however predicted disruption of the Council chamber did not materialize.

The official consequences of non-payment were investigated and a leaflet produced, which is available on request. With the advent of May day the group attended celebrations in Newcastle where we joined up with comrades from 'Tyne-side Class War' to protest at one May day speaker, Tommy Sheridan, chair of the Anti Poll Tax Federation for his willingness to pursue witch hunts within the movement following the Trafalgar riot a month earlier. A formal letter of protest has been sent to the said Mr Sheridan.

Sunderland Central Anti Poll Tax Group meets every Monday 7.30 upstairs in the Bunker, Stockton Road. Meetings are run on social rather than political lines without the need for the formalities of elected officials etc. All welcome, come along for a natter and help smash the tax!

* spot the trendy cliché!



contacts:

- SOME LOCAL ANTI POLL TAX MEETINGS**
- Hetton-le-Hole THURS 7.30 Comrades Club, Houghton Rd
 - Hendon FRI 6.30 Coop Centre, Mowbray Road
 - Sunderland Poly - Thursday 7.30 above Carlton Bar

Photos issued by police lead to 13 riot arrests

A ROGUE'S gallery of wanted pictures issued by the police after the Trafalgar Square poll tax riots has led to at least 13 arrests. Detective Superintendent Roy Ramm, in charge of Operation Carnaby, the inquiry into 18,037 offences reported at the riot on March 31, said the investigation was in its early stages. Seventy-two people have been arrested in addition to the 396 detained on the day of the riot, which is estimated to have cost £3 million. The alleged offences include 537 assaults on police and 13 on civilians. Mr Ramm said he was satisfied with the progress made by his team of 137 detectives, based at Cannon Row police station. But the legal process has been criticised by the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign. Pictures, culled from 79 hours of video footage and 2,000 photographs, were published in several national newspapers. "It was a difficult decision for us to take to issue these pictures," Mr Ramm said. "We did not want to sensationalise it, or give these people a status they do not deserve. "But some of the identifications have been absolutely outstanding and saved us hours of work. He said 17 photographs had been published and as a result 13 cases were being followed up. "With the knock-on effect of several associates being identified, about 20 people have been arrested in total," he said. A team of 13 lawyers and 10 administrative staff have formed a riot prosecution squad to speed the paperwork. A few relatively minor cases, involving looting and window-breaking, have been dealt with. A charge of murder was reduced to attempted murder and then to causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Mr Ramm said a great deal of attention was being paid to assaults on police officers to see if there was any conspiracy. No arrests had been made in connection with the scaffolding pole attack on a police car. Steve Nally, secretary of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said: "The federation will never condone violence, but we understand why the looting and violence happened. We're giving full support to those who defended themselves from attack by the police and those arrested." The federation has put about 200 of those arrested in touch with the Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign, to ensure they receive representation. Mr Nally claimed the authorities were using the operation as an excuse to harass and intimidate poll tax campaigners.

WHY NOT RING THE 'SHOP THE LOT' LINE PUBLICISED BY MAXWELL ETC AND TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK OF THEIR STINKING GRASS LINE: FREEPHONE 0800 555 111

12 JUNE
ANTI POLL TAX BENEFIT at the **KAZBAH** Lambert nebakon & ANYTHING BUT THAT
TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 7.30 PM - 11
TICKETS £1 or £1.50 door from PANHAGGERTY cafe, Stockton Rd & Gates of Eden Wholefood Shop, behind Leisure Centre.



GUARDIAN 6/6/90

● Lorraine Vivian, aged 21, accused of violent disorder and attempted grievous bodily harm to a police officer during the poll tax riot in Trafalgar Square, London, in March, was released on £5,000 bail yesterday for her committal hearing on July 17.

Bail was on condition Ms Vivian live at her mother's home in Shalfleet, in the Isle of Wight, and does not visit London. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Courtesy Liverpool Anarchist Group

COMMUNITY POLICING AT TRAFALGAR

Unless you've been living on another planet you'll no doubt have heard various reports on the events of the Poll Tax demo at the end of last month. What follows is a personal account of what I saw, and what happened to me on that day.

The march started off quite well, with everyone in high spirits. Many people were chanting anti Poll Tax and anti government slogans, feeling sure that government would now have to take note of their grievances. When the march was progressing along Whitehall quite a lot of musicians started playing outside the entrance to Downing Street and many more people stopped at this point and began to dance in the street, to which the police seemed to take great exception. The police closed ranks in front of the revellers and tried to get people to start moving again. Due probably to the heat and the high spirits of the occasion tempers at this point began to flare. Many people began to push back at the oppressive police lines, merely expressing their right to enjoy the demonstration, which, after all, was what we had all gone there for. The police then started grabbing people, indiscriminately, out of the front of the crowd, which alarmed everyone even more, people tried grabbing people back from the police clutches and many of these tug of war situations soon turned into quite large scuffles. In response to this many people sat down to prevent the police from pulling out individuals, which didn't work either as the police continued advancing at the protesters. The next thing I knew was a group of police horses had been brought up and started charging, again totally indiscriminately, at the poll tax protesters, who responded by throwing things back at the police, by now a serious situation had developed, and many things happened involving constant police charges, on foot, on horseback and in riot gear. The police all day didn't care who they hit or who they arrested, as far as they were concerned every single poll tax demonstrator was their enemy and was treated as such. I saw many people hit with short wooden truncheons, I saw people on the point of being crushed, as police lines squashed whole crowds against shop fronts. (The police obviously didn't learn much from Hillsborough) I saw many police who were not wearing their identification numbers lashing out at the crowds again completely indiscriminately and many obviously innocent people carted away by 'snatch squads'. I myself became one of these victims when, at about 5.30 pm, after being herded down Northumberland Avenue by the police. I was part of a large part of the demo who found ourselves being constantly charged at down towards the river. All the exits of this street had been blocked by the police, so nobody knew where we were supposed to be being herded to. At this point it became apparent that one of the police's "targets" had got up onto some scaffolding in an attempt to escape, but was foiled when he jumped off, to avoid pursuing police, and landed right in the middle of the police line. On seeing this, all of the crowd surged forwards and I found

CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY



'CROWBAR' Squatting Ne No 49 c/o BM Hurricane London WC1

Non-payers hope contested cases will clog courts

Anti Poll Tax groups aim to bring the legal system to a standstill by clogging up courts with hundreds of contested non payment cases.

Several million summonses for non-payment are expected to be issued in England in the next few months. Birmingham City Council is preparing to send out 120,000. Conservative and Labour councils have warned that if even a small proportion of their recipients attend court to protest the administrative system would be clogged.



POLL TAX RIOTERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Support the 341!

The Support Group are members of a number of groups and want to show simple solidarity with the victims of the Police Riot.

PTRSG, 84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET LONDON E1

POLL TAX DEFEATED

THE DAY following the poll tax demonstration in Trafalgar Square it was announced that the government of New South Wales, Australia, had abandoned its plans to introduce the poll tax there. It admitted that it had been persuaded by the amount of resistance to the tax in Britain. Comrades from the Australian movement send their thanks to the anti-poll tax movement and wish us all the best in our struggle.

BLACK FLAG - MAY 90

REFUSE AND RESIST

Refuse and Resist is an excellent anti-poll tax bulletin put out by a small collective of anti-poll tax activists in Scotland. It is packed with up to date news of the resistance, group reports and comment. Any letters, articles, reports, donations, or requests for copies (please include postage) from anywhere in the country to:

Refuse & Resist
c/o Murray.
31 Leven St.,
Glasgow,
G41 2JD



What Rebate?

£62.24, this is how little a single person, of under 25 and living in Sunderland, will have to earn weekly to qualify for even a penny of Poll Tax rebate. Those single people over 25 will have to earn less than 70.14. This means that people already earning little more than benefit levels (after rent) are faced with the full bill of £7.75p per week over the 10 months of payments.

Those of us on Income Support are expected to pay £1.55 per week. This may not seem much but Income Support is barely enough to live on as it is.

Meanwhile the wealthy gain from the abolition of rates on their huge houses.

If you receive housing benefit and have filled in this years' renewal form, or claimed since January, you will have applied for Poll Tax rebate as Sunderland council has chosen to combine the forms.

If you are registered but not on housing benefit, you might as well claim the rebate as this will reduce the arrears you build up while not paying Poll Tax. If you are not registered or are registered at the wrong address, great, they'll never find you!

NEWS FOR STUDENTS

Tony Settle the Head of Student Services has been heard to say that "the Polytechnic will not really be able to take any action against students who do not pay their poll tax" Hurrah!

Last year if students did not pay their rent and rates for Polytechnic Accommodation their examination results were withheld. So for students who have not had their rent reduced by their landlords if they are in head tenancy accommodation they should still pay it.

If your landlord has not yet reduced the rent ask her/him if they will take into account that you were not having to pay rates from April 1st. If they are still not willing to reduce the rent inform the Accommodation Bureau at the Polytechnic that Landlord X has not reduced the rent. This will make it difficult for them to get on the head tenancy scheme and if they are already on it they will have more pressure on them next year to keep the rent down.

All hall accommodation fees should have gone down by approximately £2.00 per week - so check.

Next Sunderland Poly Anti Poll Tax meeting: 7.30 pm Thursday upstairs at Carlton House, and on: 7th June and 21st June & next year.

Contact: 5144844
5655418

BEATING THE POLL TAX!
1990 Hedgehog - ACF
c/o 84b Whitechapel High St.
LONDON E1 7QX



Non payment The legal aspect

One of the great myths surrounding non-payment: and one aspect that seems to worry most people, is that of having a criminal record. The collection and enforcing of payment is a civil court matter: you can not get a criminal record for not paying the Poll Tax. This is true even in the unlikely circumstance that a non-payer is imprisoned.

The understaffed and poorly run civil court system will have a mammoth task trying to process all non-payers. A united stand by millions of people will virtually bring the "justice system" to a standstill.

Another difficult point is the use of bailiffs to extract money from non-payers. Bailiffs have no right to break into a house to recover monies. Even when they do enter they have to leave any essential items, ie, fridges, ovens. But, most important of all, the bailiffs must give at least four days notice of a visit! A community acting together can prevent the bailiffs from acting at all. A note from a friend to say that you are merely borrowing their television, stereo etc, will quietly foil the bailiffs.

Remember, you can not receive a criminal record for not paying the Poll Tax.



myself near the front with the police line advancing towards us.

When the police came into contact with us one of the police, in full riot gear in front of me, started kicking me in the shins. I couldnt get out of his way because of the sheer weight of the crowd behind me. At this point I was grabbed by at least two police officers, arrested and taken away. When I arrived at the station I was charged with Section 3 of the Public Order Act, Affray, and put into the cells. The police officer who I thought arrested me denied he had at first and said someone else had, which he contradicted again by putting his name down on the charge sheet as arresting officer. I was told that I would be released that evening which I wasnt. The next day (Sunday) I was told that I wouldnt be released until after court the next day. On Monday I was taken to court and again locked up. I was seen to in court at about 4.30 pm and was told I would be bailed to an assurity of £500.00. I was then taken from court, as I arrived, in a police truck, which I assumed, as the police told me nothing except lies, was to sort out these assurities, I was wrong. At about 6.00 pm, after stopping somewhere else on the way I arrived at Wormwood Scrubs. I didnt know what was going on.

I was admitted and told that I couldnt get released until these assurities were sorted and that it was too late to do it then. I then spent the next 20 odd hours locked in a cell in Wormwood Scrubs, spending every minute outside the cell (slopping out, breakfast, dinner etc) having to hassle the welfare officer to secure my release.

I was released at 4.30 pm on the Tuesday after spending 71 hours in police custody. I am now awaiting trial at which I could receive up to five years in prison, this could have happened to anybody who attended that march, that anybody just happened to be me.