

RED RAG

13-26 June

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Shehnaz is here to stay!

Katesgrove inhabitant Shehnaz Sheikh has at last won the right to stay in Britain after nearly two years of battling with the Home Office and a long public campaign.

Shehnaz is obviously delighted with the news and is now making all sorts of plans which she could not do whilst a cloud of uncertainty was hanging over her head. Talking to RedRag on Thursday 9 June, Shehnaz said: 'I couldn't believe it! Nearly two years ago the Home Office refused to let me stay on compassionate grounds. And now, suddenly, they have changed their minds.'

Shehnaz herself has yet to be officially notified of the HO's change of mind. They preferred to write to Tony Durant, the conservative MP who has been supporting Shehnaz's case for nearly two years. (While there can be no doubt about Mr Durant's personal commitment to the case, some cynical minds might notice that the HO's decision came two days before a general election and that there is a large Asian community in Mr Durant's constituency).

Shehnaz (as were many of her campaigners) was rather dismayed to find the news of her changed status in the Evening Post (as a result of a telephone call from Mr Durant) before she knew of it herself!

During the two-year wait for this good news, Shehnaz has had to give up her career (she is a trained nurse) which has been very worrying for her: 'The Home Office doesn't understand how I've been feeling all this time. Why did I have to go through all this? It's hard to live with depression. I couldn't do training to become a State Registered Nurse because of the uncertainty over my future. It is a problem to get any job in these circumstances.'

So why the enforced two-year wait?

Tony Durant's letter from the HO helps us out here, if we do some reading between the lines:

Dear Tony,

Following your discussion with David Waddington on 8 February about the case of Mrs. Shehnaz Parveen Sheikh, he promised he would write to you once he had had time to consider further the legal issues and the compassionate features which you so forcibly put on Mrs. Sheikh's behalf. I am replying in David's absence.

You will probably recall that Mrs. Sheikh's solicitors had renewed her application for leave to seek judicial review, and leave was given on 20 May. In the meantime we have had the benefit of the House of Lords judgment in the cases of Khanaja/Khaw.

As you know our position has always been that Mrs. Sheikh secured entry and settlement by deception on the basis of a marriage she was not free to enter into. This remains our position, which if anything, was recently strengthened by information from a relative of Mrs. Sheikh who confirmed that she had married Dr. Tariq in Pakistan.

The matter does not of course end there and we have considered very carefully all the arguments. We have also taken into account the legal position following the House of Lords ruling.

More particularly, however, we have taken into consideration the depth of feeling which you obviously share with others for Mrs. Sheikh and your personal commitment to her cause.

We have therefore decided that in all the circumstances it would be right for us not to proceed against her and that she will be allowed to stay. Arrangements will be made for the Immigration Service to withdraw the illegal entry notices which have been served on her and for her solicitors to be advised accordingly.

I stress that this does not necessarily mean that we accept her marriage to Mr. Akhtar Hussain Sheikh as being valid for immigration or nationality purposes.

The Lord Elton.

(Parliamentary Undersecretary of State at the Home Office).

cont

..... from p.1

On reading this letter several things become clear. Firstly, the fact that the HO is trying to ensure that Shehnaz's case is seen as an exception, a 'special case'. Insofar as human beings are individuals, every immigration case must necessarily be different. But the HO is behaving as though there were no specific, racist immigration laws which people will inevitably fall foul of! In the Evening Post of 9 June Tony Durant said that he did not believe that the decision would 'open the floodgates for similar appeals'. (Why are black people always associated with vast numbers/hordes/floodgates?). Rajinder Sohpai of Reading Council for Racial Equality said that the fact that Shehnaz's case had been won 'will certainly help many other people in similar circumstances up and down the country'.

The letter mentions the 20 May. This was the day of Shehnaz's court hearing (following an all-night vigil and picket of the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand by the Campaign) when she won leave to appeal - something the HO didn't expect her to win!

The recent House of Lords ruling referred to in the letter overturned the usual legal practice in cases of illegal entry/overstaying/questionable British citizenship of placing the burden of proof upon the alleged illegal immigrant/potential deportee. INSTEAD now it is up to the Home Office to prove that entry was illegal, something much harder for them to do.

Despicably, the HO then saves its face by declaring Shehnaz's present marriage to be a fraud, and by maintaining that she used deception to get into the country. In fact, the HO always knew about Shehnaz's forged marriage certificate, which she needed to get out of the Pakistan army. It was because she was honest with them and told them about the forged certificate that she got into so much trouble - if she'd not mentioned the forged certificate, they wouldn't have known any better! The HO, having subjected Shehnaz to the indignity of having to produce sworn affidavits attesting to her virginity on her marriage in England, then chooses to ignore this evidence completely!

The letter then ignores all the marches, pickets, and campaigning done to support Shehnaz, and attributes the HO's change of heart to consideration of Tony Durant's involvement in the case!

Shehnaz told RedRag that her case couldn't have been won without the Campaign. 'I didn't believe something like a campaign could happen in Reading. I was really surprised when people gave their help - RCRE, Central Club, Katesgrove Residents Association. I was amazed when Katesgrove Residents Association got up a petition of 400 signatures in only 2 days!

'I used to be so depressed, I used to sit and cry. I couldn't do nursing; I was always worried that a letter from the Home Office was going to arrive telling me to leave. It's so different now! Now I can work, I can do anything I feel like!

'There is one thing I would like to say, I would like to tell blacks and Asians suffering in the same way I did, FIGHT for your rights, don't just sit and cry. Crying is no good, you must fight!

'Thankyou to everybody who gave their time, energy and support to the Campaign'.

SATURDAY 25 JUNE AT READING CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED GPM/ A CELEBRATION PARTY FOR EVERYBODY INVOLVED IN THE FRIENDS OF SHEHNAZ CAMPAIGN.

Reading Council for Racial Equality is planning a national conference for campaigns and committees like that of Shehnaz's to share experience and ideas, sometime during the summer. The venue has not yet been decided. For further details contact RCRE 583773.

GEORGE STREET COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

VEGETARIAN DINING - possibly the best food in town.
WHOLESALE CO-OP - do-it-yourself food at a discount.

NEW GAMES - do-it-yourself FUN for free!

A Flying Tea-pot, which won second prize in the recent Carnival. All these and many more are thriving successes following meetings held on an irregular fortnightly basis at FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE, at the bottom of George Street, near the Central Swimming Pool.

Our organisation is personal and informal. We have no funding and no committee, but we do have a terrible name, which has stuck (it was chosen eight months ago, when we felt that we needed one). We started to use the space at Fairview to develop ideas of benefit to the local community, but have found no boundaries.

Other thoughts in the tank are, MUTUAL AID, ECOLOGY, C.N.D., MUSIC/DRAMA WORKSHOP and the SKILLS DIRECTORY, which looks healthy, but we haven't attracted the interest of the old folk in the area, despite a great bingo evening. The Skills Directory is a list of local skills and tools available free, to those who need them, especially the elderly 'odd jobs, help etc.)

If you are interested in helping, or need help with your interesting ideas, please come to the next meeting - 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th June, 1983 - or 'phone (Reading) 588459.

Red Rag

Red Rag is Reading's Only Newspaper. It is fortnightly & free, financed entirely by readers' donations and produced by an open collective. It has no political links or ties. It aims to provide an alternative to the coverage of local news and views provided by the commercial and state media.

Lots of material is submitted from outside the collective: we have no staff of reporters, so things usually only get covered if somebody involved writes them up. Contributions should be sent c/o Acorn Bookshop, or phoned to one of the telephone numbers on the cover. Copy should be legible, should have a contact address or phone number (not necessarily printed, but so that we can discuss the piece if we aren't happy with it as it is), and should say whether you mind it being edited or not.

We aim not to print anything that is "racist, sexist or supportive of oppressive religions". Decisions on the content of any issue are made by the production group for that issue at the "editorial meeting" on the Thursday evening before publication. More long-range decisions are made at Collective

Meetings, which happen every 4 or 6 weeks, and are open to anyone who's interested. See 'Events' for details.

EVENTS DIARY

june 13..26-----

or, "How to survive two weeks in Reading under the most oppressive Government since the last one."

If you are organising or know of anything happening locally that wants publicity (and if you care about the Events diarist's phone bill) why not tell us all about it on Reading 666681?

Mon 13 Reading Cycle Campaign is working itself up to hassling the new Councils, especially on the matter of the £25million plan to kill cyclists called the IDR. Preliminary meeting at Newtown Community House, 117 Cumberland Road, 7.30pm. (Contact c/o 5 Manchester Rd. See also June 21 & 25)

East Reading Anti-Nuclear Group meeting at 21 Eastern Avenue, 8pm.

Reading Anarchists: weekly meeting at 8pm. To find out where it is you'll have to write to them at Box 19, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St.

Tue 14 Pregnancy Testing: a full demonstration of how this works, with examples (positive and negative), for all women interested. 7pm at the Women's Centre, basement of Old Shire Hall, Abbey St.

Berks Anti-Nuclear Campaign General Meeting. Film and discussion on "alternative defence ideas" (plus where BANC goes after the election). 8pm, Friends' Meeting House, Church St

Reading Gay Switchboard - Every Tuesday and Friday, 8-10pm, 597269.

Wed 15 Friends of the Earth: pub meeting at the Sun, Castle St, 8pm.

City Farm - organisational meeting every Wed, 7.30pm, staff room of Ashmead School. Sounds rather dry at the moment, could pick up with the open day in July.

Socialist Workers' Party: weekly meeting, 8pm, Red Lion, Southampton St. Details of a plan by persons unknown to incinerate the University Library will be revealed.

Thu 16 Mini Market - stalls of handicrafts, veg, plants, cakes etc, organised by the Womens' Institutes. Every Thurs, 9am - 1pm, St Mary's Church House, St Mary's Butts.

Music Workshop - 6pm, Centre for the Jobfree, 4-6 East St. For details ask for Laura on 596639, daytime Mon-Wed.

Maidenhead CND - "Truth Game" film + discussion. 8pm M'head Friends' Meeting House.

University Student Union - "Defend Your Constitution!" A student writes: "It seems to me that people only ever go to Union meetings for the purpose of blocking "anti-democratic" moves like this evening's. When it comes to day-to-day participation in University management, halls, courses, welfare etc, almost all students are conspicuous by their absence. If nothing else, the abolition of Union meetings and Executive accountability would reflect most people's interest in the matter. So go along at 8pm with your Union card if you want, but don't expect that defeating this motion is going to stop any slides."

"Trade Unions - Who Needs Them?" - "If the Unions have so much power, why haven't they brought the Tories down?" Labour Party Young Socialists talk, 8pm, Community Centre, Northumberland Avenue.

Fri 17 Festivals: Stonehenge - till Sun 26, free. Glastonbury - till Sun 19, CND, £12. Details of these and other festivals were in the last Rag, are on display in Acorn, and will be up to date from: Festival Welfare Services, 347A Upper St, London N1 (01-226-2759)

Sat 18 Your Rights... Information stall outside the Church on Cemetery Junction, 11am - 1pm, every Sat. East Reading Rights Group.

Astrology Workshop - "Insight into the workings of the Zodiac". 10.30am - 5pm. £7.50! Details from Ian, Bracknell 25343.

Girls' Club - Women's Centre, Abbey St, 2.30 - 4.30. Disco and other activities. For ages 9-12.

Music Club - Women's Centre, 11am - noon.

Sun 19 RED RAG Collective Meeting, open to all interested, whether readers, writers, typists, distributors, cynics, libel lawyers. Apart from the usual topics like money, how to get more people to give us articles or information, how to get more people involved in production of the Rag, etc, there will be discussion of 'Reading Between the Lines' (combined guide & directory to Reading) hopefully to appear this autumn. 4pm at Flat 6, 117 Kendrick Road (or in the garden if it's a nice day).

Mon 20 Caversham Anti-Nuclear Group meeting. 'The Peace Game' (Govt film) and discussion. 8pm Church House, Church St, Caversham. Ring Ruth on 482881 to confirm details.

Ecology Party: fortnightly meeting. 8pm, 38 Long Barn Lane, 8pm. Details from Maria Callies, 663195.

Tue 21 Midsummer Party at the Womyn's Centre, 8pm. Good eats - bring a bottle - women only.

Cycle Campaign - meeting at the Crown, Crown St, at 8pm, to cover all issues. Come and give your views.

Thu 23 "Can CND Achieve Nuclear Disarmament?" - "Should MoD workers give up their jobs on moral grounds?" LPYS meeting to tell the Peace Movement "where to go from here". Details as last Thursday.

West Reading CND Get-Together - at 19 Hollins Walk, Parkside Rd, 8pm. Bring a bottle.



RED RAG copy deadline and meeting to suss next issue. Where are all your articles, news, graphics? 8pm, all welcome, phone 666681 for venue. Anyone got a decent typewriter?

Sat 25 RED RAG - Production Day. Photocopiers, scissors, cow gum, handwriting, graphics stolen from all over, letaset, a litho press - and you! Learn all about it by ringing 666681. Anyone got a car we can use, late tonight (briefly) and/or tomorrow afternoon (say 2hr)?

Cycle Campaign - Round Reading ride, from University squash courts (near Shinfield Rd) at 2pm, via Railway Station (2.30), to Civic Offices (3pm). "Help Make Reading a Bicycle Town". Details: Simon Watkins, 5 Manchester Road.

Fire Dragon Festival at Greenham Common (women only). Bring food, music, stories, songs, poems, pictures. Dress up: "Wear the colours of fire....join in our full moon tune....Know that our positive creative energy will change the world."

LPYS Weekend School in Reading. Ring 751211 for details.

Sun 26 RED RAG Folding, labelling, distributing. Any mug can do it. Come and work off that hang-over and meet some of the people already involved. Details from 666681.

Events continued

Theatre Group Meeting (BANC). Learn all about street theatre, "an ideal way to attract people"... 2pm, AUEW, 121 Oxford Rd.

Monopoly - the biggest game ever played - on the streets of London. "Go" is 10am from Berkeley Sq. Travel by foot bike car bus... Details + charity sponsorship forms: Madeline Legg, 01-388-1382.

Coley Nurseries open day. 2-30-6. Wensley Rd.

Forthcoming:

Fri 1 July: Norwich Green Gathering.

Mon 4 July: International blockade at Greenham.

22-23 July: International Air Tattoo ("potentially very sensitive, politically risky, volatile event.")

Acorn

Acorn Bookshop

Open Meeting

Wed 22 June 7.30 at the bookshop

We're calling this meeting for several reasons. Firstly, there are only two of us working at Acorn now and there's room for more, both voluntary help and also potentially one new paid worker in the long term. We are working on a suitable co-operative structure which will make it easier for more people to become involved (or leave!). Whilst we're not trying to transform the shop overnight, we're keen to have some changes and to open up discussion on what could happen here. So if you're interested in being part of that process, come along.

If any local bands want to bring their tapes into the shop, we'll be glad to give them a public airing..

Just a brief reply to the recent accusations of censorship. There are several million books in print of which we stock only a few thousand titles. Therefore we are involved in a highly selective process when choosing new books even within what might be called the radical/alternative field. The book in question was rejected because it was considered to have nothing constructive to offer but only attacks other mainly long since defunct groups.

Liz and Ian

Festivals

Glastonbury CND festival 17-19 June at Worthy Farm, 3 miles from Shepton Mallet in Somerset. Tickets are £12 in advance for 3 days including camping; £14 on gate. Available from record shop in smelly alley.

Features: Curtis Mayfield, Fun Boy Three, The Beat, UB40, Aswad, The Chieftains, The Erid, Alexei Sayle + more. Also theatre, films, laser lightshows + children's world

Stonehenge free festival 17-22 June in a field near Stonehenge. Features Here + Now, Poison Girls, The Nomads, + more. Also Hawkwind, Urban Warrior, Carol Grimes, Solistice. Also much more on an ad hoc basis!

Living in a liberal Democracy

or WHERE IT IS A CRIME TO WATCH TV AFTER 11pm...

Do you like watching the late night film? Listening to music, perhaps having friends round at the weekend? Mrs Margaret Smalls does. Unfortunately, her neighbours in Chagford Way, Whitley, do not.

In fact, her next-door-neighbours, 46 year old Mr Humphries and his 78 year old mother, hate it so much that they have made repeated complaints about Mrs Smalls to the local council. The problem should have a simple solution - a young woman with three children under 5 years should not be living next door to a 78 year old woman. Or should she? Surely there are many young women living next door to old women up and down the country? Perhaps the real problem is that Mrs Smalls, unlike the rest of the street she lives in, is not white. Mrs Smalls can think of only one person in the street who will say good morning to her!

After appearing before a registrar, where she was not legally represented, Mrs Smalls was under threat of eviction by Reading Borough Council, but she appeared before Reading County Court, represented by one of the welfare rights workers at Reading Centre for the Unemployed, Elaine Henderson. (RBC has continually refused to recognise RCU workers as Mrs Smalls representatives) Elaine Henderson told Justice David Peck that 'Mrs Smalls has been subjected to racial abuse in the street and there have been arguments with neighbours. The frequency of complaints indicates that there has been a lot of harassment' (Evening Post, 20 May). Justice Peck told council officials he was giving Mrs Smalls a chance to put her case to him.

"In fact, Mr Humphries had been keeping a daily record of the times when Mrs Smalls' record player or television were switched on or off! When Mrs Smalls reappeared in court, she had ignored 2 warnings. Instead of appearing before Justice Peck, she appeared before Justice Piggot, a crown court, ie criminal law judge. In his summing up, 'Justice' Piggot QC told the court 'where the evidence conflicts between the two parties, I will take Mr Humphries word on every occasion.'

Don't worry; it gets worse. The Council has ruled that Mrs Smalls has made herself 'unintentionally homeless' and consider that they have no duty to rehouse her! She has possession of her council house for 28 days, then the council must house her in bed and breakfast for 28 days. After that, the council washes its hands of her.

But not only must Mrs Smalls worry about where she and her kids are going to live - but Justice Piggot has put a penal clause in her 28 day eviction order. If her neighbour Mr Humphries, makes one complaint about noise after 11pm (apparently one of his favourite pastimes) then Mrs Smalls will go to prison.

And you thought this was a free country! No you didn't really, did you?

Laura Norder

Messages of protest to Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Reading



The Going Out Guide 13-26 June



Monday 13 June ★

- Hexagon, The Butts
1.10pm Carlos Bonell [guitar] free
7.30pm Gillian Weir [harpsichord] £2.50-3.50
9.15pm Atlantic Crossing free + bar extension
- Upper Deck, Duke St • Jazz Party Swing Band 8pm £?
- Dept of Music, Upper Redlands Rd
2pm Joun Park 3.45pm Allison So [recitals] free
- St Marys Church, The Butts • Young Musicians Platform
1.10pm free. until 17th
- Art Gallery, Blagrave St • German Expressionist Drawings and Graphics 10.30-5.30 free. until 9 July
- University Gallery, London Rd • Work by Peter Startup 10-5pm free. until 2 July
- Art Dept, London Rd site • Finals show 10-5 free. to 18th
- Forbury Gardens • Reading Ripe Band and St Andrews Scottish Dancers 7pm free
- Bull Hotel, Nettlebed • Folk club 8ish £?
- South Hill Park, Bracknell • La Ronde 7.30 £1.90+conc
Also all week there is a performance festival with lots of free performances during the day. Participants are mentioned elsewhere in the Rag and you can get a copy of the programme from the Hexagon foyer.
Week ticket costs £15 + concessions.

~~Today at 7.30 - Jeron~~

Tuesday 14 June ★

- Hexagon • Festival of World Culture 'concord' all day stalls, displays, exhibits etc free
12 noon - Urban Warrior, free
6ish - Katesgrove Steel Band, free
7.30 - Cy Grant + others £2.50-3.50
- Fives, The Butts • Nozes 8ish free
- Tudor Arms • Gay Disco 8ish free
- Upper Deck • Kennet Jazz Band 8pm £?
- University, Whiteknights Campus • Joboxers 8-late £3 (it's the Tetley Tea folk)
- The Mill, Sonning • Gashlight 2+8.15pm £6.90-11.90 including food. until 9 July
- St Mary's Church, Wargrave • England their England 7.30 £3.50 inc refreshments (sounds v post Falklands)
- SHP • The Missionary 7.30 £1.90+conc. until 19th
- SHP • performances as elsewhere

Wednesday 15 July ★

- Hexagon • John Williams & friends 7.30 £5-7
9.30 Swing Guitars free + bar extension (jazz)
- Reading Film Theatre, University Campus • Angel 8pm £1/1.50. Recently on channel 4 but an interesting film nevertheless
- SHP • performance as elsewhere
As part of Readings contribution The Brothers of Beat are playing but they don't know what time or price
Probably 8ish, probably free

- Morell Rooms, Streatley • Arms and the Man 8pm £? until 18th

Thursday 16 June ★

- Hexagon • Alessandro Volpi (tenor) 1.10pm free
7.30 Arthur Negus £2.50-3.50 (it's just a talk so leave Aunt Maud's dresser at home)
- 9.15 Keepers Gate free + bar extension (folk)
- Target • Larry Miller Band 8ish £1
- Horse + Barge, Duke St • Jez Lowe 8.15 £1.50 (folk)
- RFT • Moonlighting 8pm £1/1.50
- Progress Theatre, The Mount • A view from the bridge (Arthur Miller) 7.45 £1.80+conc, until 25th
- SHP • performances as elsewhere

Friday 17 June ★

- Hexagon • All night jazz festival 8.30 £12.50 inc meal
- Tudor Arms • Gay Disco 8ish free
- University, Faculty of Letters • Tony Harrison (poet) 8pm 50p
- University, Great Hall, London Rd • The Lady of the Inn (opera) 7.30 £3+concessions, also 18th
- RFT • The Lodger + Murder (Hitchcock) 7.30 £1/1.50 (good knife sequence in Murder)
- Caribbean Club, London St • Hollow Expressions 9.30-late £1.50
- SHP • performances as elsewhere
- SHP • Midnight Express £1.90+conc, also 18th
- Central Studio, Chiddesden Rd, Basingstoke • Palais Glide (Tacit Dance Theatre) 7.45 £2+conc
- Angies, Milton Rd, Wokingham • The West (ex short stories) 9-late £1-2

Saturday 18 June ★

- Hexagon • 12.15 Folk Music + Dance free, all afternoon
7.30 Philharmonic Orchestra £4-7
9.15 Spredthick free + bar extension (folk)
- Christ Church, Christchurch Rd • Reading Haydn Choir 7.30 £1.50
- Bulmershe College, Earley • Summer Ball with Sad Cafe 8-late £5.50ish - v expensive for hackneyed band
- Lower Earley Community Centre, Rodstock Lane • All British Banjo Convention 12 noon-11pm. Workshops, Keith Nicholls Paramount Theatre Orchestra, Grand concert at 7.30 featuring Britain's top banjo players £2.50 ish (it's all true)
- SHP • 8pm Packie Byrne + Bonnie Shaljean (folk) £1.20-1.50
- SHP • performances as elsewhere
- Angies • Ruthless Blues 9-late, £1-2

more of going out guide

- Central Club, London St. • Dr Walter Rodney memorial day 7.00pm Music, drama, talks, poetry, drumming £2

Sunday 19 June ★

- Hexagon • The Spinners 7.30 £2-5 + concessions
- 9.30 The Mudpie + Carrot Band, free + bar ext (folk)
- Fives • Off the Bone lunchtime free
- Merry Maidens, Swinfield Rd • Kennet jazz band 8pm free
- Carersham Court • Edwardian picnic 12-4pm 50p
- St Patricks Hall, Northcourt Ave • Summer concert (mixed recital programme) 7.30 £2.50 inc buffet supper
- Opposite Tesco's • firework display 9.45 free
- Allied Arms, The Butts • Readifolk 8ish free
- SHP • performances as elsewhere
- Angies • Kathy Tuscon lunchtime 30p
- 9-late Larry Miller Band £1-2
- Central Club • Exhibition + display 4pm, free talks, film, discussion

Monday 20 June

- Hexagon • Big Country 7.30 £2.50/3.50
- Exhibition - stylised graphics of people in dance, to 2 July
- Bull Hotel, Nettlebed • folk club 8ish free
- SHP • Barry Lyndon 7.30 £1.90 + conc, until 23rd

Tuesday 21 June ★

- Hexagon • Tom Paxton 7.30 £2.50/3.50
- Fives • Zenith 8ish free (jazz/funk)
- Tudor Arms • Gay Disco 8ish free
- University • Boomtown Rats + Brothers of Beat 8-late, get tickets in advance
- Apollo, Oxford • Danny La Rue 7.30, mat Thurs 2.30, Sat 6 + 8.30 £3.50-6.50, until 25th

Wednesday 22 June ★

- Hexagon • The Albion + Arizona Smoke Revue 7.30 £2.50/3.50
- RFT • French Lieutenants Woman 8pm £1/1.50, to 23rd

Thursday 23 June ★

- Hexagon • Joshua Rifkin plays Scott Joplin 7.30 £2.50/4.50
- Target • Tony McPhee Band 8ish £1
- Horse + Barge • Folk club with Jim Conza 8ish £?
- Angies • Laverne Browne Band 9-late £1-2

Friday 24 June ★

- Caribbean • Ballistics 9.30-late £1.50
- Bull Hotel, Nettlebed • folk festival all weekend but no details available.

- SHP • Festival of English Music all weekend. Too many orchestras to mention £1.75-2.25
- Central Studios, Basingstoke • The Oblong Box 7.45 £2 + conc
- Angies, Wokingham • The Europeans 9-late £1-2 (The person at Angies says they're v good)

Saturday 25 June ★

- Hexagon • The Duncans free 12.15
- 7.30 An Evening with Isla (St Clair) £2.50-4 really wild
- Jack of Both Sides, London Rd • Volcanoes 8ish free
- Angies • Splash 9-late £1-2

Sunday 26 June ★

- Fives • Asiation Dance lunchtime free
- Allied Arms, The Butts • Readifolk 8ish free
- Angies • Drew McCulloch lunchtime 30p 9-l
- 9-late Juvenessence £1-2

Performance festival ★ at South Hill Park ★

Mon 13 June: 7.30pm

Videotapes by TOM CASTLE - JOHN ADAMS -
CHRIS RUSHTON + GARY UNSWORTH - AKIKO HADA -
DAVID CRITCHLEY - NAN HOOVER - TINA KEANE -
STEPHEN CRIPPS

performances by JEREMY WELSH - ZOE REDMAN

Tue 14, Wed 15, Thur 16: all day

Film, video, photographic, installation and
performance events by members of the Fine Art
Department, University of Reading

Wed 15 June: 7.30pm

Group performance event by members of Gwent
College of Higher Education

Thur 16 June: 8.30pm

IOU Theatre Company
10.00pm IAN HINCHLIFFE

Fri 17 June: 8.30pm

IOU Theatre Company
10.00pm KAHONDO STYLE - CHARLIE PIG - MIRIAM
BIRD - DAVID MEDALLA - ANNE BEAN - PAUL BURWELL

Sat 18 June from 12.30pm

RICHARD LAYZELL - STEPHEN TAYLOR-WOODROW -
ANTHONY HOWELL - SU CARPENTER - CARLYLE REEDY -
NICK PAYNE - MAX EASTLEY - NIHILISTS AND POETS -
Baron Alban's Valet Service - ART NAHPRO - ART
THUG LTD.

8.30pm IOU Theatre Company

9.45pm ANNABEL NICHOLSON

10.30pm ALASTAIR SNOW and THE PLUMB LINE

Sun 19 June from 2.30pm

ROBERTA KRAVITZ - CAROL de VAUGHAN - FLAVIO
PONS - ALEX FRASER - BORIS GERRETS - DAVID MEDALLA -
SONIA KNOX

9.00pm Banquet directed by SILVIA ZIRANEK

10.30pm Tattoo finale directed by KEVIN WEST

11-19 June

Gallery installation HIDDEN SIGNS : Denis Masi

4-19 June

IOU Theatre Company in Residence : South Hill Park

Further information from Alastair Snow and Jeni Walwin
South Hill Park, Bracknell 27272

The Upper Heyford blockade

a personal account

The Upper Heyford blockade was an important event. For me it was the first time I have ever been arrested. In the larger context it caused the state a lot of hassle - they had to prepare themselves to be able to arrest 1000 people a day. All police leave was cancelled, and the boys and girls in blue from Reading had to get up at 3 am to police it!

We forced them into mass arrests, and made front page news in the middle of a general election. We also proved that large scale mixed N.V.D.A can be non violent.

We arrived at 8 pm on Monday night ready for a 6am start on the blockade. Having pitched our tents our 'affinity group' met in the marquee. We talked about why we were there and what we hoped to achieve and what we would regard as a 'success' or 'failure'. We were given a legal briefing and were told which gate we were going to blockade.

After the talk we enacted a protesters v police role play. The group was split in two and each group played both protester then policeperson. Afterwards we discussed the ways in which we could increase the strength of our group without threatening the police as people. We felt it was important to be as nice as possible to the policemen in order to make it as difficult as possible for them to justify to themselves the morality of arresting us. To wind down the meeting we played a game of Knots. We decided to get up at 4.30 the following morning and then split up to sit around camp fires or listen to people playing music.

We got up in the grey light of the dawn and stumbled around. The lights and the throb of the 24 hour construction work within the camp as a constant reminder of our purpose.

By 6.15 the procession was making its way down camp road from the peace camp towards the gates. At each gate we left 2 or more affinity groups. Across each gate was a line of policemen standing in front of a line of crash barriers.

We walked past the main gate and onto spruce which was the gate Reading groups had been allocated the 'Reading writing and 'rithmetic' affinity group took up our position in front of the line of police men who out-numbered us. There wasn't enough of us to span the width of the road and pavement across the gate. It felt pretty humble sitting there with the police joking that "You could drive an articulated lorry around the side of this blockade".

The U.S.A.f workers began arriving for work at about 7am and the traffic jam began to build up - we waited for something to happen. At 7.15 ish the lines of police behind Beech- the main gate, moved forward, with linked arms in a wedge formation across the road. They pushed everyone out of their way. In a well rehearsed movement they shuffled across opening a gap in the point of the wedge, through which workers on foot walked in to the base. The gap was closed. The police then began directing traffic so that the cars and buses could drive through the police dam.

The question now was - how do we respond? The Oxford groups who had been sitting in front of Beech, after a few seconds began sitting in the road in front of both in and out going traffic.

The police response to this was to produce a marching 'arresting squad' who would march up to the line of seated people in the road and first warn them. "You are blocking a public highway.... e.c.t." And then either arrest or drag them out of the way.

We watched all this from Spruce gate. We began to discuss what we should do to help the people on Beech. Some of us felt that we could draw the marching bobbies away from Beech by sitting in the road, which would also have the effect of making the long traffic jam even longer. Others within the group felt that as we were there to blockade we should blockade, they also felt it was a bit silly to get arrested so early in the

day. As we were having this discussion some people from Chestnut gate moved out into the road and sat in front of a car belonging to a man in air force uniform. Off went the roving policeman to arrest them. Some of us decided that when that car drew up opposite us we too would stop it getting into the base. We told the legal observer who was going to be sitting in the road and as it drew up, we calmly walked out and sat down. It felt good even though we had the fumes of the car in front filling our lungs. Soon a team of policemen appeared from Beech. They stood over us at the side of the car - there wasn't enough room for them to stand right over us. We were warned and none of us moved - David asked the sergeant if he was happy about what he was doing and was told that "I'm just doing my job" David asked him how he felt about the fact that there might be no world for his children, the reply to which was "I'm not prepared to enter into a discussion. Arrest them!"

Two big policemen picked me up and dragged me off. With a big smile I said to our legal observer "I'm being arrested", and she sarcastically replied "no"... I was dragged down to Beech gate where I was put in to a mini-bus full of policemen and driven to the police marquee where we were photographed against our will, had our property put in a bag and were promised a receipt when we got to the police station - they would not tell us at this stage where we were being taken.

I had decided to non violently resist arrest and all the orders the police gave me until they released me, so I was carried around the marquee by 2 very upset policemen one of whom twisted my wrist as they lifted me onto a chair. Before this I had been sat on the floor cross legged with my arm twisted behind my back. When asked if it was necessary to inflict pain on someone who was sitting on the floor he said "the regulations say the arresting officer may use such force as is required to restrain the prisoner" (!!)

"do regulations appease your consciences" I asked "stand up and I will let go" he said.

I explained once again that I did not accept the authority of any person to issue orders on the basis of assumed superiority.

He continued to twist my arm and I stayed on the floor.....

After the marquee came what was for all of us the worst part of our time in custody. We were put into a 'black maria' these vans look ok from the outside inside they are divided up into 8 cells about 30 by 30 inches with solid walls. There is a grill window in the door through which you can only see the person opposite. In the back wall there is a tiny 3x10 inch one way vision window.

Although we tried to keep talking the van felt oppressive, we were in captivity and it felt inhuman - how can anyone in their right mind be a policeperson???? we were in there for about an hour while we waited for a full van load., and were then driven to Banbury.

At Banbury I was the third to be let out of the van and to be taken for questioning. I was carried upstairs by two unfit overweight policemen who found my non-violent resistance something of a pain in the back. Inside the station we went through 3 stages of questioning, at three different desks, which meant that there were 4 of us being questioned together - the feeling of solidarity returned. They carried me on a chair between the three tables which everyone took as a big joke. Having told them my name, address, place of work, salary and date of birth (I won't be so cooperative next time - name and address is all they need to give you bail) I was carried back down the stairs and across the car park and dropped in the indoor badminton courts which were to serve as our prison for the day. There were already 20 people in there when I arrived - they were being briefed by the C.N.D solicitors who outlined our rights and how they thought things

Upper Heyford - continued

would go during the day. It was a long day; at 12 we were fed cheese salad and chips and at 6pm we were given vegetable soup and a bread roll. They began to release us on police bail at 7pm at the rate of 1 person every 20 minutes not in the order we were arrested in. everyone was very frustrated as the solicitors had told us that we could be expected to be charged and out by 6.30pm.

By the time they charged me at 9.30 I was dying to breath fresh air again. The chief inspector was most upset that I was gazing out of the window while he read the charge, when he'd finished I said "O.K then gentlemen I'll see you both tomorrow then" "you mean that today has taught you nothing" said the C.I "It's made us all stronger and more determined" I said.

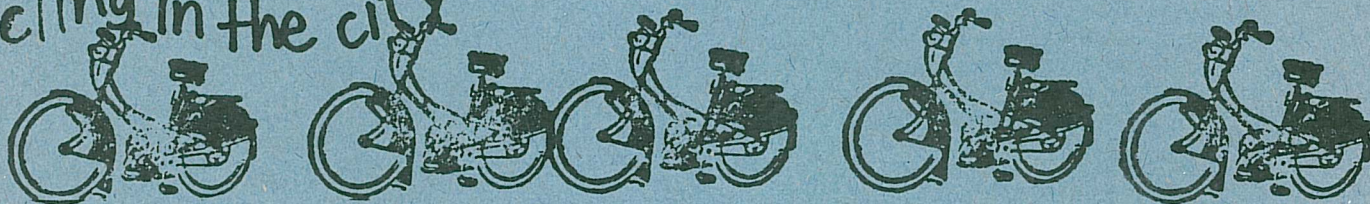
The C.I shook his head and said take him out the sargent who did. As we got to the door the sargent said "alright lad we've got no witnesses here now and id like you to know that if it was just you and me I'd give you a good hiding(!)" "I dont think violence will ever solve any problems" I said

"And don't take the piss, either your not old enough - , now, out that door and turn left" so I skiped out the door and turned right.....

To appear in court the following week, the story of that will be in the next Reg.....

Andrew

cycling in the city



Nationally cycle use went up by 15% in 1982. This may not sound like a lot, but car use was only up by 5% and if cycling continues increasing at this rate then it will be double in the next 5 years! The Reading Cycle Campaign has been working hard to increase cycling in Reading by improving conditions for cyclists and we have now got a few results to show for it.

* Phase 1 of the Kennetside Cycle Route from Cholmeley Road to Duke St is due to be built this year (all being well) and includes removal of barriers and some resurfacing.

* British Rail have promised new improved cycle parking at the station. Watch the space at the edge of the NCP car park!

* On June 13, we made a presentation of our proposals to the new Borough Transport Committee Chairman and officers.

However, we now need another meeting to discuss some of the major issues which have arisen recently:

- local elections - what does a Conservative majority mean for cyclists?
- Inner Distribution Road - what should our response be to this £25million attempt to make cycling more dangerous?
- Central area plan - do we accept the limited cycle policies which the Borough Council have included in the plan?
- plus latest news on British Rail, Kennetside, West Reading road safety study etc.

To cover these issues, we've arranged the next meeting of the Campaign for TUESDAY 21 JUNE at our old haunt, The Crown (Crown St, end of London Road) starting at 7.59pm (sharp!). Please come and give your views. All cyclists welcome.

EVENT EVENT EVENT EVENT EVENT EVENT

★ CYCLE DEMONSTRATION ★

SATURDAY 25 JUNE

Round Reading Ride to publicise cyclists' needs

- Reading will only spend £10,000 of the Council's £150,000 budget for cycling this year.
- the IDR scheme is the greatest threat to safe cycling in Reading for 15 years.
- the new council need to be made aware of the existence of large numbers of cyclists.

For all these reasons we need as many cyclists as possible to turn out on this Saturday. That means YOU and as many of your cycling friends as you can get together. Show them you care. Show them not everyone owns a car.

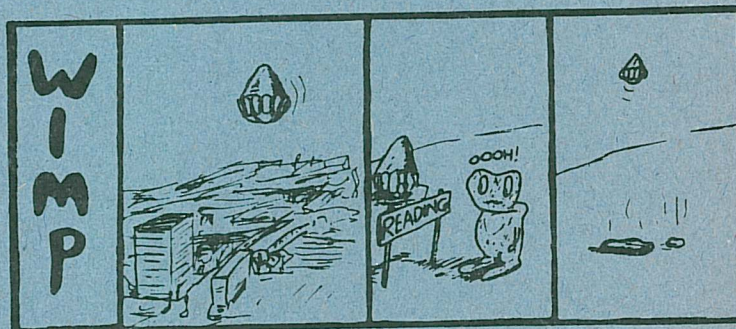
Do your bike up in wierd and wonderful colours, come in fancy dress; strange bikes and bicyclists welcome! The more wheels, the better.

START 2pm University campus, near squash courts on Shinfield Road along proposed route to Railway Station at 2.30pm (site of new cycle park) and via ceremonial push of bikes along bus lane to Civic Centre at 3pm to hand in our proposals first sent to the Council 18 months ago.

Please come even if you can only join the route at the Station or Civic Centre.

If you want any more details about meetings or want to help organise the ride, please contact Simon Watkins, 5 Manchester Road. NOW!

HELP MAKE READING A BICYCLE FRIENDLY TOWN!



READING LAVATORY OF THE UNIVERSE

OUTLETS

Red Rag is available from:---

- Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St
- Pop Records, 172 King's Rd
- Laser Records, Butts Centre
- Central Club, bottom of London St
- Ken's Shop, Students' Union, Whiteknights
- Unemployment Centre, East St
- Our Price Records, Butts Centre
- The Emporium, Merchants' Place (off Friar St)
- Mace Grocer, 2 Crown Colonnade, Cemetery Junction
- Johal Cash & Carry, 14 Cholmeley Rd
- Champs Hamburgers, 127 Wokingham Rd
- Bridge Stores, 6 Bridge St, Caversham
- Elephant Off-Licence, 1 Derby St

new games

NEW GAMES REPORT - 29th MAY, 1985

New Games..."in which there are no spectators and no second-string players, games for the whole family and a whole day, in which aggression fades into laughter....."

Yet another (the 5th to date) successful and fun time was had, at Richfield Avenue Playing Fields. Some 30-odd people, from 4 to 40, enjoyed some rollicking games, with such splendid titles as 'Snake-in-the-grass', 'Go-Tag', 'Sharks', 'Stand Up', 'Stand off the Blob' - and more.

Also, present was the mini-earthball (100cm in diameter - borrowed - sorry BOUGHT - from the proceeds of the Red Rag/Peace Week Jumble Sale. A great opening game, as the two teams got stuck in to try and battle the giant orb from, what felt like, one end of the park to the other.

One of the most spectacular games involved a parachute...on loan from a friendly local play-leader - until John can make one! Twenty-five or so people, held the 'chute by the edges, and commenced to lift some of the smaller children in the air, much to their delight. We played several other games, which involved no equipment, merely the spirit of co-operative games playing, which is what New Games is all about! Anyone interested in learning more about these games, or joining in the next session, please 'phone me, at Reading 587381 - John on Reading 580563. There is also a box number, at the Acorn Bookshop to which you can write - ask Liz for details, please.

This issue's new game is called Catch the Dragon's Tail, this is what you do:- Find a good-sized space, with no obvious dangers. Take 8 to 10 people, and hold on to each others waists in a line. The last person tucks a hanky (cleanish!) in their back pocket - or belt, then the Dragon, as it now becomes, begins chomping its own tail, the object being for the head of the Dragon i.e. the person at the front of the line, to snatch the hanky; when successful - swop 'head' and 'tail' - and so the fun begins all over again! A variation on this, is to have two dragons trying to catch each others tails.

Happy Daze! Paul. OXO

recipe

SPICEY POTATO ROLLS
makes about 30

These make a good tasty snack for parties etc, but they do take a fair timeto make.

Ingredients for filling
2lbs potatoes
pinch of asa
1 tbsp coriander powder
1/2 tsp chilli powder
1 tsp powdered ginger
1 tsp sesame seeds
1 tsp cinnamon
salt and pepper to taste
juice of 1 1/2 lemons
5 tbsp grated coconut
2tsp sugar

Ingredients for dough
1 cup
3 cups wholemeal flour
oil and water to form dough
(about 50:50)

Wash and grate potatoes and fry in a covered heavy-bottomed pan on a low heat for about an hour, stirring at first. Then add all the spices and mix well and allow to cool while making the dough. Make dough by mixing oil in first, then adding water.

Divide dough into about ten equal portions and then roll each one into a roughly rectangular shape (about 10" x 6"). Then spread the potato mix over this and roll up and cut into three pieces. Deep fry in hot oil for a few minutes and leave to cool. (They're much nicer cold).

letter

Dear Red Rag,

I'm a faithful if naive reader of the Rag, delighted at the fortnightly evidence that people in Reading are thinking hard about the state of the Universe, questioning and generally resisting. Obviously the Rag is only as good as its contributions and the thing which most bothers me about these is the put-downy attitude, which might just be an all-purpose pose but seems latterly to have been directed at people who take elections, local and nationally, seriously. Recent comments in the Rag have suggested that the most rational thing to do in an election is to spoil your ballot paper. The perpetrator of such an argument is obviously far too politically sophisticated to relate the radicalism which Red Rag generally broadcasts with the right to vote in the struggle for which thousands died or were transported to sunnier climes. "Don't bother to vote - it only encourages them" & "Whatever party you vote for, the Government always get in" are clever ways of saying how the once-in-four-years democracy of universal suffrage has been made safe by the establishment. The electioneering, trivialisation of issues & media preoccupations & distortions all serve vested interests well, holding wide the gap between rulers and ruled.

Yet it is plainly absurd to suggest that nothing changes when a new Government is elected. I'm not suggesting that the battles against Cruise & Trident, against mounting police powers, against racist laws, will be won by electing a Labour Government, but the odds for such victories will be vastly improved. Similarly when the parties simplify economic Questions down to "is it more important to fight unemployment or inflation?" they actually pose the basic class conflict between the rights of ordinary people to a decent standard of living & the rights of the rich to accumulate profit. In an election where class battlelines are so sharply drawn can anyone on the Left seriously advocate neutrality?

It would be good to know where people are coming from when they attack other people's organisations and ideals in the Rag. If my belief that socialists can use the electoral process to help bring about a just society fit for human people is erroneous - I need to know why - not just see allies ridiculed. If there is some quicker, more realistic way forward I want to be kept informed.

Greg

NB Money is desperate:
please send some soon

small ads

Anyone interested in walking to the Green Gathering (26 July to 31 July at Glastonbury)?

I reckon on leaving Reading the previous Wednesday (20th) and taking a leisurely pace and heavy backpack westwards, 10-20 miles a day. Probably the occasional bus or hitch, but route of walk not yet settled.

Contact Cliff, 7 Manchester Road or 667180.

SMALL AD

Three Piece Suite Couch, one end drop. Beith make, very good condition, mink draylon. £99. Rg. 62260.

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- delivered to homes in
- Newtown/Cemy Junction
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- free of poisons,
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- products etc.
- TEL 664970.

WANTED DESPERATE

Places in shared house for mixed group of four from July 1st. Newtown area preferred but no reasonable offer refused!

Contact anyone at 5 Manchester Road or phone 875123 x 7333 and ask for Graham.

WANTED FOR PERFORMANCE

Cheap plastic jewellery box with revolving ballerina; lawn sprinklers and wheels. Phone Claire c/o 666324

READING CYCLE CO-OPERATIVE

2 or 3 members wanted to help form and set-up a cycle repair and maintenance co-operative in Reading preferably with some previous experience or knowledge and keen to be their own boss, and able to work without supervision.

Please contact Bill at Reading Centre for the Unemployed, 4-6 East Street. Telephone 596639 (10-3pm Monday to Friday).

STOP 'THE CITY'

SEPT 29th

A 'DAY OF RECKONING'



We want a world without war, or the threat of it. All over the world, people in their millions are realising that the process towards destruction of life and our planet has to be halted. In this country the growing protests and actions to close military bases, along with the protests in the towns, are showing that it's up to ourselves to stop the plans of the State.

This summer nuclear missiles are being secretly installed all over Europe, East and West. While the bases are the last of the steps to military confrontation, the first seem to be the whole system of finance for war - where profits and power are calculated and decisions made.

In London there's one area where such decisions are concentrated - 'The City'. People once lived there but now it's full of Banks, Companies Headquarters, Government buildings and places like the Stock Exchange.

For the sake of ourselves, our children and generations to come we have to stop this madness. So we are calling on everyone to come and help CLOSE DOWN 'THE CITY' (especially the Stock Exchange) on Thurs SEPTEMBER 29th. On that day, profits for the summer are reckoned up by accountants - A DAY OF RECKONING !

A day when people will show that human life is more important than money, and more powerful too.

We also call on people working in the area to strike for the day, and to consider how the financial empires which exploit their labour contribute to the war machine.

And together in the streets we can have a carnival as we reclaim the old area for the people once again. (It's 502 years since we were last there - during the 1381 peasants revolt.)

OPPOSE THE PLANS FOR WAR - a 'day of reckoning' in London

* PLANNING MEETING ————— Saturday JULY 2nd, 10am - 6pm. *

- * What can people do on September 29th in 'the city'?
- * Preparing and publicising (i.e. setting up a network of local contacts/groups all over London and elsewhere...)

* At the Tonbridge Club, corner Judd St/Cromer St, WC1. (close to Kings Cross).
* Everyone is encouraged to come along to help make the day a success. *

Please pass this leaflet on, photocopy or reprint. Discuss with friends, neighbours and workmates, and in any groups you are involved with....

Contact: Stop 'The City', care of London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St, WC1.