

RED

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STOP THE CITY

On Thursday Sept 28 a peaceful festival and protest against the war machine occurred all over 'the City' in London. The spontaneous, self-organised and playful nature of the event disconcerted the police and even the right-wing media. One person's account appears on p3 inside.

On a more sinister note, two days before the event, presumably in an attempt to find out what was going to happen in the City, police raided the squat at the mill in Burghfield and also two squats in London, searching for "subversive literature".

Margaret Small

Margaret Small, whose eviction four weeks ago from a Council house in Chagford Rd, allegedly for being noisy, has been taken up by a strong campaign among Reading's black community, has been squatting in Blagdon Road since the eviction.

On Wed 28th she was taken to court under section 24 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, to be evicted from the squat. The Council applied for the eviction of "persons unknown" - though they knew perfectly well, because they had been told, that it was Margaret Small there. The flat had been sitting empty for six weeks.

Ms Small had offered to pay the going rate in rent for the squat. But no, the Council would rather its empty flats stayed empty. She has been served with the eviction order, which will presumably be carried out sometime next week. The campaign is to hold a protest outside.

There will be a big demonstration outside the Civic Offices on Tuesday 4th, 4.30-6.30, when the Council's Housing Management Subcommittee will be meeting. The Campaign hopes to get Storky Carmichael (ex leader of the Black Panthers in the US) down. Lewisham Black People's Centre is sending a coach to the demonstration. Non-blacks will be very welcome.

Meanwhile Margaret Small is going to live with her mother. Staying in squats is not viable for her because of her children.

All Red Rag readers are urged to be there if they can!

(The next meeting of the Campaign will be at Central Club on Monday 3rd at 11-12am.)



POLICE DEMONSTRATE THE USE OF 'REASONABLE FORCE'



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WEDNESDAY 12th.

"Women as Workers" - a 16 week course starting today with "Present Structure of Women in the Community" 10.30am. to 12.30pm. Centre for the Jobfree, East St. Free to the unwaged. £6 for course or 75p per session otherwise. Ring Linda on 61831 or Anne Hillocks at the Centre (596639) for details. (esp. of creche and help with lists)

THURSDAY 13th.

"Was Man Meant to be Vegan?" - (but how about the women?) Discussion meeting 8pm. 38, Long Barn Lane Tel. 366259.

Peace Pledge Union - meeting 8pm. 22, Hewitt Ave., Caversham. All PPU members and anyone else interested will be most welcome. (Contact Box 10 at Acorn for details of the group).

Red Rag - Copy deadline (6pm. Acorn Bookshop, 17, Chatham St.) and planning meeting for next issue. Ring 666324 for venue.

FRIDAY 14th.

"Life and Liberty" - First in a Berks. Humanists series on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (How does one person's liberty infringe on another's?) 8pm. Friend's Meeting House, Church St., off London St.

SATURDAY 15th.

"Feeding the World" - A conference to mark World Food Day, organised by Reading World Development Movement and Workers Educational Assoc. 9.30am.-4.30pm. at Southlands School, Northumberland Ave. Creche will be available, also Fun Bus (?) and Action Van. For adults there will be workshops and cookery demos. Cost is £3.65.

ROAR Benefit - Movita (Remember El 7?) 8pm. Horse and Barge, Duke St. £1.20 (no conc.)

Red Rag - production day. Ring 666324 if you'd like to take part in this momentous event in publication history.

SUNDAY 16th.-

Vegan Children's Day - Details from 412162.

MONDAY 17th.

Ecology Party - Meeting 8pm. 38, Long Barn Lane. Details from Maria 663195. Also see Regular column for Eco. events.

Caversham A.N.G. - Making placards for the CND Demo. on 22nd. 8pm. (?) 70, St. Peter's Ave.

TUESDAY 18th.

Cycle Campaign - The FOE National bicycle organiser will give a talk. 8pm. back room of The Crown.

"The Future of Caversham" - illustrated talk at 8pm. St. John's Hall, St. John's Rd., Lower Caversham. All welcome (Lower Cav. Residents Assoc./Civic Soc.)

WEDNESDAY 19th.

Civil Liberties - Inaugural meeting of NCCL Group with invited speaker. 8pm. St. Mary's Centre, Chain St. All interested welcome. Ring Greg 580137 for further info.

SATURDAY 22nd.

CND DEMO IN LONDON

MONDAY 3rd.

Women's Peace Group - 8pm. Women's Centre, Abbey Sq.

TUESDAY 4th.

Margaret Small Demo. - outside Civic Offices 4.30-6.30pm. See article elsewhere this issue.

WEDNESDAY 5th.

"The Kennet Valley Plan" - a Katesgrove Resident's Assoc. public meeting 8pm. Katesgrove School. (Plans are now on display at the school).

"Son of Wooshway?" (my title) - Civic Society Open Meeting. Our only chance to harangue local councillors and MP's on this issue. 8pm. Vachel Room, Hexagon.

ROAR(Animal Rights Group) - Monthly meeting 8pm. back of The Crown, Crown St. All welcome.

SWP - weekly meeting. 8pm. Red Lion, Southampton St.

THURSDAY 6th.

Birth Centre - General Getogether (bring lunch) 1pm. 65, Alexandra Rd.

FRIDAY 7th.

Nottingham Goose Fair - until Sun. 9th. (Sorry I have no details).

SATURDAY 8th.

"East African Succulents" - A cactus and succulent soc. talk with slides. 7.30pm. St. Mary's Centre, Chain St. Some plants on sale.

SUNDAY 9th.

Red Rag Collective Meeting 4pm. 24 Norwood Rd. Please come if you are interested in the survival of the Rag. Some of us are distinctly fed up with doing all the work."

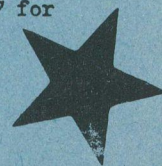
MONDAY 10th.

Caversham Neighbourhood Anti-Nuclear Group - Planning meeting 8pm. 3, Dovedale Close.

TUESDAY 11th.

"The Russian Threat - Myths and Realities" - Berks. Anti-Nuclear Campaign General Meeting 8pm. Friends Meeting House, Church St., off London St.

This could be the last Events Column for some time since I don't want to do it anymore. It's not much work, but it does require doing something for every issue. The work could be shared. Ring 666681 if you'd like to find out more.



Regular Events

Housing and Welfare Rights - sessions on Thurs. evenings at Community House, 117, Cumberland Rd. Share your problems and knowledge.

Women's Centre - opening times :-

Tues. 10.30 - 2.00
Weds. 10.30 - 2.00
Sat. 12.00 - 4.00

Also free pregnancy testing Tues. 7-9am. Bring urine sample from first pee of the day.
Shared childcare group - Thurs. 10.30-lunchtime.

Reading Gay Switchboard ring 597269 between 8 and 10 Tues. and Fri. evenings.

East Reading Rights Group stall outside the church at Cemetery Junction. Every Sat. 11am - 1pm.

SWAG (charity paper collection). Skips at Superkey (Meadway Precinct), Palmer Park, Northumberland Ave, St. Martin's Precinct, Recreation Ground Gt. Knolly's St. 8.30am - 12.30pm. every first Sat. of month.

Central Club - bottom of London St. Fridays 10.30 - 4pm. Greche. 3pm. 'Uprising' a new black women's support group. Come and tell us what you'd like to do, what you'd like to see and what you're interested in.

Community Action Group - every 2nd. Weds of month. 8.15pm. Fairview Community Centre, bottom of George St. All welcome to come along and discuss ideas or offer voluntary help on local projects. Mutual Aid Scheme, Wholefoods Co-op, New Games.

FOE Paper Collection - door to door in Gt. Knolly's St. 1st. Sat of month. Meet 11am. George St. Chippy.

City Farm - work continues on the site, and meetings are still held on Wednesdays 7.30pm. in the Staff Room of Ashmead School (organisational meetings).

ECO. ECO. ECO.

Special Ecology Party Section

Regular meetings concerning 12 month strategy and build up to local elections.....

10th. Oct. - 4, Culver Rd. (side of College Arms) in order to write report to be submitted as part of objections to Reading District Plan.

15th. & 16th. - National Party Council Meeting in London. Contact Maria 663195.

5th. November - Jumble Sale. St. Andrew's Church 2.15pm. Will need helpers for collecting and leafletting during previous week.

Help needed for selling Green Line in Broad St. on Saturdays.

26th. November - Alternatives Bazaar.

"The Arts".....

Would you like to see a permanent Community Arts Centre in Reading? Would you like to be involved in the setting up and running of such a Centre? Too much of a struggle you say? Well, not really. Much of the groundwork has already been done. A couple of people have been researching the idea for some time. We have decided that a constitution which encompasses charitable status would be the best way of ensuring a reasonable amount of funding as well as other benefits-exemption from taxation-good public image etc. Such a constitution is, at this moment, in the hands of the Charity Commissioners. If they deem it suitable we will then submit it for final registration. It will then be possible to seek grants from various bodies which specialise in funding such Arts Centres. At this time we are looking for other people who feel that they may like to help with this project. The Centre will have three main functions: 1) To provide workshops in the various Arts-photography, painting, music, theatre, dance etc. 2) To provide space for exhibitions, rehearsals and studios. 3) To provide a venue for dance, theatre, music, film etc. with the emphasis on contemporary/alternative themes. As an initial move, a silkscreen workshop has been set up at Newtown Community House for those wishing to learn the process or use the equipment to print posters/designs. There will be a meeting for those interested and wanting to know more at Newtown Community House, 117 Cumberland Rd., Cemetery Junction on Wed. 12th Oct. at 7:30 pm which will, no doubt, make its way to the pub later. See you there!

-Allan and Laura

STOP THE CITY 1/SEPTEMBER 29: 5.00 PM/SEPTEMBER 29/

A young man was speaking from the pulpit of St. Paul's, explaining to the visiting public about the purpose of the 'Stop the City' protest. The place of worship was filled with the sound of said public's exclamations of disgust and contempt, along with applause and words of encouragement from the supporters who had found their way inside from the steps which were now inhabited by about 300 protesters (most had joined the carnival procession which had begun before we arrived). Suddenly the listeners found themselves being man-handled out of their sanctuary by four good Christian men of the cloth, while a fifth rushed onto the steps and signalled to the six bored-looking officers of the law standing on the corner opposite, glaring at the peaceful protesters. The six were up the steps in seconds, eager to 'restrain' the 'offender', Michael, who was by now quietly leaving the Cathedral as requested. He politely asked to be allowed to walk by himself, and one of the policemen was heard to suggest that his request was not unreasonable, but he was ignored and two constables grabbed one of Michael's arms each, one of them, who refused to give his name, twisting it painfully behind his back, and hissing, 'you're ill, you are, you're gonna be put away'. They hustled him outside, ignoring our questions as to his crime, and roughly pushed a protestor who was trying to photograph the trio against the background of St. Paul's out of the way. We waited with them until the Maria arrived to transport them to Wood Street Police Station. All the while PC No-Name held Michael's arm behind his back, and, as the Maria drew up, was heard to utter a valuable piece of advice: 'get yourself a brain, get yourself a bit of common sense- put on a uniform and do our job.'

Tracey.

Extra

There's talk of getting a Plantaholics Anonymous Group together. Perhaps a meeting will be sorted out by the next issue.

PLANNING ITS MYSTERIOUS

DISAPPEARANCE IN THE 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE' #1

Before the local elections in May, when a development came up for approval at the development control sub-committee of Reading Borough Council, the Tories would say it was horrible but they ought to approve it, the Labour members would say it was capitalist greed and ought to be rejected, and the Liberals would seek better access for the disabled. Only the truly appalling was rejected, and when these decisions were appealed the Department of the Environment seemed to take perverse pleasure in approving them. The new Tory-dominated "planning and development" committee (note the change of name) has scarcely had time to establish itself, but already there are signs that Reading is in for an era of development regardless of quality, despite the fact that the town is in a position to pick and choose. The all-party consensus that produced the 1983 Central Reading District Plan is now a thing of the past, and the prospects for improving the amenities of the town have become significantly dimmer.

Planning - the national picture

But even before the Tories took control of the Council in May, planning in Reading was on a hiding to nothing. For in an era of increasingly limited public expenditure and laissez-faire central government, Reading's desirability as a place for commercial, industrial and residential growth was bound to produce rapid physical change. This in turn was always likely to produce a decline in environmental quality and an imbalance between public infrastructure and private development. As Patrick Jenkin begins seriously to dismantle the planning system (Heseltine merely toyed with the idea), in the vain search for all the economic growth that planning is supposed to have checked, one can only look forward to the effects on Tory voters. For when the two central tenets of Tory planning policy - protection of the environments of the rich and encouragement of all private investment - come face to face in the green commuter belts of the South East, the contradictions will come home to roost. We have already enjoyed some hilarious moments in the "Heseltown" saga, as the Secretary of State sought to plant 8000 new houses mainly in the strongly Tory Wokingham district.

As Patrick Jenkin tries to outdo the Tory achievements of the early fifties when they first took the teeth out of the 1947 planning system, it is as well to reflect that it was Harold Macmillan's efforts on behalf of the "wealth creators" (ie property developers) which transformed planning into the largely negative system of control we have today. The positive sides of planning envisaged by the post-war Labour government - the recoupment of development profits for community benefit, and the public sector undertaking a large portion of actual development - were abandoned. Planners were essentially left only with the power to say no to development, a power that varies according to the location under consideration, the development proposed and the prevailing political ideology.

Reading - a crippled political unit

Looking around Reading it is hard to believe that anyone ever said no to anything. But then the record of the Borough in public developments does not exactly inspire confidence. The Butts Centre and the Civic Centre, the Inner Distribution Road, the attempts to demolish the Old Town Hall and redevelop Market Place were all markedly behind the times and insensitive. But the prime movers were not the planners but the Borough Valuer and Surveyor, and the Chief Executive. To this day many people regard the Chief Executive as the most powerful (and least accountable) "planner" in Reading.

If the town has a history of missed opportunities and mismanagement, some of the blame must be attributed to the Tory abortion that was the 1972 Local Government Act. This not only robbed Reading Council of many of its powers, in particular the ability to choose its own road system, but gave these to a Tory-dominated anti-urban County Council. Even worse the Act denied the town any

rational boundaries, setting its limits at almost the pre-war town and giving the affluent suburbs of Earley, Woodley, Calcot, West Tilehurst, Purley and (until the late seventies) much of Caversham to the surrounding (Tory) rural districts. The loss of rates has proved crippling, for despite the fact that developments like Lower Earley or Woodley Airfield (said to be the two largest housing estates in Western Europe) pose intolerable strains on Reading's transport and services, the Borough is powerless to control them or recoup any of the costs they impose. Major developments with high rate-generating potential like Sava Centre, Asda, Sutton's Industrial Estate or the Winnersh Triangle help keep the rates of the more affluent in Newbury and Wokingham at a third of Reading's level. As a final twist of the knife, this in turn produces ridiculous demands for economies in Reading's public services in a bid to lower the rates to prevent outward migration of business. With the current attack on local government spending, this inequity will get steadily worse until it resembles the rich suburb - poor city phenomenon so characteristic of the USA.

So Reading is left with virtually no green-field sites to develop since most "empty" land is in the flood plain of the Thames or Kennet. Perhaps this explains why the Council has for some time been hell-bent on developing its parks, for offices (Prospect), stadia (Palmer), ice rinks (Whitley) or squash courts (Rabson's). The only large sites left are at Worton Grange where the present focus of interest is the Englefield Estate's attempt to develop 70 acres for industry next to the Courage Brewery, using the offer of building about a mile of the A33 relief road as a sweetener.

Roads

Mention of the A33 relief road highlights one of the two main planning issues of the moment - the question of roads. The Central Berkshire Structure Plan, finalised in 1981, foresaw that Reading would get: a third major bridge over the Thames, a Valley road (an extension of the A329(M) down to Vastern Road) and a complete Inner Distribution Road by 1986. A year ago all three schemes were considered "pie in the sky" in the face of the County's malevolent neglect. But the lifting of restrictions on capital expenditure by Central Government and a stronger opposition in the County Council have revived these schemes. The County has programmed schemes to complete the IDR (now called the Inner Circulatory Road!) by about 1990, which will cost about £23m, roughly equal to the sum total of public investment envisaged in Central Reading in the next decade. The needs of peak hour motorists (largely not Reading residents) are obviously primary.

The Inner Circulatory Road will not produce the same physical divisions as would the old IDR (slicing across the Kennet, through the Prudential office block and the Forbury Gardens), but it will spread the impact of traffic across East Reading, include perhaps Britain's largest roundabout (King's Rd, Watlington St, Queen's Rd) and do nothing to alleviate the major problem of congestion on the radial routes. The Valley Road will alleviate the problems on London Rd and Cemetery Junction, but will turn Kennetmouth into a subterranean West-way type environment, while the third Thames bridge will need to be an engineering wonder to cross the railway, the Thames and the gravel pits en route to the Henley Road.

The lobby for these improvements is intense from the Chamber of Commerce, the estate agents, the developers and the construction companies, and local politicians of all parties. The alternatives of growth restraint or dispersal, traffic restraint, improved public transport or adequate traffic policing are all extremely difficult for the reasons previously outlined - Reading's boundaries, central government restraint on revenue expenditure, and the strength of the vested interests.

(To be concluded next issue)

The Tee Boy

GOING OUT

PAGES

Key: Hex, the Hexagon, Queen's Walk.

SHP, South Hill Park, arts centre near Bracknell.

Target, outside the Butts Centre.

Tudor Arms, Greyfriars Road.

Treats, King's Road.

Central Club, bottom of London Street.

Caribbean Club, 112 London Street.

Uni, the University, Whiteknights campus site unless otherwise stated.

RFT, Reading Film Theatre, Palmer Building, Wh'knights

Horse and Barge, Duke Street.

Progress Theatre, The Mount, Christchurch Road.

Angies, Milton Road, Wokingham.

Bulmershe College, Woodlands Rd, Earley.

If you know of something that's happening that should go in here, let us know! Ring Helen on 597598.

Mon 3 Hexagon: The Foreys + Davey Arthur. 7.30. £3.50 - 4.50.

South Hill Park: A Walk Through H + Vertical Features Remake. 7.30. £2 + concessions.

Target: Doghouse. 8ish. Free.

Tue 4 Hexagon: 10cc (sold out).

Tudor Arms: Gay disco. 8ish. Free.

Treats: Rebels. 8-late. £2.

Central Club: Peaches disco (soul, jazz-funk etc) 8-2am. £1.

South Hill Park: Digby Fairweather Trio. 8pm. £2.20/2.40.

The Mill, Sonning: Private Lives. 2pm + 8.15. £10.50 - 12.50. Matinees £7.50. Till 29th.

Target: Tracer Roadshow. 8ish. Free.

Wed 5 Hexagon: 12.45 Norma Fisher (piano) Free. 7.30 The Liverpool poets. £2-3.

University: Roman Holiday 8-2am. £3. Get tickets in advance.

S.H.P.: New York, New York. 7.30. £2 + conc.

Apollo, Oxford: Cliff Richard. 7.30. £5-8. Till 8th

Thu 6 SHP: New York, New York. As 5th.

Hexagon: Nana Mouskouri. 7.30. £5-7 (few left).

Horse and Barge: Matt Armour. 8.15. £? (folk)

Progress Theatre: The Beaux Strategem (restoration comedy). 7.45. £1.80 + conc. Till 15th.

Reading Film Theatre: Blade Runner. 8pm. £1.60 + conc.

Target: Sam Mitchell Band. 8ish. £1/1.50.

SHP: Getting Plenty (theatre). 7.45. £2.25/2.50. Till 8th.

Angies, Wokingham: Reactors. £1.50/2. 9-late.

Fri 7 Hex: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. 7.30. £3-6.

Tudor Arms: Gay disco. 8ish. Free.

Caribbean Club: Parisian Living (play 'P-funk paramilitary cabaret!') 9-late. £1.50.

Central Club: Youth dance (11-17yrs) 8-11pm 50p

SHP: 7.30 Countryman. £2 + conc. Also on 8th. 8pm Park Singers + Early Music Group. Collection. 11pm Rockers. £2+conc. Also on 8th.

Angies: Splash. 9-late. £1.50/2.

Sat 8 Hex: 12.15 Captain Swing (folk). Free. 7.30 Reading Male Voice Choir. £2-3 (few left)

Bulmershe College: 52nd Street. 9.30. £2.50 in advance only.

Caribbean: Champagne Posse meets Teacher Ali. 8-late. £2.

Central: Fundraising dance. 8-late. £2approx.

Target: Eamon Mullin Band. 8ish. Free.



SHP: 7pm Michael Nyman performance + talk (film score writer). £2.25/2.50. 8pm Callenig (folk). £1.50/2.10.

Angies: K K Khan. 9-late. £1.50/2.

Sun 9 Allied Arms: Readifolk. 8ish. Free.

Treats: Jive Dive. £1.50. 8-late.

Target: Tracer Roadshow. 9ish. Free.

SHP: 7.30 The Jazz Singer(film) £2 + conc. 8.30 Berks Guitar Quartet. 60p.

Apollo, Oxford: Gary Numan. 7.30. £4-6.

Angies: The Time (ex Jan, TRB) 9-late £1.50/2.

Mon 10 SHP: The Battle of Algiers. 7.30. £2 + conc.

GOING OUT

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RED RAG

Tue 11 Hex: The King and I. Till 15th. Tue to Fri 7.30, Sat 2.30 + 7.30. Prices Tue £2, W&Th £2.50, F&S £3, Sat matinee £2. Also conc.

Tudor Arms: Gay disco. 8ish. Free.

Treats: Rebels. 8-late. £2.

Uni Students' Union: The Farmers' Boys. 8-late. £2 (Rags Ball so get tickets in advance.)

Uni, Palmer Building: Song re cital. 1.10pm. 20p.

Central: Peaches, as Tue 4.

Target: Heretic. 8ish. Free.

SHP: 7.30 Lizstomania (film). £2 + conc.

7.45 The Devil's Gateway. £2.20/2.50. Till 15

8pm Kathy Stobart + Lennie Best Quartet (jazz). £2.20/2.40.

Wed 12 RFT: Diva. 8pm. £1.60 + conc. Also on 13th.

SHP: Mahler. 7.30. £2 + conc.

Thu 13 Hex: Felix Schmidt + Ingrid Jacobi (recital). 12.45. Free.

Uni Great Hall, London Rd: Chaconne Brass. 8pm £2.

Horse & Barge: Saffron Summerfield (folk) 8.15 £?

Target: Dumpy's Rusty Nuts. 8ish. £1/1.50.

SHP: The Glen Miller Story (film) 7.30. £2 + conc.

Angies: Yes Sir. 9-late. £1.50/2. Said to be good

Fri 14 Tudor Arms: Gay disco. 8ish. Free.

Caribbean: nothing finalised.

Central: Youth dance (11-17yrs). 8-11pm. 50p.

Target: Octol 77 (disco) 8ish. Free.

SHP: 7.30 Bound for Glory. £2 + conc.

8pm Plaegan Piano Quartet. £?

9pm Alternative Cabaret. £2.50-3.

Angies: Ellery Bop. (ex T Explodes, Wah) 9-late. £1.50/2.

Apollo, Oxford: Shakatak. 7.30. £?

Sat 15 Hex: The Blades. 12.15pm. Free.

Uni Students' Union: Eddie & Sunshine. 8ish. £2?

Target: Samurai. 8ish. Free.

SHP: 7.30 Renaldo & Clara (film). £2 + c. Also 16th

8pm Stan Tracey Octet (jazz). £2.90/3.20.

8pm Alistair Anderson (folk). £2.50.

11pm Don't Look Back (film, Bob Dylan looking and being wonderful). £2 + conc.

Angies: Ruthless Blues. 9-late. £1.50/2.

Sun 16 Treats: Jive Dive. 8-late. £1.50.

Allied Arms: Readifolk. 8ish. Free.

Target: Chester (disco). 8ish. Free.

Angies: Still Life. 9-late. £1.50/2.

Small Ads.

Room wanted in fairly well-organised shared house. Male veg. smoker. Please ring 65648. Ask for Steve or leave a message.

For sale: Yamaha RD125, not suitable for road use but excellent for woods. Perfect engine, very fast. £60 ono. Phone Checkendon 681 295.

For sale: M-reg Hillman Imp. Yellow & black. Quite a lot of work needed. Hence £95 ono. Tel Checkendon (92) 681295.

Red Rag is Reading's Only Newspaper. It is free and fortnightly and produced by an independent collective. It has no links with any political group or with the University. 1300 copies of this issue will be printed - half go to various outlets around Reading, half are delivered to people's doors. We badly need more people to write, to help type, lay out, fold, distribute etc etc. Recent issues have been a bit thin - make sure that future ones appear at all! Come to the next Collective meeting on Sunday 9th at 24 Norwood Road - anyone will be very welcome. Bring ideas and enthusiasm.

Money

Is not too much of a problem just at the moment. BUT we want to spend c£150 on Reading Between the Lines - which we haven't got. And if the Rag picks up and gets bigger again it will cost more again. Put money in the donation boxes in Acorn, Pop Records or Quicksilver, or send cheques payable to 'Red Rag' c/o our treasurer, Flat 7, 66 Wokingham Rd.

Reading Between the Lines

Contrary to malicious rumour this guide to Reading will appear! With the next issue! There is quite a lot of work still to be done: checking through what we've got to add your opinions to it, and then typing it all and laying it out. Please phone James on 666681 or Clive on 666324 to find out what's happening where and when. Also we need money to pay for it: see above.

Distribution

We've found someone able to do the Pell St round; now we need someone to do the Milman Rd / Basingstoke Rd one. Any offers?

Events

Nick has been doing Events for most of a year and wants to stop. Is anyone at all interested in taking it over? Let us know!

Incendiary ★

They met to discuss expedience.
Rebounding from polished stone
their voices harked upon a Gothic heritage;
the gargoyle hee-haws tottered back and forth
reminiscent of dim-witted past.

It will always be remembered how that day
(historic for its martyrs)
Maggot Hatcher claimed not to believe
in violence for political ends;
proceeding then to advertise
the innocence of her new born class.

And so it was irrevocably,
that halfway through this very speech
we sealed the doors and anxiously
set light the democratic fraud.

When flame kissed ancient walls, seduced
the guard's fat flesh, the outer halls,
the velvet hangings wreathed in smoke -
when finally our acting troupe
in mid-act learned of their condition
they did not scream hysterically
but shouted in a civilised manner.

For this was all they had; their only role.
How could they understand
that in this war which they had planned
we would one day bring home to them
conditions on the front?

- Luke Andreski