

# MAY DAY S2

Events in Reading on Saturday 1 May  
organized by Reading Trades Union Council

## March & Rally

Bring your banners!

Assemble at noon outside Old Shire Hall  
to march round town to the Forbury Gardens  
At 12.50pm there will be speakers on the themes  
of unemployment and anti-TU laws

## May Day Fair

Doors of the Old Town Hall open at 1.30pm  
Stalls, entertainment and debate around the  
theme 'Our Future'  
Creche facilities, food, tea . . .

## Entertainment

From 7.30pm until midnight -  
bands, theatre and a full-length feature film

# FESTIVAL

watch  
local press  
for details



This is RED RAG, Reading's only newspaper. It is dated 4 April 1982 and covers both the past and the future - until about 20 April.

Inside this issue are a NEWS DIGEST, plus an EVENTS LISTING covering meetings, talks, etc on everything from compost to communism, and a look at entertainment which we call the GOING OUT GUIDE. As if that weren't enough there is also a PLATFORM for sometimes inflammatory opinions about local and not-so-local matters.

There are two articles in this issue of some length; the first looks sceptically at the Social Democratic Party, the second critically at the women's organisations locally. The next issue will contain whatever you write and send to us.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH RED RAG

NEWS: READING 666681 662302  
861841

INFO FOR EVENTS: READING 666681  
83275

INFO FOR GOING OUT: RDG 662740  
DISTRIBUTION: RDG 61257 666681  
OR WRITE C/O 31B MILMAN ROAD  
OR ACORN BOOKSHOP. DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT ISSUE THURSDAY 15  
APRIL FOR EVENTS TO 3 MAY







How, then, does the local party fund its canvassing and recruitment? 'Individual members contribute a lot out of their own pockets. And we hold fundraising events.' 'Jumble sales?' 'Eventually, yes. But at present social evenings, pizza parties, and so on.'

It would be interesting to know how many of the present subscribers hold renewed membership, but all the figures relating to numbers of people involved seem to be locked into the Midland Bank's computer, awaiting release.

The plans for the next general election have yet to be decided with the local Liberal party, but will certainly be based on the proposed boundary changes. Having fought a local bye-election in only one ward, Abbey . . ., which Labour held, what structure will they adopt for the Reading Borough Council elections in 1983? 'We shall, of course, have to develop ward parties. But you must remember how young our party is.' (Though only in historical terms: a mere 10% of the polled membership is under 24.)

West Reading's growth target is 15 members a month, which they hope to achieve through more social events, plus public meetings, canvassing and leafletting. One of their handbills claims that the old parties have failed Britain: 'They destroy . . . by promoting class and industrial conflict . . . Monetarism or Marxism - who wants either?'

Opinion Research Ltd's poll revealed that, of the Berkshire Social Democrats who answered the questionnaire, 7% each came from the Tory and Liberal parties, 13% from Labour, and 68% had not been 'previously attached'. It looks as if some floating politicals may at last have found a place to drop anchor. Or maybe they've just run aground.

GillLearner

DRAMA

scene 1 an office in buenos airies

JUNTA: the people are revolting! give them something else to think about.

ARGENTINE SAILOR: aye aye aye. que?

JUNTA: invade the falklands!

scene 2 an office in whitehall

CARRINGTON: i hear the argentinians are going to invade the falklands.

NOTT: where?

CARRINGTON: you send a gunboat, i'll go to the U.N.

NOTT: i resign.

THATCHER/CARRINGTON: you can't.

scene 3 the house of commons

CARRINGTON: the argentinians have not invaded the falklands.

scene 4 an office in whitehall

CARRINGTON: the argentinians have invaded the falklands, is the gunboat there yet?

NOTT: i don't know, i resign.

THATCHER/CARRINGTON: you can't. send another gunboat.

scene 5 the falkland islands

18000 PEOPLE: our police are wonderful, but there's never one around when you REALLY need one.

scene 6 an office in whitehall

CARRINGTON: well, they ignore the U.N., they ignore gunboats - we'll have to use the ultimate sanction!

NOTT: you don't mean.....?

CARRINGTON: yes! we'll get the F.A. to suspend ARDILES!







# FOOD FOR RAG READERS

Eating food is an activity we all indulge in on a more or less regular basis in this country. In a way that should make us all experts, though I think there is a distinct lack of confidence on the subject in younger people. Anyway it has been decided to do some stuff on grub in the Rag. Stand by to have your political awareness of curried lentils enhanced.

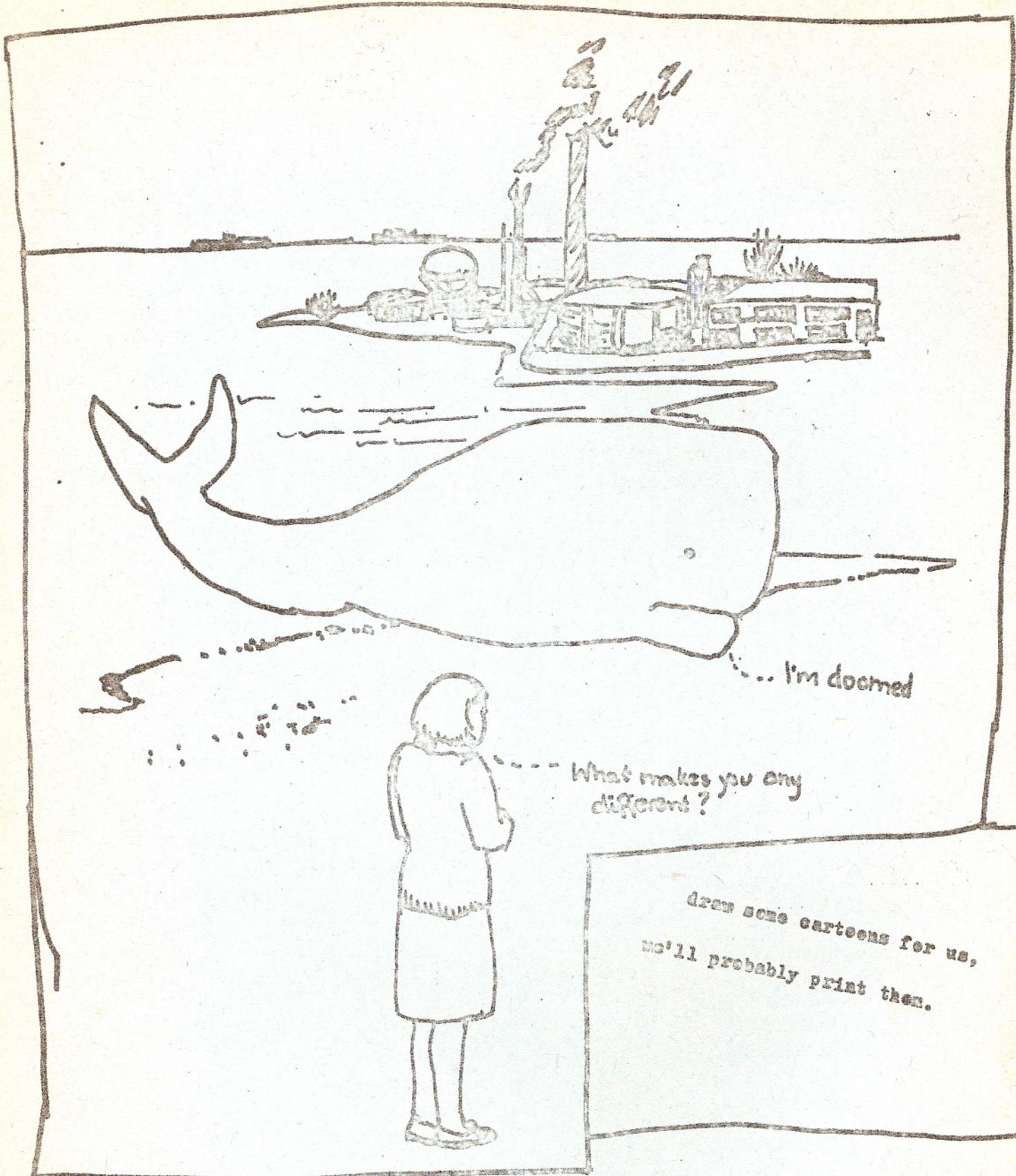
Reading is actually a very good place to live food wise; it might not have a proper tripe dressers and the supermarkets are the same as anywhere else, but scattered about, underneath the fairisle brick and the concrete facades are some pretty brilliant specialist food shops. To start with there are the old-fashioned market town shops, fancy photographers take pictures of fish-mongers displays in Whitechapel and claim to have found the last shop that practices this ancient art, but look in smelly alley any day of the week and you will see a magnificent abstract of prawns plaice, yellow smoked fish, and bunches of parsley stretched across the top marble slab. The top fish shop has a display that is just as interesting because bits of it move. This is also the place to buy exotic fish, red snappers for caribbean dishes, red mullet and swordfish for mediterranean food, huge hideous freshwater carp for eastern european festivals, salmon and lobster for the rich, and winkles and coley fillets for the poor. Sometimes they have a basin of wriggling eels sometimes a giant conger eel stretches right across the counter! The game butchers on West St. must be well known to those with a weak stomach, here you can buy a haunch of venison, the only honest sausages in town, the best tasting duck you're likely to find this side of Peking, or a scraggy old chicken to make really tasty soup from. Not only does this shop sell what could be described as gourmet foods (snipe, grouse, pheasant and veal), it also has the full range of cheaper cuts and offal which form the basis of ordinary english cooking. If you want to make your own faggots or sausages or pate, this is where to buy lacy caul fat used to cover pate and to wrap faggots, and thin intestine into which to stuff your sausages. I heard this particular shop described as a vegetarians nightmare by a man queuing with a friend, fair comment but if one is going to eat meat theres no point pretending it always comes clean and bloodless in white polystyrene trays. Vegetable delicacies will be delt with next issue.

GRUB  
LOST  
XXX

- Mon 5 April Anarchists; Discussion meeting ring James 473205  
Trade Union & Labour working Group meeting will be at  
56 Hamilton Road, Reading. 8pm.
- Wed 7 April Friends of the Earth 'The future of agriculture' Matthew  
Jones of Reading University with his view of developments  
likely to affect land use policy, including fuel product  
on farms (energy crops), dietary changes and the prospects  
for self sufficiency. The Crown, Crown Street, 8pm.  
Socialist Workers Party Talk 'Introduction to Marxist  
Theory' Supporters welcome, Red Lion, Southampton St 8pm.
- Thu 8 April MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY meeting to finalise details,  
anyone with anything to say, to come along, 181 Shinfield  
Road, 8pm.
- Sat 10 April B.A.N.C. Easter Peace March from RAF Strike Command  
(Walters Ash) to USAF Base - Daws Hill (High Wycombe)  
assemble 12 noon. Buses leave Reading Station 11.00 &  
Cemetery Junction 11.15 Tickets from Acorn 1.75, 1.25 U/w.  
Womens Centre : Open collective meeting, any women who  
are interested in helping to run the Womens Centre, come  
along, or ring Carol on 662285 for details.  
C.N.D. meeting at Greenham Common, Youth CND members from  
Southampton, Winchester and Andover are marching to the  
Base at Greenham, over the Easter Weekend, will arrive  
about 5pm. Details from Dave Ingledew 416536. all welcome.
- Tue 13 April B.A.N.C. General meeting on NATO'S 1979 Decision and all  
recent developments, CND Vice-Pres. John Cox (Author of  
Overkill) speaking on Cruise. Friends meeting House, 8pm.
- Wed 14 April B.A.N.C. East Reading neighbourhood meeting, at St Barts.  
Church Hall, London Road, 8pm. (Meet 2nd wed every month)  
Socialist workers Party Talk on 'Politics of 3rd World  
development', Supporters welcome, Red Lion, Southampton  
Street, 8pm.
- Thu 15 April NETBALL Non-Sexist Non-Elitist Netball at Alfred  
Suttons Girls School, Green Road, 7.30pm.
- Mon 19 April ANARCHISMUS Groupism ring Jamesismus on 473205, for  
all detailismus.
- I'm going GA-GA, who want to take over this Events Page, and influence  
the whole of Reading Politically, being unable to spell is an asset!  
Volunteers to contact Mike on 83275, it takes 1 friday evening per month.
- LATE EXTRA:
- Sat 17 April Trades Council A day school is being held on the 'Tebbit Bill'  
at the AUEW Hall, Oxford Road, 10 - 4pm. ~~xxxxxx~~







"PIGEONS" NY



AND I SAY  
TO YOU  
THAT THE ONLY  
WAY....

HIT!



.... TO GET  
THE U.S.  
OUT OF  
EL SALVADOR  
IS TO....

MICHAEL FOOT. THAT'S  
TWO POINTS



OR FIVE-NIL  
.... VOTE  
LABOUR AT  
THE NEXT  
ELECTION  
IN 1984