

★ fortnightly

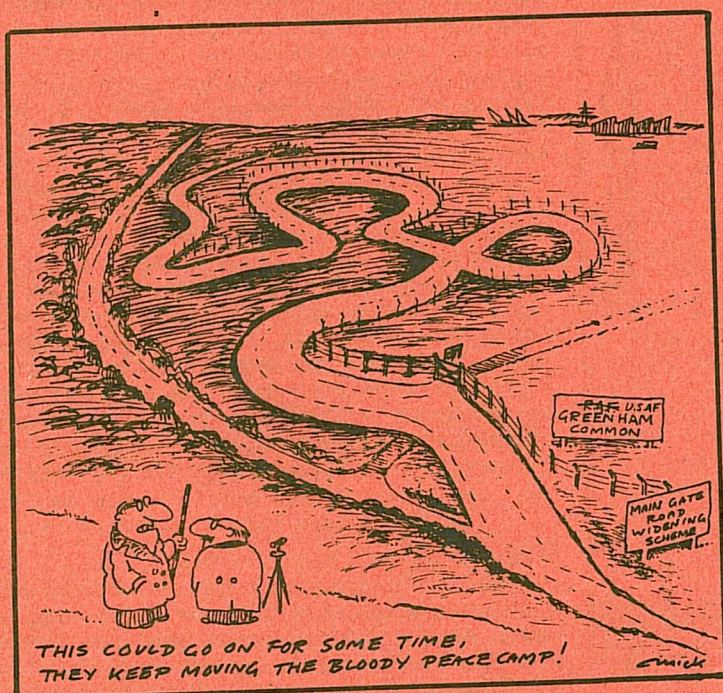
# RED RAG

★ free

April 1-15

Reading's only free rag

## Greenham



Final Evictions of Greenham Women's Peace Camp  
March - April 1984

Women at Greenham are appealing for support, at this most crucial time when the camp is being evicted under a court injunction. The eviction is supposed to be completed by April 2nd., and it is particularly after this date that support is needed. The survival of the Greenham camp hangs in the balance. The women there have endured enough already, and want thousands of women to either go to Greenham or take action in their own areas. Here are some suggestions for when a Cruise convoy comes out of Greenham for one of their regular practise exercises -

Women go to Greenham. Encircle MoD Whitehall (01 218 9000) Blockade an appropriate place in your own town. Take the media to any local action - get the most out of publicity. Phone the Emergency Planning Office in your area, local councillors, your MP, the police, the American Embassy, 01 499 9000, the Russian Embassy 01 229 6412, Newbury District Council 0635 42400, local AA and RAC, national and local newspapers, radio, TV (BBC 01 743 8000 : ITV 01 637 2424), USAF Greenham Common 0635 46263.

American weapons and troops are out on British roads. Every time a cruise missile launcher leaves the base we could be 4 minutes from a holocaust. If the Russians detect movement from Greenham on their satellites, what choice would they have? How will they know when it's for real?

STOP CRUISE LAUNCHERS - WE ARE LIVING IN A WAR SITUATION  
EACH TIME THEY COME OUT.

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News: 868384, 666681, 666324  
Events: Debbie 868384  
Going out: Leisa 61361  
Distribution: Mick 665676  
Write to: Box 79, Acorn  
Bookshop, 17 Chatham St.,  
Next copy date: Thurs 13th



# CITIZEN CAIN!



## The Nuremberg Defence

A column based on the principle of the people's right to know what is being done to us by them must start by paying tribute to Sarah Tisdall, who "couldn't stomach" Heseltine's plans to manipulate public and Parliamentary opinion about the coming of crusade and decided at the cost of her career to tell the 'Guardian' all. The Nuremberg trials laid the basis for a legal obligation on servants of the state to put their duty to humanity above their service to the state, and it's perhaps a pity that Sarah didn't use this defence in court. But then if there had been a few more German civil servants who "couldn't stomach" what the Nazis were doing there might not have been any Nuremberg trials.

## Greenhamgate, contd.

One thing locally it would be nice to have some such information on is the identity of the motorised and leather-jacketed bopper boys who are trying to intimidate not only the women camping at Greenham Common but also visitors to the base. Who is it that is setting fire to benders, slashing car tyres, fouling the water supply, and abusing the women and their friends, with what seems to be at least tacit support if not active encouragement from the police and soldiers? Police and soldiers?

## Picket snippet

Which would not be too far from the claim by some of the miners' pickets that the "police" they are up against include many without identifying numbers who may be soldiers in "civies".

## Private enterprise

Other rather violent things are going on. 'Private Eye' reports that "Reading casino operator John Rowland" is a partner in Euro-Sulf Trading Ltd. which is purchasing small-arms and backpack mortars for use in Nigeria and training British and American mercenaries with a view to infiltrating them into that country via Ghana. Seen any good ads lately?

## Conservative Capers

Meanwhile here at home there are supposed to be more prosaic ways by which we determine whether Reading is going to have another two years of being run by Mr Jewitt, his friends and his "friends". One of these last was you recall selected for Caversham, ousting former Mayor (Ron's only a would-be future Mayor) George Robinson who after sober (or otherwise) reflection decided he would stand as an independent in the same ward. Panic Tory stations, as Labour's Pat Mander, a school head and JP and lady of irreproachable probity, has been increasing her vote in Caversham steadily over the years and might well have cycled through the middle of the mud-slinging Tories to take the seat. Caversham is now in Reading East and not the responsibility of the professional Tory Agent, Chris Poole, who now looks after only Reading West and was in quiet despair at the goings-on across the Thames. Which must be why Gordon Genis, whose re-selection in Battle Ward (Reading West) had been publicly announced, was suddenly dumped and old George assigned the Tories' minute chance of holding the seat against a determined attack from another former Mayor, Labour's Joe Bristow, who already represents most of the ward on the County Council and looks well placed to get back on the Borough. All that's needed now is for Gordon Genis (whose only public utterance on the Council has been to complain about the state of the Wilson Road toilets) to find some umbrage from somewhere and stand as an independent in Battle. If that is he can find 10 people to sign his nomination!

## Other Capers

Mr Genis is not the only new Tory Councillor to be in trouble. Kentwood's Steve Thomas, who is still re-selected for the seat, is trying to further his campaign by writing letters to the papers. For some reason he doesn't want to sign them himself and is approaching residents in the ward asking them to send his thoughts in instead. One resident he approached is a long-standing member of the Labour Party and was really surprised to be considered for the task, but then Mr Thomas isn't in the ward very often and quite probably didn't know. Anyway, the letter duly appeared in the 'Chronicle' under somebody else's name and even drew a reply from Labour Leader Mike Orton himself! And the local Labour candidate is still trying to understand why when he, his Liberal opponent and the three sitting Tory Councillors were all invited to a meeting of the Norcot Residents Action Group on the Council estate in the ward, the three Tories neither came nor replied... Over in Park the replies are coming almost before the questions. Trying to defend his seat there is Simon son-of-John Oliver, who complained last week to a Labour Councillor that if the Labour Party didn't like the leaflet he had put out doubting the need for the Sun Street Community Centre they should have talked to him about it and tried to reach an agreement rather than attacking him in public (I kid you not). He's also told the 'Post' that the unpopular decision to axe the 18 bus was taken before he was on the Council (it was taken in the first lot of committees after he was elected as part of a Tory group pledged to cut services). Simon's main contribution to the Council has been to suggest that if people fall into the Thames as a result of walking along its crumbling banks they would be guilty of contributory negligence: he looks like being guilty of contributory negligence in early termination of hopes of an Oliver political dynasty ruling Reading!

## True Grit

This column is sometimes accused of attacking the Tories and ignoring other Parties. So here's a nice story about the Alliance candidate in Battle (I say Alliance because while Liberal literature says he's a Liberal the 'Post' billed him as SDP, so perhaps the Liberals have given him a free transfer). He is their former Transport Spokesman George Ford (who once spoke: "The Tories want to put bus fares up. Labour wants to put car parking charges up. We want to put everything up."). He lives in a quiet road in Tilehurst which during the severe winter a couple of years back was suddenly graced with a Council grit bin on the side of the road opposite his house. It wasn't too long before the bin was moved to outside his house and fairly soon after that a large proportion of the grit found its way onto his drive. So perhaps in standing again this time he knows something meteorological we don't.

## Knights and Players, contd.

And the "know-nothing" story of all time. Sir (then Dr) Gerry Vaughan, on a visit to the opera at Glyndebourne as a guest of Imperial Tobacco shortly before he became Minister of Health: "I hadn't seen it as a tobacco exercise, frankly. I'd seen it as a major interest in my constituency and I'd always had great interest in its prosperity". Is this really a lobby that failed and is Dr Vaughan's lack of understanding of his host's desires really the reason he was moved from the Ministry of Health into the less profitable pastures of Trade?

Citizen Cain



# Stopping the City

## POLICE INCITE PEACE PROTESTERS

- A Stop the City experience -

I was appalled at the violence shown by the police when I went to the Stop the City protest & carnival on Thursday. The day started innocuously enough, 8 of us arrived at St. Pauls (Religion, Money & Politicians being the major fruits of evil) to find a large crowd gathered on steps. Poetry, Juggling, Conversation, Costumes, Plastic Red Moses, Pinstripes and Food Sharing - images of peace - full protest were plentiful, it looked like a nice day ahead.

Around noon we wound our way from St. Pauls to the Royal Exchange to find the financial heart of the city. There were about 500 peace-fuls, protesting with their placards, costumes & street-theatre. The police presence was huge, they were everywhere, like a malignant blue nightmare. Not long after we arrived the ominous blue presence started showing its true colours as police bundled a crowd of us off the pavement on to the road. On the road we were jostled on to the pavement, and then outside the Royal Exchange we were pushed into "the arena" as one pc described it. "in you go!"

From this moment on, things looked tricky... The police formed a heavy line on both sides of the 200 strong crowd, who were hemmed in, in a tight circle because the fence and gates of the Royal Exchange prevented escape. Mounted police slammed their horses through the crowd, no-one was allowed out of this arena, some people reacted angrily, it was getting heavy. The police began making arrest after arrest, picking people out at random. They violently pulled people up for loitering, talking, standing with friends, any little thing they could think of. I saw one man slammed against a wall and dragged away bleeding badly. One was pulled off his bike, a girl was dragged 20 yards down the road for having a camera. The police were fulfilling their warped fantasies for an hour or so before they started letting some of us go. Finally we collared a flat cap and spoke of how his, & his force's actions were inciting fear and violence, he just shrugged his shoulders and let us through.

The crowd still hemmed in, moved up and down as the police formed another line over the entrance of the Royal Exchange. Some protesters jumped from walls to escape, others were shoved down steps by more 'greedy for action' boys in blue. The seige lasted for 2 hours, but kept re-occurring periodically just to cause more distress. They claimed they were acting under the new police bill, this meant they could do as they pleased to prevent unlawful assembly. If this is the effect of the new bill, the fears of George Orwell, portrayed in '1984' are coming true.

I went home after taking as much filth from the city as I'd care to take again. This is the uglier side of democracy. May the farce be with you!

Sufferer.

## Stop the City : Impressions

The glad feeling of meeting friends not seen for a while.... carnival atmospheres enlivening the dead stones of financial institutions....black clothing and black flags.... a couple of thousand bored/purposeful/excited faces..... running and dancing through back streets filled with red smoke, to the sound warcries of peace..... smoke bombs/paint bombs..... the windows of banks and buildings sometimes shattering in the instantly-mounted critique of capital..... merging into the office crowd for lunch then out again to the music on the streets..... police brutality the other side of the coin ..... a police inspector complained "it's not a proper demonstration.. you don't stay in the same place, you cause criminal damage, you're in small groups, the police don't know what's going on."..... Roll on Stop The City III, or maybe the concept should be decentralised.

Laura Norder

## GOVERNMENT REVEALS SOCIAL POLICY

Though no official announcement was forthcoming, the Cabinet's comprehensive policy proposals, "Toward Social and Economic Justice: a Programme for Government Action", are now available in Green Paper form. This paper gives what appears, on careful reading, to be a true and complete picture of the Government's thinking on such matters as taxation, unemployment, health and public welfare, housing, education, social security and consumer protection. Indeed, the depths of the Cabinet's understanding of the issues has never been more thoroughly or cogently expressed.

At a price of only 22p every public employee and everyone concerned with the quality of life in tomorrow's Britain should be able to afford at least one. The page size and lightweight recycled stock have been chosen for convenience, making for easy reference and ensuring that the most effective use will be made of this Green Paper. Acorn is reported to have a large number already on the shelves, alongside the Mauve Paper on Civil Liberties, the Yellow Paper on Freedom of Information, the Pink Paper on Environmental Policy, etc.

Scherzando Manontropo

## Home brewing

The first step in making dope beer is getting the active ingredients, particularly the THC, out of your stems and leaves. Since pot is only slightly soluble in water and very much soluble in alcohol, begin by soaking the leaves in a pint of vodka in a large, covered jar for a week or so. As for amount of dope to use, it varies, depending on the strength of the grass. For the first shot try about 8 joints worth and see (or feel) how it works out.

The second step in this concoction is mixing up a fine batch of beer or wine to cover up the godawful taste of step one. After a couple of weeks, mix the pint of vodka into a gallon of beer that's brewing, just before bottling it. After ageing it a few weeks, sample it in a short glass, giving yourself half an hour to get the full hit. Also the active ingredient of dope (THC) begins to deteriorate rapidly in solution. Therefore wine should be refrigerated immediately, and beer refrigerated after the initial seven to ten days exposure to room temperature (to build up carbonation through fermentation in the bottle. In all cases (wine or beer) dark-coloured bottles should be used, and direct sunlight avoided, and tight corks or caps used on the bottles to prevent exposure to the air.

Remember, all the above applies only if you are going to add grass to the recipe - if not, FORGET IT.

safe drinking,  
Fat Freddy's Cat





# EVENTS

## from Mon. April 2



Monday 2nd.

Reading Cycle Group meeting at the Rising Sun, Forbury  
8pm. Details from 4, College Rd.  
Wokingham Peace Group meet at Wokingham Town Hall 8pm.

Tuesday 3rd.

ROAR meeting. Back room of The Crown, Crown St. 8pm.  
Ring 477790 for details (evenings only).

Wednesday 4th.

A Red Rag Party Bar til late. The Crown, Crown St. 7.30pm.  
til late. Musicians, disco, food (bring some to share)  
and fun. £1 at door (or 50p unwaged) or fill in a  
standing order form for Reading's only newspaper (Red  
Rag of course!)

WEA : Women as Artists Alfred Suttons boys School, Crescent  
Rd. 7.30-9.30pm.. £1.20 waged, unwaged free. Creche  
available.

Thursday 5th.

Creative Writing Workshop South Reading Community Centre,  
Northumberland Ave. 1-3pm. £1.20 waged, unwaged free.

Women's studies course discussion. Women's Centre, Old  
Shire Hall basement 7.30-9.30pm.

Vegan Group planning Meeting 8pm. 1, Orrin Close, Tilehurst  
All members welcome.

SHELTER group meeting. To discuss the homelessness situation  
in Reading and to organise a survey of empty property  
in the borough. VSC offices, 38, Caversham Rd., Reading  
8pm. All welcome.



Friday 6th.

Veggie Dining Fairview Community Centre, George St. 8pm.  
Tickets from Acorn Bookshop - £2 waged, £1.50 unwaged.  
Pennywhistle night (flageolets on the menu?).

Labour History Group discussion on Marxist Economics 8pm.  
Red Lion, Southampton St. Contact Mike Price 665478.

Saturday 7th.

See Going Out Guide

Sunday 8th.

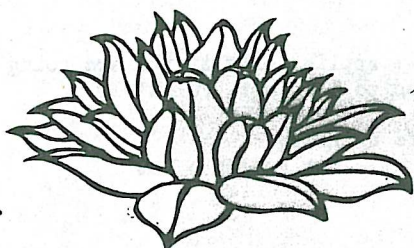
Practical Paradise Club at the Women's Centre 2-6. Ring  
666681 for details (see also reg. events.).

Monday 9th.

NCCL Group St. Mary's Centre, Butts 8-10pm. 'Prevention  
of Terrorism Bill'. Tel. Paul 861582 or c/o Box 34  
Acorn Bookshop, Chatham St. "Usually we have a speaker  
on a topic followed by some discussion, then some  
general planning".

Education Otherwise University Farm/Museum Expedition.  
10.30am. - 4.30pm. Meet 2, Warwick Rd., Reading.  
Bring lunch and own materials.

May Day Festival Helpers meeting. People needed to help  
with running festival on Sat. April 28th. 12-5. Jobs  
vary from stewarding the march and selling raffle  
tickets to moving furniture. Turks Head 7pm.



Tuesday 10th.

Peace Pledge Union meeting 8pm. 2, Salmond Rd., Whitley  
Wood. 868384.

Wednesday 11th.

Vegetarian Cooking Demonstration by Katherine Monbiot of  
Katkins Catering. Friend's Meeting House, Church St.  
7.30pm. All welcome. £1 admission (plus goodies). Org-  
anised by Reading Young Vegetarians.

Childcare Campaign open first meeting 8pm. Reading Centre  
for the Unemployed. Men welcome!

"Berkshire Folklore" Talk. St. Mary's House, Winnersh 8pm.  
Joint Consultative Group meeting. Centre for Unemployed.

Claimants and unemployed welcome to discuss the state  
of welfare agencies in Reading, with representatives  
from various agencies working with claimants. 4.30pm.

Thurs. 12th.

Creative Writing Last in a series of 10. South Reading  
Community Centre, Northumberland Ave. £1.20 waged,  
free to unwaged. 1-3pm.

Women's Studies course Topic left open for discussion.  
Women's Centre, Old Shire Hall Basement 7.30-9.30pm.  
Last of series.

British/Soviet Friendship Society meeting 8pm. AUEW Hall  
Oxford Rd. Speaker: Andrei Anlonovski (editor Soviet  
Weekly on "The USSR and Peace") All welcome.

Red Rag deadline for copy and editorial meeting. Ring  
Paul 868384 for venue.

Friday 13th.

Typing for Red Rag. Phone Paul 868384 if you can help.

Saturday 14th.

Red Rag production! Pasting up - ring Paul 868384 for  
venue. Help always welcome.

National CND calls for local actions at US Bases. Contact  
BANC/Reading CND P.O. Box 158, Reading.

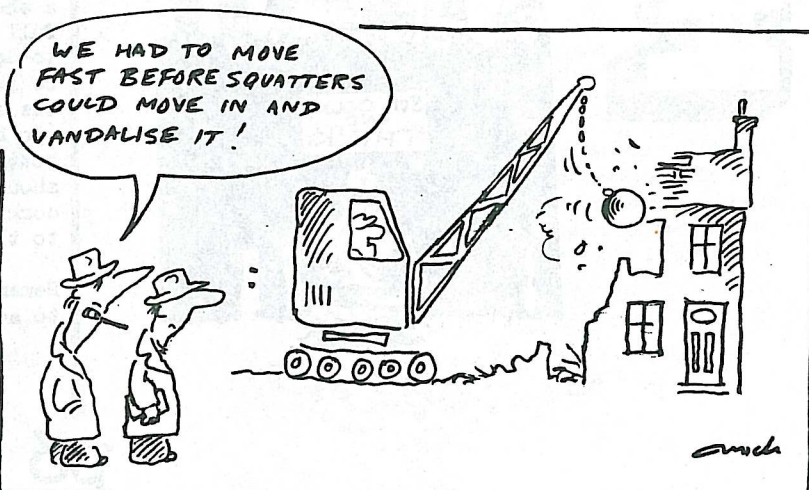
Sunday 15th.

Christian CND Service at Greenham and walk to Newbury.

Pilgrimage til 23rd., calling at different places  
incl. peace camp near Lakenheath. Contact Pam or Peter  
Hudson 841069.

Fauve Requiem Twyford Choral Society. St. Nicholas' Church  
8pm.

Local Actions at US Bases. see yesterday.





# Regular events

**Photography:** sessions every Tuesday (10-12, 1-3) at Centre for the Jobfree, East St.

**Housing & Welfare Rights:** Thursday evenings, Community House, 117, Cumberland Rd.

**Reading Gay Switchboard:** Tues & Fri 8-10pm. 597269

**Mini-market:** Thurs 9-1 St. Mary's House, Chain St.

**Women's Centre:** open Tues 10-2; Weds 10-2; Sat 11-3  
All women and kids welcome. Pregnancy testing: Tues 7-9 - bring urine sample from first pee of the day.

**Incest Survivors Group:** meets regularly. Write c/o Rape Crisis Line, 17, Chatham St. for details.

**Anarchists:** meet every Mon. Details via Box 19, Acorn Bookshop. Autonomists: contact via the anarchists. Bookshop. Autonomists: contact via the anarchists. Libertarian bookstall: downstairs in students Union Whiteknights Tues lunchtimes.

**Peace Pledge Union:** meets fortnightly; always Active. Contact 588459, 868384 or Box 10, Acorn.

**Ecology Party:** meets 1st & 3rd Mon of month at 25, de Beauvoir Rd. & 38, Long Barn Lane respectively. Contact Maria 663195.

**Socialist Workers Party:** meet every Weds 8pm. Red Lion, Southampton St.

**Labour History Group:** meets monthly at Red Lion. Contact Breda 584558 or Mike 665478 for details.

**Vegans:** 1st Sun of month 2pm. 1, Orrin Close, Tilehurst. Contact Liz & Steve Shiner 21651.

**Women's Peace Group:** first Mon of month at the women's Centre. Contact Rheinild 662873.

**Amnesty:** 2nd Tues of month St. Mary's Centre, Chain St. Contact Jean 472598.

**History of Reading Soc.:** 3rd Tues of month, Abbey Gateway.

**Berks Humanists:** meet 2nd Fri of month Oct-May at 8-10, Friend's Meeting House, Church St. For details Crowthorne 774871.

**Cyclists' Touring Club:** outings Sun 9.15 from Caversham Bridge or Henley. Richard Dumelow 50949.

**Wednesday is Women's Day** at the Centre for the Unemployed. East st. From 10.30 - coffe, advice, courses etc.

**Silkscreen Workshops:** Sats at Newtown Community House, 117, Cumberland Rd. 12.30 14-18yr. olds. 1-2.30 others.

**Practical Paradise Club:** Women's Centre, Abbe St. Suns 2-6 for workshops, self-defence, keep fit ... and fun.

**Reading Recreation Art Centres:** Painting for Pleasure at Town Hall. Mons 7-9, Tues 10-12. Details from 55911 or 861289

**Art Centres:** Painting for Pleasure at Town Hall. Mons 7-9, Tues 10-12. Details from 55911 or 861289.

**Cruelty-Free Toiletries:** market stall every Sat behind Tesco, Butts Centre.

**National Council for Civil Liberties:** 2nd Mon of month. St. Mary's Centre, Chain St. nr. Butts.



## Acorn's bit

- **Recycled Paper** is back in stock. A4 reams (500 sheets) for duplicating, and A5 pads.

- **The Benefit.** Cabaret with Tony Allen, Sharon Landau, Roy Hutchins. 8.00pm. at the Upper Deck, Duke Street on Thursday 26th. April. £3 (£2 unwaged, students, OAP's). Any money raised surplus to our requirements in Reading will be sent on to the Right To Read in London. Posters are available (thanks to Brett for the design!). Collect some from the shop and help us publicise.

# NCCL

NCCL stands for the National Council of Civil Liberties. Although it is based in London, a lot of its activities depend upon the work of groups spread around the country. There used to be a group in Reading about 3-4 years ago but it seemed to have folded so some Reading people got together last October to try to get something off the ground. You do not have to be a member of NCCL nationally in order to join the Reading group and all our meetings are open to the public.



We have chosen to hold our meetings on the SECOND Monday of each month, in St Mary's Hall, near the Butts.

In these meetings we discuss specific issues of importance to civil liberties in this country, such as the Data Protection Bill and Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, and how the implementation of these Bills as law, would affect our rights and our way of life.



Usually we have a speaker on a topic arranged well beforehand, followed by open discussion on the topic, discussion of what NCCL nationally is doing and what we, as a group within NCCL, could be doing locally.

We need active members for the following activities:

- Organising meetings and campaigns
- Gathering and spreading information
- Volunteers to observe demonstrations
- Follow up local issues
- Establish contacts with the media E.G. Red Rag
- Talk to interested groups about the work of NCCL
- Anything else you can come up with.

This is our provisional timetable of meetings:

- Monday 9th April: Prevention of Terrorism Bill
- Monday 14th May: Civil Liberties and the Nuclear State
- Monday 11th June: Police and Criminal Evidence Bill
- Monday 9th July: to be decided.

For more information, contact Paul on 861582, leave a message in Acorn Bookshop, BOX 34, or just turn up on the second Monday NEXT month.



## A nice respectable addiction

At any time of day between midmorning and midnight I can walk out the front door and, within no more than fifteen minutes' walking time, score a drug which for me and millions of others like me is physically and mentally destructive, personally and socially disruptive, potentially lethal and instantly addictive.

To tide me over between midnight and morning I can keep as much as I want in my home without fear of being done for possession. Whoever sells it to me need have no qualms about being busted for dealing. My favourite bookshop won't face an Obscene Publications Act rap for selling me books on how to choose it, use it, make it or what it will do to me. Those who manufacture it, import it, wholesale it and sell it to users will make millions and announce the fact in the Financial Times. If they feel (as they invariably do) that they are not being allowed to make as many millions as they would like, their complaints will receive a sympathetic hearing, and not just from the Tory politicians they support so lavishly.

And if the consequences of my addiction start to be obvious, well, it calms the nerves; everyone needs to let their hair down now and then. And besides, wouldn't you if you had all those problems? Miserable killjoy partner. Selfish, ungrateful kids. Boring, routine job - and passed over for promotion every year. Rotten housing. Bastard bank manager - after all, they're in business to lend money: that's what banks are for. Unsympathetic doctor; meddling social workers; unfair courts; bureaucratic sods behind the desk at the Social. And all that trouble with the neighbours - is it any wonder? Besides, everybody uses it, don't they?

Only when I can't cover it up, can't hide behind family or friends, can't summon up any more sympathy or patience, can't go on buying protection any longer, will my addiction become a social stigma, a disgrace, a sign of weak character and moral degeneracy. When I'm sitting on a bench, unshaven and incoherent, picking up snipes till I have enough for a roll-up and hassling those who pass till I can afford to score again, the world and his family will recognize me for what I am, and start to wonder why something can't be done about me. So long as I can keep it in the family, keep it behind closed doors, keep it in the expensive privacy of private sanatoriums - most of all, so long as I can keep it a secret from myself - I can go on feeding my nice respectable addiction till it kills me.

No prizes for the first correct guess. The drug I've been talking about is ethanol - beverage alcohol - and I am an alcoholic. I didn't ask to be an alcoholic. Neither did my friends in the bottle gang. Neither did my suburban housewife friends sitting in their dressing gowns blankly in the midst of last night's unwashed dishes at ten in the morning with a half-empty bottle of sherry. Neither did my business friends having a quick bracer from the hospitality cupboard before they try to think what to tell the bank this time. Neither did my musician friends posing in front of the bedsit mirror reliving the nights they were top of the bill at Ronnie Scott's or played support to Coltrane at Montreux. Neither did the neurological cripples sitting staring at the walls of mental hospitals, serving out a life sentence meted out by livers that could no longer metabolise the thiamine - vitamin B1 - the pre-ventricular areas of their brains needed to go on working even half-adequately.

Neither did millions of others like us. We did the socially accepted thing - for many of us, the socially expected thing. It made us feel good, made us one of the crowd, helped us feel comfortable in uncomfortable social situations. It helped overcome shyness, calmed our nerves, dulled pain, made sleep easier, made routine lives exciting and drab surroundings brighter. It produced an altered state of consciousness that we came to prefer to real life in a real world - one we could escape into for the price of a few pints or a few shorts or a bottle from the supermarket. So we escaped, more and more often as the things we had to escape from multiplied. We found out when we couldn't stop. We found out when we knew we'd had enough and went on having more. We found out when a quick couple of halves after work ended up taking till a quarter to eleven. We found out when the drink we'd bought for a dinner party had to be replaced

before the guests arrived. We found out when our social calendar never had time for friends who only put one bottle of wine on the dinner table, or events that didn't have a bar. We found out when we opened the letters from the bank that began "At the close of business today your current account was....." and still wrote a cheque to the off-license or the pub, carefully trying to work out how many days it would take to clear - or not even bothering. And then changed off-licenses or pubs so as not to be faced with cheques that had been re-presented twice already and still come back. We found out when the specialists told us we had enlarged livers or hepatitis and could only drink on high days and holidays - and celebrated 365 high days and holidays a year. We found out when our fingers shook so badly we could hardly lift the first drink of the day, but started to steady once we got it down; when we drank till we puked and then had to drink more to fill the empty space in our bellies; when we woke up wondering how we'd got where we were, what we'd done or said before we got there, why the icy silence or the empty house.

That's how I found out. All of those things happened to me, and more, until I couldn't hide from them any longer. I knew - I knew for a long time - but still I couldn't admit it. And when I had to admit it, when the nurse who was taking my case history in the detox unit of a psychiatric hospital asked point-blank "How long have you been an alcoholic?" and left me with no room to wriggle out of it, I still couldn't accept it. Yes, I was an alcoholic. But I could beat it on my own. Sure, the three-week treatment course I was offered would be interesting; it might even do me some good. But I couldn't spare the time from work: I might lose my job. Alcoholics Anonymous? God squad - bunch of bible-bangers. And if they weren't that they were professional dry alikes; I wasn't about to spend the rest of my life being an alcoholic without the booze - I was there to be cured of my alcoholism, wasn't I? I'd do it my way and yeah, I'd come up for an outpatient appointment once a month. Sure I would.

And I was dry - for six weeks. Six white-knuckled nail-chewing weeks, pouring as much iced tea onto my two peptic ulcers as I had done best bitter, telling everyone I was sober now, I had it cracked, I was okay, straight. Then...? Well, that nice pint of Burton at lunch after an unseasonably hot November day on a motorway site didn't do me any harm. I didn't have a second one - for a day or two. The rest, as they say, is history - the history of any addict who thinks he's harder than a hard drug, who thinks he can use it without its using him.

By Christmas I was controlling my drinking - controlling it so I never had too much, but never too little. And by Easter.... I slept through Easter dinner and Easter afternoon, impossible to wake after 'sampling' a forgotten polypin of five-year-old elderflower wine. I was back on form, like an actor after a time of 'resting'. And I stayed on form for two more years, drinking 15 or 20 pints a day - 300 to 350 grams of alcohol, roughly the equivalent of a full bottle of proof spirit - and lying to the psychiatrist, my family, my bosses, the bank. I'd told everyone I was an alkie, so I couldn't admit I was out of control, could I? That wasn't part of the game plan. No matter they were starting not to believe me: I didn't believe me so how could they? I drank my family out of a big house into a little one, I drank my daughter's horse, I drank us out of two cheque cards - and sat in the pub telling other people they had drink problems. By the end I couldn't play even a gramophone properly, let alone a fiddle or a guitar - those I couldn't even tune right. But why go on? I was a mess - the least of my bankruptcies was the financial one. The only positive thing I ever drank myself into was the last one - abject surrender.

Nobody told us that the means of our escape was altering more than our minds - that it was altering our physiology, changing our metabolism. Nobody told us that it would take more and more as time went on to get the effects we were after. Nobody told us that at some imprecise point in time tissue adaptation would start turning a relaxant, a useful sedative and analgesic, into an addictive chemical without which we couldn't function normally. Nobody told us: or if they did we didn't listen, didn't want to listen. We found out the hard way.



# review

## SPECTACULAR TIMES - CITIES OF ILLUSION

It is said that 'ignorance is bliss'.

After reading the latest edition of Spectacular Times, I would say that the proponents of such a theory have never been 'disillusioned'. If they had, they would have glimpsed the possibility of experiencing true bliss for themselves.

Cities of Illusion is an easy to understand, practical description of the 'Spectacle' within which we all, unfortunately have to live. Set forth in its illustrative style, it explains how the forces which affect our daily lives, can be controlled and used against us. To make us view life from the perspective of power, which consequently perpetuates our own alienation.

After all, if the thought processes of many individuals can be limited to the point of strict conformity to an outside source of thought, then the said individuals can no longer be considered as such: The enforcement of inhumanity becomes possible for any-one with enough power to control what is projected.

As Alice said, after she had realized she'd been caught up in the Red Kings dream. "I've a great mind to go and wake him up, and see what happens" Cities of Illusion is the perfect tool for shattering the illusions which surround us, so that we can experience Daily Life with our own reference points providing the perspective.

If, after reading this booklet you still can't see through the illusion, try looking at the cover!

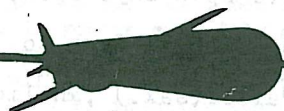
POGLE.

# Cruise rumours

U.S.A.F. coaches continue to prowl the back streets of Woodley in search of local kids. Last time we reported this 'hearts and minds' operation it was being directed at South Lake Primary School. Last week it was the turn of Bulmershe Comprehensive School. As before the vehicle was a hired coach with U.S.A.F. identification boards in the front and rear windows. The coach was hired from Smith's of Reading - something readers will no doubt bear in mind when booking coaches for their own excursions.

Once again Woodley's Wallace Close says 'Howdy y'all!' - this time to the folks from Florida. The U.S.A.F. expatriate community certainly have good taste - Wallace Close's three storey 'town houses' overlook delightful South Lake and its fringe of specimen trees planted in the days when this was a private estate, an ideal vista to ponder, dry martini in hand, after a hard day planning the total destruction of all life in Eastern Europe. A few more U.S.A.F. residents would enable Wallace Close to qualify for its own Peace Camp - bringing the war back home?

Zed Feecher



## MS. BEETROOT'S HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY

The Post Office has come to the rescue of owners of screw-cork bottles with perished rubber gaskets (the bottles' gaskets). Discarded rubber bands left on the doorstep by litter-lout posties make a good substitute when treble- or quadruple-twisted around the hard rubber plugs of antique beer or sodawater bottles. (Great for shoyu, vinegar, olive oil, etc.) Other suggestions for using old GPO rubber bands welcome - the more improbable the better.

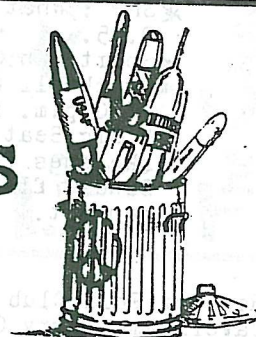
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# "Beating Time"

- a free  
★ MUSIC  
★ FESTIVAL!  
★

Reading gets its own Free Music Festival between 14 and 19 May. Organized by an ad hoc collective of local musicians, the six-day Beating Time festival is designed to encourage creative enjoyment of music-making at all levels of experience from rank beginner to semi-pro. Plans are for morning and evening workshops on jazz, folk, black and other ethnic minority musics, voices and contemporary electric sounds during the week, with plenty of chance for sessions, and gigs in the evening. All this at the Centre for the Unwaged, East Street. Saturday, constabulary willing, will see open-air events around town including a street procession, with a Grand Finale at the Centre. Structure is being kept loose enough to slot in whatever people want to do and are willing to organize: it's your festival. Everyone the organizers can think of is being approached for financial help with the relatively modest costs, but response is uncertain. Berkshire County Council's Arts Panel, for example, have already replied somewhat mystifyingly but probably typically that they 'only support arts events', which gives you an idea of what they think of our music. But it is happening: how successfully it happens depends on us. Anyone willing to run workshops, lend equipment, etc. ring Malcolm at 596693, drop in at the Centre or see Laura, Tim or Fiddler Dave.

# Bunkers



## Naphill occupation

8 people from Brighton NVDA group cut their way through the fence surrounding Naphill bunker (to house NATO wartime headquarters) at 4.00am. last Monday morning (26th. March). They were spotted by MoD police and were chased. One person was caught but the other seven managed to get to the bottom of the bunker, pulling away ladders as they went. It took until midday to get them out. A crane with a steel cage was used to achieve this.

The 8 people were held in a Portacabin on the site for 6 hours. They were then taken to High Wycombe police station and formally charged with criminal damage (for cutting through the fence). They are due to appear in court (High Wycombe Magistrate's) on April 12th. Support would be welcome.

Two of the people involved in the occupation of a crane at Naphill bunker on March 2nd., appeared in court last Monday facing charges of criminal damage (they cut the lock of the crane to gain entry). Their cases were adjourned until April 18th. because the two have alleged they were assaulted by Taylor Woodrow workers as they were removed from the crane (Taylor Woodrow are construction contractors who are working on the bunker site).

The defendants are Sean Hawkey and Tony Hemmingway, both from Brighton NVDA group.



## SUNDAY APRIL 1st.

- \*Jive Dive: Treats: Kings St.
- \*Readifolk: Caversham Bridge Hotel 8.15.
- \*Free Jazz: Butler: Chatham St.
- \*SHP: film: "Liquid Sky". dir. Slava Tsukerman 7.45.
- \*Angies W'ham: The Boys from Brazil.

## MONDAY 2nd.

- \*Hexagon Russ Abbott's Madhouse Show. 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m. £5.50-£6.50 (£2 reduction for NUS & UB40 at earlier performance)
- \*Oxford Playhouse "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward £2.50-£5. On till 7th.

## TUESDAY 3rd.

- \*Hexagon: Sasano Music Company. Music & Dance from Java. Sounds spectacular but it'll cost you £4-£5. 7.30.
- \*SHP: film: Corky Park. On till 8th. & London Ragtime Orchestra (trad. jazz) 8 p.m. £2.50-£4.70.
- \*20th Century Lit.: The Solid Mandala by Patrick White, with Peter Peggall 8 p.m. 50p.
- \*Reading Town Hall: performance of Handel's "Messiah" by Reading School 7.30 p.m. £1 (70p NUS)
- \*Tudor Arms Gay Disco Free.
- \*Angies W'ham: New Orleans Jazz with Storyville Tickie.

## WEDNESDAY 4th.

- \*Hex.: 33th Primary Schools Music Festival £2 7p.m.
- \*Red Rag Social: The Crown, Crown St. Not to be missed!

## THURSDAY 5th.

- \*Hex: BBC Symphony Orchestra play Mozart, Brhms Haydn. £3-£6. 7.30.
- \*SHP: What the Curtains: Local band. 8.15.
- \*Sportsman: Shinfield Rd. free music.
- \*Bracknell College: Joy Hyman 12.45-1.30 p.m. free.
- & Big Beat Boar Bash: live music, & sketches from Drama Dept: 8 college Bands. £1-£1.25. 10.30. Rags week benefit.

- \*Reading Folk Club Horse & Barge Caversham: Terry Clarke & Gerald T. Moore. 8.15.
- \*Angies W'ham: Stolen Faces.

## FRIDAY 6th.

- \*SHP Underground: Richard Thompson 9p.m. £3.50 in advance, £3.75 on day. & film: "The Howling" 11p.m. On tomorrow also.
- \*Paradise Club (formerly Cariobean): Touch the Earth, Local band. 8-2.
- \*Tudor Arms Gay Disco Free.
- \*Angies W'ham T.34.

## SATURDAY 7th.

- \*SHP: Horizon: The Mirror of Dionysus a concert group performing original music for combinations of soprano, tenor, speaking voice & piano. Sounds intriguing. 8p.m. £2.25.
- & Folk: Come all Ye i.e. anyone welcome to go along & perform;
- \*Jive Dive "Saturday Spectacular" Treats Kings Rd. 9-2. £1.50.
- \*Central Club: Dance: Saxon Hi-fi.
- \*Paradise Club: Grenada Association Dance & Band: "Hurricane Force". 8-2. £2.50 advance, £3 on door.
- \*Angies W'ham: The Mamma Jammers (ex Red Beans and Rice).

## Sunday 8th.

- \*Jive Dive: Treats: Kings Rd.
- Free Jazz: Butler: Chatham St.
- \*Readifolk: Caversham Bridge Hotel
- \*Angies W'ham: Espionage.

## MONDAY 9th.

- \*SHP: film: "El Nido" (The Nest). 7.45.
- \*Hex.: till 14th. "Murder Without Crime" by J. Lee Thompson.; "the class -ic" thriller" sez the spiel. A glut of half-famous names. 7.30 Mon.-Fri, 5p.m. & 8p.m. Sat. £2.50-£4. Two seats for price of one on Monday!!
- \*Oxford Playhouse: Oxford Operatic Society presents "Showboat" £3-£4. On till 14th April.

## TUESDAY 10th.

- \*Gay Disco: Tudor Arms: Free.
- \*SHP: Modern Jazz: Danny Moss with the Ian Smith (no relation as far as we know) quintet. 8p.m. £2.40.
- & 20th Century Lit.: Rites of Passage by William Golding, with Peter Peggall 8p.m. 50p.
- & film: "The Year of Living Dangerously" dir. Peter Weir. 7.45p.m. On till 12th April.
- \*Angies: New Orleans Jazz.

## WEDNESDAY 11th.

- \*SHP: Wilde Theatre: "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde. 7.30 £4-£5. A "Cala Night". On till 21st April excluding Sundays.

## THURSDAY 12th.

- \*Sportsman: Shinfield Rd.: Free music.
- \*Reading Folk Club, Horse & B Barge, Caversham. 8.15. "Scotch Leisure".
- \*Angies: Twelfth Night.

## FRIDAY 13th.

- \*SHP: Recital of Chamber Music with Janet & Juliet Bruce on cello & piano unfortunately the guide doesn't say what they're playing. anyway it's at 8p.m. & is £2.25.
- & Filmz: Psycho II 7.45. & The Omen 11p.m.
- & Motley Crew; local R&B band. 9p.m. £1.50.
- \*Tudor Arms: Gay Disco: Free.
- \*Paradise: Dance. 8-2. (no more details, sorry): Band to be confirmed. Ring 789912 for details.

## SATURDAY 14th.

- \*SHP: Wilde Theatre Open Day. 1p.m.-4 p.m. free.
- & Horizon: "free jazz" (refers to genre not cost I'm afraid). With Tippet (piano), Parker (sax.), Holmes (percussion/clarinet). 8p.m. £1.50.
- & Folk: Huw Williams & brother Tony, "highly individual" according to the blurb 8p.m. £1.50.
- & scary films as last night.
- \*Hex: Free lunchtime music courtesy of George Morris, ex-lead singer of Magna Carta.
- \*Paradise: Band: uncertain as to who when I 'phoned: seems a possibility of U.K. Warriors or Urban Warrior.
- \*Angies: Ruthless Blues with Johnny Mars & Tony Fernandez (ex-Rick Wakeman band).

# The famous GOING OUT GUIDE



## GOING OUT GUIDE

SUNDAY 15th.

- \*Jive Dive: Treats: Kings Road.
- \*Free Jazz: Butler: Chatham St.
- \*SHP: Well you could go & watch the MASS SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP AT Queen's Parade, Aldershot: see just who is willing to risk life & limb for the benefit of the Wilde Theatre Fund. Or go & see Psycho II, which might be less profoundly worrying.
- \*Hex: Verdi's Requiem: Wokingham & Bracknell Choral Socs. join forces with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. 7.30 £4-£6.
- \*Church of St. Nicholas Hurst-Hurst Festival (to celebrate the church's 900th anniversary). Twyford & District Choral Soc. plus Wokingley String Orchestra present: Faure Requiem, the third Brandenburg Concerto, Pachelbel's A Canon, & English songs, inc. of Vaughan Williams. 8p.m. £1.50 & 75p. Ring Twyford 340017, W'ham 783041.
- \*Reading: Caversham Bridge Hotel. 8.15
- \*Angies: Blue Condition.

### EXHIBITIONS.

- \*1st-15th April: Henley Exhibition Centre Market Place Henley: Recent paintings by Heather Bagnioli & Freda Potts.
- \*7th-9th April: Hexagon, Model Exhibition: trains clocks &c.

### KEY:

Oxford Playhouse: ring 0865.247133.  
SHP: South Hill Park Arts Centre  
Bracknell 427272.  
Hexagon: Queens Walk. 591591  
Paradise Club: London St. 51312  
Central Club: Mt. Pleasant. 54421

## Men's group

I've thought for some time that Reading lacks a men's group. There have been such groups in the past, but as far as I know none of them are still operating, and I feel that this leaves a gap which urgently needs filling.

A men's group as I see it is the male counterpart of the consciousness raising groups that have sprung out of the Women's Movement. As such I see it operating on three levels. Firstly as a support group where men can discuss their fears, anxieties and problems with other men. This is something that men conspicuously lack. The male stereotype labels men with fears and problems as weak, and thus discourages the open expression of the emotional side of our natures.

Secondly as an anti-sexist consciousness raising group, working to expose the way that the patriarchy stereotypes men as well as women into their "appropriate" role. If you've ever felt alienated from the aggressive, hypersexual, macho provider image of masculinity, you will understand what I mean. Also such a group would work to identify (and hopefully eradicate) the hidden sexism that most of us still contain, be it the lingering remnants of sex objectification, or a critique of the women's movement, that is born out of fear and resentment of their recent strength..

Thirdly it should work as a political entity, spreading the message that the patriarchal role forced on us by society is oppressive and unnatural, not only to women but to men, and it should undertake practical steps to fight against the patriarchy that traps us.

In talking over these ideas with past members of men's groups and others with experience of "personal liberation" groups of one kind or another, it became clear that several questions of practical organisation

needed to be discussed. For example, should meetings be open or closed? Should the group have a fixed term? How should meetings be structured?

I have my own ideas, but I would prefer to subject them to discussion at the first meeting, along with any that you might have.

The first two meetings will be held at 24, Norwood Road, Reading at 8pm. on Tuesday 17th. and Tuesday 24th. April. Apart from organisational details, we hope to discuss - "Split personality: What we are versus what they want."

These meetings will be 'open', whatever is decided about subsequent meetings, so all are welcome. If you are unable to get to these, but are still interested, or if you have any queries/other points to raise, please contact

Box 28,  
Acorn Bookshop,  
17, Chatham Street,  
Reading.

lots of love, Giles

**RED RAG PARTY**

**Stillate**

**april 4th.**

**BRING FOOD TO SHARE!**

**The Crown, Crown St.**

*LATE BAR*

*DISCO*

*MUSIC*

*£1 or 50p unwaged or full in standing order*

## Benches

High Wycombe Court Cases from the Blockade on December 19th. 1983.

113 people were heard at High Wycombe court last week. They were charged with obstructing the highway outside Daws Hill, High Wycombe. This is the USAF Cruise Command Centre base, where they will guide the Cruise Missiles to their targets.

All pleaded 'Not Guilty' - most were fined £10 with £10 costs (minus the costs if unwaged). One or two were given conditional discharges, being minors or being unwaged and supported by an unwaged person.

Strangely enough those who had pleaded guilty earlier in the year were fined £25 plus £20 costs! An attempt to show sympathy perhaps? It seemed unlikely, the magistrate dismissed all claims of 'Not Guilty' on moral grounds as "irrelevant" and stuck with points of law throughout. Very tedious stuff.

A bright spot in one case was the presentation, to one of the defendants leaving the dock, of a birthday cake complete with candles! The magistrate became quite hysterical and ordered the cake and candles out of the court (for contempt!?) and had the cake-bearer jailed. Happily they were released at lunch-time. *both?*

Oxo, P.H.P.



## In the dog house

Recently I visited the Binfield Dog Rescue place. It comprised a caravan and two rows of cages with kennels at each end. The cages measure about 9ft. by 5ft. and two dogs share each one. Before you jump up to phone your local Animal Lib. Front Group, let me tell you a little more.....

The Binfield Dog Rescue is a charity group, with three full-time staff and two part-timers helping at weekends. Also volunteers from schools help at weekends etc. during the holidays. The dogs, as many as 50, are strays and are usually brought in by the police. They are well looked after, are taken for walks at least once a week, and hopefully only stay a short while.

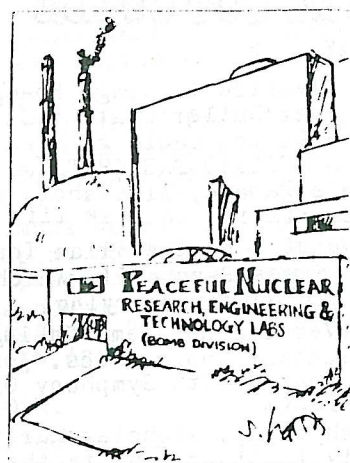
The funds to keep the dogs, which would otherwise be put down, are raised from various sources - the police (they pay for the first week's 'keep'); jumble sales; money given as donations and money from the sale of dogs. The dogs vary from tiny to huge (Scottish Terrier to Irish Wolfhound!) and are kept for an initial 8 days in the hope of being claimed. After this time they are up for grabs to caring prospective owners. "On average, out of 100 enquiries, 20 can be turned down" said one of the workers, the unsuitable 20% being after cheap pedigrees or gifts.

If you are interested in finding out more, buying a dog or helping as a volunteer (dog-walkers are always welcome), phone Bracknell 421490 between 10am and 4pm. The address is Binfield Dog Rescue, Billingsbear, nr. Wokingham, Berks. (ads. are usually in the Post and Chronic).

On a happy note, we (well, Debbie and Andrew) got a collie/retriever called Blackie, who was at the rescue for three weeks. Some dogs are not so lucky - one was there for a year!

Paul

# PPU



### Peace Pledge Union Meeting - "Don't just hope for peace - work for it"

Reading PPU last met on Tuesday 20th. March to discuss and voice and act on Peace issues. Topics discussed included Stop the City (did you see the display in Acorn?), Action '84, High Wycombe pickets, May Day, cure for chilblains(?), Prison workshop and publicity.

Some people decided to to up to Stop the City (report elsewhere this issue), and we threw up some ideas for the Reagan, Thatcher, Mitterand meeting on June 9th, and these will be discussed over the next few meetings. (Any suggestions for chilblain cure?)

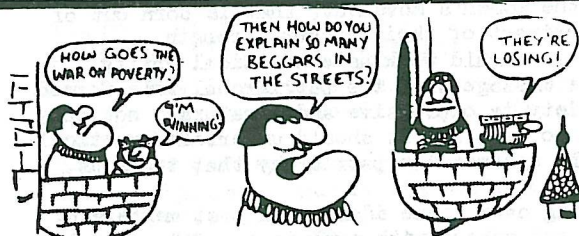
As I write this, I realise that with only 5 people in attendance, my enthusiasm, like a lot of others, has dropped. We did talk about ideas to publicise the PPU more and decided Action was the only way. So come along to the next PPU meeting all you closet pacifists! Letters are being posted to all local members of the PPU to ensure a larger turnout.

A donation of £10 was sent to Greenham to help towards setting up new camps. Also we thought that we would try and support the Daws Hill pickets (High Wycombe) which are on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am. to 4pm. This is our nearest mixed peace camp, and is on the site of the Cruise Command centre.

Some of us wrote to Dr. T. M. Gibson to express our feelings about his group Residents Against the Greenham Encampment which featured in an ad. in the Newbury Weekly News depicting a Greenham Squatter (sic) being sent on a Cruise Missils. If you want his address to tell him your point of view, phone 374532 (Bridge). We thought about having a stall for the May Day Festival, and decided to find out more from the organisers. The Prison Workshop was cancelled due to lack of numbers. A future date will be made if demand is there ?!

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th. April 8pm. Phone Andrew, Debbie, Paul on 868384 for venue/further details and information.

Reading PPU,  
Box 10 Acorn Bookshop,  
17, Chatham St.,  
Reading.



## Housing

### "Why is the Housing Benefit System such an almighty mess?"

1. The government took a good idea (to provide a "Unified Housing Benefit" to stop people being confused about whether to apply for a rent and rate rebate or supplementary benefit), imposed a "no cost constraint", and turned a good idea into a nightmare which left a good many people worse off and made a difficult system more difficult to understand and administer for claimants and officials.

2. Councils saw that they would have all tenants on supplementary benefit on "rent direct" - i.e. the rent would be paid at source, thought "yippee, an end to rent arrears", and, for the most part failed to realise or adequately prepare for the massive extra workload of private tenants on supplementary benefit.

They were not helped by a government which did not adequately finance the scheme, and kept pushing out new details right up to the start of the scheme - and after! In Reading the council seems to say "there are no problems" and refuses to look at what's under its nose. Crossed cheques cause no problems; delay in paying out causes no problems; there are no appeals; no-one wants to be paid weekly. (You have the right to be paid weekly if you are on Sup. Ben. or get over £2.00 a week in Housing benefit and pay your rent weekly, and ask them to pay you weekly.)

The council thinks that if it doesn't give out any information on housing benefit it won't have any problems! It could be right., so tell your councillor and Ron Jewitt of the housing committee, your difficulties - past and present - with housing benefit. Stop them pretending it's alright. They are reviewing the system at the moment, so comments now would be very appropriate.

Mopsy.



# Letters



Dear Red Rag,

Your correspondent Jane Carter (Letters, 18 March) asks whether Red Rag is "a vehicle for the expression of its own particular ideology?"

I would like to know the same thing. My old ideology is worn out and I desperately need a new one. In fact none of the ones I have tried has lasted more than a week under ordinary household conditions and several have come completely to pieces the first time I tried to use them. When you have to rely on an ideology for everything this could be extremely dangerous. I have contacted the Citizens' Advice Bureau but they tell me ideologies are specifically excluded from the Trade Descriptions and Consumer Protection Acts.

If you do have an ideology would you please send by return of post as a matter of urgency? It needn't be a particular one; I am not fussy so long as it is well designed. I did look through all my back issues of Red Rag but couldn't seem to find one. But then my eyes are not as sharp as they used to be and perhaps I missed it. If so could you please print it in larger type next time?

(If you don't have one I could use I will try asking the Morning Star. They seem to have more ideology than they have space for.)

Nurein Geiger

Dear Red Rag,

We're not overly concerned by a bit of naughtiness in the listings 'cos that's fun, but we are bothered about "progressive and popular forces" kidding themselves and nobody else that "(the) people" will rise up en masse to object to such disrespect to the dignity of a Morning Star meeting.

We think there are too many words in Red Rag. Could you publish a few more pics., eg. one of a substantial working class body might be nice.

Love

T.E., D.H. & Doris Lawrence

P.S. What would they do if they ever got power?

Dear Red Rag,

I have a complaint about your newspaper, it is no damn good for fish and chips. As soon as I put wine vinegar on like the Sunday Times Magazine says the ink runs. Please ask your printer to use a different kind of ink, I am sick and tired of holding my haddock in front of the mirror so I can read Citizen Cain.

Gourmet

Dear Red Rag,

Could you please inform me where I can purchase one of those lovely chillums being exhibited by the man on the front cover of your last issue.

In Bronchial anticipation,  
Noggia

# Small ads.

FREE

'Save-a-Can' (Used for recycling)  
Wash and squash your old cans for charity.  
Bring them to skips at: Palmer Park, Wokingham Rd/  
Recreation Rd, Tilehurst/St. Martins Precinct,  
Caversham/Key Markets, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst.

## Yogi Bear

If anyone is interested in finding out about yoga or simply doing a group practice instead of solitary, please ring Jeb on 374532.

G.: What have I done to drive you away? We used to make such beautiful music together. D.

ANDRONYMOUS SHE-CATS GROUP seeks radical alternative to sexist name-changes through support, consciousness-raising. Contact Albert, Russell St. or Bruce, Coventry Road. Confidentiality assured.

PIP: Come back to Number 43. Bartok's other half feels dreadfully unbalanced.

## FILMGOERS NOTE

Did you know you can get into Reading Film Theatre at the Palmer Building, Whiteknights Park, for £1 (with UB40) on Thursday and Friday each week?

## Peace Pilgrimage

Anybody interested in going on a peace walk across the U.S.A. to start in Bangor, near Seattle on the West coast on May 1st, ending in New York on November 15th? It should cost about 70 dollars a person per month, but the organisers stress that lack of money should not put anyone off joining it. The contact in Europe is:- Anne Stegmaier, August-Supper-Strasse 18, 7140 Ludwigsburg, Federal Republic of Germany; American contact is:- John Lindsay-Poland 6 Haskell St, Allston, Mass. 02134. The organisers say no English people have yet said they'll go.

CODA (Doloroso, con amore)

London's instrument repair co-op The Soundpost, which includes ex-Reading musician and instrument maker Robin Stocks, ceases trading at the end of April after 18 months. Thanks, mates: you've done my fiddles a power of good.  
- Dave

## KEEPERS, FINDERS....

REAP - Reading Emergency Accommodation Project, which runs the night shelter at The Keep, Brock Barracks - now has a house for workers' living accommodation. Carpet, curtains and especially kitchen equipment - anything, in fact, that will help make a house a home - is welcome. Ring 54020 with offers. Kevin could probably use some help running up the drapery, too. As ye Reap, so shall ye....?

## HARVEST GOES UP-MARKET

Geoff and Louise Barnes, whose Harvest Wholefoods stall has graced Reading Market for the past two years, now have all-week-round premises in Harris Arcade - the former Trestles shop next to Reading Hi Fi Centre. Refrigeration has added natural yoghourts, tofu and other perishables to the stock. Hours 9 to 5:30, Monday to Saturday - and the stall will still be on the market Friday and Saturday as usual. Good luck!



# Red Rag

Readings only newspaper is produced fortnightly by a variable collective. It is free and can be picked up at any of the outlets (listed below) or even delivered to your door if you leave a note in Box 79, Acorn Bookshop or phone 665676. It is funded entirely by readers donations, apart from the odd advertisement for which we charge £5 per 1/2 page. To donate some money, simply :-

- fill in a standing order form (pick one up from Acorn or phone 374532)
- write out a cheque to Red Rag and post it to Box 79 in Acorn
- goto Pop Records in King's Road, or Acorn Bookshop under the Multi-storey carpark and leave a donation in a Red Rag collecting tin

Red Rag has no connection with any political party or the University. It will print (almost) anything that isn't sexist, racist or supportive of an oppressive religion. Copy should be in by the Thursday before production. ie. April 12th. for next issue. It helps if you can give your name and a contact number/address, although this will not be published if you wish otherwise. It also helps if you can type your piece(s) in columns of 12cm width, single spaced (this will be photo-reduced for printing.)

Give a donation the easy way!  
Fill this in and take it to the Red Rag Party on Wednesday 4th. for FREE admission.

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To (your bank's name and address).....

.....

Please pay to the account of RED RAG, Co-operative Bank, Reading

(08-90-16) (a/c no. 50148637)

the sum of .....(words), £.....(figs)

on .....(date), and on the same date every month/

3 months until further notice.

Copy should be left at Acorn Bookshop, or phone Paul on Reading 368504, for the next issue. Help is always welcome on Fridays (typing), Saturdays (pasting up) and Sundays (folding and distributing), again, ring Paul for venues for the next issue (April 13th., 14th. and 15th.).

Red Rag Outlets  
Acorn Bookshop 17, Chatham St., under multi-storey carpark)

Listen Records upstairs in Butts centre  
Central Club London St.  
Centre for the Unemployed East St.  
Ragdoll & Allsorts Duke St. bridge  
Elephant Off-licence Derby St.  
Fine Food Stores 168, Oxford Rd.  
Harrison's Newsagent Caversham Rd.

Jelly's Stores  
Jelly's Stores Whitley St.  
Number Sixty Christchurch Green

Ken's Shop Student's Union, the University, Whiteknights.

Technical College (library & Student's common room) King's Rd.

Pop Records 172, King's Rd.  
Rib'n'Roast 189, London Rd.  
Mace 2, Crown Collonade  
Continental Stores 199, London Rd.  
The Sugar Bowl 26, Wokingham Rd.  
Johal Cash & Carry 14, Colmeley Rd.  
Ling's Chinese Fish Bar Wokingham Rd.  
Sutherland's 55, Erleigh Rd.  
Fairview Community Centre George St.

# Radiation

•Radioactive Wastes from the Nuclear Industries threaten the oceans and all marine life.



•Windscale pumps millions of gallons of effluent into the Irish Sea, making it the most radioactive in the world.



•Britain now dumps by far the most radioactivity into the Atlantic off the Spanish coast.



•In spite of a 25-nation decision this February the government is determined to dump a further 4,000 tons this year.



•The only way to stop this long-term is to close the nuclear programme down.

Signed ..... Date .....

Your name .....

Address .....

.....

Your a/c number .....

Send this form to Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading - not to your bank. Ta.

