

Red Rag

FREE
FORTNIGHTLY

READING'S ONLY WALLPAPER

NOV 25- DEC 9

Supporting the Miners.

LOCAL ACTIVITY- DIDCOT

Pickets are to be organised at Didcot over the coming period. This is to show support for the power workers at the power station who are under constant pressure to handle coal.

Already the GMWU at Didcot has voted to black the handling of coal. The next step is to black the handling of oil. This is a crucial step to bring pressure on the government to end the strike as soon as possible.

LOCAL ACTIVITY- WOODLEY

Last Saturday 15 people collecting food donations for the Gwent Food Fund were moved on by police from outside Waitrose in Woodley. The police were unsure of the legal niceties of an obstruction charge because no-one really knew whose land the collectors were standing on. If it was Waitrose's property, Waitrose would have to complain before the police could take action. When this was pointed out to the police, they saved the day by threatening to charge the collectors with vagrancy (begging)... Which may perhaps have happened today (Sat 24th).

Assuming no further obstruction from the police, food collections for the Gwent Fund will take place every Saturday in Woodley, Tesco's in Reading, and at Cemetery Junction. Reading Miners' Support Committee needs all the support it can get. If anyone wants to come to the weekly meetings to support their activities - leafletting, picketing, food collecting, fund raising - it meets every Thursday at 7.30 pm at the TGWU office, 36 King's Road, Reading. Ring 590311 for details.

Greenham Water

Thames Water have refused to replace the standpipe which supplies water to the women at Greenham - the pipe which was taken away at the last eviction. Enquiries made show that this decision was taken at the very top level. This would be possibly the area manager of Thames Water - or perhaps it has something to do with the Chairman, who is a political appointee and not a Waterboard person??
Clean water for all the people of the world as a basic human right???

Sue

Inside

Gay's The Word, (p7), Forward Planning, (p2 +3), Going Out, Events...and lots more!!

NEXT ISSUE: COORDINATOR IS JACKIE; LEAVE MESSAGES WITH GUY 669562.
NEWS:669562
EVENTS:591025
DISTRIBUTION:669562
COPY DEADLINE:THURS DEC 6
Write to RedRag, c/o Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham St, Rg.

Forward

The well publicised "mini-boom" in the Thames Valley is most obvious in its effects on the ground- yet another office development on the King's Rd, yet more congestion, yet more unemployment in traditional industry.

In other words, growth is highly selective- in favour of office and computer based employment, but against the unskilled workers rendered superfluous by the march of technology and the switch of location by industry.

Balancing the benefits of the lucky participants in this prosperity with some compensation to those excluded ought to be a primary function of a state acting to promote equality in some form.

Councils are planning authorities. They seek to control the physical form of prosperity: for example, by giving planning permission for new property developments. The intention is for this to occur within the framework of structure and local plans, the former being a basic economic blueprint for the future of any given area.

This guardian role of the council is especially vital from the point of view of Reading inhabitants as property developers are by nature secretive chaps, and it's difficult to discover what they're up to.

But how successful in these roles of coordinating, balancing and controlling have our local planning authorities been? Bob Stoddart, Chief Planning Officer for Berkshire County Council, provided an insight recently, specifically into development trends over the last ten years in the Central Berkshire Structure Plan area, which includes Reading and Wokingham. No doubt his talk to Reading Civic Society was intended as a PR job for the current review of the Structure Plan (which covers the period 1986-1991), and for BCC in general. It quickly becomes apparent that the Council has its collective hands tied by Government:-

- the Thatcherite philosophy of maximum choice for the location of private housebuilding and industry influences Dept. of the Environment advice and its stand on planning appeals;
- this outlook has led to central Berkshire's "designation" as a growth area- private capital could operate successfully, so let it- whilst verdant East and West Berkshire were spared;
- thus merely to allow for the possibility of further land allocation for 8000 houses (Heseltown) was not enough- the government sought and got a firm commitment irrespective of future demand;
- no specific grant for public transport is now available;
- likewise, in their zeal to limit council spending, the government has pushed housing money to the bottom of the list (the residual left after meagre sums have been set aside elsewhere) so councils cannot shift the balance away from the
- government's property-owning democracy by building council housing.

Of course, the Thatcher government, with its "free market" approach, is very helpful to property developers, each perceiving market demand for their product in partial ignorance of what their competitors are doing, and with that demand being an estimate of requirements several years ahead. Developers are in an even stronger position to push through their schemes because they often own the sites- planning authorities don't. Nor do councils have any influence over "the market", which fixes land values (depending on use) and it's the most lucrative land use the developers seek to build.

Planning authorities, for similar reasons, usually cannot amend the pattern of development determined by the developers' profit and loss calculations. Central Berkshire's status (as an area in which the wider region's development is to be concentrated) is just an extreme example, something which the County Council has had to accept. Housing provides a particular case in point: the number of potential house-owners is expected to rise by 64000 over the "Review Period", while average household size is to continuously fall, and substantial migration into the area is projected.

The council feels itself under irresistible pressure to allow private developers to build housing for sale to meet this demand- demand based on the ability to pay, rather than pure need, because there is so little money available for council housing. So with planning permission for 38000 houses already given but not implemented, the council is attempting to make a minor change; by allowing only 4000 to be built over the 1986-1991 period. The council's intentions may be laudable, but the problem is really out of their hands.

More restrictive proposals for allocation of industrial land and office floorspace are welcome but too late; far too much office space has already been allowed through. But the planners have been cornered.

Berkshire County Council, on the other hand, if Bob Stoddart is to be believed, are apparently completely resigned to unemployment, insufficient council housing, poor provisions for the disabled, etc etc... BCC seems unwilling for these problems even to be publicly debated, never mind improved... When's the Revolution?

Sisyphus

Planning

The Great Empty Office Conspiracy

There are at least thirty-one empty offices in Reading, the Bermuda in the Golden Triangle, the Sargasso of the South- with over one million square feet of empty office space between them. One of the reasons for this is that since 1980, the Reading District Council, under the influence of various holymen and astrologers, otherwise known as town planners, has operated its own exclusive model of sanity in the control of office development. The council decided to rely on non- statutory informal local planning as a directive to developers; but every refusal of planning permission led to an appeal to the Secretary of State, another Transylvanian mystic who simply reversed all the decisions of the council, so that office blocks have mushroomed all over Reading. The Chief Planner of the Reading District Council, with the smell of glory in his nostrils and a self-confessed numerologist, tried to appeal under the various town and country post-war planning Acts. He was ignored by the Home Office while the Secretary of State tore up the plans and said, "go West to the 'City' part of London and the cowboy developers". The former haven't budged an inch, while the latter have positively come out of the woodwork, attracted by the virgin land of Reading.

The problem is that Reading has the infra-structural skeleton of a nineteenth-century market town, which as a designated experimental area, has suffered the madcap additions and developments of various visionaries and crooks without legal recourse. Whole wedges of residential areas extend into the centre of Reading while there is an over-density of office blocks in other parts of the town, like the King's Rd and surrounding environs. Since the 1970's, there has been a continuous attempt to "diversify" commercial and mercantile interests away from the City of London, in the wake of new technologies locating themselves in areas like the Thames Valley, locally known as "Silicon Gulch". The response to this has been an acceleration in the evolution of Reading urban planning which in turn has encouraged the current explosion in property speculation, over-development of the suburbs into etceteravilles and the rash of office developments.

Empty office space accumulates because property speculators are psychics and are not regulated by demand and base their hopes on the perceived potential of Reading as a growth area. Unfortunately not enough attention has been paid to the lack of depth in Reading's commercial sector, or the fact that a crutch-based economy in minus figures tends to prevent smaller entrepreneurs from renting larger office space. Another factor is that the rents and rates in Reading are extortionate, and there have to be fairly good reasons for coming here, and there aren't many. There's a saying in the City: "Never get off the train at Reading". This situation is intolerable, but any public-minded citizen motivated enough to address the contradictions to one of the planning officers of the council is told point blank, "leave it to us" and is handed one of the old Labour party internal memorandums: "do right, respect those in authority over you, go to the council meetings and always work".

Rather than take any more of this, ^{people} with myth invaded skins should at random occupy the empty office blocks and turn them into stamping grounds. In every empty space, drums should be beaten, full speed and pagan, to bodies daubed with secret insignia in rhythm with ancestors of their neurons, as part of the liberation of this green and pleasant land.

A post-situationist
beserker.

Citizen Cain

JUST CIVICS

Gone are the golden days when the Reading Civic Society was welcomed by Councillors and planners alike as providing thoughtful and sometimes expert commentary on new developments in the town. Gone with the old hung Council every one. When the Civic Society had the temerity to question the Richfield Avenue deal that the Tories and Liberals have bought from Roger Smeeth and his friends in J.M. Jones, to suggest that the financial aspects might not be all that good and that J.M. Jones' record as the builders of the Dee Road Estate did not make them hot shots at the business of leisure centres (or much else?) Liberal leader Jim Day and Tory Hatchel Geoff Lowe were unstinting in their defence of the deal and tried to suggest that the good old Civic Society had finally lost its marbles. When the question of course is what had they themselves found instead.

BRATTS TOWN.

Beneficial effects of the miners' strike know no bounds and indeed have now reached Wokingham Town Football Club. Partly as a result of the increased profits they have obtained from hiring so many of their vehicles to the Thames Valley Police (for use in some cases outside the Thames Valley) Bratts are going to be sponsoring the club at £8000 a year for the next three years. It's an ill wind that doesn't lead to an advertising puff.

WATERING HO(Y)LE.

Reading of the Government's new tax on water which will mean water rates in the Thames Valley Water Authority area going up something like 10% you might think this was a case of taxation without representation. But the people of Reading are represented on the TWA: by no less a personage than County Councillor Denlphin Hoyle, in her spare time also leader of Wokingham District Council. But as her last exploit there was to move a vote of censure in two Liberal Councillors who had had the nerve to go to the press about problems on a new Council estate (yes, they still have them!) she is presumably unlikely to wish to make waves with the Government on our behalf. The reason she is your representative, incidentally, is that whenever the Berkshire branch of the Association of District Councils is asked to nominate a person for one of these quangos, it chooses a Tory from other than Reading or Slough so, it can be sure there is no chance of the perks or the illusion of power being picked up later by somebody from one of the other parties.

MARKHAM DOWN.

There'll be no new Council housing in Reading for a while yet. The Mayor has finally taught Housing Chairman Tony "Readibus" Markham one whole trick: whenever any Labour or Liberal Councillor mentions a piece of land at a Reading Borough Council meeting the so-called Chairman of the Housing Committee leaps to his feet with a silly grin all over his face and says "Sell it". He's getting quite good at this now but his trainer is doubtful whether he'll be able to teach him any more tricks before the end of the Mayoral year when the pup will return to the obscurity he so richly deserves.

The Mayor's friend Councillor Pauline Palmer is more trainable and at the last Council meeting delivered a whole speech clearly inspired by her mentor and notably mainly (and this is what gave it away) for its vicious dislike of Labour's Margaret Singh. Who bore it all.

FASCIST LEOPARDS.

"We have heard a lot tonight about one world. Well, when I was young there was only one world and it was called the British Empire." Not the last of the Empire Loyalists spouting loneliness at Hyde Park Corner, but Reading Councillor Fred Pugh, former member of the NF, sitting for Caversham just like Ron and Pauline, and indeed the man who seconded Ron's controversial nomination as Mayor earlier this year. A man the basic tenor of whose speech was that it didn't matter how many babies died in Ethiopia so long as they were black ones

MISS WINDSOR?

Mr Michael Ashcroft, creator of the Hawley Group which is one of the major share-holders in Windsor TV, is also now a share-holder and director in Miss World. With him at the 1984 contest (watching the title being awarded to bull-fighters pin-up Astrid Herrera) was his oppo, David Wickins of British Car Auctions, who has just taken over Blackbushe Airport (one of the sites it was sometimes wistfully suggested the Reading Rock Festival might move to after Mr Jewitt and his friends had got it out of sight and sound of Caversham). Watch shortly for page 3 to be replaced by Channel 3 on your very own cable TV?

THE MUTTERING MAYOR.

One of the many throwbacks on the Tory benches on the County Council is Major the Hon. Jeremy Monson, for some unknown reason Chairman of the Public Protection Committee which is, allegedly, responsible for civil defence as well as for things like nasty spikes in cheap toys. Prize quote garnered by a spy at the last County Council meeting: "The nuclear winter is a hypothesis which has yet to be proved" - some of us are hoping the particular hypothesis will not be put to the test! But the Major muttered on, unable to disguise the fact that there is no civil defence against nuclear winter or anything else despite the fact that his normally cost-conscious colleagues are determined to keep in one of Mrs Thatcher's good books by spending money on it. They sometimes seem almost more determined to do so than to get in others of her good books by not spending money on luxuries like education and social services. But, to give the final word to who else but a very non-Mayoral County Councillor Jewitt, "How dare these people in the Labour Party tell the Ministry of Defence what to do?"

How indeed in the wake of the Belgrano?

Citizen Cain

News

A DHSS auditor looking into the accounts of the Royal Berkshire Hospital recently apparently confirmed that private patients there still do not get sent bills. You didn't know they didn't get sent bills? Well, last May, £15,000 was found to be owing in this way. "A backlog of work in the accounts office was blamed." Apparently fraud is not suspected, merely incompetence. It seems that collecting fees off private patients has been left to the doctors! And "this income was retained by consultants for periods of up to a year or longer." Or longer? The auditor's report recommends that doctors "should not be allowed to keep patients' fees for long periods." (Evening Post, 21st November)

James

A pinball machine recently installed in the Dove in Orts Road depicts semi-naked women strutting their stuff around in satin corsets with their nipples protruding and no knickers. Would Brakspear's Brewery consider a similar machine showing men wearing crotchless panties with Christmas tree baubles dangling from their pricks equally acceptable? Write to Brakspear's Brewery, New Street, Henley, with your opinions on the matter.

JEC

Going Out

SATURDAY 1ST DEC:

- Paradise Club - Urban Warriors + disco, 9-2: benefit for Ethiopia.
- St. Giles Church, Southampton St - University Choral Society - free service of 9 lessons + 9 carols.
- Reading Women's Centre - Rhythm + Voice Workshop with Ova - feminist duo - learn to improvise to Afro/Brazilian rhythms - 12-2.30, creche, £1.50/75p (unwaged).
- Reading Centre for the Unemployed - Women's Party with food 7pm, OVA 8pm. £2 waged, £1 unwaged on door. - tel 662646.
- Bulmershe College - as 28th
- Progress Theatre - as 25th
- SHP Wilde Theatre - Christmas Crafts Fair.
- SHP - 2 day course, Using Video with Mark Jeffrey. 10.00am - 5pm, £25/£30.
- SHP Folk - Dead Sea Surfers 8pm, £1.20/£1.50.
- SHP Cinema - "Paris Texas" as 30th + 11pm showing.
- Hexagon - free folk, 12.15 - Keepers Gate Band.
- Hexagon - Reading Phoenix Choir, 7.30pm.

SUNDAY 2ND:

- Butler, Chatham St - free jazz.
- Caversham Bridge Hotel - Readifolk, 8pm, free.
- SHP Wilde Theatre - as yesterday
- SHP Cinema - "Paris, Texas", 7.45pm
- Hexagon - Drifters + support, 8pm. £6/£5/£4 adults, £2.50/£3.50/£4.50 under 16s/OAP...

MONDAY 3RD:

- The Bull, Nettlebed - folk. £2.
- SHP - "Paris, Texas" 7.45pm
- Hexagon - Wrestling, 7.30pm, £2/£2.50/£3.

TUESDAY 4TH:

- Tudor Arms - gay disco, 8pm, free.
- Paradise Club - Miners Benefit supper + dance 8pm. Dance only - £1.50/£1; dance + food - £3.50/£2.50.
- SHP Wilde Theatre - Kenny Ball + his jazzmen, 7.30pm, £4.50.
- SHP - "Paris, Texas" 7.45pm.
- Hexagon - David Essex, 8.30pm, £5.50/£6.50/£7.50.

WEDNESDAY 5TH:

- RFT - "The Informer" (18) 8pm. Natalie Baye, Philippe Leotarde
- SHP - "Paris, Texas" 7.45pm.

THURSDAY 6TH:

- Central Club, London St - Black Music Worldwide
- Sportsman, Shinfield Rd - free music.
- RFT - as 5th
- SHP - Video Workshop screening, 7.45pm.
- Hexagon - The Spinners 8pm, £3.50/£4.50/£5.50.

FRIDAY 7TH:

- Paradise Club - Fear of Darkness, 9-2: £2.
- Tudor Arms - gay disco, 8pm, free.
- SHP - "Company of Wolves" (18) dir. Neil Jordan. 7.45pm + 11pm.

SUNDAY 25TH:

- Target Club [by Tesco's] - Soft Dogs, £1.
- The Butler, Chatham St - Free Jazz.
- Caversham Bridge Hotel - Readifolk - Outlore, 8pm, free.
- Progress Theatre - "Marriage" (Gogol), £2.20/£1.80. tel 477594
- Regal Cinema Henley - Henley Symphony Orchestra, November concert, 3pm. tel: 575735.
- Angies, Wokingham - Juvenessence, £?
- SHP - 5th Independent Video Festival, £5 for the day.

MONDAY 26TH:

- Progress Theatre - as for 25th
- Hexagon - Victoria Woods in "Lucky Bag", 8pm, £3.50+ £4.50.
- SHP - "The Dead Zone" (19) film, 7.45pm.

TUESDAY 27TH:

- University S.U. - Benefit For Ethiopia: The Higsons
- Progress Theatre - as for 25th
- Tudor Arms - gay disco, free, 8pm.
- University, Palmer Building - Campus Concert: Elgar Miniatures - Dr Christopher Kent 1.10pm. 25p.
- Paradise Club - Kaya + Chocolate Teapot 8-11.30pm. £1.50 donation, 75p unwaged.
- SHP - film as 26th

WEDNESDAY 28TH:

- RFT - "Trading Places" (15) 8pm.
- Bulmershe College - "Hotel Paradiso" 7.30pm, £2 or £2.50 - an evening of French fun - the Colleges 20th Anniversary production.
- Progress Theatre - as 25th
- SHP Wilde Theatre - Neil Innes, 7.30pm, £7.
- SHP - "The Dead Zone" 7.45pm.

THURSDAY 29TH:

- Central Club, London St - Black Music Worldwide, £?
- Sportsman, Shinfield Rd - free music.
- RFT - as 28th
- Progress Theatre - as 25th
- Bulmershe College - as 28th
- Angies, Wokingham - Live Alive, £?
- Hexagon - Mayor's Market, 10.15am - huge range of stalls for various charities. Minimum donation 15p. Programmes + tickets from Box Office.
- SHP - Video Workshop, Screening, 7.45pm.

FRIDAY 30TH:

- Tudor Arms - gay disco, free, 8pm.
- Paradise Club, London St - disco + show 9-2 - £2.50.
- RFT - "The Mission" (PG) 8pm - dir. Parzizz Sayyid.
- Bulmershe College - as 28th
- Progress Theatre - as 25th
- Angies, Wokingham - Force Majeure
- SHP - "Paris Texas" 7.45pm. dir. Wim Wenders.

Going Out

Letters

12.11.84.

SATURDAY 8TH:

Paradise Club - King Dick Super Sound + Mighty Lion 9-2.
Benefit for Domino + Whist Club £2 adv, £2.50 on door.
SHP - Crows (folk) 8pm, £1.20/£1.50.
SHP - "Company of Wolves" as 7th.

SUNDAY 9TH:

Butter, Chatham St - free jazz.
Caversham Bridge Hotel - Reading folk.
SHP - "Company of Wolves", 7.45pm only

GOING OUT person urgently required.

John has been hard put to it to do the guide for the past two issues. We desperately need someone new. John is happy to advise anyone who takes it on, and can be contacted on 669154. This is a crucial part of the Rag and any offers of help are most welcome.

Dear Red Rag,

I wonder if other readers felt cheated off after reading "Anarchy in Wood Green" ? (last issue) For those who didn't see it... it was a 1/2 page article by someone called "Erik". He tells us of a supposed anarchist group of 30 people, who, as part of the "Stop the City/Support the Miners" effort, went to Wood Green (in London). After a few drinks at a pub they went out and smashed 50 bank and shop windows, and then wrote it up to tell us how "mischievous" they were. It occurred to me that some football supporters do that every week and don't get coverage in the Rag for it. I felt that the "action" described was more typical of an oppressive regime- of which the Rag is not a supporter?

Also, scaring some of the elderly residents around does not in my mind constitute a "classical anarchist insurrection". A similar action recently caused a local shopkeeper to have a heart attack and die (reported in tonight's Evening Post). Finally, some of our local community believe that Red Rag is as bad as their worst fears. These fears are not helped by articles of this nature. So please let's have more constructive writing for the future.

Paul Hartley

(* and Action)

ps I was advised to take a more jocular approach to this subject- but didn't want to make light of something I felt so strongly about.

Dear Red Rag,

I'd like to add to your recent revelations about the "Newbury Police State". In September, I was arrested at Greenham with four other women. We were charged with attempted criminal damage; it's amazing how the police can rationalize arbitrary arrest. So I went to a solicitor, applied for legal aid, and my application has been refused. Why? Not because I'm not entitled to it financially, but because "it is not in the interest of justice" that I be represented in court!!! To understand this nonsense, it is necessary to know that the "interests of justice" doesn't mean what you might think. In a fine example of New-speak, it has been redefined by the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Law Society. Their "Legal Aid Guide" says:

"Interests of justice may include, for example, situations where you are in real danger of going to prison or losing your job, where substantial questions of law are to be argued or where you are unable to follow the proceedings and explain your case due to inadequate knowledge of English, mental illness or some other mental or physical disability".

The "interests of justice" obviously doesn't include a solicitor for people who've been grabbed by the police. And the proverbial reliable source tells me "interests of justice" hardly ever extends to Greenham Women!

To compound this lunacy, when I went to Newbury Magistrates Court to plead not guilty, I was "strongly advised to get legal representation". By whom??? The Clerk of the Court that refused me legal aid!

I am considering re-applying now on the grounds that this case is swiftly bringing about mental incapacity!

Yours in Peace,

One of the Bury's Bank Five

SUPPORT THE DEC 4
MINERS
8 - LATE
TUESDAY

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PROCEEDS TO
Gwent Food Fund 6

Gay's The Word?

The customs raid on Gay's the Word Bookshop in London is not widely known about. There was a chance last Monday to hear Paud Hegarty, the assistant manager of the shop, give a first-hand account of the raid and its aftermath to a Gay Soc meeting at Reading University. Since the meeting was held at short notice and not many people heard of it, some details:

Customs officers have enormous powers to seize imported literature, and anything else they fancy, to an extent you may not believe. Gay's the Word have found out. Their parcels from the U.S. stopped arriving in January of this year; then at 2 o'clock on April 10th, three customs officers entered Gay's the Word, with powers of arrest, to seize all the imports in the shop. They were apparently expecting porn magazines, but Gay's the Word isn't that kind of a shop. In some consternation, they rang their superiors and explained that they couldn't just make a decision on the spot, these were "real books" and you had to read them! They took all the imported fiction and many other titles. Some have been returned since, others seized subsequently. There are 144 titles now up for forfeiture on grounds of indecency at a magistrates' court. For Gay's the Word to stop importing seriously narrows their range of gay books and threatens their financial survival. Given the harassment meted out by customs to directors and workers and even ex-workers of the shop, this customs action is clearly destined to discourage them from selling gay books. By the time you read this, charges will have been pressed against 9 people connected with the shop, which means a long wait and Old Bailey trials as well as the forfeiture case. If they lose, it means big fines or prison; if they win, it'll change the law. "Indecency" is a much vaguer charge than "obscenity" and no technical evidence can be brought in defence, only generalised statements about public taste. At the moment customs can object on grounds of "indecency" (liable to shock a mild-tempered citizen) to the importing of books which are freely published in this country.

The irony of this case is that at the same time as customs are rushing about seizing U.S. gay books and harassing the gay community, including the Gay Christian Movement, there is a boom in U.K. gay publishing: feminist publishers publishing lesbian literature, Brilliance and Gay Men's Press pouring out original and reprinted works, and even "straight" publishing houses like Faber, Picador and Chatto & Windus have discovered the "pink pound", as Paud puts it. They at least are being supportive, as is the Booksellers' Association, who see this as an infringement of the right to publish. So the whole circus could be at least as embarrassing for the forces of law and disorder as the Knockabout and Airlift trials were. In that case only one pamphlet was successfully prosecuted, and there's a view that they're trying a different field now to win some face. Seizures of books on a smaller scale are going on all the time; often a shop will renounce a small quantity of books rather than go through the procedure of claiming them back. Gay's the Word decided that they had to take a stand because this time customs had gone too far.

Paud is a really interesting speaker; quite amazing when you consider that he and others are having to run Gay's the Word, with a smaller stock and lower takings, and run a defence campaign and go around speaking to meetings and all the rest. They deserve all the support they can get.

There's lots you can do to help. More information, firstly, is available locally at Acorn Bookshop, under the Chatham Street Carpark, also a petition to sign. If you can, write letters to your M.P. and the Chancellor (who's in charge of customs). put motions in support of Gay's the Word through your T.U. Branch. And give money!! - they're going to need thousands of pounds, whatever happens. If you see anything about the issue in the press, write follow-up letters to keep it alive.

Hard Times
Liz.

*To give money to Gay's the Word, use the collecting tin in Acorn Bookshop, or send it to Defend Gay's the Word Campaign, 38 Mount Pleasant, London W14 9AP.

Crèche

Members of the Men's Group are at present attempting to set up a crèche service which will be able to act as support for when parents want to go to Greenham, other peace camps, picket lines, conferences etc.

The crèche will be free to those who can't afford much, but may ask for a bit of money from those who can.

Would anyone interested in helping, or who thinks they may need the crèche please contact the Men's Group, Box 28, Acorn; or phone John (666681) or Mo (67149).

Plain clothes police van

White Ford Escort van LBW 641 W

Spotted on the Caversham Road with one salsatian, one flat-headed constabule, one arial and no blue light.

Greenham Women are moving their office out of London and are urgently looking for another in Newbury or Reading. Offers or suggestions please directly to the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham or to Reading 68330 or 871345.

Events

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1

Greenham Support Group - SILENT CIRCLE meet at 11am outside the Target (back of the Butts) Women Welcome.

War Toys Demo - Meet outside the Hexagon at 2pm. Leafletting, Street Theatre, FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN All welcome, phone 588459 for details.

Model Railway Exhibition - Old town hall Blagrove st. 10 - 6pm Adm. £1/50p (child/OAP).

OVA Workshop - Rythm and Voice, at the Reading Women's Centre, Basement, Old Shire Hall, Abbey st. From 12 noon to 2.30pm. £1.50waged 75p unwaged. creche. Women welcome.

MONDAY 26

NOVEMBER 26

Civic Society, - The Swan in History and evolution. A talk by Luke Over of the Berks Archeological Soc. At the Civic offices in the Kennet rooms at 8pm.

South Reading CND - Meeting at 180 Hartland Rd at 8pm. Details from Stanley Plimsoll 861183.

Hexagon - Exhibition, Paul Wilson 'Variety and Unity'. Until 5/12/84.

Woodley Camera Club - Art through the ages, a talk by Ann Mather at Woodford Park Pavilion, Woodley. At 8pm.

TUESDAY 27

The life of the Rabbit - Talk by David Cowan at Dinton Pastures Country Park Centre, Davis St. Hurst at 7.30pm. Adm. 75p

The Geography of Development Aid - Talk by Pro-Chancellor of the Ogun State Uni. of Nigeria. At 4.30pm. in the Palmer Bdg. rm. G10

WEDNESDAY 28

Peace Pledge Union - Meeting 8pm. at 15 Stanley Grove all welcome ring 588459 for details.

Housing Committee - Meeting at civic offices 6.30pm.

Education - Group Sub-Committee Meeting at civic offices at 10.30am.

THURSDAY 29

What's happening in Nicaragua? Sandino-today and forever Speaker from N. solidarity Campaign - Uni. Palmer Bdg. rm.109 at 7.30pm adm. 50p. Details from Ben on 65285.

Leisure Committee - Meeting civic offices at 6.30pm.

Mayor's Market - 10.30 - 4pm adm. 15p donation with programme. At the Hexagon.

Henley Exhibition Centre - Forget me nots, silk flower arrangements. Til 2/12.

FRIDAY 30

Labour History Club - Labour and Local Government, a talk by Dave Sutton, all welcome. At the Red Lion (back rooms) Southampton St. 8pm.

Dating Photographs - talk given by Lawrence Taylor, for the Berkshire Family History Soc. At Friends Meeting Hse. Church st. Reading. 7pm for 7.30 start.

Veggie Dinning - at Fairview Centre, end of George st. at 8pm. Tickets from Acorn.

SUNDAY 2

Vegan Group - Tofo Demonstration by Sue Scott. 2.45pm at Neighbourhood Centre Hall Lyon Sq. Tilehurst. Tel 418505 for directions.

RCAR Demo - Outside the Smithfield Show in London. Phone 418505 for more details.

Cyclists Touring Club - Ride to Chaddleworth from Caversham Bridge. Starts at 9.15am. The village lies north of Newbury, 55miles the round trip.

Women's Centre - Meeting at 8pm of the Greenham Support Group. Women welcome. Also help is wanted for the Night-watch at Greenham every thursday night. Contact Ann Hillocks on 68330 for futher details.

.....
RED RAG COLLECTIVE MEETING - At 30 Erleigh Rd 4pm. Everyone's chance to become a member of the collective!

MONDAY 3

Readibus Users Association - Grand Xmas Fayre. 2.30pm at the Community Centre, Northumberland Ave. Raffle, refreshments, etc.

Henley Exhibition Centre - Paintings by Margaret Marshall and Wendy Nicholson.

TUESDAY 4

Transportation (for the Council?) - Committee meeting at 6.30 in the civic offices.

ROAR Meeting - At St Mary's Centre (moved) at 7.30. New members particularly welcome.

SURVEY - Child care in Reading. Help needed to distribute questionnaire. Meet at 10.30am at the Reading Centre for the Unemployed 4-6 East St. or contact Ann Hillocks on 596639. Please PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE help!!

WEDNESDAY 5

Public meeting - With members of the West Berks Community Health Council and the West Berks District Health Authority. At 7.30pm 10 Gun St. Protest about the CUTS.

Environment Committee - Civic offices 6.30pm.

University Ecology Group - Talk by Lawrence Woodward, The future of organic agriculture. 2.15pm Early Gate, Whiteknights, Agric Dept. Rm. I.3.

THURSDAY 6

Resources Sub-Committee - 5.30 civic offices.

RED RAG - Copy deadline and Editorial meeting. The co-ordinator is Jackie. Her contact number is on the cover.

FRIDAY 7

Young Vegetarians - What do vegetarians eat for xmas?
A cookery demo. At friends meeting house, Church st.
At 7.30. adm. £2 includes refreshments and food that is cooked

Planning Committee - 2.30 as above.

RED RAG - Typing and headlines. Offers of help as above.

SATURDAY 8

ROAR Demo - Oxford, University of Psychology Dept.,
Costumes, fun, Costumes, Fun, and more FUN.

RED RAG - Production Day. Learn how it's done see above.

SUNDAY 9

Meals-on-wheels to Greenham - Meeting of cooks and drivers
at 44 Gosport Rd. at 8pm to plan trips on the 16,17,18,19th

Cyclists touring club - Trip to Pishill (?) leave from
Caversham bridge at 10.30am. 25miles. Riding with the
Reading Cycle Campaign.

RED RAG - Folding and Distribution, where & when see front

FORTHCOMING

WEDNESDAY 12

Imprint Soc. - Open evening. Posters: please bring along
unusual and interesting examples for discussion. At dept.
of Typography, Early Gate Whiteknights at 8pm.

THURSDAY 13

Policy Committee - 5.30 civic offices.

The History of Reading Soc. - From old dissent to rational
dissent. Presbyterians and Unitarians in Reading. A talk
by Dermot O'Rourke. Meet at 7.30 in the Abbey Gateway.

GETTING YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS.

The first four Getting Your Message Across workshops
have been a considerable success, with nearly fifty
people taking part. On Monday participants pasted up
two pages of Red Rag; on Tuesday they wrote press
releases while discussing the evils of the capitalist
press. On Wednesday they designed posters and on
Thursday discovered how to use local radio.

We hope that the second week will be as interesting
and stimulating and that even more people will come
to the workshops. They are:

Monday 26th: printing and duplicating
Tuesday 27th: writing
Wednesday 28th: public meetings and exhibitions
Thursday 29th: video

Each workshop starts at 8 pm and they are all free.
On Monday we will be at Acorn Bookshop; the others
are all at the Centre for the Unemployed, East St.

Guy

VEGGIE DINING...

FIGHT THE WINTER AT GREENHAM

The campaign started in Ascot is well
under way, with various town groups working
in turns on a rota, supplying food and dry
blankets. Donations of food and munny are
needed.

The next Veggie Dining (Friday 30th Nov.)
will be used to raise funds for the Reading
group. A 50 pence surcharge will be made on
each ticket sold. If you would like to help
on the evening please get in touch.

MINERS BENEFIT.....TUES 4th DEC.

Veggie Dining is catering at the
Paradise Club and yes, still more help is
required. We aim to serve about 100 at 8:00 pm
There will be a cooks meeting at 15, Stanley
Greve on Tuesday 27th Nov at 8:00pm.

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SMALL ADS

FOR SALE - 2 car cassette players with
speakers, in working order. Offers/
donation to Red Rag - phone Paul on
Rdg 52947.

WANTED - double mattress - free (cheap) will
pay delivery costs. Please contact Laura
at 92a London Rd, or leave a message on
Rdg 666681.

PAID AD



REGULAR EVENTS

Reading Cycle Campaign: meets 2nd Mon of month at UBCycles London St 8pm. Membership enquiries ring Chris Mayers 589178. General enquiries John Nixon 483183 or John Rigby 64667

Reading Birth Centre: meets 3rd Tues of month for food and chat Ring 61330 for venue.

Reading Organisation for Animal Rights (ROAR): 1st Tues of month at the Crown, Crown St. Details from Dave 54098

Men's Group: meets weekly. For dates and venue, contact Box 28 Acorn Bookshop.

Miners Support Committee: meets every Thurs 7.30pm. at TGWU office, 36 King's Rd. Ring 590311 for details.

Photography: sessions every Tues 10-12, 1-3 at RCU, East St.

Housing and Welfare Rights: 1st Thurs morning every month at the Community Hse. 117 Cumberland Rd

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

Mini Market: Thurs 9-11 St Marys Centre, Chain St.

Women's Centre: open Tues 10-2 Wed 10-2 Sat 11-3. All women & kids welcome. Free pregnancy testing Tues 7-9. Bring urine sample from 1st Pee of the day.

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

Anarchists: meet every Mon Details via Box 19 Acorn Bookshop. Also Autonomists.

Peace Pledge Union (PPU): meets monthly. Pacifist group. Contact 588459, 374532 or Box 10 Acorn.

Ecology Party: meets 1st & 3rd Mon of the month at 8 College Rd and 38 Long Barn Lane respectively. Contact Maria 663195

Socialist Workers Party: meets every Wed at the Red Lion Southampton St. 8pm.

Greenham Support Group (Women): meets fortnightly. Nightwatch every Thurs. Contact via Womens Centre, Abbey St.

Alcoholics Anonymous: groups meet regular in Reading (9 meetings a week), Pangbourne, Thatcham, Henley, & Bracknell. Day and night info and help line - 597494.

Labour History Group: meets monthly at Red Lion, Southampton St. Contact Kathy 590139 or Mike 867789 for details.

Vegans: meet 1st. Sun of month at 1 Orrin Close, Tilehurst. Contact Liz & Steve on 21651

Amnesty: meets 2nd Thurs of month at St. Marys Centre, Chain St. Contact Jean 472598.

History of Reading Soc.: meets 3rd Tues of month at the Abbey Gateway.

Cyclists Touring Club: outings Sun 9.15am from Caversham Bridge or Henley. For details ring Richard on Bracknell 50849

Wednesday is Womens Day: at Reading Centre for the Unemployed (RCU) East St. Coffee, advice courses etc from 10.30am.

Silkscreen Workshops: at Community House, 117 Cumberland Rd Details from Clive 662302.

Cruelty-Free Toiletries: market stall every Sat behind Tesco's.

National Council for Civil Lib: meets 2nd Mon of month at St. Marys Centre Chain St. Ring Paul 861582.

Reading Recreation Arts Centres: painting for pleasure at Town Hall, Blagrove St. Mon 7-9 Tues 10-12. Details 55911 or 861289.

Berks. Anti-Nuclear Campaign: (BANC) meets 2nd Tues of month at Friends Meeting Hse. Also neighbourhood groups. PO Box 158 Reading or Phone Gill or Ed on 594855.

Labour Party Young Socialists: Weds at Fairview Community Centre, bottom of George St. 8pm

T'ai Chi Classes: beginners & intermediate. Open to all. Tues lunchtime, intermediate. Wed lunchtime, beginners. Contact Nick 875123(ex 6221) or Martin 853670. £3 per session plus large reduction for unwaged.

Traditional Festival Dance: every Wed until 19th Dec. Friends Meeting Hse. 6 Church St. Rdg 7.45-10, 75p ring Anna 864665.

Dance Fitness: at RCU, East St. Wed 10-12pm. Details 596639.

Carpentry: Free course at Adult College, Wilson Centre, Wilson Rd. Mon 1-3 For unwaged. Ring 596639

Digging on the Dole: at RCU Free course for unwaged. Ring 596639

Books and Records Sale: every last Sat of the month. 10-4 at 4 Culver Rd (side of College Arms). Contact 65533.

Astrology: beginners class. Started mid-Oct. £18 Contact Sue on 669571.

Sahaja Yoga: Regular public meeting every Fri at 7pm at music Rm St Davids Hall 26 London Rd. All welcome, no charge. Contact 01-673-1956.

Womens Assertiveness Training: Free at RCU for unwaged. Fri 1-3 Creche available. Phone 596639.

Drama Workshops: Free to jobfree at RCU. Practical workshops in drama technique for beginners & experienced performers. Tues 1-3. Until review in Jan.

Drinking or Gambling Problem? Feel you cannot talk? Alone & lonely? Then you may want to talk to Michael at RCU, who will be pleased to talk in strictest confidence. Every Tues 2-4pm.

Reading Indian Music & Dance: group meets at EP Collier School York Rd, off Caversham Rd, Reading during school term every Sat, at 10.00am. Anybody interested is welcome to join the group.

MONEY!

Rag News

MONEY!

It has been fairly healthy recently, but it is rapidly getting less so. A donation of 10p per copy would be sufficient to cover printing costs. But as we don't believe in miracles, we'll just ask you to fill out the standing order form in this issue. Surely you can afford £1 per month? And don't forget the collecting boxes in the outlets?

DISTRIBUTION

We have found a distributor for Southcote, and this issue's appeal is for distributors to take on group M and group R. Group M covers the top end of Wokingham Road, from the W. Rd. shops to the Three Tuns and streets off it. (15 addresses). Group R covers the area round the Central Swimming Pool (11 addresses). If you can take over either round please ring Guy on 669562.

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)
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 Signed.....Date.....
 Your name.....
 Address.....

 Your a/c number.....
 Please send this form to Red Rag, c/o Box 79, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading. NOT to your bank.