

WOODLANDS AGAINST THE POLL TAX NEWS

AUTUMN 89.

FREE TO ALL WOODLANDERS

GOTCHA!

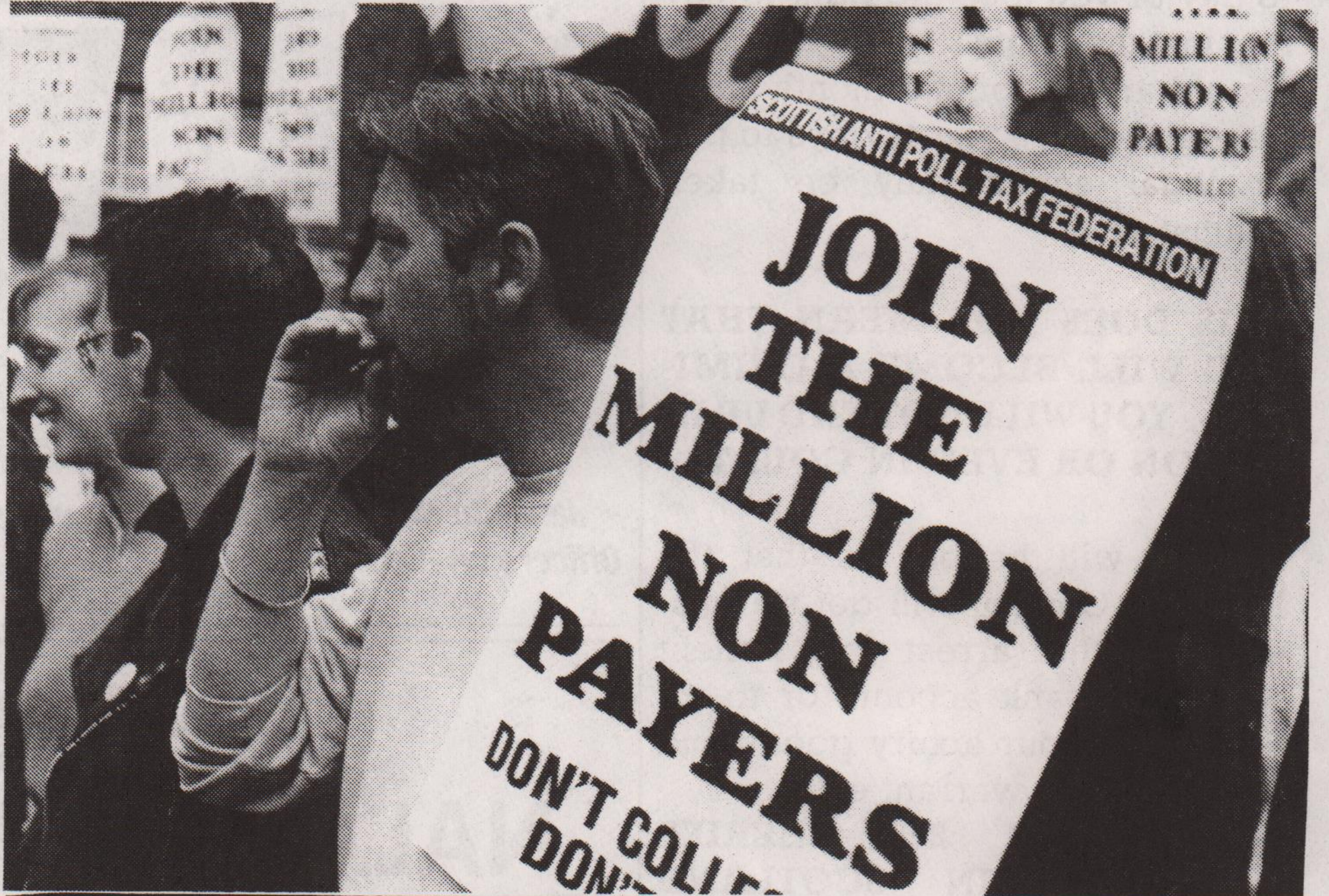
THATCHERS FLAGSHIP SINKING POLL TAX CRUMBLES

Over a million spunky Scots have not paid the unpopular Poll Tax.

Around half of these are in Strathclyde. Woodlands against the Poll Tax are proud to be a part of this mass non-payment campaign. Strathclyde Regional Council's Poll Tax collectors are facing increasing problems in implementing the Tories planned cuts in local authority spending.

A MESS OF THEIR OWN MAKING

- Still delays in sending out payment books.
- Register of those liable to pay is still only 70% accurate.
- No successful warrant sales for non-registration fines so far.



- Problems with the computer software handling the scale of the **Poll Tax Chaos**.
- Administrative chaos compounded by the recent NALGO strike.
- Warning letters to all non payers have been delayed until October.
- Debt recovery procedures will probably not start until December or next year.
- The system of recovery will be overloaded by the massive scale of non payment.

What this means is that the mass non payment campaign is here and is working. *Thatchers Poll Tax Flagship* is not on an even keel. The

SURGERY

John Gray is your local Regional Councilor. If you have anything to ask to him about the Poll Tax or the possibility of Warrant Sales, remember, you have the right to go to his surgery. It is at Willowbank school every first and third Saturday of the month, 10am to noon.

Here's a few of the Woodlands crowd on the march at the end of June. About 15,000 people turned out to march to Kelvingrove Park, to tell the world that they are not paying their Poll Tax.

Poll Tax relies upon peoples compliance. Withdraw that compliance and the Poll Tax collapses. If we refuse to pay, can they make us?

NO! They have neither the talent nor the bottle.

With only 200 Sheriff Officers in Scotland 1,000,000 warrant sales is an impossibility.

**DON'T COLLECT; DON'T PAY.
FIGHT THE POLL TAX
ALL THE WAY**

**HERE IS
ANOTHER**

REMINDER

**DON'T
PANIC**

Don't panic if you have had a 7 day reminder or a final reminder. You are in the same position as hundreds of thousands of others who either can't or won't pay the Poll Tax.

You should get 2 reminders, the first supposedly gives you 7 days to pay or you lose the right to pay by installements. The second should arrive about a month afterwards and give you 14 days to pay or legal action may be taken against you.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU WILL BECOME A CRIMINAL. YOU WILL NOT END UP IN PRISON OR EVEN IN COURT.

What will happen is that the Regional Council will get permission to either arrest your benefit wages or bank account or to try and poind your luxury goods and sell them in a warrant sale.

WITH ONLY 200 SHERIFF OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND THEY MIGHT AS WELL WHISTLE FOR IT.

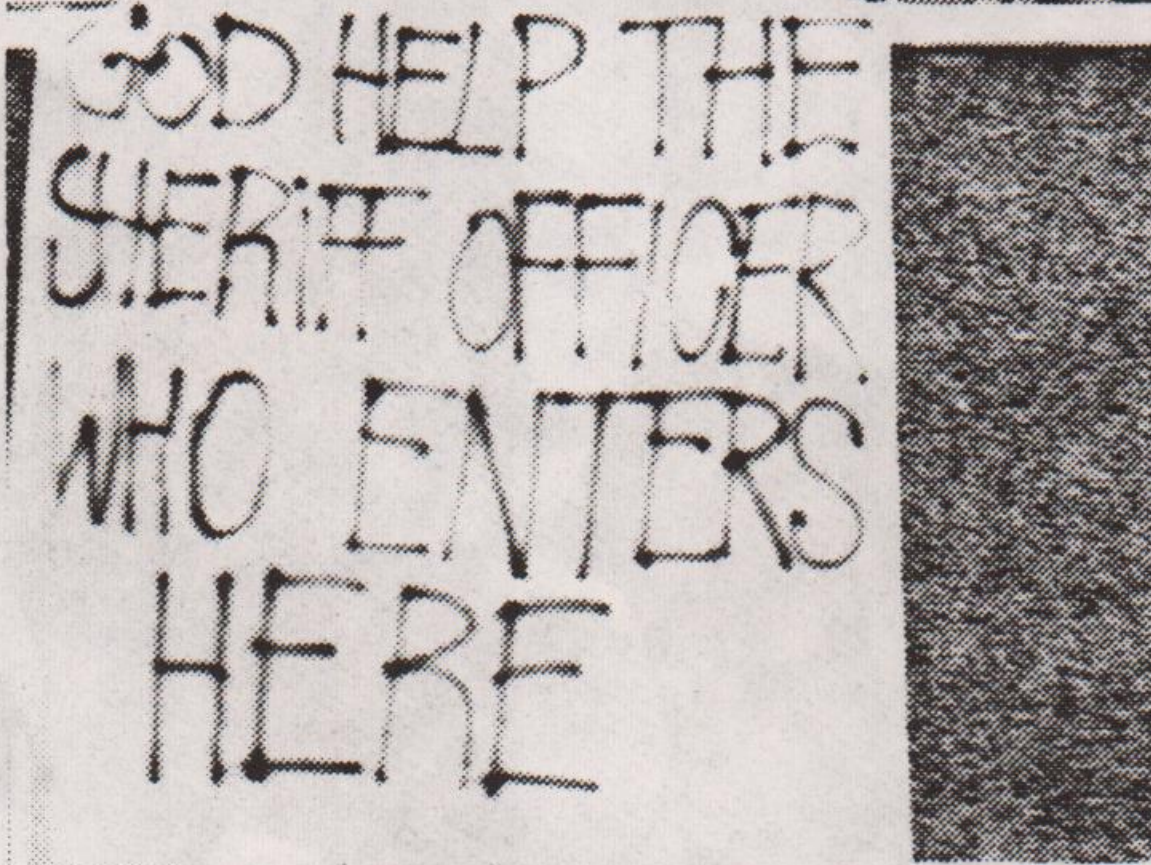
A lot of people are going to pretend to be out when the Sheriff Officers call, to stop them valuing anything. This means they will have to inform you of when they will return. This will give you time to move all of your luxury goods next door. If you are still in doubt about what to do phone our HOTLINE.

WHO WOULD WARRANT IT?

In Rutherglen this July the Regional Council had a bitter taste of what is to come if they think they can use Sheriff Officers and Warrant sales to bully us into paying.

Jannette McGinn refused to register or to pay the fines for not registering. The Council singled her out for rough treatment and sent in the Sheriff Officers to 'poind' her belongings. (This is when they value your 'luxury' goods prior to a warrant sale)

The threat of a 1,000 protesters outside her home made the Council



Jannette McGinn sending the Sheriff's Officers on their way.

cancel the 'poinding'. Even so, 300 people did protest there and went on to picket and occupy the Sheriff Officer's office.

The message is clear: **God help the Sheriff Officer who enters here.**

After another failed poinding, in Barrhead, on Friday 15th September the protesters went on to occupy the Regional Council Offices in India Street.

After occupying the offices, everyone left peacefully. Next day, in the Glasgow Herald, a council spokesman said it had been an embarrassment to the Council as they were entertaining a delegation of trade unionists from the Soviet Union. Did they explain to their visitors that while the public could not occupy the Council offices: the Council could invade people's homes.

In Aberdeen, a similar demonstration took place but the Sheriff Officer's got into the 'refusnik's' home. Unfortunately, there were no luxury goods for them to poind. Maybe there were none! Maybe they were moved next door! Guess we'll never know!

THERE'S A LOT NALGOING ON IN 1989

As part of their successful campaign the beat the Tory cuts on local services, NALGO, the local government union, held a successful series of 'all out', one day strikes. Then they withdrew all of their 'key' workers until they had won.

In the short term, the strike has compounded the Poll Tax disorder, by slowing down the Regional Council's timetable for implementation even further.

In Central Region, one councilor

(who fully supports non payment) approached the Poll Tax office, only to be told by an officer not to bother paying "because we're in such a mess".

A very interesting point was admitted by Lothian Regional Council - they can't arrest money from the wages of their own workers. Strathclyde Anti Poll Tax Federation have checked it out and it seems to apply to our region also.

H O T L I N E

If you need any help, advice or support with the Poll Tax, phone us on :-

Or

is, G4.