

HIGHFIELDS ANTI POLL TAX UNION NEWS

NO BAILIFFS LOBBY

On Wednesday 22nd August 50 people demonstrated outside the City Councillors surgery on Bonsall Street. We were demanding that the Council should not use bailiffs against people who don't pay the Poll Tax.

Despite having had a letter from HAPTU three weeks before telling him that we wanted to put him straight on using Bailiffs Peter Soulsby failed to turn up. We then went to his house but he was obviously hiding under the settee as there was no sign of life!

We're challenging him to a public debate about the City Councils policies on the Poll Tax - he'll have to account for himself in front of the people of Highfields.

Councillor Malik Salim who did turn up made clear his support for HAPTU, his opposition to prosecutions and the use of Bailiffs and promised that he would be there to support anyone they were used against.

COURT SUMMONS

In early August the first non-payers in Leicestershire were taken to court. It wasn't a Tory Council that did this but Labour controlled Leicester! A couple from Highfields were first in court and were refused their democratic rights to a "McKenzies friend" or adviser. This happened all week and the Leicester Rights Centre are asking for a judicial review.

The City Council were terrified about how many would turn up and so only listed 200 a day. They also spent most of the weekend ringing people up trying to persuade them not to go to court. Despite all of this people did turn up to have their say and it was the Court and Council that were on trial. When they took an 81 year old disabled man to court we all knew that the verdict on the Council was "GUILTY".

As far as we know the next court cases are in late September - at this rate it will take 5 years to get us all in court. If you get a summons get in touch and make sure you go to court.

MILLIONS NOT PAYING

A recent survey in The Independent on Sunday showed that 5 months in to the Poll Tax up to 12 million people haven't paid a penny. In Leicester the City Council still dare not say how many haven't paid-but they've sent out 78 thousand reminders!

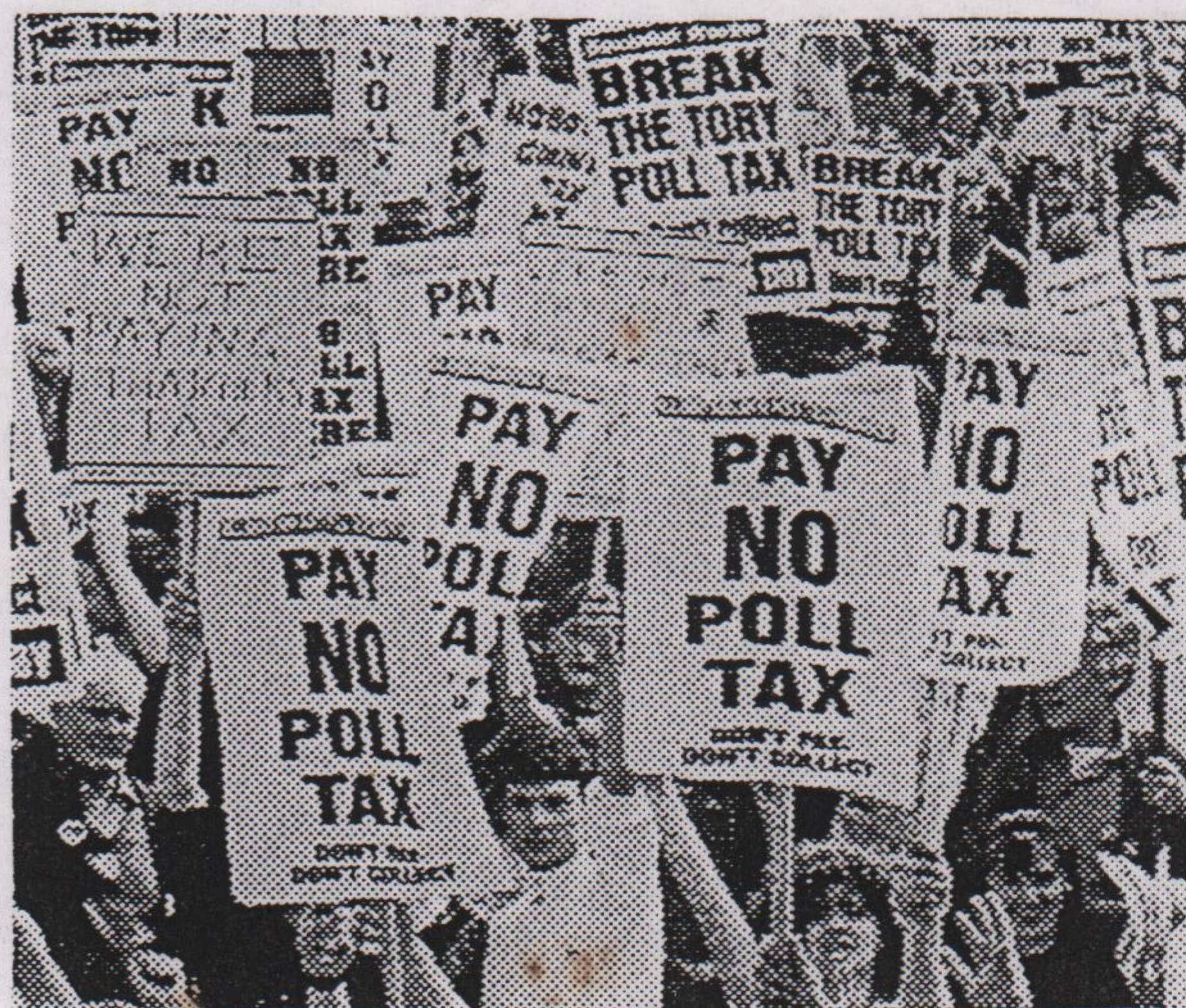
BAILIFFS OFFICE OCCUPIED

The Leicestershire Bailiff Busters got off to a flying start on Friday 24th August when they occupied Bailiffs offices on London Rd. The firm of A.A.Johnson are operating in the Grantham area and non-payers there asked us to pay them a visit. Two of the squad pretended they'd come to pay a debt, the manager opened the door and 20 of us rushed in! If they're all that bright they haven't got a chance!

We were demanding assurances from the Bailiffs about their behaviour and they promised they'd be good - if not we'll just have to go back!

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

We support the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign which is helping the hundreds of people charged after the Police riot in Trafalgar Square on the Demonstration on March 31st. Someone was recently sent to prison for two years for punching and kicking a Police van after it had driven into the crowd at high speed! We also support the campaign to help the two people arrested on the first day of prosecutions in Leicester.



HAPTU GROWING

HAPTU has been growing strongly - we now have about 400 members and people are joining all the time. Last week 8 people joined from Park Vale Rd alone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

YOU can help HAPTU by leafletting, canvassing, helping to organise events and street meetings, joining the Bailiff Busters or being a contact. Get in touch - Pete/Nici 553440 9 Laurel Rd - Ralph 551075 31 Tennyson st.

NEXT HAPTU MEETING

THURSDAY 6 SEPT 7.30 69 CHANDOS STREET