

HIGHFIELDS ANTI POLL TAX UNION NEWS**LEICESTER COURT CASES**

In late September, as we predicted in HAPTU NEWS 1, another 2,400 summons were issued. Non-payers were taken to Court on the 25th and 26th of September and things didn't go well for the Council or Courts!

On the first day all of the people due to go in at 9.30 were from Highfields. We are a bastion of resistance to the Tax and they picked on us first - it was a mistake! The people from Highfields held up the Court from 9.30 to 11.45 - over twice the time they'd allowed! One woman lasted 45 minutes on her own! Brilliant!! This meant that the Magistrates couldn't deal with

everyone and in the confusion forgot to issue orders for those who hadn't turned up! HA HA!!

The next day the Court adjourned everyone who turned up and asked for a McKenzie Friend - a lay adviser - the Magistrates refused people this basic Right at the last hearings and are clearly expecting defeat in the Judicial Review of their illegal actions!

On the evidence of these two days the system is in deep trouble dealing with non-payers. If you get a summons or know someone who gets one the message is - TURN UP AND DEMAND YOUR RIGHTS!!

BAILIFFS

There have been victories against the Bailiffs around the Country but also some setbacks.

In Bishops Cleeve in Avon hundreds of local people set up road blocks to stop the Bailiffs! The story was much the same in Barri in South Wales. In Grantham, supported by our occupation of the Bailiff's office on London Road, individual non-payers turned them away.

In Wandsworth and the Isle of Wight, however, Bailiffs did get into people's houses. In the Isle of Wight they illegally broke in. In Wandsworth they conned people into letting them in by saying they'd be arrested if they didn't cooperate. Both of these actions are being legally challenged.

The lessons are that Anti Poll Tax Unions MUST make sure that non-payers have all the information they need and turn out people to oppose the Bailiffs. HAPTU will soon be issuing 6,000 leaflets explaining how to beat the Bailiffs. We all need to prepare as much local resistance against them as we can - the bigger the Campaign the easier it is to stop these scum!

SOULSBY - NO HIDING PLACE

Peter Soulsby, leader of the City Council, who is in favour of using Bailiffs to collect the Poll Tax, has replied to our challenge to a public debate by saying he won't come unless we get a Tory minister to appear as well - presumably he doesn't want to be lonely!

We're not accepting this nonsense. Everybody in Highfields knows this is a Tory Tax. The question is - why is the council implementing it and why are they threatening to use Bailiffs? We're not letting Soulsby off that easily - watch this space!

MASS NON PAYMENT OFFICIAL

On Thursday 20th September the Leicester Mercury confirmed what HAPTU has been saying all along - people aren't paying the Poll Tax! Up to the end of June 60% in Leicester hadn't paid! Only 5 other places had a better record of resisting the Tax!

It was a great story! The Council and the Tory Mercury could hardly hide their panic! There are now at least 43,000 who haven't paid a penny!

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

The Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign has been boosted by the Critical Eye programme on C4 on Tuesday 18th September.

The programme clearly showed the Police attempting to smash up the March 31st demonstration using baton and cavalry charges, driving vehicles into the crowd at speed and making violent, indiscriminate arrests.

We say -

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!

ST ALBANS GROUP

Non-payers in the St Albans Rd area meet fortnightly to support each other and to organise activities like canvassing. At their last meeting 14 people turned up. The co-ordinator is Jackie 50 St Albans Rd.

Street meetings are also held in the following areas...

Severn St area	- Paul 20 Severn St
Evington Rd	- Nick 14 Evington Rd
Maynard Rd area	- Chris 36 Cecil Rd.

If you live elsewhere in Highfields why not follow their example? Give us a ring and we'll help set it up.

LONDON DEMO

A demonstration is being organised in London on October 20th to welcome the Peoples March and to celebrate 6 months of non-payment. HAPTU will be there! If you want to go please get in touch.

APPEAL

HAPTU relies on donations and fundraising to pay for our campaign - please give as much as you can!

PEOPLE'S MARCH

The People's March Against the Poll Tax from Scotland to London is coming through Leicester on October 6th. Come and join the March at Rushey Fields Recreation Ground, Melton Road 1pm or come to the Rally at Town Hall Square at 2pm.

ANTI POLL TAX ARMY!

500 soldiers were taken to Court in Salisbury for refusing to pay the Poll Tax! We're trying to twin with them to get some help with Bailiff Busting!!

NEXT HAPTU MEETING 4 OCTOBER