

NED LUD'S NEWS

Nottingham's voice of resistance

August 2002

A NATION OF 'REFUGEES'

Politicians and the media have a lot to say - mostly negative - about "refugees" or "asylum seekers". What they never say is that in reality the people of Britain are made up of successive waves of refugee immigrants and that in the last few centuries millions of people have left Britain as refugees for other countries.

IMMIGRANTS TO BRITAIN

Ever since prehistoric times successive waves of people have migrated from Europe into the British Isles: Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Danes, Normans - as many of our surnames indicate. Nottingham was founded by Saxons and its name is Norman. More recently, in the 17th. century hundreds of thousands of French Protestants (Huguenots) fled to England to escape religious persecution. Their energy and initiative made an important contribution to the industrial revolution and their French surnames are still widespread, e.g. Courtauld, the textile firm.

In the 18/1900's millions of Irish people had to flee their homeland because of the political-religious persecution and economic exploitation they suffered at the hands of the English ruling class. Paradoxically, many of them came to England where they made up an important part of the industrial working class required by the growing industrial economy. In the inner areas of Nottingham at least 10% of the population have Irish surnames, which means that a much higher percentage of the population are of at least part Irish descent. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries hundreds of thousand of Jews fleeing persecution in the Russian Empire settled here and made a significant contribution to business and the professions.

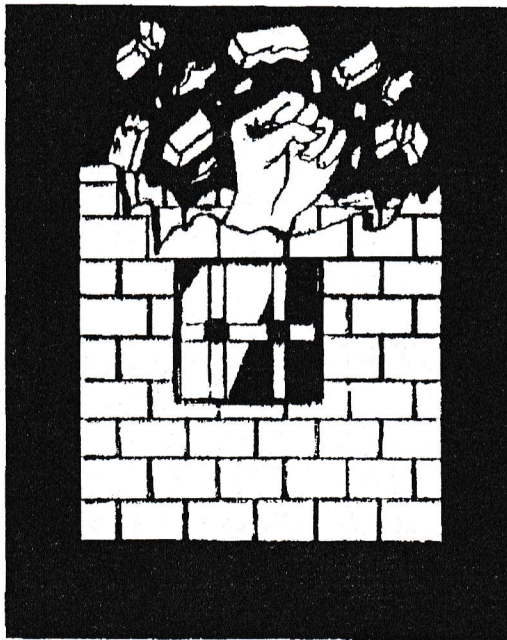
After World War II, tens of thousands of displaced Poles and Ukrainians settled in Britain, especially in the East Midlands. Also large numbers from the Caribbean and the Indian sub-continent were encouraged by the Government and employers to come to Britain to fill the growing labour shortage, especially in public services.

There was never an original, "authentic" British people. Rather we are made up of

successive waves of immigrants and the knowledge and skills they have brought are among our strengths.

MIGRANTS FROM BRITAIN

Over the centuries millions of people have left Britain because of political, religious and economic pressures. It was from villages in North Notts that the religious dissenters who became known as the Pilgrim Fathers set out for America to live free from the religious



persecution they suffered in England. In the 18/1900's hundreds of thousand of Scots had to leave because of the "clearances" by wealthy landlords driving them out of their farms and many Welsh people migrated, e.g. to Patagonia in South America, at least partly because of attempts by the British state to suppress their language.

In England the major factor driving millions to migrate in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was poverty. In Nottingham Castle Art Gallery there is a mid-Victorian painting

showing a family about to migrate abroad taking one last look at their country cottage. Like millions of others, it was rural poverty that drove them to seek new lives in countries such as the USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc... They were encouraged to do so by people such as William Booth, the Nottingham founder of the Salvation Army. Indeed, right here in Nottingham within living memory many orphaned children were forcibly resettled in Australia and New Zealand. For these reason many of us have kin, both near and distant, in many of these countries. Even today tens of thousands of people leave the UK every year in search of better lives abroad.

Over the years, Britain has received many refugees but let us not forget that many refugees from Britain - political, religious, economic - have been received and accepted in many other countries.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

The descendants of refugees should be sympathetic to the plight of refugees. If people in Britain in the past had not accepted previous "asylum seekers" - our ancestors - then many of us would not be here now! Some politicians try to distinguish "genuine asylum seekers" from "economic migrants". Most of the migrants trying to get into Britain now from places such as the Middle East and parts of Africa are fleeing poverty, but poverty brought about by political and religious strife. It is a false distinction and we should not fall for it. Instead, we should welcome desperate people less fortunate than ourselves. That's what many of our ancestors did and many others of our ancestors were accepted elsewhere. We should do the same.

NOTTS ANTI-FASCIST ALLIANCE. P.O. Box 192, Nottingham, NG1 1FJ. 07984 906720



FREE PARTY SCENE

The free party scene is happening, check out www.soitiz.co.uk for local parties or the Schnews party & protest site (<http://www.schnews.co.uk/pap/guide.htm>) for national dates. Also worth checking out is <http://tash.gn.apc.org/> a website put together by

Nottingham's very own photojournalist Tash. The site's essentially a massive archive featuring loads of information on festivals, travelling and environmental issues. There are loads of quality photos and a huge number of articles and reports from various events that have happened over the past 20 or 30 years. You could spend hours going through this stuff...



*Get off my land!
What makes it your land?
My father gave it to me.
What made it his land?
His father gave it to him.
And what made it his land?
His father fought for it.*



Right says the traveller rolling up his sleeves... I'll fight you for it then.



SUMAC CENTRE UPDATE

The Sumac Centre complete with café (serving snacks and meals), bar, library, garden, internet access and large club/function room is now up and running after a very successful opening day at the end of June. Serving up a variety of hot and cold vegan food the café is currently open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday although there are plans to have it open every day. Food is served between 10am and 6pm.

Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham, England, NG7 6HX
Phone: 0845 458 9595 . Email: sumac@veggies.org.uk
<http://www.veggies.org.uk/rainbow/contents.htm>

A FASCIST MAYOR?

The BNP are planning to stand a candidate in the October mayoral elections in Mansfield, Notts. Local activists are planning to take action against this and Nottingham anti-fascists have pledged their support. At a recent local meeting it was decided that a large leafleting of the local area should take place nearer the time of the hustings in September. Help is needed with this mass-leafleting, the more help the merrier, please contact...

NAFA; P.O. Box 192, Nottingham, NG1 1FJ. 07984 906720

Flash Floods And The Tram

Nature has been blamed for overflow from the River Leen in Basford, Bullwell & surrounding areas. It however seems far from coincidental that those lovely people from NET & Carillion have been busy pouring concrete for their tram line up & down the river for the past few months which will be run in direct competition with the parallel Robin Hood bus line. This has already met protest from Bullwell people who are ready to blockade further construction after Carillion started destroying much loved areas near to the Leen. We should be doing whatever we can to support public transport and this involves helping local campaigns against the tram in areas where it is competing with existing train & bus services, services which could be vastly improved without all the waste & hard work the corporations & government insist on putting in to building the tram line. There are also plans to destroy an old peoples homes in Chilwell, along with homes, nature trails & bike paths in the Meadows, Wilford and Compton Acres despite it being apparent that the tram route would be better suited going via Clifton Bridge.

STOPPING THE BADGER KILLERS

In response to DEFRA mercenaries being spotted in the Peak District area to continue their ongoing cull of badgers (scapegoating them for the bad farming practices that result in TB outbreaks), Nottingham activists have been out in force, scrabbling through the undergrowth to sabotage the kill.

For decades both Government and farmers have conveniently misplaced the blame for TB outbreaks in cattle on the "protected" badger, rather than the unhealthy farming practices of industrialised agri-business (see www.badger-killers.co.uk for further info). As a botched PR exercise successive Governments have slaughtered badgers in an attempt to be seen to be "doing something". But not without opposition...

Several areas around the country are being targeted, and our closest area is a stunning part of the Peak District near Ashbourne. For 2 weeks at the end of July, DEFRA and activists from around the north circumvented each other in the Peaks. As quickly as they laid the traps out, we were trashing and

hiding them - or as many as we could anyway. It is very labour intensive, you have to mainly work at night, and you never quite know just how far DEFRA's killing fields extend to. Dodging the police was time consuming as



they greeted us with dogs, searchlights and helicopters, as well as many patrol cars, which irritated sympathetic locals who could get no response to burglaries and speeding motorists. Despite the over-the-top policing no arrests were made.

It is hugely satisfying to find the traps and get rid of them, knowing that each time you are

probably saving a life. Some activists actually managed to release badgers already trapped. Huge well done to those involved, and all the effort that was put in.

Although we did really well, we greatly need more help for when the killers are next in the area. If you have a vehicle or can map-read, and are reasonably fit you could be really useful. If you are too busy, or not well enough to come out, but want to support, then financial donations would be massively appreciated as the petrol money is all coming out of (very skint) activist's pockets.

No contacts have been set-up for the ad-hoc group, but you can contact us by leaving a message for "Badger Friends" at Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone St.

<<<STOP PRESS... DEFRA have returned, to do some killing in the "reactive area", and activists are out in the field (possibly whilst you're reading this). 6 were arrested very recently and charged with amongst other things interfering with a badger's sett!!! Please refer to the website www.badger-killers.co.uk for more info>>>

Will it be WW3? All indications are that the British government are going to aid the USA in another invasion of Iraq having had it okayed by the Bilderberg group. Mass army vaccinations have already been carried out and some British troops have set sail for the Gulf, moving us one step nearer to Bush's master plan, which he no doubt hopes will keep the corporations happy and the voters distracted. This combined with the ongoing genocide in Afghanistan and Israel by US backed forces in the name of peace, means that we must try & do something about this one before they start World War 3.

COUNCIL WORKERS STRIKE!

The UK saw the largest strike in over twenty years on July 17 as



council workers throughout the country removed their labour in order to gain a 6% increase in flat rate payment. The Unison, GMB, and T&G unions claimed the day's strike was an "overwhelming success." Two thirds of those on strike were women who continue to remain in the low pay bracket. The strike was seen a massive show of strength by council workers who are sick of low pay deals while other public sector workers (police, for example) are getting large pay rises. Council leaders and other local government officials claimed the strike being a failure, despite

the fact that 1.2million workers went on strike. A lot of work done outside the unions by grassroots groups hopefully creating more solidarity.

Another strike had been planned for A14 although this was cancelled when the unions accepted a 3% pay rise, which is not what workers wanted or needed, as the original demand had been twice that. Yet again this shows that trade unions can be good for safety in the workplace but are primarily bargainers, bound by laws that protect corporations, profit & government first, then us & our environment second. We what happens in our communities, for example with the miners, when the corporations & government divide weaken opposition by using bribes, propaganda & force.

The strike back in July almost resulted in things grinding to a halt with waste in Nottingham being more visible than ever. Maybe lessons can be learnt from postal workers, who are more under threat due to their privatisation & continual casualisation. They do wildcats, going beyond TUs, creating solidarity between people & scaring the life out of the corporate bosses. This can be combined with covert direct action to produce results that make life safer & easier for all. A general strike in conjunction with actions that stops the system in key places whilst showing the amazing positive possibilities of our future maybe the only answer, basically a revolution folks!

Other important news...

*The Queens vehicle got egged when it came to Nottingham a few weeks ago with people also evading security and cycling up to her car!!

*UFOs have been spotted in Beeston with a number of sightings reported in July on the night of a full moon. The UFOs were apparently moving too fast & doing manoeuvres beyond the capacity of known aircraft without making a sound. Keep your eyes on the sky.

*Plans to widen the A453 in Clifton have been bulldozed through, a development which is meeting local opposition from those affected by the fact that the road already splits Clifton & stops people getting to Clifton Grove & the river. This road widening comes soon after local police got a bigger station built on a local schools land.

*The evil Aaron Scargill landlords have messed around loads of people, get your own back within the law by squatting with section 6 legal documents (check advisory service for squatters website), setting up housing coops with one of the "groovier" building societies or by sticking to council & housing association houses for now.



DEMO REPORTS

If you've attended a demonstration, action or protest either locally or nationally and want to spread the word on what happened, send in a short report and we'll put it in the next issue.

RTS and animal rights bring chaos to Cambridge

(24.6.02) DEMONSTRATORS clashed with police in a day of protests, which saw parts of Cambridge city centre brought to a standstill. Trouble flared when some demonstrators charged police lines after being refused access to Downing Street, the intended focal point of the protest and the site of Cambridge University's animal research laboratories. St Andrew's Street, Regent Street and Downing Street were closed to traffic during a standoff between the activists and police, who were attempting to move them on. Demonstrators were threatened with arrest before some protestors were escorted to Parker's Piece. Protestors who remained moved back to the junction of St Andrew's Street and Downing Street where around 50 Reclaim the Streets protesters joined them, some of whom were wrestled to the floor by officers after attempting to break their line. Smaller factions of the Reclaim the Streets group then moved to other locations in the centre, attempting to stop traffic.

SHAC National Demo

(28.07.02) Hundreds of protesters swamped Parkers Piece in Cambridge as they gathered for the national demo against HLS. The streets were filled with people banging drums, blowing whistles, shouting and handing out fliers about HLS as the police were shoved to one side and people got on with the march in the way they wanted. After a sit down in the road people came back to Parkers Piece were treated to some poetry from Benjamin Zephaniah. After the demo a number of home visits were made resulting in the HLS workers streets being packed with riot vans, police with dogs and a frenzied helicopter - it's part of the parcel when you work for HLS I'm afraid, no rest for the wicked! Check out www.shac.net for more info on how to help close down Huntingdon Life Sciences or for local demos contact shaceastmidlands@hotmail.com.

The **Nottingham Green Festival** is taking place again this year on 1st September 11am-6pm on the Victoria Embankment. Along with the bands and comedy entertainment there will be food available and 100s of stalls. Contact Notts Green Festival at 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB or call 0115 9348458

The people snatchers

A family of asylum seekers who'd been living in St Ann's were given only 30 minutes to pack their stuff and leave their home after it was raided at 7 in the morning by cops and immigration officials earlier this month. The Daoud family (Sara, Jamil and 4 children) had been given no warning of the raid and are now being held at the Harmondsworth detention centre from which they'll soon be sent back to Spain where they'd previously made an asylum application. From there they are likely to be sent back to Iraq the country they had originally left after Jamil was tortured for alleged opposition to Saddam Hussein's regime. The parents had left Iraq separately one passing through Germany the other through Spain before they met up



again and managed to cross the Channel in the back of a lorry.

Whilst it becomes easier and easier for corporations to move unrestricted round the globe, it's becoming harder and harder for people (unless they are wealthy) to cross borders into other countries even as is often the case they are fleeing war, starvation, persecution or poverty. No one is illegal and we should do all we can to oppose the ever increasing scope of the governments racist asylum laws. Members of the local community have spoken out against the detention of the Daoud family and attempts are being made to bring them back to Nottingham with supporters and the Nottingham Refugee Forum planning a demonstration on 24th August in St Ann's.

Forthcoming actions...

August 31 is action day for the Rio+10 conference (26 August-4 September) in S.Africa, actions are planned in this country although no details have been released yet, check www.protest.net. Millions of Africans face massive starvation mainly due to wars & instability, funded & exploited by the greedy corporations & governments who will be sitting in their luxury hotels and attending their multi-million dollar conference whilst just outside their doors the people they are meant to be helping die. Pollution's effect on our global environment is now so obvious no PR company can lie about it. Recent flooding in Europe has killed hundreds and smog covers S.E Asia. A letter has been unearthed by Friends of the Earth from Prez Bush's main campaign funder Exxon Mobil, telling him that petrochemical fuels as are non-harmful & stating that global warming is irrelevant. Exxon Mobil was set up by the world's first billionaires; the Rockefeller family, along with other oil corporations and Kissinger associates in corporate steering groups like Bilderberg. They've been setting the agenda now for too long and it's time the millions of us who can see through their dirty charade set our own. August 31 may be a good day to let 'em know how we feel. Demos at ports, banks, credit card companies and businesses involved in destroying the environment have been suggested.



Sept 28th Stophewar Coalition march in London, call 07951235915 for more info. We all know how much fun Hyde Park to Trafalgar Sq marches are. Together we can then really do something to stop the war!

Prisoner Support

As not much space is available just a small number of UK prisoner contact details are listed below, they are all for prisoners who've been locked up since the last issue of Ned Ludd's News. Complete prisoner listings are available at <http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/>.

"In the corporate war against earth, sometimes prison becomes the price we pay for placing the laws of nature above those of corrupt governments. If we're fortunate enough to not yet be making that sacrifice, then we most certainly have an obligation to support those who are." - former Animal Liberation Front prisoner Rod Coronado.

Animal Rights

Madeline Buckler HR4338, HMP & YO1 Bullwood Hall, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4TE, England. Serving 1 year for burglary at Roche, a company connected with Huntington Life Sciences.

Sarah Gisborne HR4337, HMP Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9YG, England. Serving 1 year (same as above).

Kate Simpson GN8957, HMP Morton Hall Swinderby Lincoln LN6 9TT, England. Serving 1 year (same as above).

Anti-fascist

Callum Currie JN4121, HMP Wealstun, Weatherby, LS23 7AJ, England. Serving 9 months for affray after joining in a counter-protest against a fascist demo in Leeds

Michael Davison JN4124, HMP Wealstun, Weatherby, LS23 7AJ, England. Serving 9 months (same as above).

Malachi Nicholls JN4126 HMP Wealstun, Weatherby, LS23 7AJ, England. Serving 9 months (same as above).

Howard Oakes JN4122, HMP Wealstun, Weatherby, LS23 7AJ, England. Serving 9 months (same as above).

Complete prisoner listings are available at <http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/>.

Please send stuff for the next issue articles, demo reports, local news, poems, recipes etc. to Nottingham.freedom@hotmail.com. If anyone can photocopy more copies of this issue to distribute it'd be much appreciated. A mailing list is set up for those of you who want to receive Ned Ludd's News via e mail, just send a quick message to the address above to subscribe.