

WHY MAY DAY?

Before the Chicago May Day strike action began, the management at McCormick Machine Co. (now International Harvester) had locked out 1500 workers over a wage dispute. On 3 May, when pickets attempted to prevent blackleg labour entering the plant, the Chicago police opened fire on the workers, killing four and wounding many more. Outraged at this act of naked aggression, radical newspapers called for armed resistance against the bloodthirsty Chicago police, and a protest rally was called for the following day (4 May) at Haymarket Square. Speeches condemning police violence and capitalist oppression were given by three leading anarchists: Parsons, Spies and Fielden. As the meeting came to an end, 200 police moved in on the crowd. Suddenly, a bomb was thrown and exploded in the midst of the police, who immediately opened fire on the assembled workers. Several police and many workers were killed.

In the hysterical aftermath of the Haymarket tragedy five anarchists were convicted and sentenced to hang by a specially constituted tribunal. On 11 November 1887 Black Friday, the State murdered Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engels. Ling had committed suicide the previous day. They were later shown to have had nothing to do with the bombings.

On July 14 1889, on the hundredth anniversary of Bastille Day, an American AFL delegate attending the International Labour Congress in Paris proposed that 1 May be officially adopted as a workers' holiday. This motion was unanimously approved and since then May Day has served as a date for international working class solidarity.

No Pasaran

1996 marks two important anniversaries. It is 60 years since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, and 70 years since the General Strike. Both events, in different ways, are classic examples of workers in struggle.

1st May 1926 witnessed the beginning of the General Strike when millions of workers came out in support of the miners in their fight against wage cuts and increased hours. The strike lasted nine days before it was called off by a leadership that was alarmed by the forces unleashed in the dispute. Despite this "betrayal", the General Strike was a momentous event in British Labour history. It was an unparalleled demonstration of rank and file solidarity, and one that - in the longer term - made many employers and the government think twice before attacking the conditions of organised workers. The 1930s, bad as they were, would have been worse for many working people but for the unity displayed in the General Strike.

In 1936 fascist, nationalist, and reactionary forces launched a coup against the democratically elected Popular Front government of Spain. The coup was unsuccessful because of the tremendous efforts of anarchist, communist, socialist, and republican workers in centres like Madrid and Barcelona. While the western powers pursued a policy of "non-intervention", volunteers from around the world joined the International Brigades fighting alongside the Spanish Republicans. Over 2,000 went from Britain and Ireland, a quarter gave their lives. Faced

MAY DAY '96

Saturday 4th May

MARCH - Forest to Old Market Square Assemble 11am
Goose Fair Site for 11:30 departure

RALLY - 12 noon Old Market Square

SPEAKERS

JJ Fast Food Strikers

Hillingdon Hospital Workers

Freedom Network

Mersey Dockers

MAY DAY FRINGE

Fancie Molloy

Sinn Fein Councillor

2-4:30pm International Community Centre 61B Mansfield Road Nottingham

**NOTTINGHAM
TRADES COUNCIL**

with overwhelming odds, the Spanish Republic was defeated eventually in March 1939. As one International Brigadier, Dave Goodman, put it "The Spanish Civil War was the first battle of the Second World War. In Spain we held out against Fascism for three years. This gave other countries time to re-arm and develop opposition to Fascism. This is how the people of Spain and International Brigades made their contribution to victory in the Second World War".

1996 sees workers in struggle again. Struggles against low pay, bad conditions, unemployment, non-recognition, a yawning wealth gap, discriminatory laws, hostile employers and authorities have always been with us. They may not be as dramatic as those of 1926 and 1936, but they are, in many ways, as important to ordinary working people.

Worker solidarity, worker unity is the only defence of ordinary people against those who wish to exploit us.

This is what May Day, International Day, signifies.

No Pasaran.

MAY DAY GREETINGS

*to all our fellow workers
from*

Mansfield & District TUC

**UNITED FOR
PROGRESS**

CITY UNISON

2,500 Members of Nottingham City UNISON are undertaking a Consultative Ballot over the next fortnight against Nottingham City Council's proposals to introduce a Compulsory Redundancy Policy.

The proposals will introduce, for the first time, the ability for the Council to make Compulsory Redundancies whenever they see fit. They also remove the protection that Staff have been guaranteed over many years, including ending redeployment in many areas and a massive attack on protected pay.

Nottingham City UNISON has had General meetings and Workplace meetings over the issue with around 1,000 Members voting in favour of strike action and only a dozen against.

So far the Council has not dropped the proposals despite delaying their introduction, however they have said that they are unable to meet UNISON until May 20, three weeks after the proposals go to Committee. As such UNISON believes that Strike Action will be necessary to defeat the proposals.

For more information please contact Andy Belfield on 0115 9412556

Andy Belfield
Nottingham City UNISON.



GMB

working together

**MAY DAY
GREETINGS**

**to all members and
friends from**

GMB (Mansfield Central)

Contact GMB

68 Big Barn Lane

Mansfield NG18 3LS

(01623) 654367

EDITORIAL

Can I open by extending May Day greetings to all our readers. As always Notts TU News continues to be put together on a limited budget, even less time, but on a lot of commitment. If we have missed anything out it is due to two simple reasons. We don't have room, or, nobody told us about a particular struggle. Both problems can be easily solved by you. Write and tell us, and trade unionists across Notts about your struggle. Secondly send us some money!! As always thanks to the contributors, distributors, etc. for their help in putting another issue together.

Deadline for Issue 6 will be Friday June 21st.

Notts TU News, c/o MUWC, 2 Beech Avenue Mansfield, Notts. NG18 1EY.

REVIEW

TOUGH TIMES

This hard hitting anthology written by and for the local unemployed in Mansfield, tells it how it is. It successfully combines poetry, prose and photographs to talk about unemployment from an unemployed point of view. Now how often does that happen? Ranging from the humour and anger of David Hobbs "Go On A Course" to the simple and moving "Tomorrow's Meal" by Gabe Gordon, this book will make you think. Proceeds from sales of the book will go towards a touring performance by unemployed people which is currently in rehearsal.

Copies will be shortly on sale in Nottingham. In the meantime they can be purchased for £2.50 (inc p&p) from Karen Peck, Tough Times, c/o MUWC 2 Beech Avenue, Mansfield Notts NG18 1EY.



118 Workshop is the local Resource and Research Centre for Trade Union and Community Groups located in Nottingham, serving a wide range of Trade Union, Community and Campaigning Groups in the City and County.

The Centre was established in 1980 with the aim of linking the aspiration for a better society in the workplace and the home, and the services it provides are designated to enable local Groups to work more effectively towards promoting greater social, economic, racial and sexual equality in the local community.

118 provides a comprehensive range of resources for local Groups, from printing to information resources. Among the wide range of printing resources are photocopying facilities, a Rotary Scanprinter for A3 printing, a Risograph Scanprinter for A4 printing, Offset printing facilities and a Dark Room. Other facilities include a Laminator, Typewriters, Word Processor, Headliners, Collator, Guillotines, Folding Machine, Electric and Heavy Duty Staplers and a Plastic Ring Binder to allow effective presentation of printed materials.

Facilities to hire out include a Noise Meter, Display Boards, a 35 mm Compact Camera, Carousel Slide Projector, Over-Head

Projector, Badgemakers, Flip Chart, Loud Hailer and Gas Detector.

118 also provides training and advice in using all items of equipment available, in order to help users become proficient in their use. In this way, users can acquire the skills necessary to produce their own material from start to finish.

The Workshop also has a Library and Information service, and maintains all publications and materials subscribed to by Nottingham & District Trades Union Council, which are available for reference by users. This includes publications like Labour Research, Hazards Bulletin and Searchlight, and "hard copies" of the last two years of The Guardian, Financial Times and Morning Star are also kept. It is also planned to put the Workshop on-line in the near future to give users access to the Internet.

The Workshop is grant aided by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, both of which have supported it since 1983. The Centre's opening hours are from 12-5 Mondays, and from 10-5 on Tuesdays to Fridays. If you would like further information, or would like to have a look around the Centre, please phone 0115 958 2369 and ask for John (practical services) or Ian (information).

ASBESTOS - What is it?

Asbestos is the general name given to a group of fibrous minerals with similar properties, which are found in many parts of the World.

These fibrous minerals are strong, resistant to heat, chemical attack and have been used, in the past in a wide range of applications.

Three main type of Asbestos have been used commercially in the UK and they are:-

Chrysotile
commonly known as *white Asbestos*.

Crocidolite
commonly known as *blue Asbestos*.

Amosite
commonly known as *brown Asbestos*.

Crocidolite has not been imported to the UK since 1972, and the use of Amosite phased out between 1980 and 1982. Materials containing Crocidolite and/or Amosite can still be found however, particularly in buildings.

Are all types of Asbestos dangerous?

Yes, they can cause serious, and often fatal conditions such as Asbestosis (fibrosis of the lungs), Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma (a rapidly fatal tumour which affects the lining of the lung and stomach). Other Cancers are known to have been caused by Asbestos, and working with Asbestos products can release fibres into the atmosphere, which can then be inhaled or ingested (swallowed). The tiny Asbestos fibres are too small to be seen with the naked eye, except with special lighting, or by using a microscope. It is these fine fibres that pose the most serious risk to health. Other Asbestos related conditions such as Pleural Thickening and Pleural Plaque, are also the result of inhaling Asbestos fibres, and, although not immediately life threatening can become progressively worse.

Why is it dangerous to inhale Asbestos?

When Asbestos fibres are inhaled, some of the finest fibres can reach the deepest parts of the Lungs (alveoli) and because it is so durable, it can lodge there for many years, to cause long term damage, as described above. There is no known safe lower limit of exposure to Asbestos.

Where are Asbestos materials to be found?

Many thousands of tonnes of every type of Asbestos has been used in heat and noise insulation materials and fire protection equipment, and much of this is still in place in buildings today. Its most

common uses involved the use of sprays to apply it to steelwork, concrete walls and ceilings and as lagging on pipework, boilers and air ducts. Other uses included insulation boards, wall partitions, fire doors, ceiling tiles, roofing sheets, drain pipes and many other Asbestos products.

Where is Asbestos used today?

White Asbestos is the only type that can be supplied and used, and the UK imports about 5,000 tonnes per year compared with around 190,000 tonnes of all types of Asbestos imported in 1973. It has been estimated that the Asbestos imported into the UK in 1994 was used in the manufacture of Asbestos Cement products, friction products, joints and gaskets and textile materials.

Are all Asbestos products dangerous?

No, the danger arises when Asbestos fibres are released into the atmosphere, some Asbestos products are dustier than others, and the lack of care when working with these products can create a health risk, not only to the workers but also to others who may be in the area where the work is being carried out. The dustiest activity is dry removal of old Asbestos lagging and Sprayed Limpet Asbestos. The H.S.E. vigorously promote removing these materials by using the controlled wet strip method, to keep dust to a minimum.

What are the current Asbestos regulations?

The Asbestos Licensing Regulations 1983 require contractors who work with Asbestos i.e. removal, renovating etc to obtain a Licence to do so from the H.S.E. The Asbestos Prohibitions Regulations 1992 ban the import, supply and use of the most dangerous types of Asbestos. The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 1992 governs all work with Asbestos. It is required that all work with Asbestos should be carried out in such a manner so as to prevent exposure to Asbestos fibres, by preventing the release of such fibres, or by reducing the release to the lowest level reasonably practicable. The Regulations are designed to protect anyone at risk working with Asbestos, and control limits are laid down i.e. concentrations of Asbestos fibres in the air to which employees must not be exposed without wearing respiratory equipment.

Not everyone who comes into contact with Asbestos will develop an Asbestos

disease, much the same as everyone who smokes will not develop Lung Cancer, but there is no doubt that Asbestos is one of the most dangerous minerals ever used, and its potential to cause serious health disorders must never be underestimated. The use of Asbestos of any type must be banned, this is the only way that we can be sure that future generations do not inherit the terrible diseases that are becoming more and more common every day.

PREVENTION IS THE CURE

Aims and Objectives

The Asbestos Related Diseases Association was formed in 1994 by a group of sufferers, their families and family members of sufferers who had died as a result of contracting Asbestos Diseases.

The aims of the Association are simple:-

- To support, advise and counsel all those who have been affected by Asbestos.
- To hold regular meetings and coffee mornings which enable the group to offer support for each other.

Contact:

Nottingham ARDA 0115 9275108

For details of the Construction Safety Campaign Asbestos Conference to be held in Sheffield on 1st June 1996, please contact CSC, 255 Poplar High Street, London. E14. Telephone 0171 537 7220 or 0171 358 0322.

NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT TRADES UNION COUNCIL

sends solidarity greetings
through Notts Trade Union
News to workers &
unemployed alike for 1996

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY.

Join our

MAY DAY MARCH

[11:30 am Forest Recreation
Ground & RALLY - 12:00
midday Nottingham Market
Square] on

SATURDAY 4th MAY

with national & local speakers
supporting & celebrating
**workers currently
IN STRUGGLE**

REBUILD THE WELFARE STATE!

EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE

10 am to 4 pm, Saturday, June 29th
Central Suite, Exchange Street Derby
Our Welfare State is being destroyed. It was created by men and women who, having defeated Fascism were determined that never again would there be a return to the insecurity, the unemployment and the poverty of the pre-war years. It was a monument to their efforts and it became the envy of the world. Yet now it is being deliberately dismantled. The NHS is constantly under attack, the value of the state pension reduced every year, mass unemployment is back, benefits are slashed and homelessness is on the increase. No longer is it a question of simply defending the Welfare State, it needs to be rebuilt.

This is what has prompted the East Midlands Region of the British Pensioner and Trade Union Action Association and the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre to organise this important conference.

The conference will discuss a campaign leading up to the general election with the aim of winning a pledge from every candidate standing in the East Midlands to support and rebuild the Welfare State.

In the morning there are four key speakers. Tony Benn (MP on Pensions), Angela Palmer (PTC, Welfare Rights), Malcolm Wing (UNISON, Health and Community Care), and Kevin Coyne (Unemployed Workers Centre, Fight for Jobs, Against the JSA). These are the themes that will form the programme for the afternoon workshops.

Whilst this conference is being organised by pensioners and unemployed, the issues affect everyone from the cradle to the grave. The T.U. Movement has a particularly important role to play, today's workers could be tomorrow's unemployed, sick or pensioner. Please ensure this conference is discussed in your branch and that delegates are elected. We have deliberately kept the delegation fee as low as possible to ensure no one is prevented from attending for financial reasons.

For further particulars contact
Ida Hackett, Conference Organiser
25, Bakewell Walk.
Mansfield NG18 3PY
Phone 01623 23633.

LIVERPOOL DOCKERS

Since 28th September 1995, 500 Liverpool Dockers have been locked out for refusing to cross a picket line of 80 of their workmates who had been sacked in an earlier dispute over attempts by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company to reintroduce casual labour.

A recent offer to the men, negotiated by their union the T&GWU, was roundly rejected because it did not include reinstatement of all the dockers - the bottom line demand.

Daily picketing of all the docks, support from other workers in this country, and from dockers in over 40 other countries has put tremendous pressure on the employer who continues to use scab labour. As a result of this pressure the company has been forced to negotiate with the Union and the men's Shop Stewards, something they had refused to do in the past.

These dockers need our support.

Send donations etc to Jim Davies, Merseyside Port Shop Stewards, 19 Scorton Street, Liverpool L6 4AS, and support the National Merseyside Dockers Support Conference on Saturday 25th May. Details from Alec Mc Fadden, Secretary, Merseyside CATUC % 2b Cobham Road, Moreton, Wirral. Tel: 0151 677 0020.

CONTACTS LIST

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MANSFIELD & DISTRICT
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NEWARK TUC

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STAPLEFORD, BEESTON & DISTRICT TUC

Mick Worrall 6 Holden Gardens
Stapleford NG9 7GX

WORKSOP & DISTRICT TUC

Dave Pressley 15 Thievesdale Lane
Worksop Notts S81 0NG

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

About 500 people in the UK are killed every year while doing their work by industrial or road traffic accidents. An estimated 20,000 more people die each year from work related diseases.

The purpose of Workers' Memorial Day is to commemorate these people. It is a part of the campaign to make workplaces safer and to reduce deaths, injuries and illness caused by work.

The idea for the day started in Canada, where 28th April has been recognised as a Day of Mourning for over a decade. In the USA it is the anniversary of their Occupational Safety and Health Act, and also commemorates the 28 workers killed in a construction accident in Bridgeport, Connecticut on that day in 1987.

Since 1990, Health and Safety campaigners in Britain have used Workers' Memorial Day to raise awareness about the danger facing people at work, and how groups of workers can organise to win improvements.

While we remember those who have died this reminds us that we are still;

fighting for stronger legislation and enforcement, publicising hazards at work., organising for better and safer working conditions and protecting people at work - so as to ensure that those who have been killed or injured have not suffered in vain.

If you think work has made your ill,
you need

Nottinghamshire Trade Union Safety Committee

We offer FREE testing for Hearing,
Vibration White Finger, Lung
Function and can offer advice on
compensation claims and Health and
Safety information.

Call us at 2 Beech Avenue Mansfield
(01623) 424720 and ask for Tony



*"Aiming
to keep
you safe"*