



The Sparrows' Nest

Library & Archive

Documenting Anarchism in the UK and Beyond and Local Radical History

We curate tens of thousands of books, papers, pamphlets, journals, fanzines and unique documents, thousands of which are already in our Digital Library, with more being added all the time.

Besides our local collections we hold many papers including *Freedom, Anarchy, Black Flag, Direct Action* and thousands of other titles. Pamphlets, punk zines, leaflets, posters, as well as extensive collections of books on history, philosophy, economics and much more are available to be explored.

Visit us in St Ann's and **ACCESS ALL DOCUMENTS** featured in the exhibition and thousands of other records for **FREE** in our Digital Library.

<http://thesparrowsnest.org.uk>

<http://twitter.com/SparrowsNestLib> info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk +44 (0)7388417325

Please support our work!

We are a tiny organisation, completely relying on donations. For information on how to support us, please visit our website.

When Paper Was A Thing

Nottingham Prints

Zine But Not Forgotten

EXHIBITION

Radical and Alternative News Media from Five Decades
© Nottingham Contemporary Sep 27-29 2019

FEATURING



nottingham women's diary

Nott Fin

NOTTINGHAM EXTRA



NOTTINGHAM



ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT NEWSLETTER



POLL-AXE!

nottingham bulletin.



And many more!

—Free Event—
—Just Drop In—
—Accessible Venue—
Weekday Cross
Nottingham
NG1 2GB

Organised by
The Sparrows' Nest Library and Archive
Curating materials documenting Anarchism in the UK and Beyond and Local Radical History
Kindly hosted by Notts Zine Library & Nottingham Contemporary

Information Struggles – Part of our Rebellious Heritage

This exhibition celebrates our rich local heritage of alternative and independent news media.

Nottingham's turbulent history is full of people taking matters into their own hands.

Persons of all genders, backgrounds and ages have for centuries organised and fought fierce social struggles to improve and defend their lives.

Issues regarding the access to and control of information lay frequently at the heart of these struggles.

Over the last couple of centuries, many groups and individuals took the production and distribution of news media into their own hands.

Susannah Wright defending her Goose Gate bookshop against riled up bigots in 1826, the Working Class run Operatives Libraries' in the mid-19th century, and not least the abundance of radical papers, zines, etc. were crucial in establishing proud local traditions of independent thought and direct action.

Although hard copies of publications like the *Queer Bulletin* and *Left Lion* continue to be circulated, and groups like the Notts Zine Library are still creating printed materials, most independent content producers have now moved online.

Until very recently however, Nottingham was home to a very active scene of radical and alternative printed news media.

This exhibition features examples of these titles from the 1970s to the 2010s.

Marginalised Voices Organise

Read how disgusting we are in the Press
The Telegraph, People and Sunday Express.
Molesters of children, corrupters of youth.
It's there in the papers - must be the truth.

'Glad to be Gay', Tom Robinson Band, quoted in *G.E.M. Gay East Midlands* #06 (1983)

diary

FEBRUARY	
SAT 28	♀ Centre Disco. 8.00pm at Hearty Goodfellow.
MARCH	
SUN 1	National Anti Nukes Day (see W.D.N.T.)
MON 2	♀ Centre Discussion Group 8.00pm. ♀ and Photography 11.00 - 3.00pm at The Building. Rape Crisis Group. (see contacts) Lesbian Line 7.00 - 9.30pm ♀ Centre
TUES 3	♀ Disco 8.00pm. Hearty Goodfellow Pregnancy Testing Meeting 8.00pm ♀ Centre. Open to all women Pregnancy Testing 6.00 - 8.00pm ♀ Mansfield Health Group 7.00pm 49 West Hill Drive
WED 4	University ♀ Group 7.30pm Films: "A Co... Unnatural Acts" and "Home Movie" N.S.Q.R. Portland Building W.D.N.T. 8.00pm ♀ Centre.
THUR 5	Social. 8.00pm The Yorker. Suggested Topic - "The Abortion Issue - What Do We Think and Feel" introduced by N.A.C. Pregnancy Testing (Bulwell) 5.00 - 7.00pm The Family Centre 50 Langclose Court, Crabtree Farm. Finance Group 7.00 - 8.00pm ♀ Centre
SAT 7	Pregnancy Testing 10.00 - 12.00 ♀ Centre

Nottingham Women's Diary #01 (1981)

Persons who were at best marginalised and usually vilified by most media and wider society could use radical and alternative publications to express and organise themselves.

Often a new title came out of a specific struggle, such as a strike at the *Nottingham Post*, which led to the publication of *Grassroots* and *Nottingham Voice*.

Others were started to inform about long term struggles such as Women's Liberation or nuclear disarmament.

In the days before the internet these zines and papers filled niches which today have been taken over by social media and other online content, providing information, event listings, contact opportunities etc.

The Other First Draft of History

Although many publications had a specific focus, almost all covered a wide range of subjects.

The longevity and high frequency of many titles exemplifies the devotion and commitment of the content creators, even more so given the technological restrictions of the time, and as almost all of these publications had to be run on a shoe-string budget.

The legacy of the work of these people provides us with invaluable, fascinating, moving, sometimes infuriating, often hilarious and always inspiring records, covering numerous subjects, such as:



(Re)Discovering this Heritage remains a Work in Progress

The materials featured in the exhibition, as well as the numerous other items in our collections, are far from a comprehensive representation of local radical and independent materials.

Due to the focus of our work at the Sparrows' Nest, and the background and age group of many persons who donate materials to us, we have a clear collection bias towards anti-authoritarian materials from the 1980s. The exhibition can only give you a glimpse into this often neglected side of our local heritage. We hope to:

1. (re)introduce these fantastic materials to local audiences, to
2. (re)connect with people involved in the production and distribution of these titles and with their original audiences, and to
3. learn from your specialist knowledge.

Please help us and others to learn more about the materials and their context, and to further explore the echoes of struggles past, also to help fight the struggles of today.

Were you involved in the production or distribution of local papers?

Would you like to share your stories?

Do you have a box or a folder of awesome materials and would consider either donating or lending them to us for digitisation?

Please email us!

info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk

Please note that we usually respond to email enquiries quite fast, but that our reply might end up in your spam folder.