

**SHANKILL
BULLETIN**

**October
1981**

**ONLY
• 15 p •**

HUNGER RIOTS



POLICE IN FORCE AT BERLIN STREET, SHANKILL ROAD, WHERE SEVERAL BATON CHARGES TOOK PLACE.

**OCTOBER
1932**

PLUS
The Leisure Centre
INTERVIEW - HOUSING

5 DAYS ON THE SHANKILL



Collecting food rations from a depot in Corporation St.

Forty nine years ago this month was a truly historic moment in the history of the working people in Belfast, when the Falls and Shankill fought side by side against the evils of poverty and starvation. The depression of unemployment had soared to over 60,000 and conditions were appalling. An indication of how desperate the situation was is reflected in the incredibly high child mortality rate of 119 deaths per thousand babies born in 1931.

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In Belfast a man with a wife and child could expect to earn no more than 12/= on the outdoor relief-scheme which compared with the rates in the rest of Great Britain was very low. In Manchester the average wage for the same size family was 21/= per week, in Liverpool 23/=, Glasgow 25/3d, Bradford 26/= and Northampton 27/= . Payments were sometimes in cash, but usually in kind.

During the long hot summer of 1932 discontent amongst the unemployed workers rose both here and over the water. They began to organise themselves, mass meetings were held and a strike was called for October 1932, in an attempt to draw the government's attention to the serious problems of poverty due to unemployment.



Outdoor relief workers laying drains.

Unlike today, there was no welfare state to support those who found themselves jobless. Thousands of families were literally penniless and suffering in many cases, from malnutrition.

The only hope of help was outdoor relief which involved strenuous work on the streets; breaking up the pavestones, laying sewers etc. It was only after a rigorous means test and cross-examination



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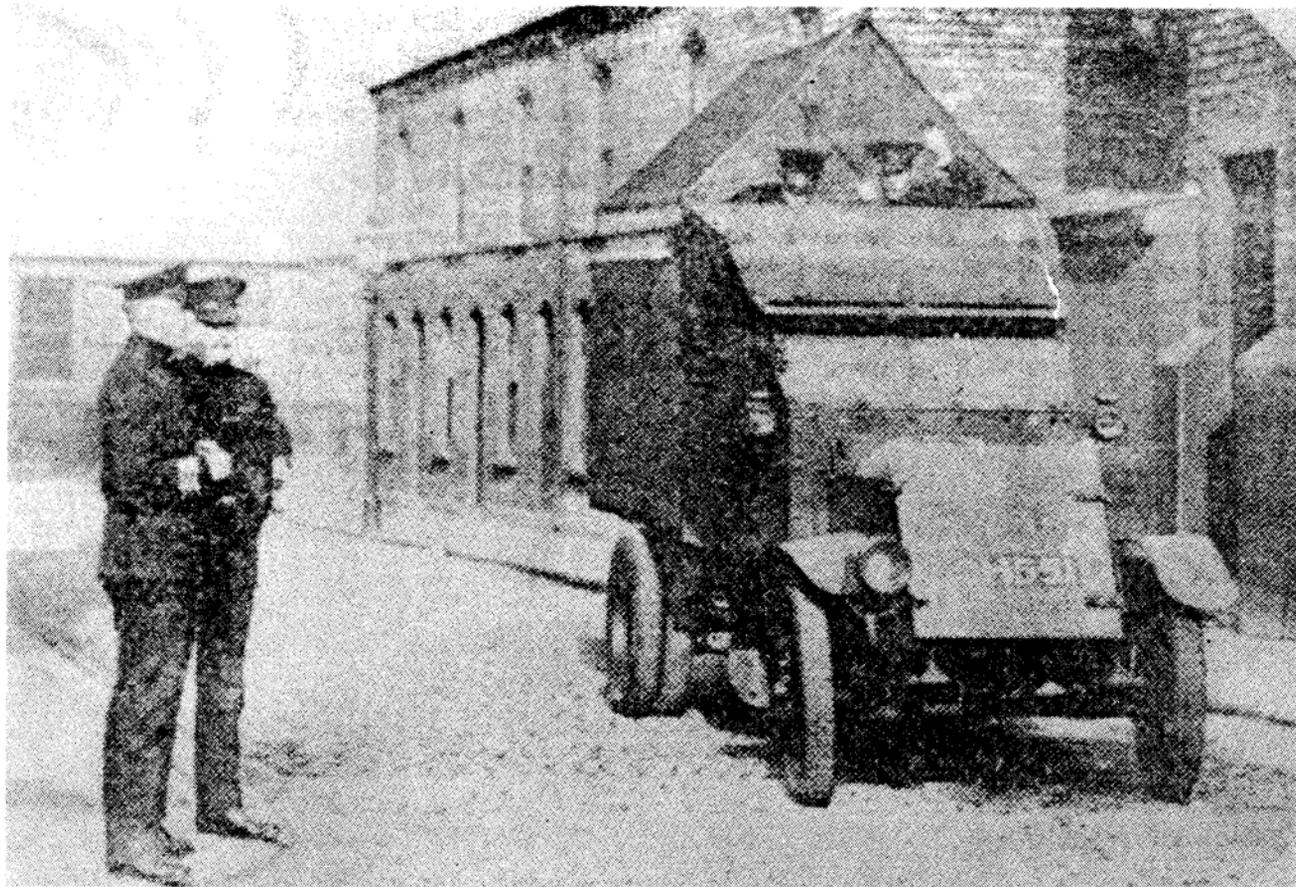
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In issue 16 of the "Shankill Bulletin" we described the build up to the hunger riots which gripped the city in October 1932. This second part looks at the riots themselves, on the Shankill, as reported in the newspapers and by eye witnesses.

merely brought the retort from Mr. T. Geehan Chairman of the Relief Workers Committee that "the workers are going out on the streets if there is any trouble the responsibility will lie on the shoulders of the authorities." He went on "for



An armoured car used to disperse the rioters.

Monday October 10th

'The Belfast Board of Guardians (who administered the relief work) at a special meeting last night decided to improve outdoor relief workers pay by 50%' the newspapers reported that an authoritative group of business men had a meeting with the Lord Mayor expressing fears about the possibility of riots, and he then had put pressure on the Guardians to increase the rates and avert the impending riots.

But the strikers would have none of this. In a meeting attended by over 3000 people the proposals were rejected, union rates of pay demanded, and a decision to escalate the dispute was approved by holding a massive demonstration the following day.

The response from the government was to ban the march, but this



To Corporation St., for daily rations.

long years the working class of Belfast has been divided by the old artificial barriers of religion and politics - they are now united in a struggle around one common platform, the motto of which is the right to live."

A bonfire demonstration was organised for the evening and by 8.30p.m. several were alight round the Shankill mostly in Snugville St. - Carnan St. area. 2 Crossley tenders moved in, commanded the bonfire material and kept it out of reach in the yard at Brown Square Barracks, Throughout the evening bands of girls and youths paraded the streets singing "We want bread" to popular tunes.

men gathering for the banned march. Women played their part by hurling bottles and stones and at times it seemed as if the police would be overpowered, yet with the assistance of armoured cars the rioters were forced into the back streets and alleys.

One newspaper described it like this:- 'A hide and seek affair continued throughout the day on the Shankill with men and women shouting "We want bread", carrying sticks and stones, and armed with pavers, dashed from one street to another. A Corporation bus was attacked on the Crumlin Road and the windows smashed.'

In the absence of policemen, bands



A contingent of armoured police men, who had no compunction in using their weapons.

Tuesday October 11th.

That morning saw almost half the N.I. Police force on duty in the City. Serious riots took place all over Belfast resulting in one man (Samuel Baxter of Regent Street) being shot dead, scores wounded and injured and many arrested.

Tennent Street was the centre of the rioting in the North of the City - charge after charge was made by the peelers against the

of young men siezed tar barrels and other inflammable liquids, applied lights to the watchmans hut and other woodwork. This was a signal for police in 'cages' (primitive armoured cars) to appear on the scene in an attempt to disperse the rioters and extinguish the flames.

The hut in Agnes St. was ablaze, attracting police stationed in Conway St., a fierce fight developed resulting in shots being

fired over the rioters heads. 'Early in the afternoon large numbers of police were drafted into Tennent St. Barracks, it was obvious the march wouldn't be allowed to proceed to Frederick St. The Relief Workers Committee sent instructions that the demonstrators should make their way into the city centre as best they could.'



The capture of a rioter.

'This upset the calculations of the police who were holding the fort at Tennent St. The men wended their way through the back streets in the semblance of a procession, up dashed armoured cars with machine guns set for use and followed by lorry loads of extra police. The men darted this way and that throwing missiles at every opportunity, windows were crashed in as the people marched on.'

Trouble continued on into the evening, with repeated baton charges and arrests. From the darkened streets (most of the lights having been put out by well aimed pavers) bands of men ran onto the Shankill Road, broke a window or two, grabbed what they could and returned to the darkness, with armoured cars in hot pursuit.

Around about 8.30p.m. crowds gathered outside the Shankill Road Barracks and booed an

armoured car leaving the court yard, the car suddenly turned and drove straight at the crowd. Policemen with drawn batons followed the yelling rioters up Moscow Street.

By 10.30p.m. every other shop was damaged. But by 10.50p.m. after a 'cage' car had been round shouting "Everybody Indoors" the streets were cleared and the curfew enforced.

Over 100 people were arrested that day including a William Close, who, when brought to court and charged, replied "It's very unfair, I'm a loyalist" and in defence it was claimed a Mr. Joe Sloan was trying to get Close to sign for Charleville F.C.! This didn't wash all that well with the court, he was sentenced to one months imprisonment, with hard labour!

Those shops damaged on the 11th of October on the Shankill:-

Samual Orr - Draper - Corner of Hopewell Street:

E & W Leatham - Pawnbrokers - Corner of Hudson Street:

Old Olympic - Bar - Corner of McTier Street:

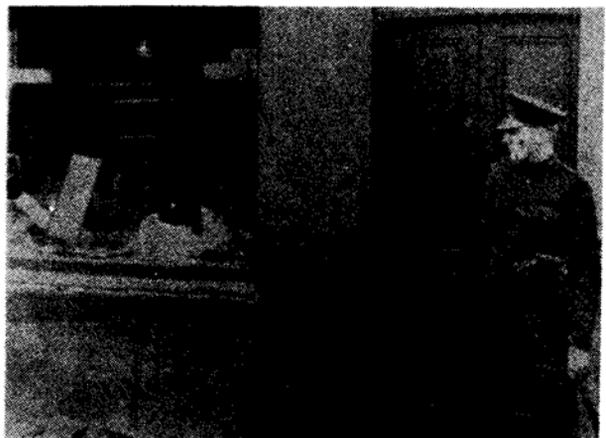
W. Foote and Sons - Drapers:

Northern Bank - Corner of Malvern Street:

Dr Acheson - Surgery:

Liptons - Stores:

'The Towers' - Drapers:



Oporto Wine Store, Agnes Street.

Oporto Wine Shop:

Loane Bros:

The Greyhound - Public House:

Thomas Martin - Pawnbrokers:

Andrews Stores - Grocers:

McCurry & Smiths - Drapers:

R. Biard - Pawnbrokers -
Wilton Street:

McCorley's - Drapers:

Shannon, White & Co -
Outfitters:

Stewarts - Grocers:

Thompson's Stores:

Sheild & Co - Drapers:

Powers Hemstitchers:

P & S Adairs - Drapers:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

Frustration at the terrible conditions for the unemployed in Northern Ireland had been graphically vented on the previous day in all areas of Belfast. Wednesday saw the city quiet.

100's of police patrolled up and down the Shankill which was itself a sorry sight. The shops were all boarded up and there was glass and debris strewn everywhere.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

It was reported in the newspapers that the main speakers at last weeks major meetings were lying low for fear of being arrested and that there was a concerted search for looted property in many areas, including the Shankill.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

The Board of Guardian had been put under increasing pressure by various groups, the craft unions, M.P.'s Councillors

and more, to increase relief and avert the possibility of more riots and increasing unity amongst the strikers.

New relief scales from 20s per week for a man and wife to 32s for a couple and 5 or more children were announced immediately.

In the afternoon a mass meeting of 3,000 strikers met in St. Mary's Hall, a correspondent described it like this. 'On the platform were a Protestant clergyman the district workers of the Relief Committee and members of the Trade Unions.... There was tremendous applause as Thomas Geehan rose to speak and describe the offer of new scales as a "glorious victory".'

JOHN CHAMBERS MEMORIAL BAND
WANT GIRL
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CONTACT 748832/748538
OR CALL GLENCAIRN COMM. CENTRE
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7P.M.



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**WHOLESALE TO
THE PUBLIC**
free estimates

CAROLLES.....81 Shankill Road
GREETINGS CARDS , SWEETS , TOYS, MAGAZINES,
BOOKS, ICE CREAM, NEWSPAPERS, STATIONARY ,
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
NOW SELLING BASIC GROVERIES

Letters.

Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to red pepper in your paper. I came onto the City Council in May since then I have tried to work for the people I represent, in every aspect of the Council work.

With reference to the Tennent Street Housing Centre I have been in this office once and do not interfere in the way this office or schemes it runs.

I have talked to people in our area who were on rent strike marches but only to offer my help were I could, I in no way wanted to take over or to be seen to do so.

The Housing Minister was brought onto the Shankill Road by the Westminster M.P. Mr J. McQuade and the agreement for the Minister to visit the Shankill was made before the May Elections.

I would like to point out as a person who was brought up on the Shankill Road my only aim is to help people of Area "G" where I can and I will keep doing this as long as I am a Councillor.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR JOE COGGLE

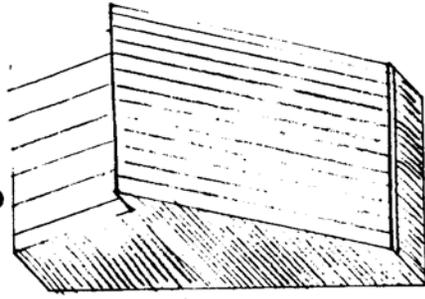
**cut price
babyfoods,
toiletries,
cosmetics.**

William Metcalfe

119 & 329 Shankill Road,



BOXING CLUB

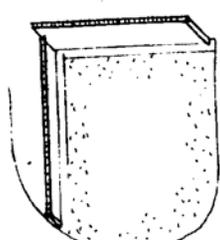


WALLED COURT

PAVILION

THE HAMMER SITE STARTS

At long last work has commenced on the Hammer Site. Bulldozers moved in during August to begin excavations to make a new playground along Malvern Street and a grass football pitch and running track up at Forster Street. Ariel Street Clinic was demolished last week and the Hammer Club is now operating in the Leisure Centre but the City Council have guaranteed its future in Malvern Street Mission when the Church moves to its new premises in Agnes Street which are to be finished early next year.



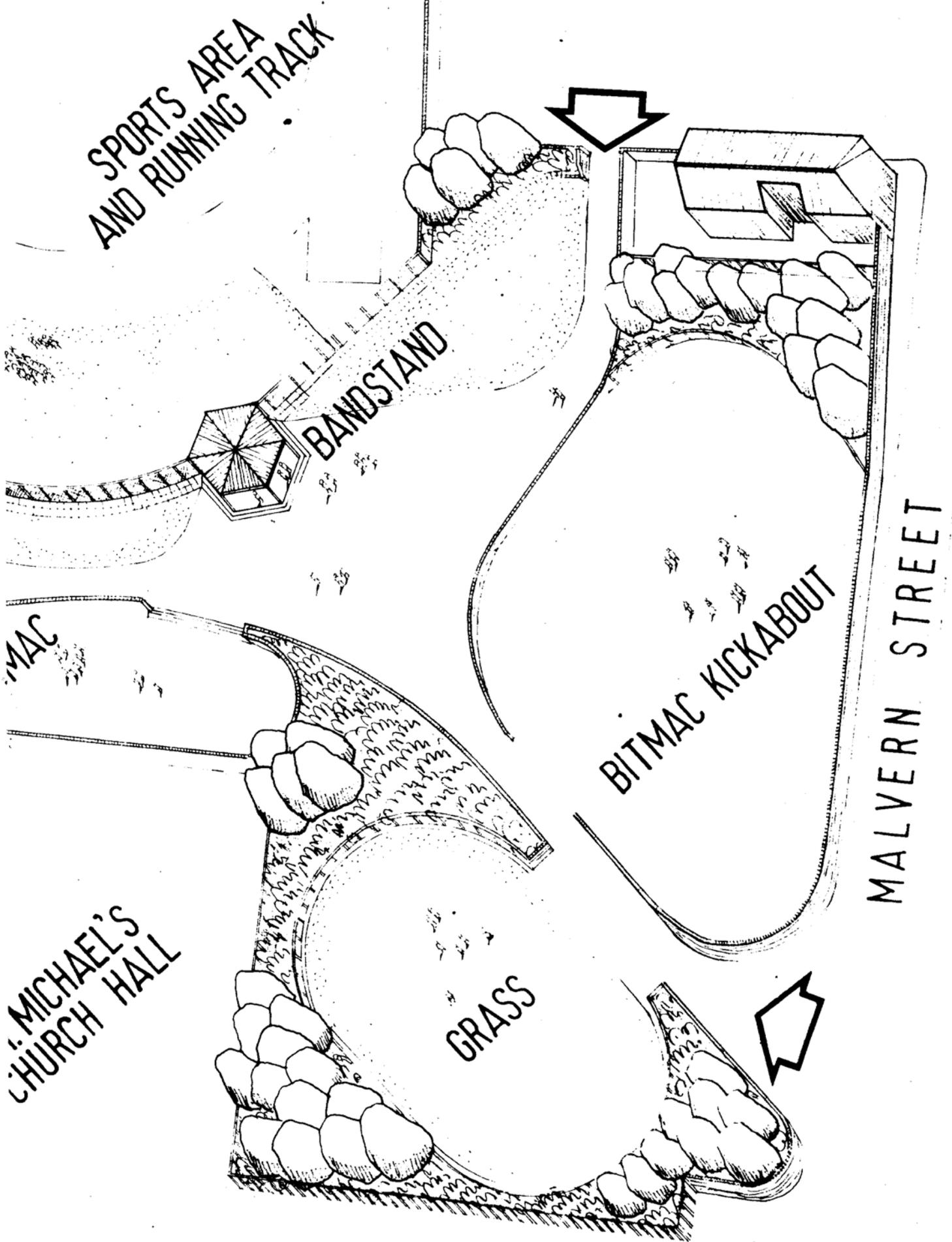
CAR PARK

GRASS

The Victory Boxing Club was completed last month as well and is now operating with a big future ahead of it.

However all this sudden action conceals that Government spending cuts have almost destroyed the original concept of a community education complex, with the Arts Centre, community Museum and the Social/Education Centre almost certainly axed.

THE 'NEW' HAMMER



Margaret McKee

INTERVIEWS

Inez McCormack



INEZ McCORMACK IS THE REGIONAL ORGANISER OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (NUPE) IN N. IRELAND. HERE MARGARET McKEE, WHO WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SCHOOL MILK, MEALS AND TEACHER CUTS LAST YEAR, TALKS TO HER ABOUT THE RECENT NUPE FIGHT FOR HOME HELPS AND OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN.

MARGARET McKEE - A lot of women in the Woodvale and Shankill have been involved with NUPE over the Home Help issue in the last month, what's been going on?

INEZ McCORMACK - It's been about rates of pay, conditions of service, sick leave, holiday leave and superannuation. The Eastern Health Board refused to keep to an agreement with us because they knew Home Helps weren't organised and wouldn't strike, so we decided to organise them but because Home Helps work in individual houses the only way we could do this was to sit outside Social Services Offices in the street, where Home Helps hand in their forms every week and within 2 weeks we had organised 300 women - I think they thought anyone dumb enough to sit outside in the street was at least going to do something for them. We then organised meetings all over Belfast and had a demonstration at the E.H.S.S.B. last week and took over the Boardroom - we won our fight.

MARGARET McKEE - Last year in the Edenbrooke Action Group we were involved in fighting against the milk, meals and teacher cuts, so was your Union, so what can be done now?

INEZ McCORMACK - I'll tell you this Margaret, if you think the cuts in schools were bad last year, you ain't seen nothing yet. Maybe you felt disillusioned at times but what you did last year was to stop them doing anything worse - you helped hold on to the school meals service. 900 women lost their jobs but it could have been 1700. They're working to destroy the school dinners altogether. You in the community and we in the Unions will have to join together to fight them. One thing about Thatcher is she defends her class well - that's what we've got to do.

MARGARET McKEE - You're right and if it comes to it, if they touch the schools or children again, there'll be no children at school because we'll organise a school strike. The cuts are hitting working class people.

INEZ McCORMACK - Yes, and the weakest sections of working class people, children, domestics, cleaners and so on, because they think they won't organise.

MARGARET - We'll just have to get Maggie Thatcher out then.

INEZ - Yes and also make it clear to anyone concerned that women are not going to be anyones easy target. My message is don't touch any of my members or you'll get a very strong reaction. We're going back to how the Trade Union Movement started, standing outside factory gates, organising the workers. It's time for the Union Movement to recognise that we must concentrate on organising

the worker and not just the employer, not just in the work place but in the community.

MARGARET - The way we feel in the Action Group is that before Thatcher was elected she went around with a shopping bag and said prices would need held down for the housewife but she forgot us when she got into 10 Downing Street.

INEZ - One point Margaret is we must be careful not to focus around a hate figure like Thatcher. The policies being followed are the policies of the Conservative Party, we need to concentrate on policies not personalities. Jim Prior's no more acceptable than Margaret Thatcher.

MARGARET - Is it difficult being a woman and a leading figure in a Trade Union?

INEZ - It is, but two things are happening. Women are getting more confidence and now they need easy access to what's going on in the Unions. The Unions must change to suit women, not women to suit the Unions. The trouble is if you're a woman you've almost got to prove you're twice as good as a man. It wouldn't be acceptable for me to fall asleep during long negotiations or leave a meeting early or make a mess of a meeting. If you're a woman you have to behave perfectly, but I'm an ordinary human being as capable of depression, irritability or bad temper as anyone else. A big mistake of women in Unions or Community groups is to believe that to be good you've to become what's regarded as the stereotype of a male successful person. The challenge women are giving to the Trade Unions is they're saying I want to be a successful human being rather than a successful Executive or Trade Unionist. All the things thought required to be successful in life are to be hard, tough, aggressive, arrogant - so called male qualities whereas the so called female qualities of perception, sensitivity, caring etc., are totally under rated. What we do in the house, looking after children and the kind of work women do is under rated. Women will fight far harder for others, their children, their men's jobs, community issues

than for themselves but women are now recognising their self worth and organising. When your groups marched down the Shankill last year against the school cuts and rent rises you were showing them you weren't prepared to be walked on and that gives you the dignity of not being an easy target.

SCOPE



Read By Those Who
Might Be In It!

SCOPE is a monthly review of
Social Policy and Community
Affairs in N. Ireland.

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J. Quinn

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HOUSING POLICY FAILS



THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF THE FAILURE OF TORY POLICY OF DEPENDING ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO REVITALISE THE INNER CITY HAS COME TO LIGHT ON THE SHANKILL - GRAHAMS, THE BUILDERS, OF DROMORE, HAVE DECIDED NOT TO BUILD HOUSES ON A SITE TRANSFERRED TO THEM BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Keeping in line with Tory Housing Policy of private development of the public sector, in June last year, Philip Goodhart, then the minister for the environment ordered that the N.I.H.E. select sample sites to be given over for private contracting. The Housing Executive volunteered seven sites. One of them was Northumberland Street, Aberdeen Street and Dundee Street on the Shankill.

By December the tenders were in. John Grahams (Dromore) Ltd. were awarded the contract, Mortons being the Agents. As a redevelopment area this site is due for immediate re-building.

In July of this year the Save the Shankill Campaign made a concerned enquiry about the progress of the proposed development. In a brief reply Grahams stated that "...Having carried out a fairly extensive market survey in respect of this site we feel that at the moment it would be premature to build houses in this particular area..." You'd remember that this site is due for immediate redevelopment

The site where the private development should be built.

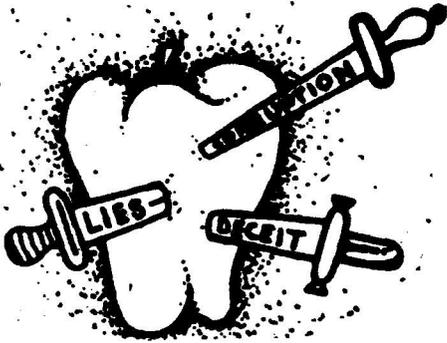
and as such a condition of contract.

The Bulletin contacted Grahams. When asked for the document a company representative explained that the 'fairly extensive market survey' may have been verbal information passed between Morton's, the Agents, and Mr. Graham. He wasn't privy to the information but he did assure me that Morton's had carried out considerable research. Investigation revealed that this 'fairly extensive market survey' amounts to a conversation between a Morton's executive and Mr. Graham.

There is an enormous waiting list in the Shankill area, over five hundred names in the Shankill estate alone - thirty two of which are class A priority due for immediate rehousing.

We obtained the plans of Graham's proposed development of 49 two bedroomed red bricked terrace houses to be neatly arranged in nine blocks and turned in on two pretty courtyards, decorated with trees and hexagonal paving stones. But here's the catch, these houses would sell for between £15,000 and £17,500 at present market values! The project when started would take thirty three months to complete.

RED PEPPER



D.U.P. SAGA

The saga of the local D.U.P. continues. Two weeks ago representatives of the lower Shankill Tenants Group met the Housing Executive in the continuing fight against the District Heating increases. The meeting in the Shankill N.I.H.E. offices was also attended by local D.U.P. Councillors and Johnny McQuade M.P. Half way through the meeting, Dick Bell from Malvern Way was making a point on behalf of the pensioners who live around him, when Johnny McQuade suddenly launched into a vicious attack on him, claiming that he, McQuade, represented the people and not Dick Bell, or presumably, any other community representatives.

WELCOME BACK

Its good to see Sammy Millar on the go again after the shooting. His fight now for disabled people will be fully featured in these pages over the next months. We're sure the fact that he's confined to a wheel-chair won't stop him being at the centre of Councillors fighting against the rent and heating increases as well.

HANDS OFF THE SCHOOLS

Apparently the time's come round for the Belfast Education Board to look at how its going to further implement the Conservative Government's education cuts by school closures. Red Pepper anticipates that any moves to close any Shankill schools will meet with a massive reaction - we've been hurt enough - you have been warned!

DISTRICT HEATING FIGHT

All the estates on District Heating, including Lw. Shankill have joined together to fight the latest increase of £1.35 per week and to demand the withdrawal of the Clorius Metre system. Not only has there been an increase but 75% of tenants in estates throughout N. Ireland have been surcharged for the amount of heat used. Some tenants in

Shankill leisure centre

Autumn Activities

For Ladies



LADIES NIGHT OUT

*Gym and Trim — Keep Fit and Sauna
Exclusive use of Pool*

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9 p.m. 60p

LADIES ACTIVITIES

Keep Fit, Swim, Sauna, Squash, etc.

Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. – 12 noon
Playroom available. 60p

HOUSEWIVES' CHAT

Informal 'Get-Together' for local housewives.

Tuesday 10.30 p.m. 10p

YOGA

Wednesday 7 p.m. 60p

LADIES GYM AND TONIC (Instructor)

Fitness Training, Sauna or Swim

Thursday 8–9 p.m. 60p

SHANKILL DANCE CLASS

Open to all the Family 7–8 p.m. Under 18 30p
Monday 8–10 p.m. Adults 60p

For Men



MEN'S GYM AND TONIC

Weight/Fitness Training with Instructor.

Monday & Thursdays 7 p.m. 60p

MEN'S ACTIVITIES

5-A-Side Soccer, Squash, Swim, Weights

Wednesdays 9 a.m.–12 noon 60p

SENIOR JUDO

Fridays 7.30 p.m. 60p

KARATE CLUB

Wednesdays 7 p.m. Under 18 30p
Adults 60p

SNOOKER LADDER

Join the Snooker Ladder and arrange competitive matches to discover the best player in Shankill Leisure Centre.

SQUASH LADDER

*Now in operation —
A Squash team to be formed this year.*

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Snooker, Sauna, Solarium, Sunbeds, Indoor Soccer, Squash, etc.

Remember, Members may book up to one week in advance, thus avoiding disappointment.

For the Kids



ACAPULCO DISCO

Welcomes Mods, Skins, Disco's Rude Boys and Girls, Punks, Rockers, Jivers, etc.

Wednesdays 7.30–10 p.m. 30p

JUNIOR JUDO

Fridays 6.30–7.30 p.m. 30p

GYMNASTICS

Saturdays
9.30 – 11.30 a.m. (10 years and Under)
11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. (11 years and over) 30p

JUNIOR BOXING

Tuesdays 7–9 p.m. 30p

AQUA FUN TIME

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 30p

For the Family



TENNIS TIME

2 Indoor Courts available

Saturdays 4–8 p.m. £3 per Court

SUNDAYS AT SHANKILL

Kangaroo Club — Bounce Sessions.

Qualified Instructor available

4.30–6 p.m. Adults 60p Under 18 30p

FILM NIGHT OUT

*Selection of Films to be shown this Autumn include 'Superman', 'Jungle Book', 'Spiderman', 'Empire Strikes Back', 'Grease'.
Details from Reception. Adults 60p U.18 30p*

For Senior Citizens

SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Bingo, Darts, Card Games, Television.

Special entertainment once a month.

Monday 2–4 p.m. 10p

ACTIVITY AFTERNOON

Olde Tyme Dancing, Bowls, etc.

Thursdays 2–4 p.m. 10p

Swim through your 60's, 70's and 80's at your leisure and in our Leisure Pool.

Check regularly at Reception for Shankill's special Senior Citizens events.



For the Tiny Tots

TADPOLE/NURSERY SWIM TIME

Every weekday from 10 a.m.—12 noon.

Under 5's Free

Adults 20p

STORY TELLING

Free

Read stories to your children in the Lounge at any time. Vast selection of children's books to choose from.

Half-Price Activities

All activities and facilities, except Squash, are available for casual users at **HALF PRICE** between the hours

9.00 a.m.—12 noon

2.00 p.m.—4.00 p.m. . . MONDAY to FRIDAY

4.00 p.m.—6.00 p.m. SATURDAY

WAVE GOODBYE TO HIGHER PRICES!

Courses

LEARN TO SWIM

Adult

Sats. from 9.30—10.30 a.m. Starting 5th Sept.
8x½ hr. lessons with qualified instructor.

£8.00

(Senior Citizens 80p per Course)

LEARN TO SWIM

Juvenile

Sats. from 10.30—11 a.m. Starting 5th Sept.
8x½ hr. lessons with qualified instructor.

£5

IMPROVERS BADMINTON

Tuesdays 8—9 p.m. Starting 6th October.
Course of 6 weeks.

£3.60

IMPROVERS SQUASH

Wednesdays 8—9 p.m. Starting 7th October.
Course of 6 weeks.

£3.60

**ENROLMENT NEEDED
DETAILS FROM RECEPTION**

Competitions

DISCO DANCING

Wednesday 14th September 7.30—10 p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER LEAGUE U12/14/16

Mondays 4—6 p.m. Starts 19th Oct.

OPEN PAIRS INDOOR BOWLS

Saturday 21st November 12.30—8 p.m.

LUNCH TIME 5-A-SIDE SOCCER LEAGUE

Wednesdays 12 noon—2 p.m. Starts 7th Oct.

SENIOR CITIZENS' DARTS

Tuesday 3rd November 2—5 p.m.

OPEN 3-A-SIDE FLOODLIGHT SOCCER

Mondays 7.30—9 p.m. Starts 9th November

SINGLES SNOOKER

Tuesday 1st Dec.—Friday 11th Dec. (7—10 p.m.)

GET ON TO OUR WAVELENGTH!

SHANKILL DISCO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over 700 people turned up at the Shankill Leisure Centre on the 16th of September to participate or watch a grand disco championship. The event was a tremendous success attracting people of all musical tastes - Mods, Rock-a-billy fans, Teds, Punks, Skins and last but not least, Ant Warriors! The whole spectacle was very colourful and certainly enjoyed by all who came.

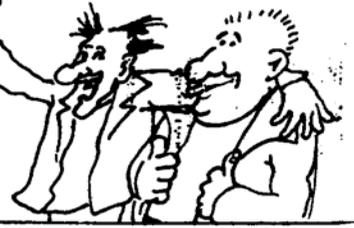
The highlight of the evening was the group and individual competitions judged by Jean McEvoy - 'Northern Ireland Disco Team' manager and five times All-Ireland Ballroom Dance Champion, along with George Loughlin Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Amateur Dance Association. Incidentally both Jean and George will be holding regular dance classes

in the Leisure Centre this Autumn.

Over 100 prizes were presented to individuals and teams, but it certainly seemed that a group calling themselves 'Touch' stole the show. Made up of two teenagers dressed as school girls and a young man, their provocative dancing derservadly brought the house down!

Joe Smith, under manager of the Leisure Centre was very pleased with the turn-out and told the Bulletin he hopes to make it one of the biggest centres for disco-dancing in Northern Ireland, and it seems after Wednesday's compeition he has every hope of doing that. The 'Acupulco Disco has now become a regular event, every Wednesday, if you have'nt been, give it a try, you'll certainly enjoy it!

SCREW THE BAP & HEAD THE BALL!



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Date: 1981

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