

35th People's Gala & Demonstration

Monday 7th May



MAY DAY 2012

DEMONSTRATION

Assemble at

CHESTERFIELD TOWN HALL

at 10.30a.m. March Off at 11.00a.m.

(See inside of back cover for route)

RALLY

RYKNELD SQUARE: 11.30a.m.

(In front of the Tourist Information Centre)

Speakers:

Mark Serwotka (PCS, Gen. Sec.)

Cheryl Pidgeon (Midlands UCATT)

Toby Perkins MP (Chesterfield)

Kostas Katarahais (Gen. Sec. Greek Health Workers Union)

MAY DAY at a GLANCE

9.00am - 3.30p.m.	Stalls and Entertainment in Winding Wheel
10.30a.m.	March Assembles at Town Hall
11.00a.m.	March Off
11.30a.m.	Rally & Speeches in Rykneld Square
12.30p.m.	Ichabod in the Winding Wheel
12.30p.m. - 4.15p.m.	Live Entertainment in Rykneld Square (pg 16-17)
1.00p.m.	Nottingham Clarion Choir in Winding Wheel
1.30p.m.	'Overcoming the North-South Divide' - speakers Paul Salveson and Barry Winter at NEDDC Council Chamber
1.45p.m.	Brampton Community Band in Winding Wheel
2.30p.m.	Boomerang Generation and Kworyl at the Winding Wheel

Refreshments available all day in the Winding Wheel provided by Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres, as well as an Exhibition of Anti-war Art by Chris Holden

Contents

	Page
A May Day Message	4 - 5
Together we can win - Mark Serwotka	6 - 7
Co-operative Capitalism	8 - 9
Profit before Lives?	10 - 12
Our Parliamentary Pitmen Politicians	13 - 15
FREE Concert in Rykneld Square	16 - 17
Telling the truth - The People's Charter	18 - 19
The Workers United - Kostas Katarahais	20 - 21
Dancing in the street!	21
Challenge the Myths	22 - 23
Wortley Hall	23
The Best May Day in the Country	24 - 26
Love, Life and Liberty	27
Macmillan Mobile Information Bus	28
The Enemy - Cheryl Pidgeon	29
Promoting Peace	30
May Day Route	31
The People's Anthems	32



**Leading the
march this
year**

The Ireland
Colliery Band

A May Day Message

Welcome to Chesterfield's 2012 May Day Event.

As we meet for May Day the austerity policies of the ConDems continue apace. The government is determined that working people will pay the price for the bankers crisis, and in many cases it's the most vulnerable sections of our community who are being hardest hit. The assault on people with disabilities and those on welfare benefits reveals some of the nastier aspects of the Bullingdon bullies who dominate this government of millionaires.



James Eaden, President
Chesterfield & District TUC

Rebirth of resistance

However, as well as seeing continued assaults we have also witnessed the rebirth of resistance. The mass strike of public sector workers on Nov 30th was a real glimpse of the potential power of working people to come together and fight back. I am immensely proud of the role that the Chesterfield Trades Council played in organising the hugely successful march and rally in town on that day. We saw thousands surging behind trade union banners, striking and marching for justice. The campaign has also taught us that one day strikes may not be enough to bring victory and there is a real sense amongst union members that we need to take more sustained and effective action to really put pressure back on the Tories and the bosses.

We have also seen real signs of important groups of workers re-discovering more militant tactics of strike action. Forty years after the famous battle of Saltley Gates, which played such a key role in winning the miners strike of 1972, electricians and construction workers have won a famous victory against the big construction companies who were out to slash wages and working conditions. The workers struck, marched, protested and picketed to put real pressure on the companies and won! Here in North Derbyshire, workers at Gunstones Bakeries, who also face wage cuts have chalked up a 93% vote for action in their campaign - a good sign that working people aren't prepared to take attacks lying down. Remploy employees have also fought back and now we all need to rally around them to stop the closure of their factories. At Chesterfield College where I work, we face a threat of 80 redundancies and attacks on hard fought for wages and conditions, which the trade unions are actively resisting.

Street Protest

One of the most inspiring aspects of the last 12 months has been the re-emergence of street protest aimed at the worst excesses of the capitalist system. These range from the Occupy movement to groups like UK Uncut and the Right to Work Protestors who have forced the issue of forced labour into the public eye and got the government and some major corporations to back down. The campaign against cuts to the Youth Service has brought together a strong coalition of young people, youth workers, voluntary sector organisations, trade unionists and local politicians. This breadth and willingness to take action is the key to us winning in the future.

Our platform speakers today represent key aspects of our movement. And I am particularly pleased to welcome two of our speakers who are travelling from outside of our region to be with us. Mark Serwotka, General Secretary of the PCS serves as a model of resolution and principle in defence of his members in the PCS. He rightly sees the trade union movement as needing to embrace and represent all of those in our society who are under attack and fighting back. It is also great pleasure to welcome a representative of the Greek workers movement. Greece has been at the heart of the neo-liberal austerity drive with Greek workers having to pay a massive price to bail out the bankers. The level of resistance to austerity by Greek workers over the past 18 months has been truly inspirational and Kostas Katarachais represents hospital workers in Athens, one of the groups at the forefront of resistance to austerity.

On May Day around the world workers and trade unionists will be marching side by side with campaigners for social justice. We can do no better than to restate and celebrate the historic slogan of our movement - Workers of the World Unite.



November 30th Demonstration leaves Rykneld Square

Acknowledgements

The Chesterfield & District Trades Council would like to thank all the organisations that give their support to the May Day Gala. At the time of going to print it is not possible to produce a list of contributing bodies. But needless to say without their generosity and solidarity, May Day would simply not be possible.

Thanks go to the many scores of volunteers. Their solidarity and hard work in organizing May Day ensures the event runs smoothly. The Chesterfield May Day Gala does great credit to the capacity of the Trade Union and Labour Movements to campaign, inform and entertain.

We also thank our speakers for their support and contributions, the many organisations whose involvement gives May Day the breadth of popular appeal which it enjoys, and we thank you for attending and supporting May Day, maintaining its status as the largest and most popular May Day event in the region, if not the country.

James Eaden (President), Barry Johnson (Vice President), Shay Boyle (Secretary), on behalf of Chesterfield & District Trades Union Council.

Together we can win

This coalition government came to power with one simple message: that we were on the brink of collapse. Their solution was to slash the public sector because, they asserted, too much public spending has caused the crisis. Like one of Nick Clegg's pre-election pledges, it was a lie.

If in fact as the Tories argue it was public spending and not the banks that caused the economic crash, why was over £1 trillion in cash, loans and guarantees quickly mobilised to prevent the entire UK banking system from collapsing? If public spending was in any way to blame it was the money spent on bailing out the UK banks, not on public services and staff.

The coalition government has tried to convince people that too many teachers, nurses and librarians caused our economic troubles. But of course it wasn't too much education, too much healthcare or too much book-reading that caused the recession.

They also blame all people on benefits. By looking at what ministers are saying about social security we see the true divisive viciousness of this government. The Conservatives refuse to admit that unemployment is the tragic consequence of a failed economic system, but instead insist it is the personal responsibility of each individual.

By that logic at some point in 2009 over one million people suddenly decided that a life on £67 per week would be better than working, which doesn't seem very plausible. Yet the likes of Cameron and Osborne have the cheek to demonise people who have paid in, all their lives, to receive exactly the welfare safety net they now need.

And no one is safe. Even terminal cancer patients and people with conditions like multiple sclerosis are told they will have to go to work or face having their benefits removed. This is the same government that nods through massive bonuses for bankers at loss-making publicly-owned banks, and agonises over a 50% tax rate for the super-rich.

The government has also ruled out support for a financial transactions tax (popularly known as the 'Robin Hood' Tax). Such a tax would have two beneficial purposes: firstly, it deters financiers from speculating on markets (which can have



Mark Serwotka

highly volatile and disruptive effects on the real economy); and secondly it would raise revenues to pay off the debt and close the deficit, without the need for damaging cuts to public services.

It is a truly barbaric government that in a crisis says that those with the least should pay the highest price, yet those who did the best in the boom get bailed out. Where is the bailout of the unemployed? Where is the bailout of council services, which are being mercilessly cut? Where is the bailout for young people facing the highest ever levels of youth unemployment and a trebling of university fees?

There is a gaping void where the Labour Party should be. The Conservatives are fighting hard for their backers: big business, hedge funds and private equity companies. Labour is failing to stand up for its people, and that is only helping the Tories to get away with it (with the connivance of the Lib Dems).

Trade unions, with seven million members, are the real opposition to this government, making the case against the government's economic arguments and resisting the attacks on people's pay, pensions, benefits and local services.

Working class people are having their jobs, pay and pensions cut, the local services they rely on scaled back, and their benefits and tax credits cut or removed entirely. The rich are getting richer with executive pay rising by 49% in the last year. We're not all in it together.

Leading the way

PCS led the way in arguing against austerity by publishing our pamphlet 'There is an Alternative: the case against public spending cuts' at the end of 2010. Since then over a quarter of a million copies have been distributed and which tens of thousands more have accessed online.

In it we rightly argued that austerity would increase unemployment and kill growth. We now have the highest unemployment for 17 years, and no plan for stable economic growth. We argued for investment to create jobs, to close the tax gap and to use the banks we own to support a recovery for people, not in bankers' bonuses.

Members of our union have of course taken strike action to defend their pensions, their jobs, and to stop further privatisation. But unions like PCS are also doing something else: we are working with local community groups and campaigning organisations to defend community services and to highlight the injustice of issues like tax avoidance by big business.

Aside from a small elite at the top, whose interests are served by a Cabinet of whom 23 out of 27 are millionaires, we are all in it together. If we allow ourselves to be divided – between those in work and those out of work, between public sector and private sector, between those born in Britain and migrants – then we will lose everything we have fought so hard to gain. But, if we work together we can defeat the cuts and this government. Together we can win.

Mark Serwotka

Co-operative Capitalism?

20
12 UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF CO-OPERATIVES
We build a better world



As the twenty first century opened, corporations appeared to dominate the global economy. The battle was won and market-capitalism had triumphed over state-socialism. The free market ruled! Across the non-communist world a Faustian pact emerged as governments abandoned the mixed economies of the post-war settlement for privatisation. The finance “industry” was deregulated, building societies and mutuals were converted into plcs and we were sold light-touch regulation in return for a paltry tax-take to fund public services. Then came the global financial crash and, with it, yet another crisis of corporate capitalism.

However, earlier in this UN International Year of Cooperatives, Cooperatives UK published a paper by Rotterdam based Economics Professor, Noreena Hertz. Hertz is not just any economist, she has been making accurate predictions about economic trends for over twenty years and she names Co-op Capitalism as the next economic era. In the paper she says “The model of capitalism that was dominant for the last 30 years has clearly failed. It’s time to embrace a new model of capitalism, Co-op Capitalism, for reasons of social justice but also enlightened self-interest.” And Hertz demonstrates how other countries, which use a more cooperative approach, are growing because of a more collaborative relationship between the state, the market, the individual and society. Businesses that embrace the Co-op ethic are weathering the economic downturn better than traditional corporations.

Globalisation

While its defenders argue that globalisation is the only way forward for modern, democratic societies, the reality is that the spread of corporate capitalism means that we are failing to meet even the most basic needs of billions of individuals around the world. In ‘The Spirit Level’ Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett showed that in many countries inequality is undermining the foundations of healthy societies, caring communities, and personal wellbeing. Markets are social constructs; they are not forces of nature as some would claim. They need rules to work and there are better ways to organise enterprise and it is possible to develop a different sort of market.

Last year, in his book Humanizing the Economy, Canadian economist, John Restakis explains how cooperative models for economic and social development can create a more equitable, just, and humane future. With over 800 million members in 85 countries and a long history linking economics to social values, the co-operative movement is the most powerful grassroots movement in the world. In fact the

world’s cooperative economy is larger than Canada’s so this is a serious proposition. Restakis explores an alternative to corporate capitalism and gives a wide range of real-world examples including Emilia Romagna’s cooperative economy in northern Italy, the recovered factory movement in Argentina and the consumer and health coops in Japan.

Cooperatives are a democratic and equitable alternative way of organising economic activity in a regulated market. And coops are controlled by their members. Every member has a vote which is equal to that of every other member. So coops are all about people; how different that is to shareholder owned companies and plcs where only money talks and people come a poor second. Let’s take control of the economy with coops and put the people back in charge!

Mark Grayling, Northern Region Committee, Midlands Cooperative Society writing in a personal capacity.

Chesterfield Stop War Concert for Peace

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Chesterfield

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<http://roybailey.net/>

East London's Steve White and the Protest Family

<http://www.reverbNation.com/stevewhite>

Chesterfield's Martin Sumpton

<http://www.martinsumpton.co.uk/page/194q2/About.html>

Profit before Lives?

Since coming into power, the Government seems to have waged war on health and safety legislation. Legislation put there to protect a fundamental human right – the right to life. The Government seems determined to send a message that profit is more important than lives. David Cameron has spoken out about reducing what he believes is an ‘excessive health and safety culture’, which is “...an albatross around the neck of British Business”.¹ On the contrary, rather than being burdened by red tape, there is shocking evidence of companies breaching legislation in the pursuit of profit.

HSE budgets slashed

Again since coming into power, the Government stopped the Health and Safety Executive’s successful ‘Hidden Killer’ campaign, proven to save the lives of maintenance workers most at risk from asbestos. However, in December 2011 it was agreed that the campaign would be reinstated. At the time of writing we have seen little evidence of new resources being put into the campaign. Furthermore, the Health and Safety’s budget will be slashed by 35% by 2014, stretching the already under-resourced enforcement agency.

Asbestos in Schools not a priority – the lives of Staff and Children put at risk

Asbestos Campaigners, one of whom is Michael Lees, whose wife Gina died of Mesothelioma, have been urging the Government to include asbestos into a year-long audit to assess the condition of the country’s schools. However, we recently learnt that Asbestos has been specifically excluded from the audit; according to the Government, because of “cost implications and the fact that asbestos management should already be carried out under existing legal requirements”. This is a blow, with increasing tight Local Authority budgets, there is now no one to take the responsibility for the welfare of children, teachers and school staff.

Critics claim that the Government's attitude to the deadly disease is highlighted by comments that Nick Gibb, the Schools Minister, is said to have made to asbestos campaigners three years ago. Referring to the potential costs of dealing with asbestos, at a meeting in the Commons, he is alleged to have remarked: "You are telling me that I will have to cripple the education budget to save the lives of a few thousand middle-aged people."² Money before lives! Mr Gibb of course denies these comments but the Government’s actions do nothing to protect those who may be exposed to asbestos in schools.



Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team lights up Derby Cathedral

So are businesses burdened?

We all know the seductive voice of the M&S advert informing us of a product synonymous with Quality. But the image M&S are trying to portray did not resonate throughout the company when caring for customer’s safety. M&S was fined £1 million for putting at risk customers in two of its stores in Reading and Bournemouth during refurbishments in 2006 and 2007, when ceiling tiles containing asbestos fell to the floor. The Judge told the Crown Court “The response from Marks and Spencer’s, was in effect, to turn a blind eye to what was happening.....it was already costing the company too much money.” The Court was told that Marks and Spencer’s did not want to release any more floor space to allow contractors to carry out work safely for fear of losing out on sales! Profit before lives, it is shocking!

Marks and Spencer’s is not alone in flagrantly disregarding health and safety in pursuit of profits. It is one case study illustrating that the Government should be doing more, not less, to strengthen Health and Safety Legislation and ensuring that lives are not cut short by merely going to work.

Joanne Gordon - Trade Union Safety Team

1. David Cameron speaking to an audience of small businesses and entrepreneurs at Intuit UK
2. The Independent on Sunday 29th January 2012

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May Day greetings from Thompsons

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Our Parliamentary Pitmen Politicians



Harry Barnes

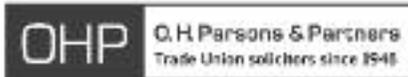
The bulk of the people who attend Chesterfield May Day are drawn from the areas covered by the parliamentary constituencies of Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. For most of the 106 years since 1906, this area has been represented by one or more MPs who originated as coal miners and had been officials of their local miners' lodge and/or of the Derbyshire Miners Association. In all, there have been ten such MPs. Anyone born in the area who is now a pensioner could well have come across six of these. I deal with these below in pairs.

The local mining MP Henry White retired in 1959, then Harold Neal retired in 1970. They had both been returned to parliament via by-elections during the Second World War and participated in the legislation to fulfil a long-time aim of the miners – the nationalisation of their industry, which became operative in 1947. Harold Neal was then the MP for Bolsover. Appropriately, he later became Parliamentary Secretary to Philip Noel-Baker the Minister for Fuel and Power. Henry White was the MP for North East Derbyshire and both his first and final contributions in the Commons were typical of him, in being about the mining industry.

Henry White was succeeded by the miners Tom Swain and then Ray Ellis. Tom was a larger than life character, who after 20 years as an MP was killed on the Norbriggs to Woodthorpe Road when a Coal Board lorry ran into the mini he was driving. This was both a personal and political tragedy. Four weeks after his death, the Callaghan Government lost a vote of confidence by a single vote and this led to the General Election of 1979 which brought Margaret Thatcher to power. If Tom hadn't been killed, the vote of confidence would have ended in a tie and by precedent the Speaker's casting vote would have gone to the Callaghan Government and the General Election would not have been called. Tom was followed by Ray Ellis who became Secretary of the Miners' Group of MPs during the 1984 Miners' Strike and used avenues inside and outside of the Commons to argue their case.

Eric Varley for Chesterfield and Dennis Skinner for Bolsover both entered Parliament in early 1974. It was then when the miners followed up a work-to-rule over poor wages, with a strike. In response the Heath Government instigated a three-day-working week to save fuel and then called a General Election under the slogan "Who Governs Britain?". The electorate decided that the answer to the question was not to be the Conservatives. A minority Labour Government then acted quickly to settle the strike, aided by appointing Eric as a former miner to the post of Secretary of State for Energy. Eric later became Secretary of State for Industry, eventually resigning his seat in 1984 prior to that year's protracted miners' strike. Dennis Skinner as the MP for Bolsover was a leading figure both inside and outside of parliament on the side of the miners in the major disputes of 1972, 1974 and 1984-5 as well as in struggles against the privatisation of the coal industry and against the final closure of deep mine pits in Derbyshire. Dennis remains fully active in parliament today, but will almost certainly be the last pitman MP from Derbyshire.

A characteristic of all the above six post-war pitmen politicians is that they were all firmly Labour MPs. But the four earlier DMA parliamentarians came from a different era and



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differed from this clear pattern.

Our first two miners' MPs were James Haslam and William Harvey whose statues stand outside the former Miners' Offices on Saltergate. They both started work as ten year olds in the harsh circumstances of the mid 19th Century at collieries at Clay Cross and Grassmoor. Later they became active as both methodist lay preachers and trade unionists. In time they came to feel that north Derbyshire needed its own mining association separate from the rather distant South Yorkshire Miners Association which they had been active in until then.

Along with three other miners, in 1879 they met at the old Sun Inn on West Bars (which preceded the current building) to plan to set up the Derbyshire Miners' Association (DMA). James Haslam became the DMA's first secretary, initially being unpaid and running the Association from his home. By 1893 it had 10,000 members in 69 local lodges and was able to open its offices on Saltergate that year. Haslam and Harvey became known as "The Twin Pillars of the DMA".

Parliamentary Representation

For some time in the 19th Century, Parliamentary representation had been seen as a must by mining trade unions. They needed legislation to check that they weren't cheated over payments for the amount of coal they produced, to improve safety conditions, to end the employment of children, to reduce excessive working hours, to seek minimum wages, to set up conciliation procedures and to regulate the structure of their industry. There was also a deep need to improve housing, education, health and social provisions within their communities.

But there were three major hurdles to overcome in order to get miners into parliament. First, although many miners as male householders had first achieved franchise rights in 1884, they needed organising to ensure that they were registered to vote. The system for registration was not then an easy one. So when Haslam stood as Independent Labour in 1885 in Chesterfield, he finished bottom of the poll in a three cornered fight. There had not been time in just a year to mobilise the registration of enough miners. Secondly, MPs were not paid and had the costs of travel and accommodation in London to meet. It was not until 1901 that the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (MFGB) to whom the DMA were affiliated, came up with a modest scheme to cover these needs for successful mining candidates. Finally, to win a candidate needed the backing of one of the main political parties of the 19th Century – the Conservatives or the Liberals. The embryo Labour Party wasn't set up until 1900 and at that time the MFGB was not even affiliated to it.

So after his initial electoral defeat, Haslam, backed by the DMA, sort the Liberal nomination. When he narrowly failed to achieve this he bided his time until the candidature became vacant once more. He was then successfully elected to parliament for Chesterfield in 1906 supported by both the DMA and the local Liberal Association and was known as a Lib-Lab candidate. In a 1907 by-election in what was then called North Eastern Derbyshire, William Harvey also won as a Lib-Lab.

In 1909, however, the MFGB (covering the DMA) affiliated to the Labour Party and Haslam and Harvey accepted the Labour whip, standing successfully in the next two elections of 1910 as Labour candidates.

We could then have expected there to have been a seamless transition to the ranks of the Labour Party by the DMA and its candidates. If we ignore what happened in the Chesterfield seat this is exactly what occurred in the two neighbouring seats. Both ran a number of DMA candidates under the Labour banner. But they did not initially win their seats. There were no further Labour victories by a miner until Frank Lee (at his second attempt) took the North East Derbyshire seat following the 1922 General Election, but only after a drawn out procedure. There were eight recounts, then the matter went to the courts and only seven months later was Lee able to enter parliament after finally being declared the winner by 15 votes. He held his seat until his death in 1942, apart from the 1931-35 period when Labour collapsed nationally following the consequences of the 1931 financial crisis.

Lee was a solid Labour man in parliament involved in issues such the Miners' Lock-Out of 1926, its associated General Strike and criticism of the break-away Spencer's Miners' Union in Notts which was seen as a "scabs union". He also worked hard on the wide range of communal concerns in his constituency. But although Lee stood in seven General Elections as a Labour Candidate and won five times, like Haslam and Harvey his early political involvement had been of a Lib-Lab nature and he had even been a local Liberal agent.

Chesterfield Trade Union Council

But whilst Haslam, Harvey and Lee moved away from the Liberals to the Labour Party, there was one official of the DMA who finally moved in the opposite direction – Barnet Kenyon. On the death of Haslam in 1913 he became the Secretary and then the Agent of the DMA. The DMA supported him to stand for the Chesterfield seat and he was then endorsed by the Chesterfield Trade Union Council, which in those days also fulfilled the role of what would now be a Constituency Labour Party. But when Kenyon then agreed to address the local Liberal Association at their annual meetings and accepted their support in the coming by-election, the MFGB Annual Conference spent a whole day discussing his case and then refused to endorse his candidature. The Labour Party's Executive Committee also rejected him. Kenyon ended up as the Liberal Party Candidate and held the seat as such from 1913 until his retirement in 1929. The DMA finally removing Kenyon from his post as their Agent in 1923, around the time Lee was finally able to take his seat in parliament as a Labour MP.

Essentially the DMA had moved from the Lib-Lab to the Labour camp in 1909, except for the strange case of Kenyon in Chesterfield. A complexity about the Chesterfield seat being that it was not as solid a mining area as its neighbouring seats, which eventually became designated as Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. Chesterfield was less homogeneous, for alongside mining it developed Chemical and Steel works at Staveley, plus engineering works and a range of commercial and business institutions. It was a town, distinct from the surrounding rural areas which were pock marked with pits. Between 1913 and 1964 it did not have a mining MP, which was normally a contrast with its two neighbouring seats.

Nevertheless Chesterfield became a centre for the DMA. The statues of Haslam and Harvey were unveiled in 1915 after their deaths, with thousands of miners and their families from the wider coalfield being crammed in front of the Miners' Offices on Saltergate. They were part of a tradition that has strong lessons for today's Labour Movement.

Harry Barnes

FREE Concert - MONDAY 7th MAY - Rykneld Square

Well here we are again and this time as always with the best entertainment we can find for you in these difficult times, hopefully more than a few smiles will be raised to help in the fight for better conditons and a fair way of living and working... in doing so we have three bands from across the spectrum of musical tastes... please enjoy and as always support MayDay and long may it continue. *Ian Smith MU member and music organizer*

Metrum

12.30pm

www.myspace.com/metrumworld



This uber cool rock band based in Austria but from 3 countries met in Austria, diverse roots, from the USA, Austria and Germany. They combine powerful bass and guitar-riffs with new progressive elements which harmonize perfectly with the dark, clear-cut voice of the lead singer Alex. Human rights, environmental and socio-political issues, they cover the spectrum. The 12 songs on their debut album "BROKEN" are full of energy and life. The album was produced by Michael Hecht, a renowned Classic/Jazz/R&B producer. And we are delighted to welcome them to Chesterfield May Day.

Orchid Star

1.30pm

www.orchidstar.co.uk



We always like variety and here you have a band that has been sending out a mega dance vibe for many years, they've played all the major festivals including, of course, Glastonbury. The music is lush and colourful, atmospheric and visually charged throughout – a succession of spiritual, geographical, temporal and emotional journeys. Imagine the colours of the World (Indian, Arabic, African, Celtic, Balkan, Balinese), psychedelic, and turn-of-the-20th –century classical music over an engine of Funk, DnB, Trance, Progressive, Latin, Breakbeat and assorted downtempo grooves.

"...a beautifully attractive blend of delightfully trippy electronic grooviness – harmonically stunning. Highly recommended." Martin Russell (Afro Celt)

Merry Hell www.merryhell.co.uk

3.00pm



This damn fine band finds the songs they sing from their hearts, and their hearts are definitely with you today at May Day. Songs which delve into a rich seam of content, both political and a reflection of the lives we all lead. Their new album has rocked the magazines and you're in for a real treat with this fine band. Of note too is that once upon a time the members of this band were in the band of yore, namely the Tansads remembered with much affection, but this is a brand new band not a tired re-working of a band long gone. Come and enjoy one hell of a powerful sound that is MERRY HELL

MC Ian Smith

As usual the intros and slightly entertaining bits between the bands will be via our music organiser Ian Smith who also programmes the music so if you really like anything and you want more info on any of the artists just ask on the day!

Telling the truth – The People's Charter

www.thepeoplescharter.org



“If you are going to tell a lie, tell a big one.” This was the advice of Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister. And Hitler helpfully explained what he meant. “Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

Of course, Cameron and Clegg and their millionaire mates in the banks and big business media are not Nazis. But they are, quite simply, lying b.....ds.

They want us to believe that the current economic crisis in Britain – and presumably the rest of the world – has been brought about by too much government spending on public services, by workers earning too much and receiving “gold plated” pensions, by those whose lives have been most damaged by our class divided society receiving too much in the way of benefits.

They want us to forget the real cause of the crisis – a combination of the finance and banking industry taking unsustainable superprofits by creating huge debt, and a dog-eat-dog competitive industrial investment system that creates periodic and entirely predictable economic collapse and recession.

Incredibly, their big lie, now repeated every day, appears to be being “eventually believed” by many who should know better, including some in our own movement.

Though we know for a fact that in the UK alone the government gave the banks £1.3 trillion, and has contributed time and again to international bailouts to keep their tottering capitalist system from total collapse, we are to believe that this has nothing to do with the “need” for “austerity measures”.

Certainly not! The reason that the banks imploded and jobs in industry are being lost at record rates is simple. There are too many nurses and teachers, paid far too much – and workers generally are paid too much and work too little. “Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

So their answer is indeed “simple”. They use the crisis they created to cut wages, abolish decent pensions, privatise services, and close those that can’t be used to make a profit. Where there is resistance to this, they remove the right to resist and strengthen anti-Union laws. They threaten demonstrators with rubber bullets and water cannon. They lock up internet campaigners for “incitement”. They use force to “kettle” protestors and baton charge striking workers. And if one or two die... well they shouldn’t have been there in the first place. Where the level of resistance brings down a President or whole government, such as in Italy and Greece, they ban elections and impose a regime of bankers. Hitler would have been proud!

The situation at home and abroad is indeed very serious. But it is also full of opportunity, if we tell the “big truth”, keep it simple, and keep saying it. The “free market” is not synonymous with “freedom”. It is synonymous with exploitation, growing wealth inequality and oppression. Capitalism does not provide stability – and cannot. It provides chaos and war. The truth of this is there for all to see. Such “free market” chaos is not “the end of history”. What has to be shown is that there really is “an alternative”

This is the importance of the People’s Charter - a detailed and costed alternative economic and political programme “to meet the needs of the millions rather than the greed of the millionaires.” It shows that progressive taxation and ending tax avoidance and evasion by the 10% super-rich would fund investment in services, industry, jobs and skills. Together with the resulting economic growth and with public ownership, we could build a vibrant economy, providing security for the people, retirement with dignity, good quality homes for all and much more besides.

TUC Congress

The Charter was endorsed by the TUC Congress in 2009, and has 18 national unions affiliated to it, as well as many trades union councils and other organisations. It was reinforced at the most recent TUC Congress by its call for the active pursuit of such an alternative economic and political strategy. This call has been made, but shamefully has fallen on deaf ears in the Labour Party leadership. A great deal of work is required in this direction.

Of course, there is one big problem with the People’s Charter, which is also its big strength. It would mean a massive and irreversible shift of wealth – and therefore power – away from the 10% wealthiest section of society who currently own over 80% of the wealth, and to the working class. This makes it unpopular, to say the least, with the unelected coalition of millionaires who purport to be the government, unpopular with the tiny class it serves, unpopular with the millionaire press and with all those who cannot see beyond the apparent permanence of a class divided Britain. They will oppose it by all means at their disposal.

So now we have to build a movement that reaches deep into our communities for “the alternative”. In this, the People’s Charter is working with trades union councils throughout Britain, and helping to build the anti-cuts movement and the Coalition of Resistance.

The day to day experience of millions of ordinary people will prove too great for the propaganda machine of the government and the tiny class it serves. The truth will triumph over the lies of those who profit from our unequal society.

But this “battle of ideas” needs your active involvement. It is not only a battle worth fighting – it is a battle that must be fought. The neoliberal alternative does not bear thinking about.

Bill Greenshields

The Workers United...



Kostas Katarahais

Kostas Katarahais is a medical doctor and Union General Secretary of the Health Workers unions at the Agios Savvas Hospital in Athens. This is the largest hospital in Greece for the treatment of cancer. It has about 500 beds and employs over 1,000 staff. It's a specialist centre for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and contributes not only to the care of cancer patients but has a significant contribution to the prevention and control of all types of cancer.

In the last 2 years Greek society has had to deal with the attack of the Troika (IMF, European Central Bank and European Union) and more generally the austerity policy of cuts and privatisation. This has had a particularly severe impact on the provision of public health in Greece. The situation in the hospitals as well as the general health of the country is declining rapidly as one attack follows another. The national health provision has been targeted by the Troika and a series of cuts has brought public hospitals on the brink of disaster. Since the summer the Ministry of Health has tried, through a series of closures and hospital mergers, to reduce the number of beds by about 50%. It now means that patients have to pay for tests, treatment and outpatient visits.

Barbaric Cuts

A similar picture exists with our hospital which was forced to merge with another, smaller cancer treatment centre resulting in the reduction by half the beds, operating rooms, surgeries and technical facilities. Posts are being reduced and more redundancies planned, at the same time whole hospital departments are passed over to the private sector. Shortages of medicines and equipment are severe with staff and patients often forced to pay for bandages or gloves. Medical supply companies constantly threaten to cut supplies.

Workers of public hospitals together with local communities are constantly organizing events against hospital closures and to end these barbaric cuts and privatisation of the public health provision.

Recently we had wage cuts, these sometimes exceeded 50%. We have had enough! Recently in hospitals across Greece general, mass union meetings have been taking place. Decisions about daily strikes are taken, meetings and the occupation of finance offices in order to stop patients from having to pay. In early February there was a demonstration of thousands outside the Ministry of Health. We are pushing forward the idea to intensify the struggle with an indefinite strike. Our union had elections January 19 and the anti-capitalist slate won 60% of the workers' vote, something that gave a big boost to the organisation and strength of our activities. We already started organising a fighting fund, a fund for solidarity and support for the struggles we started.

Solidarity and support especially from colleagues abroad are extremely valuable. This gives added boost to our struggle for the protection of free public health provision and inspires us. The news of the support and solidarity of trade unionists in the UK has already enthused people and we'll stay in constant communication, keeping you informed of all developments in the battles we face.

...will never be defeated

Dancing in the street!

The Alpha Males Present: An Explosion Of Dance!

MayDay 2012, Chesterfield Town Centre, Prepare yourselves for something a little different.....

The Alpha Males Present An Explosion Of Dance, Bank Holiday Monday May 7th brings an assorted array of different dance groups and styles, brought to you by world renowned Burlesque superstars "The Alpha Males".

There will be dancers present, and top quality high energy performances from Dance schools like 'Crystal Cheer and Dance', 'Supanova Dance', 'Streetbeat Dance Academy' and many more!

Not to mention an EXCLUSIVE Performance of the NOTORIOUS "Alpha Males", 'BlackenStiens Monster' Piece, as seen at BRAM STOKER'S INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.

Needless to say, this Mayfest is going to be one of a kind, so to indulge in an optical wonder of Flying Acrobatics, Fancy Footwork and Death Defying Dance, come down to Vicar Lane on the 7th of May to watch, cheer, applaud and finally to get involved! Outside HMV, next to Ann Summers 10am till 4pm.

All The Best, The Alpha Males!

For more info call Jonny on 07875402129 or Email Jokernbs@aol.com

Challenge the Myths!

Yes it's true. There are people living in mansions at the tax payers' expense. Bonus bingeing does get some stick now and again. But you don't read much about tax dodging, civil list dependency or the lucrative government contracts to get people off benefits so wasteful to the public purse and so profitable to companies like ATOS. Their faulty work capability assessments are frequently overturned on appeal with the taxpayer picking up the bill. The new Government Employment programme makes it more profitable to get people in to part time work where they will still not make a living wage than to get fewer into full time jobs where they can support themselves and pay taxes.



Protesting outside the Job Centre against the dreaded Work Capability Assessment

Yet powerful images of work-shy scroungers and benefit cheats assault our eyes and ears almost daily. Living in plush pads with their ten kids, they lounge all day watching wall-to-wall plasma TV. They pretend to be disabled. This steady drip, drip of poison pits 'hard working families' against the unemployed, the disabled, lone parents. It scapegoats the poor for the failures of capitalism and of governments and it works. Social attitudes harden as times get tougher and there is no mainstream challenge to the dominant narrative. When it comes to welfare, all the political parties sing loudly from the same hymn sheet with only minor variations, No one shouts about poverty and inequality yet the United Kingdom is, after the USA, the most unequal society in the world with benefit levels well below official poverty lines.

No one is ramming home that only 1% of the benefits bill is falsely claimed, 60 times less than the amount lost through tax evasion and far less than the benefit that goes unclaimed. No one is banging on about the 5.7 job seekers for every job and that it's even grimmer up North. 3.5 million families in poverty have someone working but no one rants about low pay. The housing benefit cap that seems so attractive masks an issue of sky rocketing private rents, yet who is demanding a rent cap and more social housing?

The impact of poverty and the war on its victims is harsh and cruel. In Derbyshire two disabled people have died shortly after being told by the DWP that they were fit for work. Charities warn of a 75% increase in attacks on disabled people as a result of the propaganda around the Welfare Bill. Recently a man was sentenced in Chesterfield for assault, claiming of his victim 'He's disabled. He deserves all he gets'. Homeless charities report people living in garages and walk-in refrigerators and it will get worse as the benefit cap bites. Poverty is not a life-style choice, it is the consequence of class war. The House of Lords could not stomach the attack on children and cancer patients in the Welfare Bill but the Coalition of millionaires has had its way with them in the Commons.

Challenging the myths which demonise the poor and pointing the finger at the tax cheats and corporate criminals has to be a trade union and socialist priority. Labour leaders will listen only when the clamour for greater equality and policies to end poverty are deafening. The voices of unemployed, disabled people and women must be heard and their organisations given full support. In Derbyshire, support for the Unemployed Workers Centres is vital. Exposing the lies around welfare and rebuilding mass support for social justice must be at the top of our agenda.

Val Graham, Chesterfield & District TUC Executive Member

Wortley Hall

Wortley Hall Conference/Holiday Centre



Wortley Hall sends May Day Greetings to the Chesterfield & District Trades Union Council, and to all those who participate in the May Day Rally and Gala

Wortley Hall is now owned and controlled by its Shareholders who are all members of the wider Labour, Trade Union and Co-operative movement.

*Wortley Hall supports the Labour and Trade Union and Co-operative movement.
- why not support Wortley Hall?*

For further information contact reception on 0114 288 2100

Fax: 0114 283 0695 Email: info@wortleyhall.org.uk

or visit our website www.wortleyhall.org.uk

Chairman: Mike Rowley

Secretary: B. Clarke

The Best May Day in the Country?

This is Chesterfield's 35th May Day. How did it begin? It all began in the mud of Stand Rd Recreation Ground, and now we are re-located to the Winding Wheel and Rykneld Square.

Perhaps we ought to be considering an official history of what has become one of the best, if not the best, May Day in the country. Some of the reminiscences of the early activists have been recorded. Others leave questions unanswered, with the passing away of the founders.

Before the Bank Holiday, there was a march on the nearest Saturday to May 1st. When the Bank Holiday was achieved, we launched the event on Stand Rd with Marquees and outdoor activities. We then advanced to New Square with all the stalls and the entertainment.

Right from the start we had prominent speakers – local MPs, national leaders, workers in dispute, international speakers who we expressed our solidarity with.

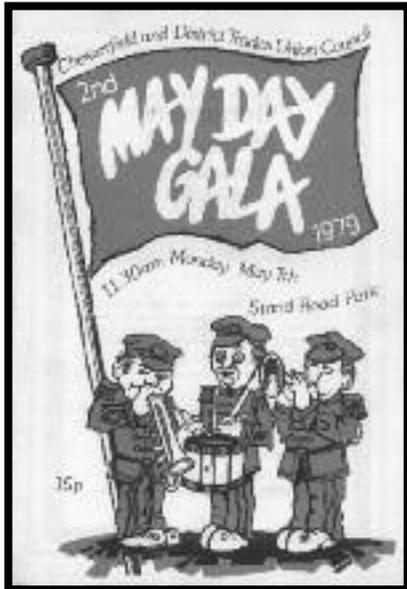
As many who are now planning and organising this 35th May Day were not born when we started, perhaps it is time to consider the great contribution made by the pioneers of this festival. Here we hit the first snag – the fickleness of memory. The more names we recall, the more we realise just how many made their

contributions, and whose contributions remain unrecorded – the unsung heroes of our movement. Malcolm Gee has given us an eye-opening account of just how many people gave their time and enthusiasm to make the success it has become – ordinary Trade Union stalwarts – no “fancy Dans”.

Going back 40 years we recall the personalities who insisted that the tradition of May Day must be maintained and built on. Bert Wynn of the NUM, Bas Barker of the AEU, Eddie Boyce of the AEU, Ernie Kelly of the GMB, Fred Westacott, coalfield organiser of the Communist Party, Ann Astwood who although a top manager at “Robbo’s” was a staunch supporter of the miners. Around that time the Trade Union demand for shorter working hours and more holidays embraced the idea that May Day should become an official Bank



Malcolm Gee helped build Chesterfield's May Day



Holiday. As usual this was achieved by a combination of mass pressure and the work of enlightened leaders in Parliament. Growing agitation, coupled with increasing numbers of factories, docks and building sites making May Day a de facto holiday made a decision urgent. That stirring of the working class seeing its interests as unique to itself, rather than following specious concepts of “we’re all in this together” led to a more left-leaning Labour Government, which, under Michael Foot declared May Day a bank holiday.

This campaign mirrored the way Christmas and New Year were bridged to make a proper holiday – older, retired people will recall the doleful tones in which the BBC newsreaders lamented the failure of workers to return after Boxing Day!

Once we got the May Day holiday, Chesterfield Trades Council and especially the AEU moved into high gear. Around that time, the AEU got a full time office in the town. Bill Mitchell was elected District Secretary, and he was prepared to add organising May Day to his union duties, He wasn't alone, of course. AEU shop stewards especially, Malc Gee, Frank Troop, Gordon Smith and many others weighed in.

The NUM gave financial help through the support of Herbert Parkin and Peter Heathfield. Janet Jacques, the secretary to Bill Mitchell gave unstintingly of her energies and support. Barry Johnson inaugurated the tradition of fund raising through sales of artistic and collectible badges.

Chesterfield Borough Council leader Bill Flanagan left no stone unturned in searching for venues and ensuring the support of Council officers. Councillors Terry Kendellen, Terry Hawkins, Paul Vaughan, and from NE Derbyshire District Council, John Dunn, were all involved in the planning and organising, and it is true to say, that but for the support of the Labour Councils the energies of the Trade Unionists would have been to no avail.

Nor should we forget the organisers over the years of the music and dance entertainment, the stalls which give so many local and national organisations opportunity to promote their campaigns. Nor the sports events, the children's events; on occasion the motor-cycle display, the chess tournament with grandmaster Jon Speelman, the lorry lent by North East District Council and driven by Gary Skinner for the anti-nuclear-missile display, when Thatcher's belligerence was countered by David Bookbinder's County Council campaign to make “Derbyshire a Nuclear-Free Zone”, etc.



Bill Mitchell and Bas Barker at Stand Road Recreation Ground

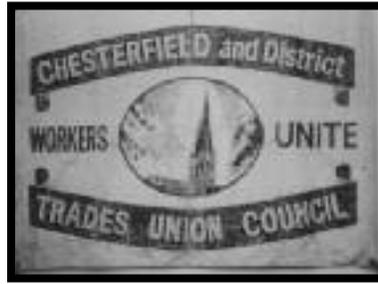
The need to recognise these contributions is emphasised by so many pioneers having passed on in recent years.

We are accustomed to the May Day having the wealth of tradition behind it. Being able to rely on the dedication of the personalities who have been elected to positions of leadership in our movement – Bill Mitchell, Malcolm Gee, Bill Flanagan, Colin Hampton, each of whom accepted a broader responsibility than their job description specifies. We expect success. The pioneers had no such guarantee. They had their nay-sayers of course, who felt Chesterfield was too small, that people wouldn't respond.

We pay tribute to those pioneers who conceived what was possible, convinced their fellows that it could succeed, and went on to mobilise support to ensure that it did succeed – and that is real leadership.

It was achieved despite the difficulties – years of mud at Stand Rd, vandalised marquees, years when high winds ripped displays of the stalls – but the work went on and the pioneers' efforts remain as a national beacon.

Joe Clark



Original Trades Council banner puts it plainly

Love, Life and Liberty

A celebration of Chesterfield's unique role in inspiring better places for people.

Monday 7th of May 2012 at 7.30pm

Winding Wheel Chesterfield

Tickets available from 70 Saltergate or phone 01246 231441

A little over a hundred years ago a meeting took place in the Derbyshire coalfield which was to change the face of Britain. A young mining engineer working for the Staveley Iron and Coal Company, called Raymond Unwin, walked from Chesterfield to the small village of Millthorpe to meet a libertarian socialist called Edward Carpenter. Inspired by the ideals of those he met there, such as William Morris and the trade unionist Ben Tillet, Unwin went on to realise the ideals of the Arts and Crafts and Garden City movements by building outstanding new communities for working people.

At the core of the visionary ideals Unwin pursued was a belief that everyone had a right to a decent home with access to gardens, green space, libraries and schools at standards previously only available to the rich.

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and the Chesterfield Cooperative Party are hosting this special event to repay the debt we owe to those early pioneers from the coalfields and to celebrate their inspiration to build a better future.

Radical Thinking

It explores the connections of key figures in the town planning movement, such as Ebenezer Howard and Raymond Unwin, as well as radical thinkers such as Edward Carpenter, William Morris and Prince Kropotkin. It draws out a long lineage of radical thinking about freedom and the land running through John Clare and the Romantics back to Gerrard Winstanley and forward through the music of Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen. It celebrates, as the early pioneers did, the power of art and music in communicating political ideas, and reminds us that the imagination, radicalism and personal bravery of these extraordinary figures of the past still have relevance for the present.

Love, Life and Liberty is a relaxed and informal event performed by actors and musicians who are part the Town and Country Planning Association.

Love, Life and Liberty is supported by the Midlands Cooperative Society as part of the United Nations International Year of the Cooperative celebrations.

Stalls and entertainment in the Winding Wheel

All day, including:

Nottingham Clarion Choir
Brampton Community Band

Plus

Singer/songwriter ICHABOD
Folk duo BOOMERANG GENERATION
Rap Artist KWORYL

Timetable of artists on page 2 - May Day at a Glance

Macmillan Mobile Information Bus

The Macmillan Mobile Information Bus covers the whole of the East Midlands area. We are looking forward to bringing our bright green bus to the Chesterfield May Day event, on the 7th of May. We will be based at Rykneld Square from 10am to 4pm, so that people can take the opportunity to find out more about cancer.

The staff from the Macmillan Mobile Information Service, welcome anyone with a question or concern about cancer, no matter how small, to step on board for a confidential chat, or just to pick up some information leaflets. No appointment is necessary and the service is completely free of charge.

The Information Specialists are able to provide clinical, emotional, practical and financial support and have around 400 resources and booklets available, including local support services, reference materials and access to the internet and electronic sources of support.

Please feel free to come onboard and have a chat with our team during the day.

Alternatively if you would like cancer information, but cannot see the mobile team on the 7th of May, please visit www.macmillan.org.uk, where you can also find further details about Cancer Information Centres in your area or call the Macmillan Support Line free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 8pm).

You can find out more about what places our team will be visiting in the East Midlands on the following website link

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/HowWeCanHelp/LocalInformationCentres/MobileInformationCentrelocations.aspx>.



The Enemy



*They attack our pensions and so we must speak up.
They toss aside our youth and so we must speak up.
They ravage our communities, cast aside our elders, the weak and the poor
and yes again we must speak up.
Now they come for our NHS and we must continue to speak up.
With every breath in our body and every fibre of our hearts we must speak up.
For many- the trade unions are the very last line of defence. Together let's speak up.*

*Speak up out of respect for those who fought for the rights we sometimes take for granted, for those in our society who are weak and vulnerable in need of shelter and our support.
In memory of those who lost their lives fighting to save ours we must speak up.
For those who lost their lives through negligent employers we must continue to speak up.
For the sake of our children and their children we must speak up.
For our brothers and sisters in far off lands who fight for democracy we salute you brave comrades- our spirits and our hearts are with you always.*

And when our own strength is low we must continue to speak up and stand up and fight.

This government cannot weaken our collective strength; it cannot break our spirit when we remain united.

Comrades be proud, be strong. Let's continue to unite across communities, fight for our beliefs, our values and for the Alternative – an alternative where strong public services bind a true and decent society, where all men and women are valued not labelled, where greedy bankers and the enemy is no more and social justice is restored.

Comrades- stay safe out there- in solidarity always.

Cheryl Pidgeon, Midlands UCATT

Morning Star for peace and socialism

The Morning Star is the only daily newspaper owned and controlled by its readers within the Labour, Trade Union, and Co-operative Movement.

The Morning Star can be purchased *daily* from any newsagent priced at £1.
The paper is also on display within Chesterfield Library on a daily basis.

daily paper of the left



"Promoting PEACE"

celebrating Chesterfield Mayday Gala

6 & 7 May 2012



An evening of Peace & Protest

with music from ROY BAILEY, Martin Sumpton and friends

SUNDAY 6 MAY

7.30 pm at the Winding Wheel, Chesterfield

Tickets: £10/ £8 unwaged

MONDAY 7 MAY

Throughout the day from 10am in the Winding Wheel

An exhibition of ANTIWAR ART by CHRIS HOLDEN

Chris Holden has been creating political art full-time since 2003: his works deal mainly with conflict, peace, poverty and the environment – "issues that cannot be ignored if we are concerned about the future of the world"

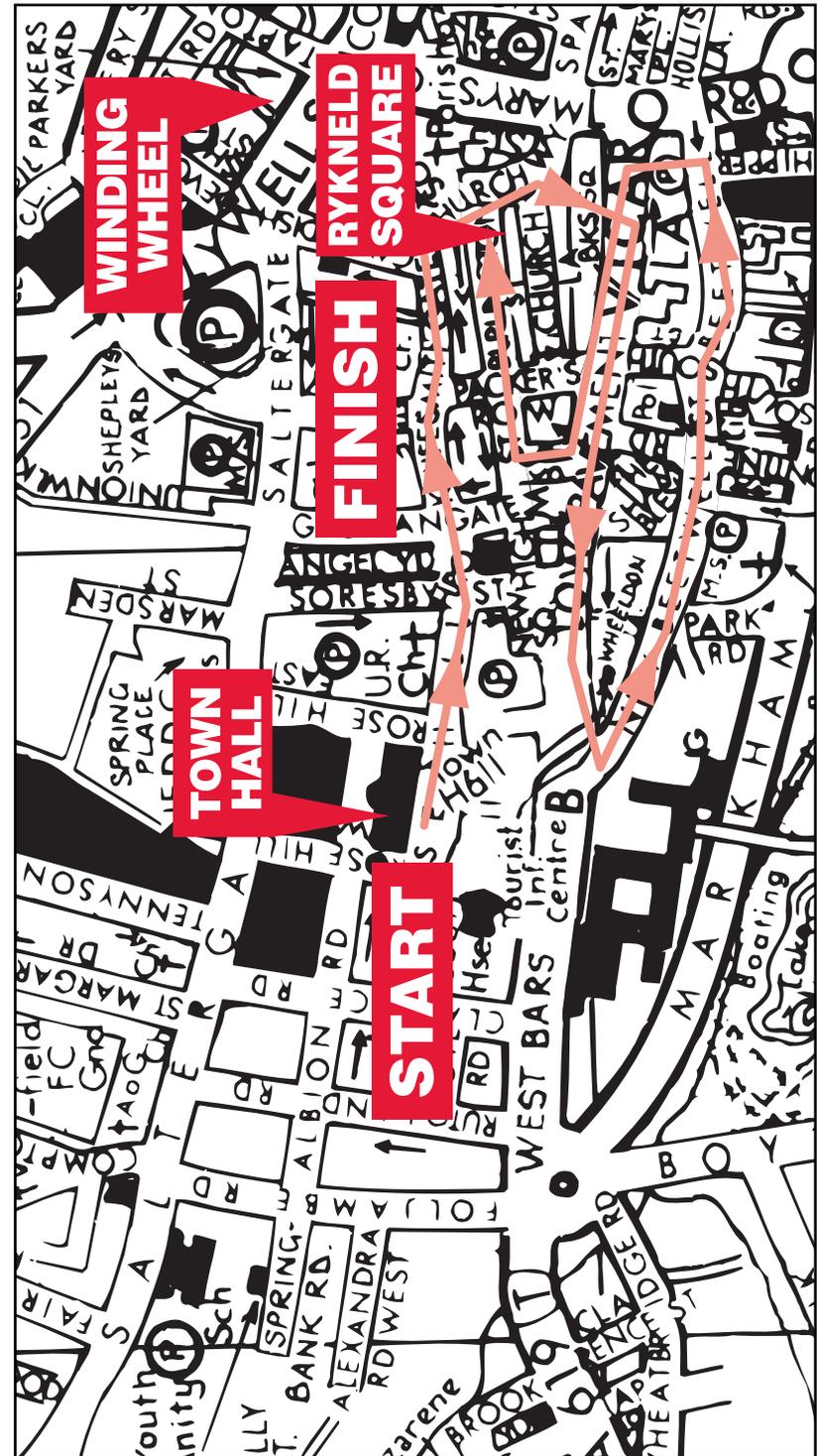
Some of his posters & prints will be for sale.

Rolling slide show from an archive of photographs recording the history of PEACE ACTIVISM in CHESTERFIELD from 1930 - 2011 and relax with a cup of tea to live music from Ichabod and friends

For more information go to:

www.propeacechesterfield.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/propeaceorg or email: propeace@live.co.uk



..May Day March Route..

THE PEOPLE'S ANTHEMS

THE RED FLAG

The people's flag is deepest red.
It shrouded oft our martyred dead.
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold
Their hearts' blood dyed its ev'ry fold.

Chorus:

*Then raise the scarlet standard
high!
Within its shade we'll live or die;
Tho' cowards flinch and traitors
sneer,
We'll keep the Red Flag flying here.*

With heads uncovered swear we all
To bear it onward til we fall.
Come dungeon dark or gallows grim,
This song shall be our parting hymn.

Chorus:

*Then raise the scarlet standard
high!
Within its shade we'll live or die;
Tho' cowards flinch and traitors
sneer,
We'll keep the Red Flag flying here.*

THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise! Ye starvelings from your
slumbers!
Arise! Ye criminals of want!
For reason in revolt now thunders
And at last ends the age of cant.
Now away with all superstitions,
Servile masses, arise! Arise!
We'll change forthwith the old
conditions
And spurn the dust to win the prize

Chorus:

*Then comrades, come rally!
And the last fight let us face.
The Internationale unites the human
race!*

We peasants, artisans and others
Enrolled among the folk of toil.
Let's claim the earth henceforth for
workers
Drive the indolent from the soil.
On our flesh too long have fed the
raven
We've too long been the vultures' prey
But now farewell the spirit craven
The dawn brings in a brighter day.

Chorus...

Following the speeches, the singing of the Internationale and the Red Flag will be led by the Nottingham Clarion Choir which has been in existence for 24 years. Singing songs of peace and protest and performing at May Days, commemorations like Tollpuddle, Levellers Day, and Durham Miners Gala and at various demonstrations and campaigns nationally and locally, and in Cuba, Germany and Sweden. See them also in the Winding Wheel auditorium at 1pm.