

Solidarity and the 1984/85 Miners' Strike

In March 1984 over 150,000 British coal miners went on strike to protest against plans for widespread closures in the industry. The strike, ultimately unsuccessful, lasted a year and was one of the most significant industrial disputes in British history. Alongside the industrial struggle emerged a large and diverse social movement to help sustain the miners and their communities.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike, the following exhibition has been compiled predominantly from material in the TUC Library Collections at London Metropolitan University. The library has been deposited at the University since 1996 and is a unique resource for the study of the labour movement and working life past, present and future.



South Eastern Region TUC march in support of the miners, London, June 1984
© Trades Union Congress Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



A mass picket at Saltley Gate coke plant near Birmingham during the 1972 miners' strike. © Trades Union Congress Library Collections, London Metropolitan University /



FREE
Miner
SPECIAL BALLOT ISSUE MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1972

Bonus shift consolidated
Five days extra holiday
Subsidised transport deal
Adult wage at 18 deal

WE'VE WON!

Executive recommend Wilberforce figures in pithead ballot

"THE GREATEST DAY in the history of the National Union of Mineworkers," a tired but jubilant President Joe Gornley announced at 10 Downing Street in the early hours of Saturday morning.

"We've won more in the last 24 hours than we've ever won in the last 24 years," said Secretary Lawrence Daly at the end of a day of negotiations which started in Robert Carr's Department of Employment Office at 10 a.m. and finished in 10 Downing Street 15 hours later.

These 15 hours of negotiations with the Civil Service after the Wilberforce Report was presented to the National Executive Committee at 10 a.m., produced the greatest list of concessions the NUM has ever been able to win for Britain's mineworkers.

Just look at the main points: over and above the increases in basic wage rates:

- The Bonus Shift to be consolidated into the basic rate
- Five extra days holiday, to be taken individually. But they CAN be taken consecutively by agreement with local management.
- A new subsidised transport to cover ALL Areas and to be negotiated by May 1.

(Continued on back page)

White Secretary Lawrence Daly was presenting the NUM case to the Wilberforce Court of inquiry. Thousands of miners were waiting in the Houses of Commons to lobby MPs.

Picture by Chris Davies, Report, London

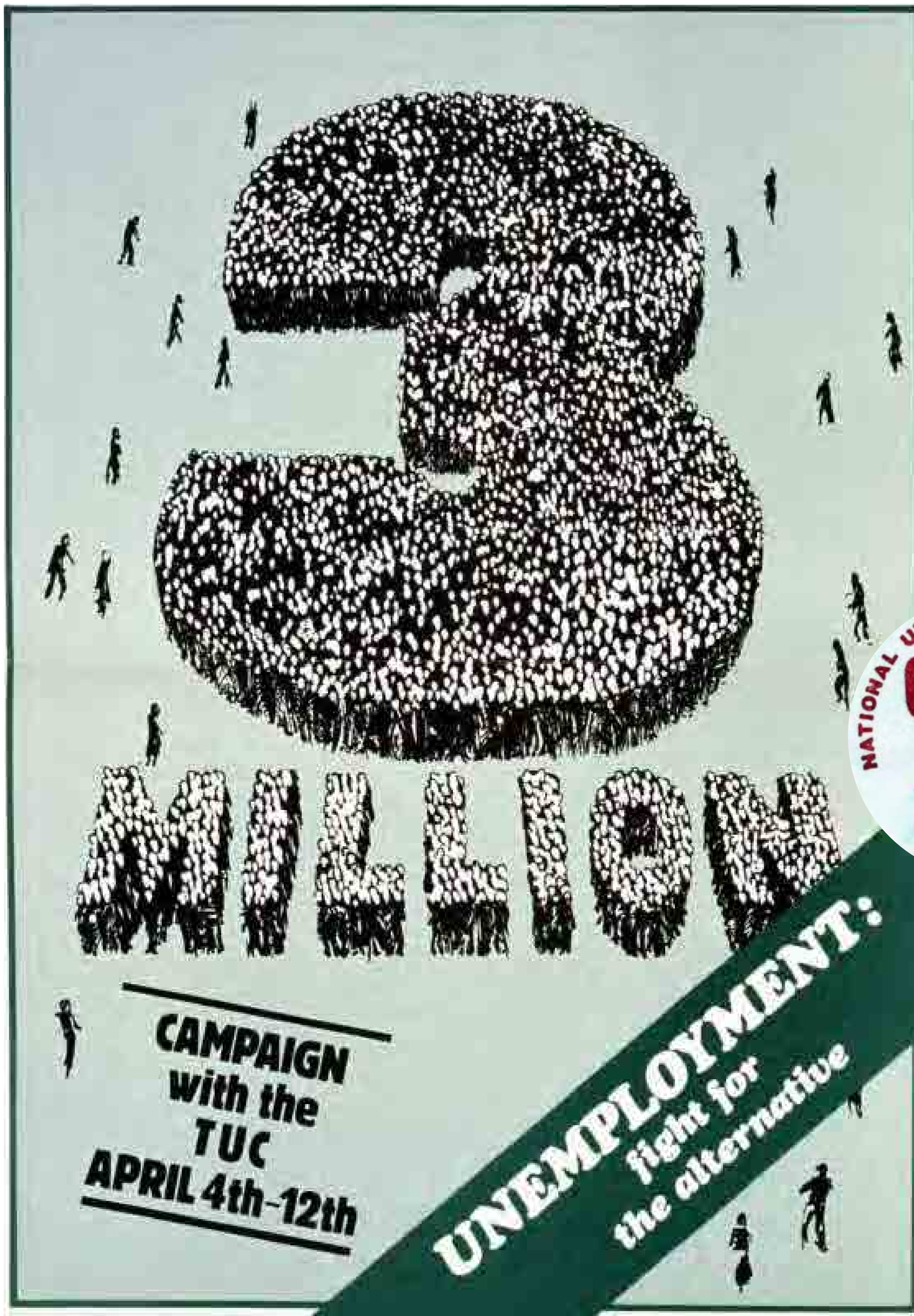
1970s strikes and the Ridley Plan

In 1972 and 1974 there were national miners' strikes for the first time since 1926. The strikes, primarily over wages, were successful and partly responsible for the end of Edward Heath's Conservative government in 1974. They also brought Arthur Scargill to national prominence. Some feel that the Conservatives provoked the miners' strike of 1984-5 out of a desire for revenge for these defeats. Former Cabinet member of the Heath government, Margaret Thatcher, was elected in 1979 and again in 1983. In preparation for government, Conservative Nicholas Ridley prepared a report on the publicly owned industries, which suggested ways in which a showdown with unions – including the miners – could be won.

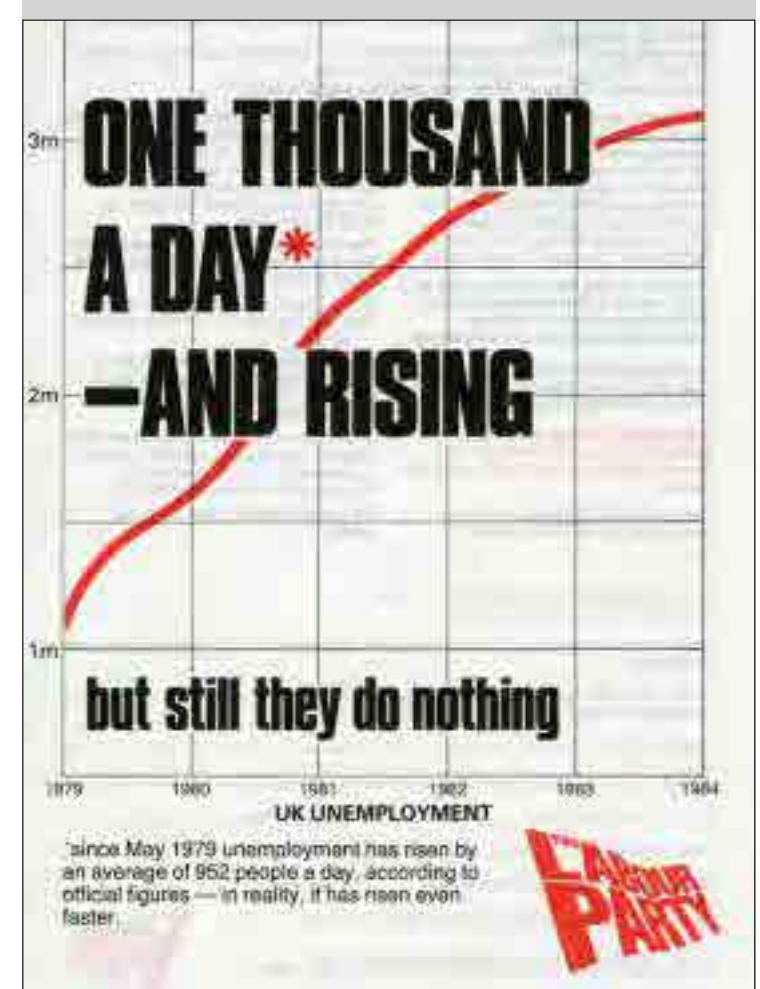
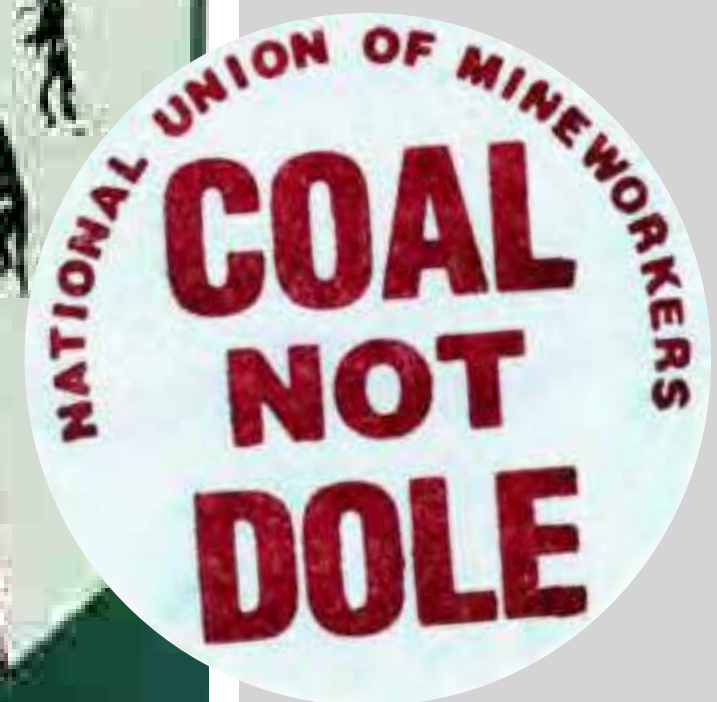
Special ballot issue of the NUM's newspaper The Miner, February 1972, recommending to members the settlement achieved in negotiations over pay with Ted Heath's Conservative government © National Union of Mineworkers

Industrial context

In the early 1980s unemployment rose dramatically, with official figures over 3 million (nearly 12%). The steel workers, traditional allies of the miners, were amongst those hit badly despite a 13 week strike in 1980. Unemployment in coalfield areas could be much higher than average: in South Wales, for example, it was nearly 25 per cent. The Thatcher government introduced a range of legislation aimed at decreasing the power of the trade union movement. Trade unions were banned at GCHQ.



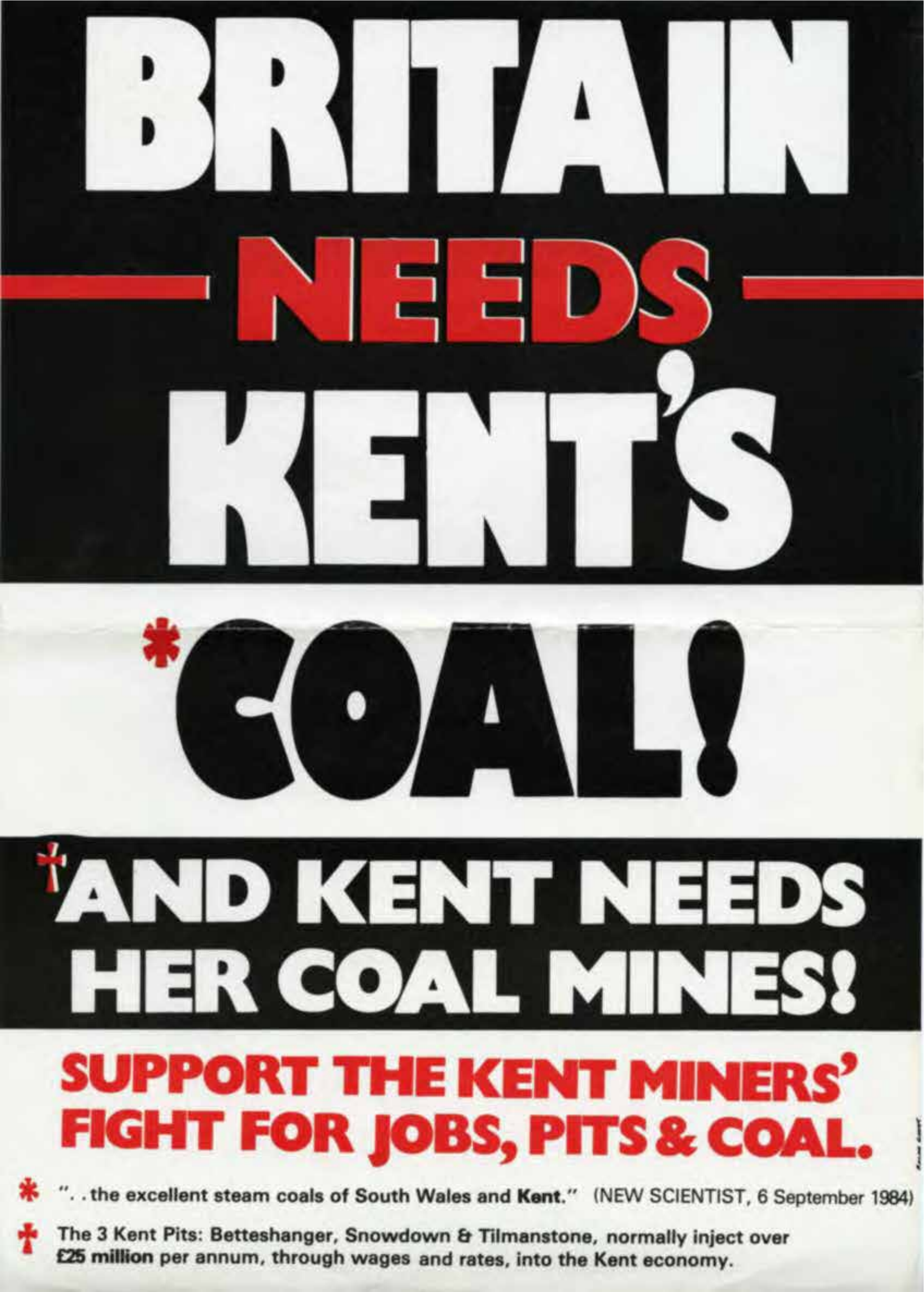
TUC poster produced during the Campaign for Economic and Social Advance, highlighting rising unemployment, 1981. © Trades Union Congress



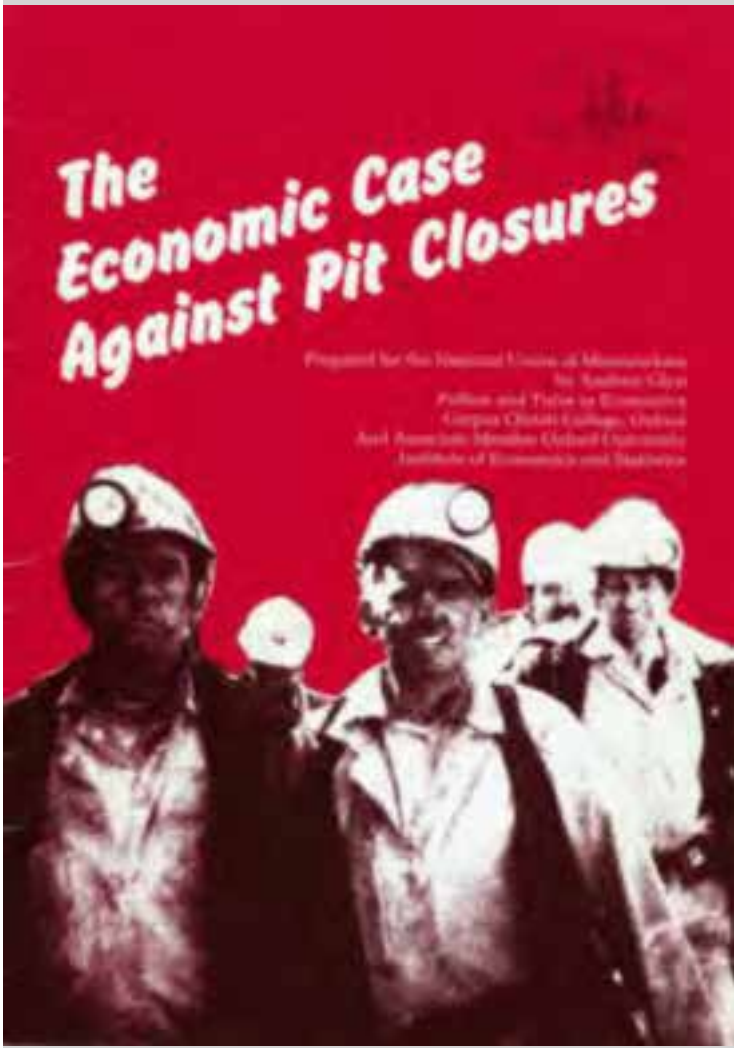
Labour Party leaflet on rising unemployment, 1984 © Labour Party

The cause of the strike

The National Union of Mineworkers had already been on an overtime ban for several months. In Scotland in particular there were already several local disputes. But in March 1984, the announcement of the intended closure of Cortonwood, Yorkshire sparked a walkout in Yorkshire that spread across the country. The strike was over pit closures and Arthur Scargill’s claim that there was a ‘hit list’ of pits to close. Much argument revolved around the notion of ‘uneconomic pits’ and on what basis closures should be accepted.



Poster produced by the Kent Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, 1984.
© National Union of Mineworkers



The Economic Case Against Pit Closures report prepared for the National Union of Mineworkers by Andrew Glyn, Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, 1984.
© National Union of Mineworkers

Division in the coalfields

While the strike was strong in most areas, some – most importantly Nottinghamshire (which was the second largest NUM area in 1984-5) – had a majority who refused to strike. Often the reason given was the lack of a national ballot. For strikers in these areas, the year was particularly tough. Support groups often gave particular support to the Notts coalfield for this reason.



Cartoon produced by Tim Sanders, 1984 © Tim Sanders

WOW FOLKS! ITS ANOTHER WORLD EXCLUSIVE... SHOCK HORROR SPECIAL... ITS THE VOICE OF REASON AND MODERATION HIMSELF - OUR 'MISTER NICE'...

the
REAL

SILVER BIRCH-UNMASKED!

RANK CHAPELS HAIRCUT

FLEET ST. JOURNALISTS BRAIN
(SOLID LEAD)

THATCHERS EAR PLUGS.

MC GREGORS' GLASSES
(SANDBLASTED)

NATURAL TORY AVARICE

JINGOIST TIE

EMPTY SPACE WHERE
BALLS WERE.

KNEE PADS, HANDY WHEN KISSING
BOSSSES ARSE (NEEDS FREQUENT
REPLACEMENT.)

CARDBOARD PIT HELMET
HIRED FROM
THEATRICAL AGENCY

"BACK TO
WORK NOW
LADS"

LEON BRITAIN'S FLIES.

LEN MURRAY'S NOSE

BILL SIRS BLINKERS

S.D.P. TYPE
GREASY PALMS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR
KNIGHTHOOD.

MASONIC LODGE CARD.

BROWN TROUSERS,

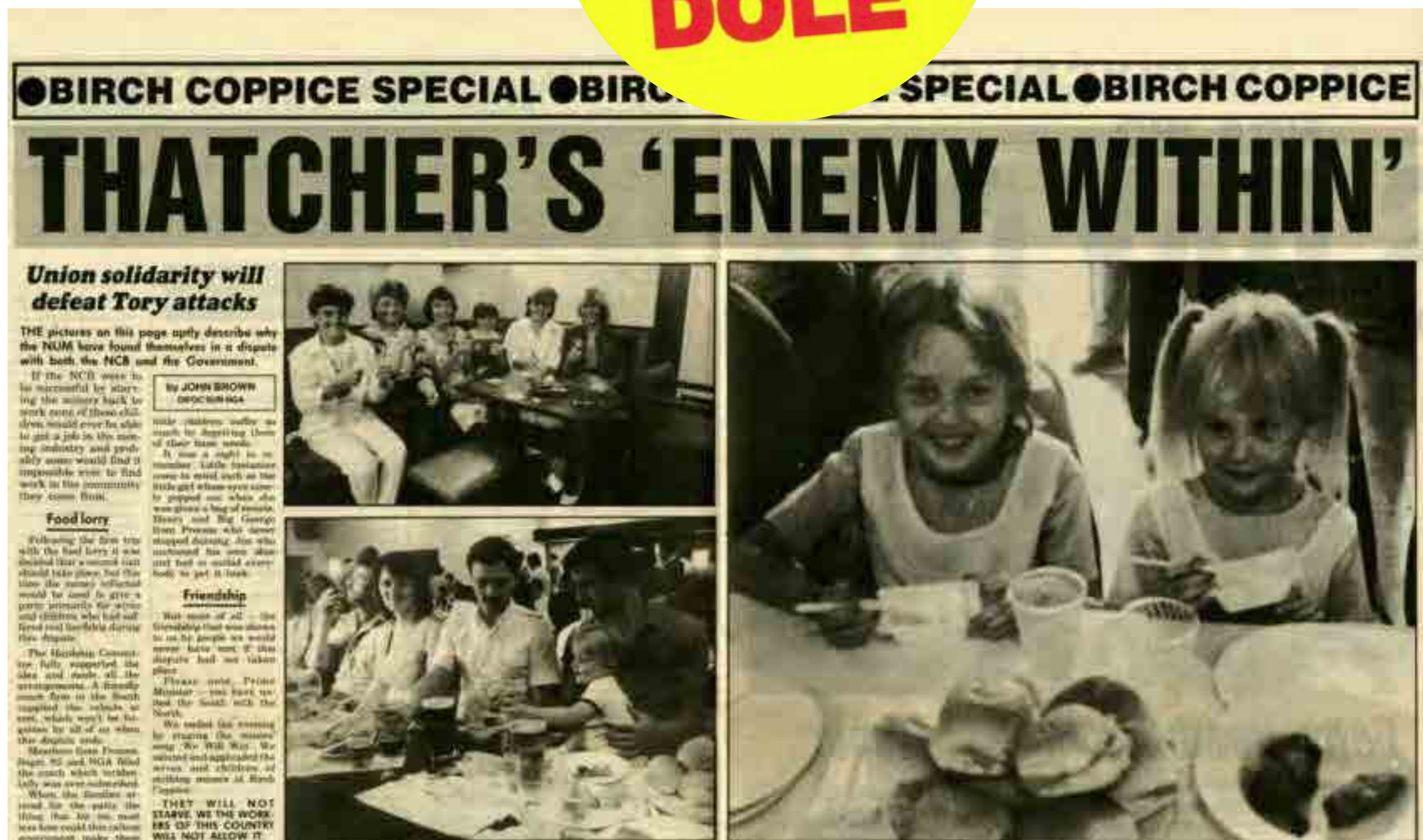
CONTAINS SCRIPT, CAREFULLY PREPARED
BY SARKY AND SARKY, LEADING
CRAPO ADVERTISING AGENTS

BIG BOOTS FOR STANDING
ON OTHER PEOPLES
BACKS.

PICKETS - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!



Cartoon produced by Tony Hall, published in The Sun/News of the World 'Right of Reply Special', September 1984 © Libby Hall



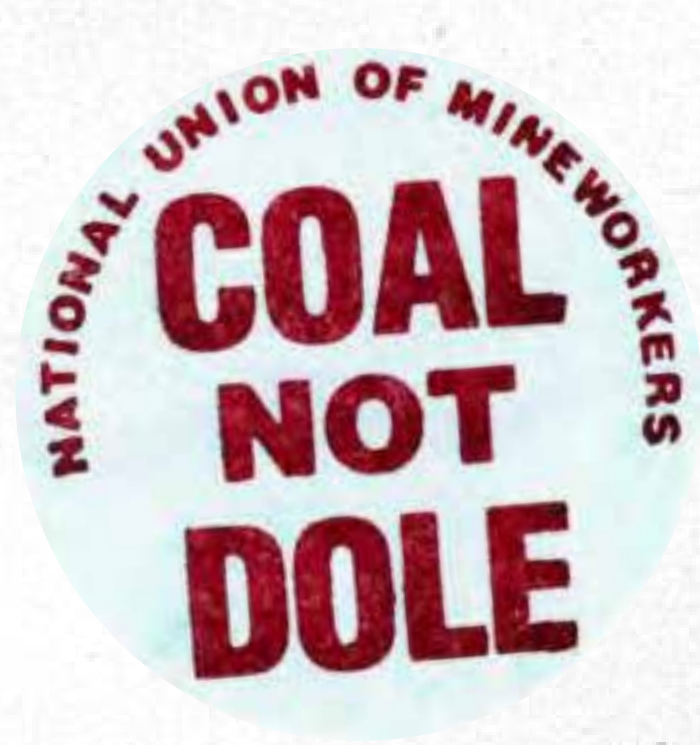
Community

The classic notion of the 'pit village' was already slightly dated by 1984. However, the idea of community became central to the strike: 'Close a Pit, Kill a Community' was a slogan used in South Wales. The idea of 'community' allowed the strike to take on a broader significance, and encouraged alliances with a wide range of groups beyond trade unions.

Page from The Sun/News of the World 'Right of Reply Special', September 1984, showing the communities and families of striking miners. During a speech in July 1984 Margaret Thatcher had described the miners as the "enemy within", in distinction to the "enemy without" – Argentinian dictator President Galtieri during the Falklands War.
© SOGAT (now Unite)



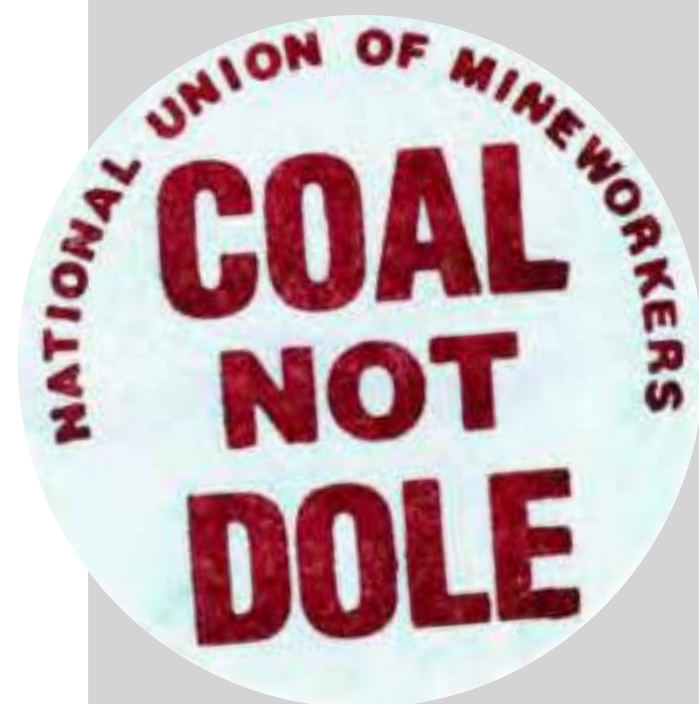
Public meeting of Grimethorpe NUM, 1984.
© Trades Union Congress Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



Violence and the State

'Violence' often dominated media coverage of the strike and pickets were frequently blamed. For many miners and supporters, however, it was the violence of the police that stood out. The police also occupied pit villages in large numbers, restricted freedom of movement, and highly punitive bail conditions were used against pickets. A number of miners were jailed during the dispute. The Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign is seeking the truth about the most notorious example of police violence (and media misrepresentation) at the Orgreave coking plant, Yorkshire, in June 1984.





THE MINERS' STRIKE AND THE SOCIETY

society
of civil & public servants



Southend Society members (left to right): Eddie Brown, branch president Ken Buckland, secretary John Walkinshaw and organiser Pauline Goose. PICTURE: Sheila Gray (Format).

Making sure children can eat

Society and CPSA members at the Southend headquarters of the Customs and Excise Department have so far raised over £600 for miners' families and children by the simple expedient of pay-day collections with buckets.

It is a method which suits their branches, but it is also one that requires planning and organisation. Before each collection, every member receives a short leaflet stating the case for donations.

"Ask any unemployed, sick person or old age pensioner you know what it is like to live on supplementary benefit," said one leaflet.

"Then ask them what it would be like if that income was arbitrarily reduced by £15 every week and nothing was paid to one adult member in every family – a further reduction of £16.70 – leaving them £31.70 below the basic subsistence level every week."

Branch president Ken Buckland stresses that the money collected goes, via the local trades council, to the Miners' Hardship Fund whose prime concern is to see that the needs of children are properly met.

Impetus for the collections – which are a completely united effort by the Society and CPSA with the support of the Civil Service Union – came from national conference addresses by miners and from visits from striking miners from Kent and Nottingham.

While there is by no means a 100 per cent response to the collections, there has been no marked hostility, says branch secretary John Walkinshaw.

CPSA members also undertake collections of food and get enough to make them worthwhile.

And Ken Buckland reports that he has had offers from members of holiday accommodation for the children of striking miners.

Southend Customs and Excise branch is a large headquarters branch, but others, like the DHSS East London branch, are organising weekly collections in all offices and, in this branch, each office has had the opportunity of hearing a miner explain why he and his colleagues are on strike.

Welfare cuts

Changes had been made to benefit entitlements to reduce what was being paid to the families of miners on strike. Deductions were made on assumed strike pay which was not being paid by the NUM. Single miners received nothing. Protests were held outside the DHSS headquarters in South London against this policy of trying to starve the miners back to work.



WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES/NUM NATIONAL WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION AND GALA



STOP PIT CLOSURES - SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES

WOMEN JOIN THE MINERS' FIGHT



**SATURDAY 11 AUGUST
IN LONDON**



DHSS WON'T STARVE US BACK

ASSEMBLE 12 noon, Temple Tube, London WC2
MARCH via Trafalgar Square & DHSS Headquarters, Elephant & Castle
GALA 3pm, Burgess Park, Camberwell Rd, SE5
 with stalls, refreshments, children's entertainment
Further information: 0742 700388 / 01-582 0987

Women Against Pit Closures

Some women worked in ancillary positions for the coal board and were on strike, however the vast majority of strikers were men. The strike was notable however for essential and highly visible support work of women in the mining areas: running communal kitchens, joining picket lines, speaking across the country and internationally. After the strike, however, Women Against Pit Closures were refused associate membership by the NUM.

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMENS DAY**

RALLY
on the 9th March

**AT THE
SALTERGATE
FOOTBALL
GROUND
CHESTERFIELD**



Leaflet promoting the Women Against Pit Closures Demonstration and Gala,
London, August 1984 © Women Against Pit Closures

Poster for the International Women's Day
Rally organised by Women Against Pit
Closures, March 1984
© Women Against Pit Closures

HERE WE GO... *Again!*

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY + ONE YEAR ON STRIKE!

RANKING ANN

BEVERLEY BELL

FRANK CHICKENS

BRIG KEENAN

UNIQUE PATROL

PEGGY SEEGER

MAGGIE STEED

MARIA TOLLY

WANDSWORTH WARMERS

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR WOMEN IN THE MINING COMMUNITIES AT

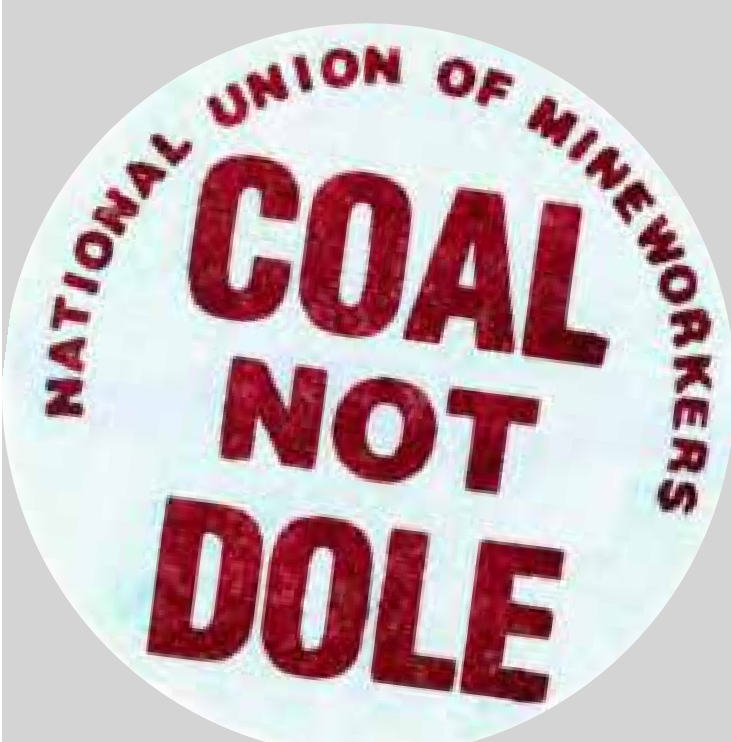
PICCADILLY THEATRE

DENMAN ST. LONDON W1 • BOX OFFICE 437 4506 • TICKETS £5 CONCESSIONS £2
 BRING MONEY FOR COLLECTION + NEW CHILDREN'S SHOES OR GIFT VOUCHERS FROM
 CHAIN STORES (MARKS + SPENCER • BOOTS • CO-OP ETC)

ORGANISED BY LONDON LABOUR WOMEN • SPONSORED BY SPARE RIB

SUNDAY • 10 MARCH • 7PM

Flyer promoting benefit concert for women in pit communities, organised by London Labour Women, March 1984 © London Labour Women



Women's support outside the coalfields

Elsewhere in the country, the prominence of the coalfield women in particular during the strike inspired much support from women's organisations. Links were made with Greenham Common, women's trade union organisations and a range of feminist groups.

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

SERTUC WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

RALLY & SOCIAL

on JUNE 8th. 1984.
7:15 for 7:30.
at JOHN MARSHALL HALL
BLACKFRIARS RD.
LONDON SE1.

Speakers include:
Miners Wives (Kent & Yorkshire).

A RALLY TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S STRUGGLE IN SUPPORT OF THE MINeworkers, GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN AND HOSPITAL WORKERS.

The rally will be followed by a buffet and social including entertainment.
A small charge will be made for food and drink and although entrance is free there will be a collection for the mineworkers.

Further details contact: Ann Field 08441 884-1084 084-1084

Flyer promoting rally and social organised by the Women's Rights Committee of the Southern & Eastern Region TUC (SERTUC), June 1984 © Trades Union Congress

The South East Region TUC-NUM Broadsheet



SERTUC FIGHTS WITH THE MINERS

McGregor's
'Plan For
Coal' –



Rejected



and calls
on all
trade
unionists
in the
region
to back
the
miners

There Is An Alternative

**THE MINERS
ARE
FIGHTING
FOR:**

- their jobs
- their communities
- their union
- for OUR coal industry
- for work



Trade union solidarity

Trade unionists throughout the country raised food and money for striking miners and their families. Some went further – train drivers, seafarers and others attempted to block strike breaking coal, coke and other substitute fuels. Print workers took industrial action against the worst media coverage. Elsewhere, however, there was tension between unions, particularly with the ISTC (steelworkers union) and EETPU (electrical workers), whose leader Eric Hammond refused to support TUC guidelines to help miners win the strike.

Joint NUM/Southern & Eastern Region
TUC (SERTUC) newspaper, May 1984
©Southern & Eastern Region TUC
(SERTUC)/NUM



Teachers and pupils hold banners from the National Union of Teachers outside William Patten Infants' School, Stoke Newington, London, calling for the release of jailed miners. June 1985 © Trades Union Congress Library Collections, London Metropolitan University

We'll win with your support!



THE NCB, the government and the press are gloating. They tell us the miners' strike is crumbling.

Nonsense. The numbers going back to work are very small—even on the Coal Board's figures they amount to only two per cent. The vast majority of us are solidly behind the strike.

Immense pressure is being used to try and break us. The NCB is paying out £1,400 to every miner returning to work—money that is due to us anyway. The press lies through its teeth every day to tell you—and us—that the strike is collapsing. And the courts have stolen our union funds or put them out of reach.

We face real difficulties. Winter strengthens our hand, but it creates terrible hardship. If this continues, more miners could be starved back to work.

It is now up to all trade unionists to provide us with the backing we need. At Bentley Colliery we have set up the Bentley Miners Support Group to raise money to keep the strike going. We are looking for workplaces to twin with us and help us win our struggle.

We need money, food and clothing. Urge your workmates to support us. If we lose this dispute, every trade union will suffer.


Don't let the Tories starve us back to work!

LEAFLET ISSUED BY THE BENTLEY MINERS SUPPORT GROUP. We can be contacted at The Pavilion in Bentley.

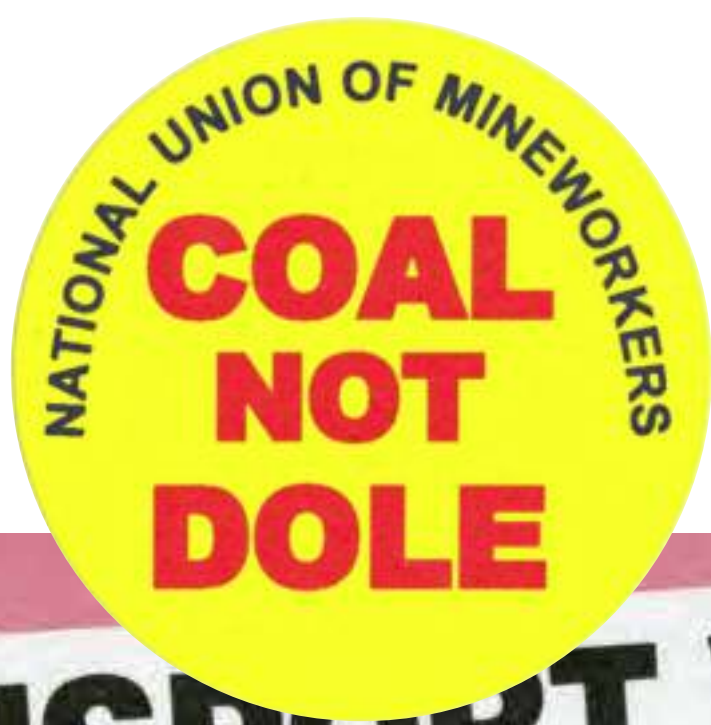
Trades Councils and miners support groups

Trades councils were often at the heart of the miners support groups that were launched throughout the country. These groups expanded to include a much wider group of people. Their activities included street and door to door collections to raise food and money for the miners; hosting public meetings to allow miners and their families to put their case; joining picket lines and visiting mining areas (if they weren't already based in one) to give support.

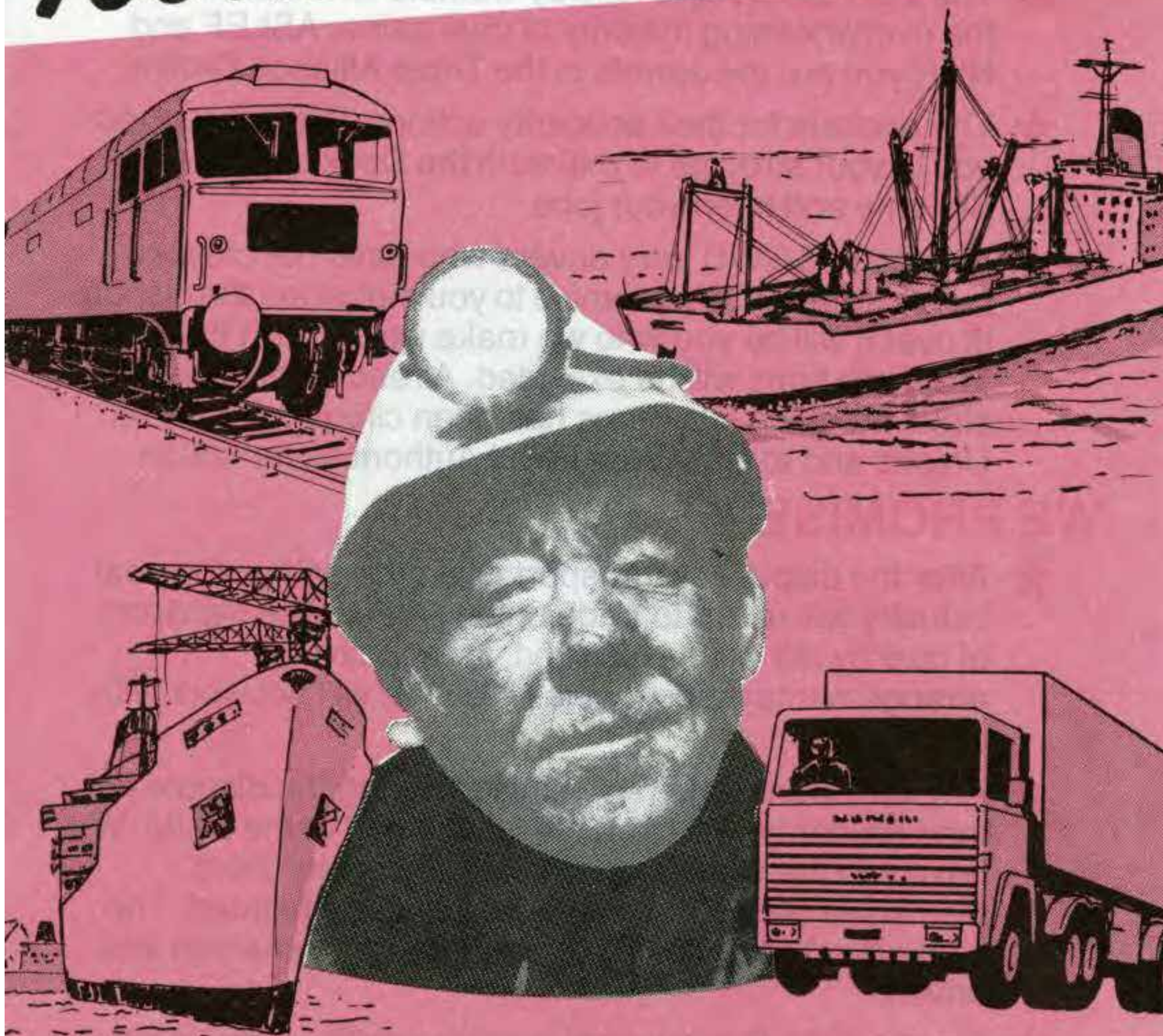
Islington NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS
MINERS **COAL NOT DOLE**
support committee



join us
EVERY THURSDAY 7:30
CO-OP HALL, 129 SEVEN SISTERS



TRANSPORT WORKERS- *YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT!*



SOLIDARITY WILL WIN

Miners owe the railworkers, seamen, dockers and many lorry drivers an immense debt of gratitude. Your support will never be forgotten. Throughout the coalfields, from Scotland to South Wales your solidarity actions continue to strengthen our fight. They guarantee our victory.

Leaflet produced by the NUM, thanking transport workers for their support, c.1984
© National Union of Mineworkers

Transport workers

As well as raising funds, members of a number of unions (ASLEF, TGWU, NUR, NUS) attempted to stop the transport of coal and replacement fuels by rail, sea and road. Jimmy Knapp of the National Union of Railwaymen told the 1984 TUC Congress: 'If a cow were to cross a field with "NUM picket line" painted on it, we would not pass it.' Despite some successes, the use of non-union haulage, seafarers and port workers were used to undermine the strike (as planned for in the Ridley Report).



Locomotive Journal, produced by train drivers' union Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), February 1985 © ASLEF

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF GRAPHICAL AND ALLIED TRADES



THE REAL FACES OF TRADE UNIONISM



SOGAT members unload a consignment of food for the Welsh miners and their families – one of the faces of trade unions which Fleet Street deliberately chooses to ignore.

NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL PRESIDENT / BDC Reports / Food for the miners / Tolpuddle / HEALTH & SAFETY / NEC Report / Pensions

JULY/AUGUST 1984

PRICE 10 PENCE

Print workers

Print workers, particularly those on Fleet Street, were exceptionally active in supporting the miners, including raising over £1.5 million for the miners. Along with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (CPBF) the print unions and National Union of Journalists tried to enforce a 'right to reply' for the NUM in the mainstream press. In one notable action, printers refused to print the front page of one issue of The Sun which compared Arthur Scargill to Hitler. Print workers would suffer the next major defeat for the trade union movement in the 1986 Wapping dispute, with Rupert Murdoch aided by the police and Eric Hammond.

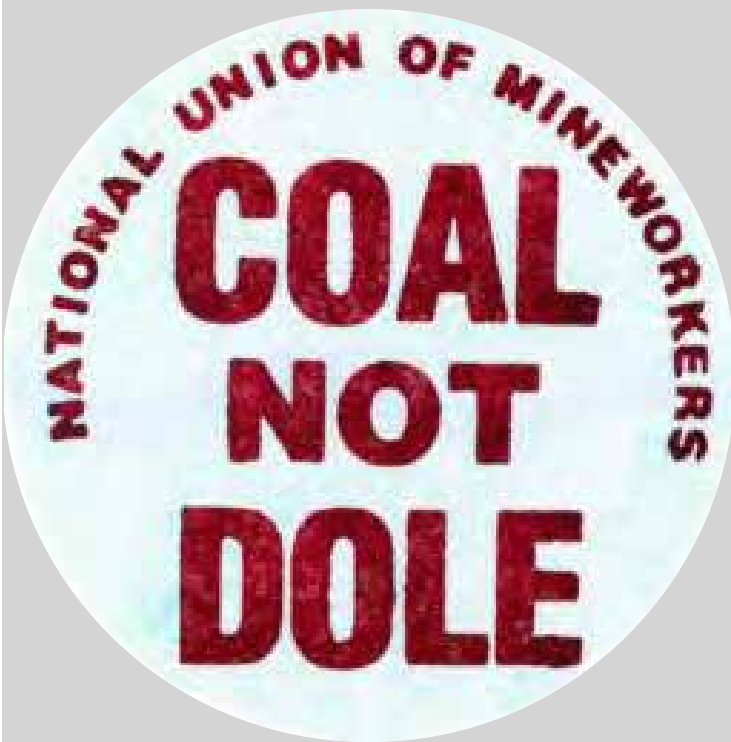


SOGAT Journal, July/August 1984, produced by print union
The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. © SOGAT (now Unite)

Front page of News of the World/The Sun
Right of Reply Special, September 1984
© SOGAT (now Unite)



Poster showing miners' support for NHS workers in the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) during their dispute over pay, September 1982
© UNISON, the public sector union



Cultures of solidarity

Support for the miners often evoked historical relationships sometimes going back to 1926. More often it was pointed out the miners had offered support to NHS workers, Grunwick strikers, steel worker and others in the past. During the strike, miners continued to support other workers – joining picket lines at Barking Hospital for instance.



Poster produced during the Grunwick strike, 1977. The image on the poster depicts union members supporting miners at the Saltley Gate coke plant during the 1972 miners' strike. © Unite



YOUNG SOCIALISTS

SUPPORT THE MINERS!

WITH SOLIDARITY



**YOUR
CLASS
NEEDS
YOU
NOW**

ALL THE WAY WITH THE MINERS

Labour Party

There was some debate over the role of the Labour Party leadership in the strike – some felt Neil Kinnock, the son of a South Wales coal miner, saw the strike as an embarrassment and damaging to Labour's electoral prospects. But many grass roots members of the party were very active in supporting the NUM which was affiliated to the Labour Party.



**WHY
WE
SUPPORT
THE
MINERS**

**Labour
Party**

GREENWICH E·A·S·I·N·G·T·O·N



John Austin-Walker (Leader Greenwich Council) speaking at the rally to mark the anniversary of twinning with EASINGTON, September 1985.

PHOTO BY MARTIE VOLK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE
PROGRAMME OF GREENWICH EASINGTON
TWINNING TEL: (01) 854 8888 Ex 2011.

Local authorities

Many Labour local authorities felt under attack by the government over rate-capping and the abolition of metropolitan authorities.

Labour-led councils in coalfield areas often provided practical support for the miners during the year – for instance deferring council housing rents and providing free school meals.

One popular, if somewhat controversial, means of support was for a group to 'twin' with a particular pit or area. Some within the NUM and official union bodies argued that this created an uneven distribution of funds. However, it was a popular practice: a Labour Research Department survey of 300 support groups found nearly half had twinning arrangements.

Islington Council extends fraternal greetings to the National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign

Islington Council expresses its full support for the miners in their continued struggle for their jobs and industry against the National Coal Board and the Government. We are concerned that the actions of the police during the dispute undermined civil liberties and we give our full support to other local authorities which refuse to accept additional financial burdens on their resources in order to pay for the expense of the policing adopted.

The policing of the miners' dispute severely effected the service provided by the police in our borough and their ability to prevent and solve local crimes. On average one Inspector, 2 sergeants and 20 constables were detailed outside of the borough each week. Yet, we as a borough are forced to pay for this as we have no local democratic control over the rate precept raised by the Metropolitan Police.

**Islington Council –
Fighting for jobs and services
in our communities**



Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, with banner, picketing Neasden power station (1984) © LGSM 2014



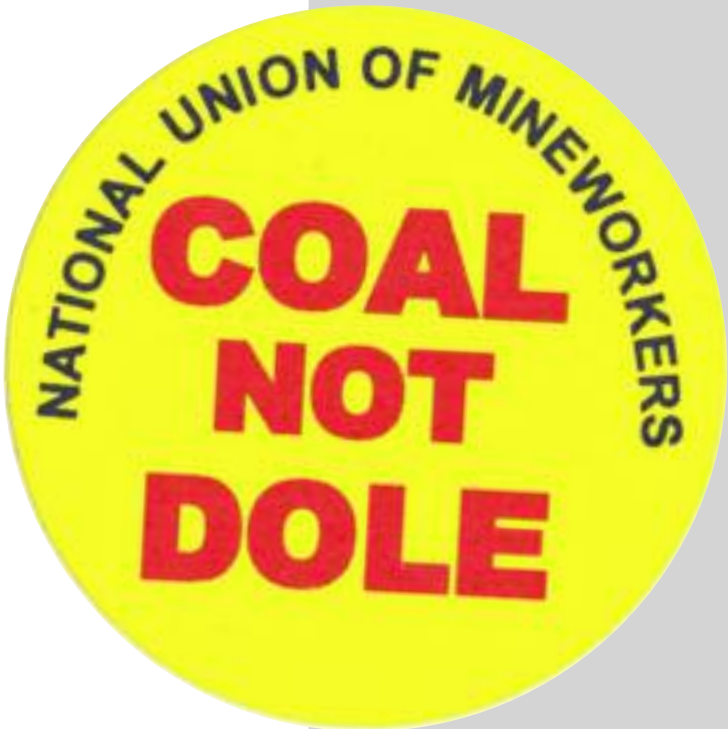
Miners show their support on the Lesbian and Gay Pride march, 1985 © LGSM 2014

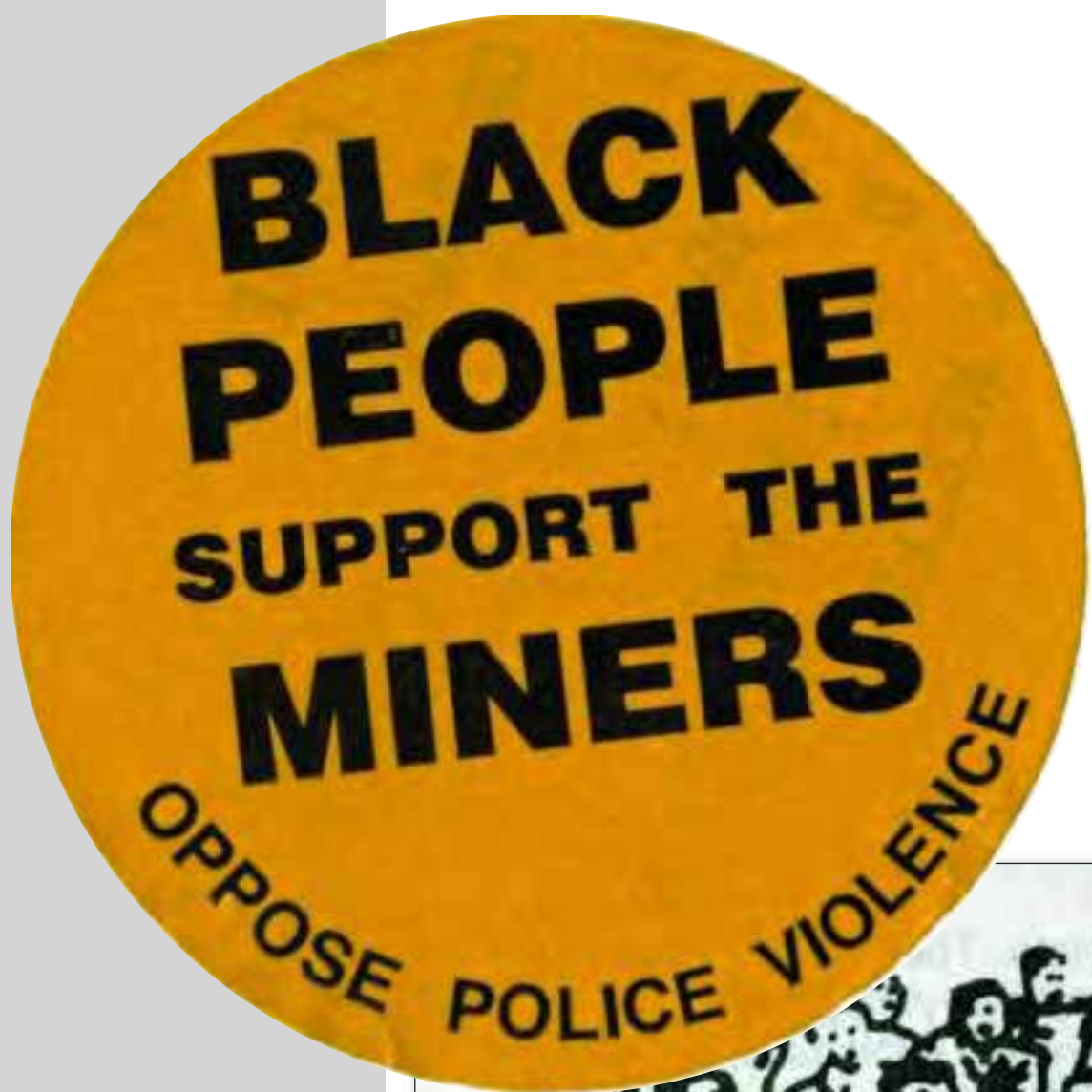
Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners

Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) was formed in London in June 1984. Eleven other lesbian and gay support groups were formed across Britain and Ireland. The reciprocal support given by the NUM was important in passing lesbian and gay equality motions for the first time at TUC and Labour conferences in 1985.



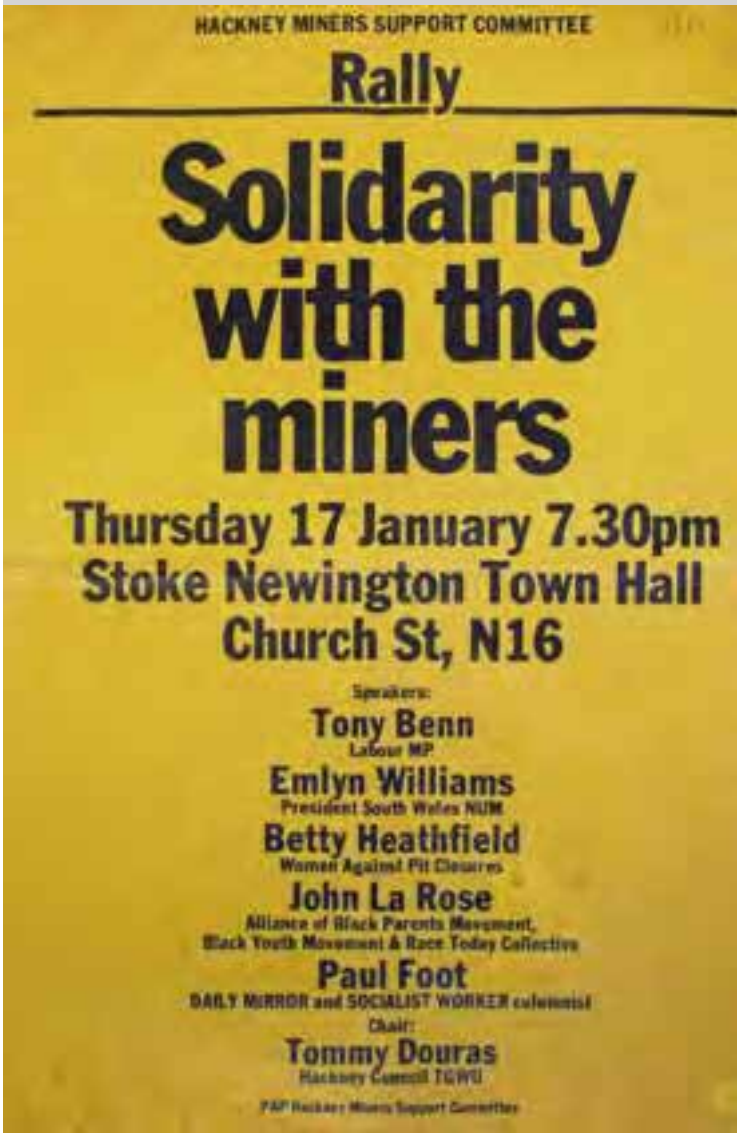
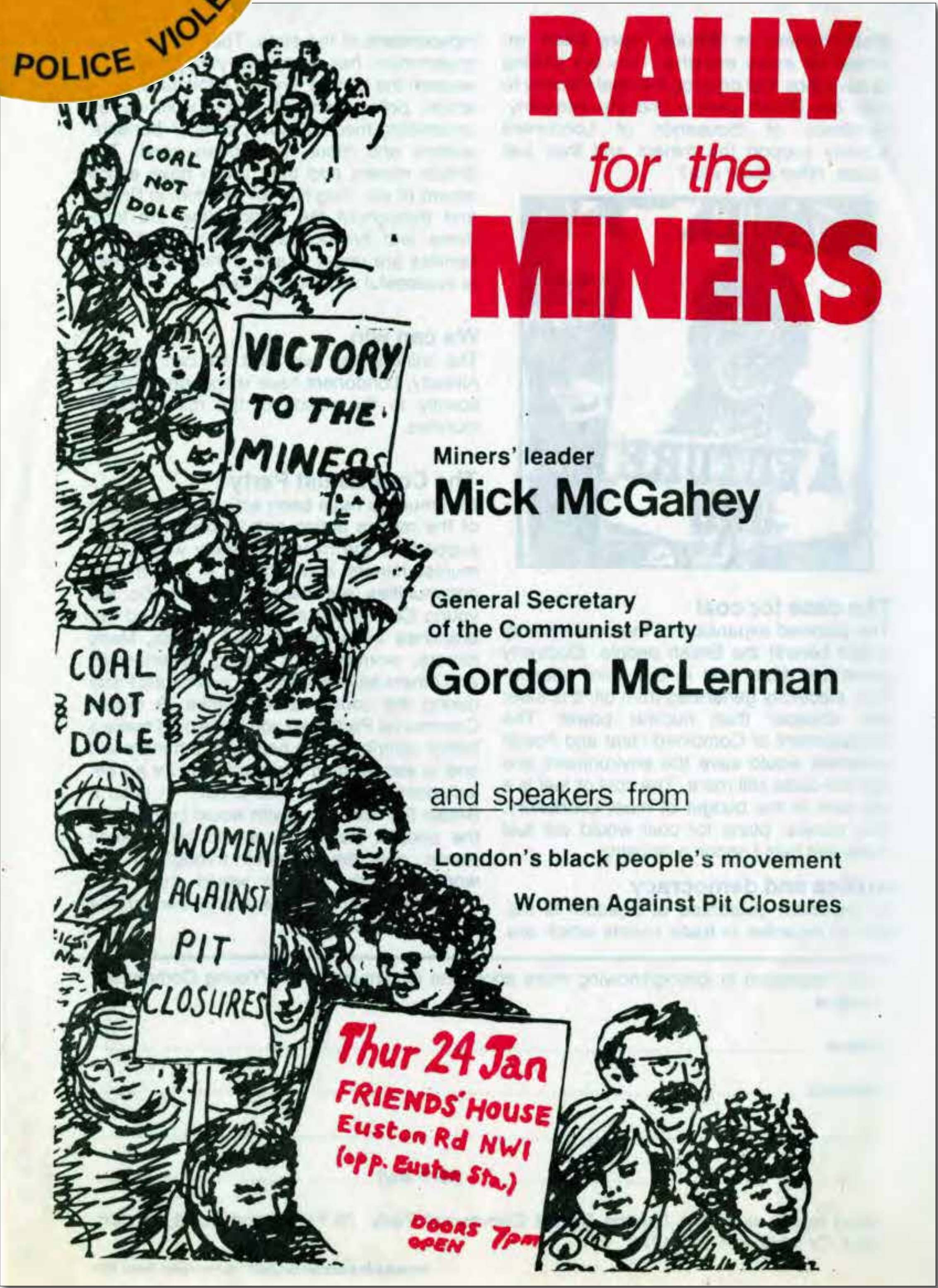
Poster to promote the 'Pits and Perverts' benefit gig organised by Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, December 1984 © LGSM 2014 (poster design by Kevin Franklin)





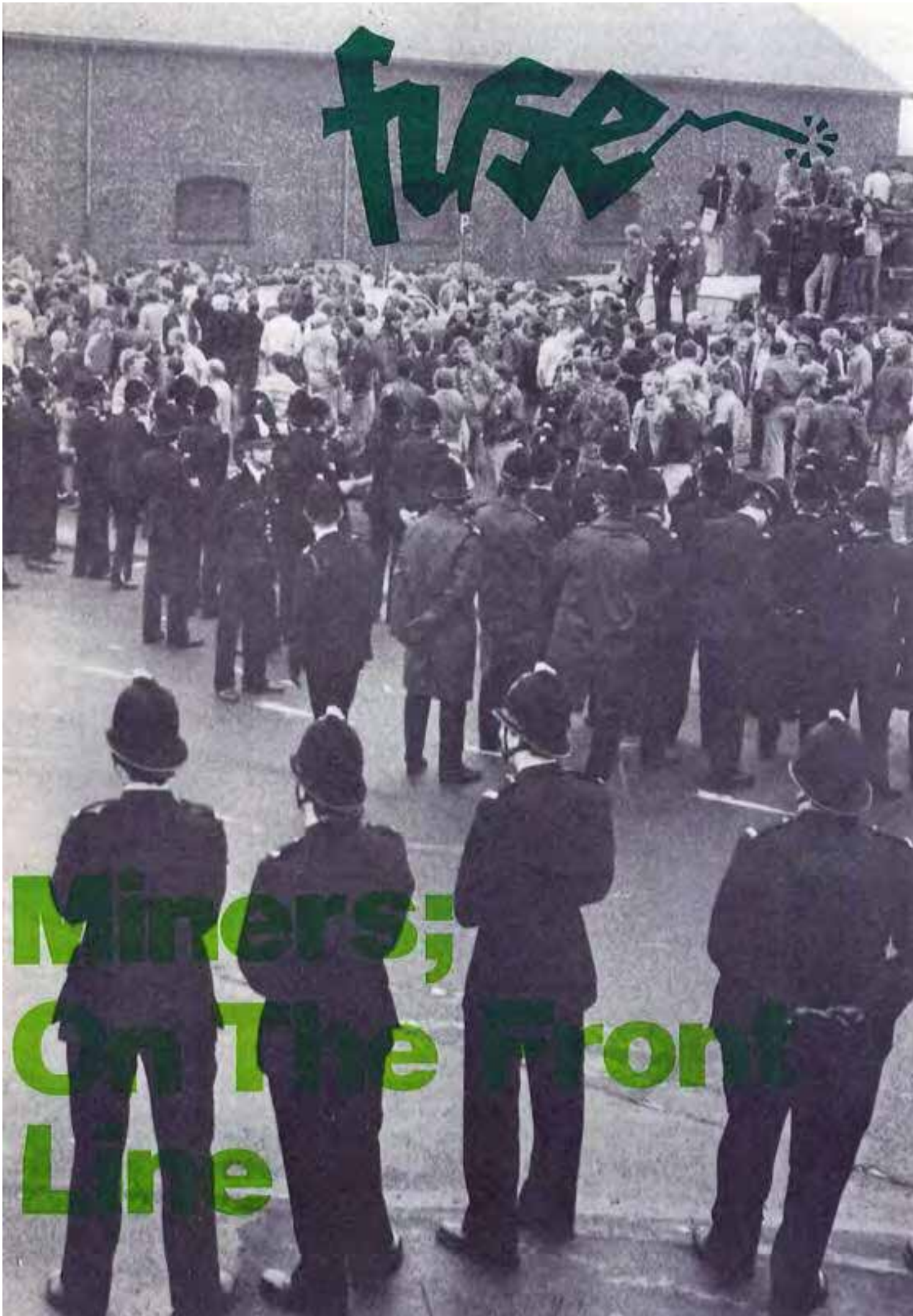
Black support for the miners

Black miners were amongst those raising money at the Notting Hill carnival in 1984, making the connection between police oppression of black people and the miners. Throughout the country, black organisations supported the miners: for example the Asian Youth Movement in Sheffield joined picket lines. Black Delegation to the Miners was a group of black Londoners, many based in Southall, which raised funds and food and visited the Kent coalfield to show solidarity.



Hackney Miners Support Committee/
George Padmore Institute
© George Padmore Institute archive

Flyer for rally in support of the miners, with speakers from London's black people's movement, January 1985 © George Padmore Institute archive



Front cover of Fuse, Polytechnic of North London Students' Union magazine (1984)
 © London Metropolitan University

Student solidarity

Students were amongst those who came out in support of miners. Notable for support were students at the polytechnics. The Polytechnic of North London (PNL), now London Metropolitan University, was one of the most radical. Already in legal trouble for opposing the presence of National Front organiser Patrick Harrington at PNL, student union funds faced being seized for donating to the miners.

Attorney General VS PNLSU

Thursday 23 May 10am Royal Courts of Justice The Strand

This Thursday three members of the PNLSU Executive are once again in the High Court, their adversary this time is no less than the Attorney General Michael Havers, QC.

Mr. Havers along with his comrades in the Tory Party took exception to our Union's democratic decision to make a cash donation to a striking miners welfare fund. Spurred on as they were by the very real threat of inter-union solidarity with the miners, in particular the potential support within Students' Unions. They had managed to neglect the £5,000 PNLSU had donated to Oxfam in respect of the Ethiopian Famine Appeal Fund, this donation was blocked by the Midland Bank and that decision endorsed by the Attorney General. Oxfam have stated that they will await the outcome of the trial, and hopefully cash it if PNLSU are successful in court.

The issue may now appear irrelevant and dated but remains one of fundamental importance to continuing the autonomy of Students' Unions. The Tory Government unable to make electoral inroads into Students' Unions have misused the powers of central government by overturning a democratically arrived at decision of PNLSU.

Peter Ross President, Pete Redman Vice-President Kentish Town and Phil Brett Treasurer will be in the dock this Thursday. Come to the High Court to show solidarity with your elected representatives and observe British justice in action?

**PETER ROSS
PRESIDENT**

Leaflet produced by the Polytechnic of North London Students' Union, to promote a rally in support of the SU Executive during their trial at the High Court, May 1985. The Students' Union were on trial for making a cash donation to a miners' welfare fund
 © London Metropolitan University



Sheffield Trades Council meeting to support the miners, October 1984
 © TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University

Flyer for public meeting in support of South African and British miners, November 1984
© Anti-Apartheid Movement / Miners Support Group, Westminster and the City

LONDON MINERS GALA's

5 NIGHTS FOR THE MINERS

MON 3RD - FRI 7TH
SEPTEMBER
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 7-00

ABACUSH. DADDY COLONEL.
BEN ELTON.
ALAN HULL.
HOME SERVICE.
MIKE HARDING. TIPPER IRE.
BERT JANSCH.
DESMOND JOHNSON.
PHILLIP LEVI. MISTY-IN-ROOTS.
RIK MAYALL.
CHRISTY MOORE.
VAN MORRISON.
NO FIXED ADDRESS.
NIGEL PLANER. ALEXIE SAYLE.
DAVE SWARBRICK'S WHIPPERSNAPPER.
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS TO BE
ANNOUNCED - SEE NME/CITY LIMITS
FOR DETAILS.

ALL TICKETS £5.00
For further details ring **Royal Festival Hall Box Office:**
928 3002/928 3191 (Bookings) or **633 6427**
All proceeds to the Miners Hardship Funds. Organised by
SERTUC/GLC Miners Support Committee.

DESIGN/COALFACE

MINERS BIZARRE BENEFIT

disco
Carmen

£3 & £1.50
11pm
FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

MINERS TAPES
Scala CLUB CINEMA
275-277 PENTONVILLE RD LONDON N1
01-278-8052

Pit dragon

Between Rock Against Racism and Red Wedge, the miners' strike provided a focus for politically minded artists, including members of the trade union Equity. One mass picket at Taylors Lane Power Station (Brent) was supported by a cultural collective called 'Pit Dragon'. The NME commented: 'Scab lorries turned back by a variety show? Surely a first in the annals of industrial struggle.'

Benefit event organised by the SERTUC Miners Strike Support Committee
September 1984 © SERTUC Miners Strike Support Committee

EMERGENCY... EMERGENCY... !!

JOIN THE PIT DRAGON

FOR A MINERS VICTORY • HACKNEY N.U.T. • LABOUR MOVEMENT SERVICES • LONDON ASIAN COLLECTIVE • RAGGED TROUSERED CABARET • RED FLAG BREWERY • OFF THE KERS PRODUCTIONS • MINERS SUPPORT GROUPS

MON. 11. FEB. MELT THATCHER DOWN PICKET.

ALL OUT FOR THE MAGNIFICENT MINERS

ALL DAYER
MON. FEB. 11.
ARTISTS ASSEMBLY POINT
GIBBONS RD. GATE NW 10.
NEASDEN POWER STATION CULTURE SHOCK PICKET 7. AM

THESE ARTISTS WILL BE THERE WILL YOU?

EDUARDO ANTONIO
APPLES & SNAKES POETS
JIM BARCLAY • BIG RED BAND • BROWN PAPER BAG BROS. • DON CAROL • OTIZ CANNELLONI • CLIFFHANGER
CHARLOTTE CORNWALL • COVENT GARDEN ENTERTAINERS • ANDY CUNNINGHAM • DUSTY & DICK • HAPPY END
FALL OUT MARCHING BAND • FLYING PICKETS • TONY GREEN • ANDY DE LA TOUR • ROLAND MULDOON
JEREMY HARDY • HOLLOWAY ALL STARS • ROY HUTCHIN • JOEYS • SANDRA KERR • KING BISCUITS
JENNY LE COAT • PAULINE MELVILLE • MAL • MIWURDZ • OSCAR MCLENNON • BERNARD PADDEN
PODOMOSVKI • PORKY THE POET • POLITICIANS • PORT STANLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY
MAGGIE STEED • MIKE ROSEN • DANIEL ROVAI • SEE YOU IN VEGAS • IAN SAVILLE • SECONDS OF PLEASURE
SENSIBLE FOOTWEAR • SKINT VIDEO • VICIOUS BOYS • WILD GIRLS • PETE ZERO • AND MANY MORE

... AND IN THE EVENING THE PIT DRAGON BENEFIT

ISLINGTON TOWN HALL 7PM

TICKETS ON THE PICKET OR ON THE DOOR £5 £3 CONC.

THE FRANK CHICKENS • BENJAMIN JENNY LE COAT • BEN ELTON • POOKIESNACKENBURGER • ZEPHANIAH RIK MAYALL • PAULINE MELVILLE • JOHN DOWIE
BETTY HEATHFIELD FOR THE STRIKING MINERS

Benefit evening at Scala Cinema Club, Kings Cross, December 1984
© Scala Cinema

Pit Dragon benefit concert poster, February 1985 © Chris Knight (Writers and Artists for a Miners' Victory)



Christmas

A special fundraising effort was made to give miners and their families a decent Christmas, to provide turkeys and toys for the children. Some support groups and trade unions paid for and attended Christmas parties in the coalfields.

Picture: Neil Martinson.

STARVE

STREET, LONDON EC2

Labour Party Women's Appeal

VICTORY TO THE MINERS

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Show your solidarity with the striking miners and their families; guarantee that in every area striking miners get their Christmas Dinner, and ensure that they have a Merry and Happy Christmas!

Give generously to this appeal! Send donations to Women Against Pit Closure, (National Christmas Hamper Appeal), 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT.

Distribution of the funds will be co-ordinated by the Women's National Co-ordinating Committee.

L05684 Published by The Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT. Printed by Primrose Ltd, (Victoria House) 124 Tabernacle Street, London EC2.

DAWDON MINERS' WELFARE

V.A.T. Reg. No. 177 4095 38

Chairman : J. P. JONES

Treasurer : G. H. W. WALKER ESQ
82 LONGNEWTON ST
DAWDON, SEAHAM
CO DURHAM.

Secretary : FRANK SHAW
21 Melbury Street,
Dawdon, Seaham
Co, Durham SR7 7NF
Tel. 0783-813392

To whom it may concern - North London Polytechnic

We the striking miners of Dawdon - Co Durham would appreciate any assistance you can give towards our Distress fund. Times are hard, but we are resolved to see this through to the bitter end. However we are bitterly conscious of what our wives & family are going through, it will soon be christmas & even now our hearts bleed for the children. You may not believe in Santa Claus but we hereby give you a chance to be one. Please help our children.

Yours sincerely
Corrie Taylor
Sec.


Flyer for the Christmas Hamper Appeal, organised by the Women's National Co-ordinating Committee of the Labour Party, 1984 © Labour Party / Neil Martinson

Letter from a Durham miner describing hardship during Christmas 1984, published on the back page of Fuse, the Polytechnic of North London Students' Union magazine © London Metropolitan University




**SOUTHWARK TRADES COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**


**SUPPORT THE JAILED
& VICTIMISED MINERS**




7.30pm Wednesday 5th June
42, Braganza Street,
London SE17.

Jack Collins Kent NUM-
Harriet Harman MP
Jailed miner's wife





HEAR THE CASE FOR COAL
SUPPORT TRADE UNION RIGHTS
DEFEND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

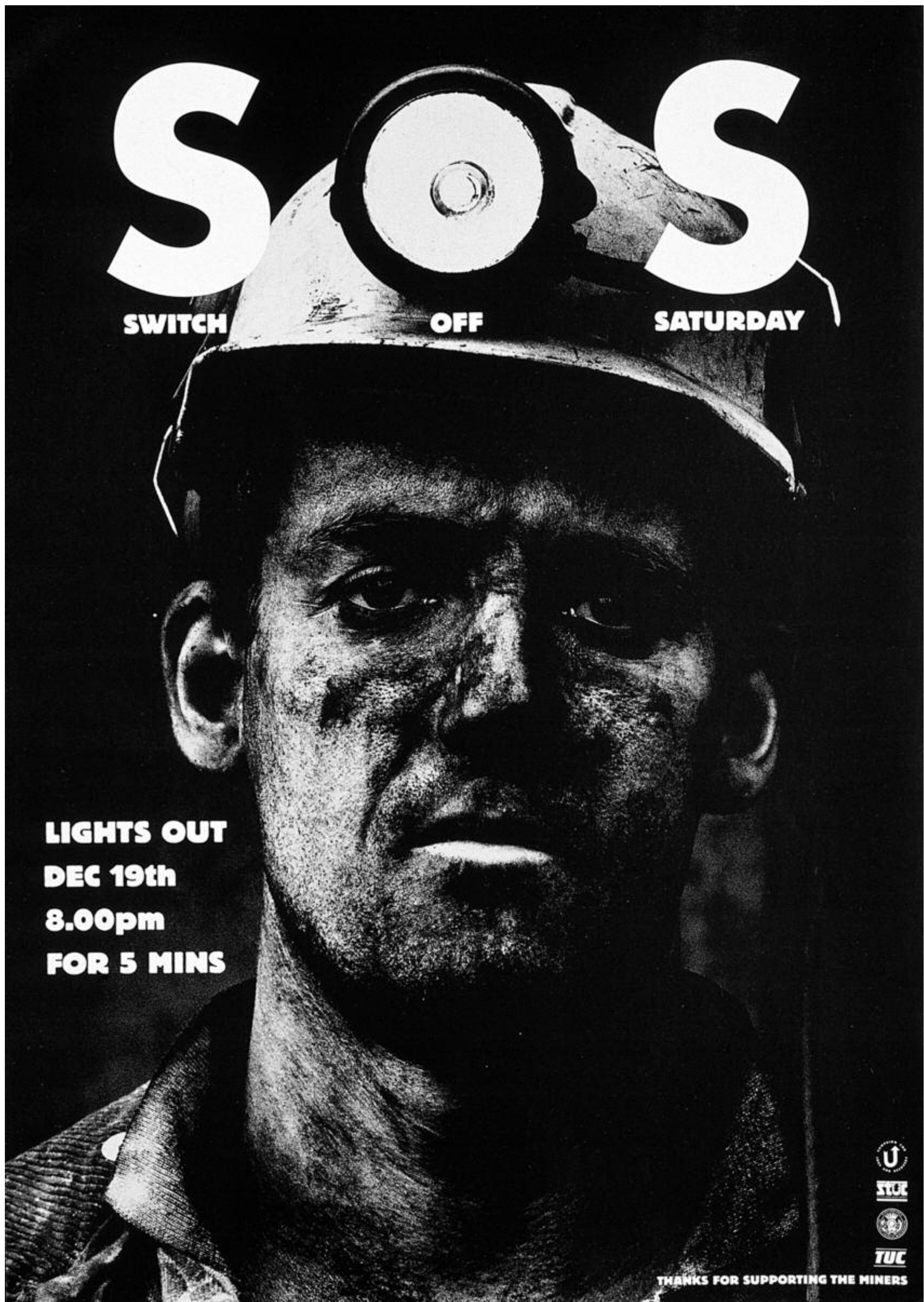


Aftermath of the strike

In March 1985 the NUM ended the strike with no agreement. Ian MacGregor, head of the National Coal Board, said in the aftermath of the strike: 'People are now discovering the price of insubordination and insurrection. And boy, are we going to make it stick'. A rival union, the Union of Democratic Miners was established. Victimisation increased, and many of the hundreds of NUM members sacked during the year (even those who were not convicted of any offence) were refused their jobs back. The National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign still campaigns for those who were victimised during the dispute.

"Southern & Eastern Region TUC (SERTUC)/Kent Area NUM public meeting, July 1985 © Trades Union Congress Library Collections, London Metropolitan University

Public meeting to support the jailed miners, organised by Southwark Trades Council, June 1985 © Southwark Trades Council



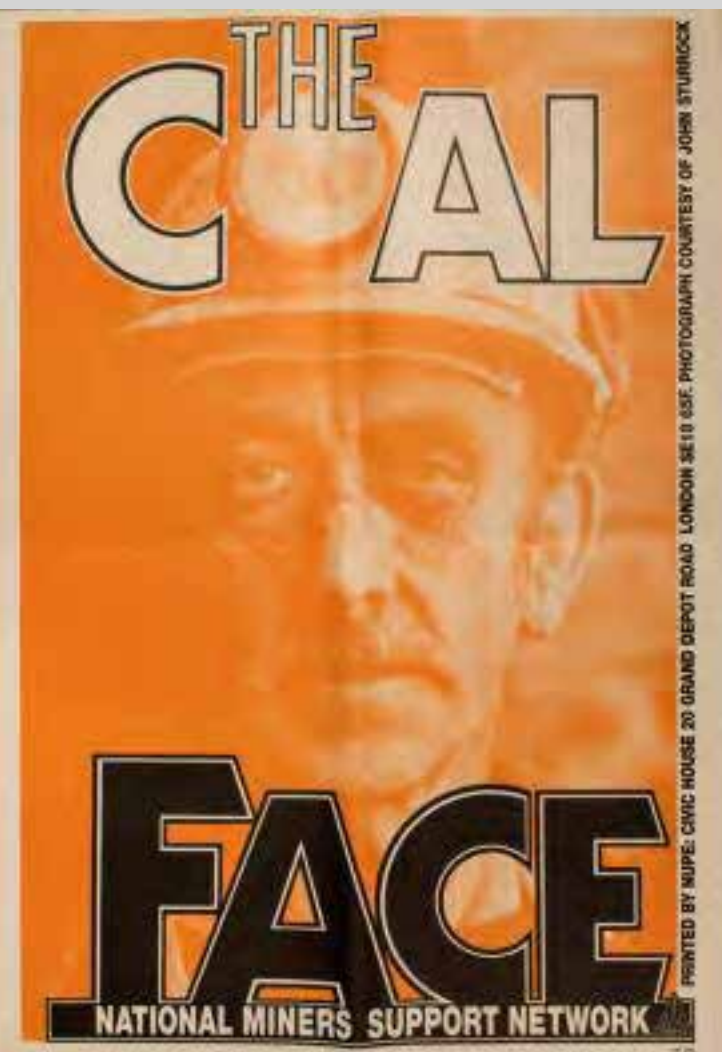
Poster to promote Switch Off Saturday, a campaign organised by the TUC to encourage the public to switch off all their lights for 5 minutes at 8pm on December 19th 1992 in support of miners fighting continued closure of pits © TUC



Britain Needs Its Miners car sticker, produced by the Coalfield Communities Campaign © Coalfield Communities Campaign

The coal industry since the strike

Forty pits out of 170 were closed just in 1985–86. A new major round of pit closures was announced in 1992, and despite significant public support for the NUM and large national demonstrations, these were carried through. The industry was then privatised and has continued to decline. With the recent closure of Thoresby (Nottinghamshire) and Hatfield (Yorkshire), Yorkshire's Kellingley Colliery is the last deep coal mine in Britain, and it is expected to close late in 2015. Opencast coal mining continues in Britain, as does the importing of coal.



NUPE National Miners' Support Network poster © UNISON, the public sector union / John Sturrock

Legacy of the strike

The defeat of the miners' strike and the subsequent destruction of the deep coal mining industry in Britain played a significant role in weakening trade union power. The result was an increasingly unequal country. The proud memory of resisting this attack, however, is kept alive in the former coalfields and elsewhere, commemorating and celebrating the spirit of solidarity.



Durham Miners' Gala, July 2015 © James Thomson /Durham Miners' Association

Acknowledgements

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