

Charity ends up at home

THE SONS of two prominent Kirkby councillors received money from a local charity while their fathers were trustees.

Those involved are Councillor George Bundred, present chairman of Knowsley education committee, a former Kirkby UDC councillor and a magistrate.

And Mr Bill Marshall, a former chairman of Kirkby Council and a magistrate, though no longer a councillor.

The charity is the little-known Kirkby Charity of Thomas Aspe. Chairman of the trustees for over ten years has been Councillor Dave Tempest, OBE, leader of Knowsley Council and also a magistrate.

The charity was founded in 1698 to apprentice "poor children of Kirkby". Recently it has been used to pay schoolchildren's travelling expenses for university and college interviews.

The amount of cash involved is small — the charity's income last year was less than £300. (As councillors, Tempest and Bundred — and

previously Marshall — are responsible for huge amounts of public money.)

In 1970 trustee's son Stephen Bundred received £7.75 from the charity. Young Brian Marshall got £7.12½. They were among 44 school leavers to get grants that year.

The articles of the Thomas Aspe charity state: "Trustees not to be personally interested — No trustee shall receive any remuneration... at the cost of the Kirkby Charity."

Question: Who would have paid Stephen and Brian's expenses if the charity had not?

The Thomas Aspe charity is not well known in Kirkby.

Two of the town's four secondary schools apparently gave out application forms. But St Gregory's RC girls' school thought the charity had not operated for the past couple of years.

This did not prevent one of their pupils, Anthea Kneale, claiming over £7 last year. Anthea is the daughter of Councillor Mrs Frances Kneale, a close personal friend of Councillor Tempest.

There are usually five trustees — three from the council and two outsiders (at present local churchmen).

The council's trustees are supposed to be elected every four years at a council meeting. Some Kirkby councillors cannot remember the Aspe charity ever being mentioned. Both Tempest and Bundred have been trustees since 1963, at least.

Marshall was replaced by Councillor Bernard Walsh in April last year. In December Councillor Walsh moved outside Kirkby and was replaced by Councillor John King under the rules of the charity.

Strangely, the same rule did not apply to Councillor Marshall when he went to live in Aughton some years ago.

Knowsley Council now provide travelling expenses for all school leavers, so the purpose of the Aspe charity will soon be changed.

Councillor Tempest, first Pharaoh of Kirkby, is talking of sponsoring outward bound courses. No doubt social climbers will be the first to benefit.



COUNCILLOR Daniel McShane of Bracknell, Berkshire, reported that he had been knocked unconscious and robbed. After 63 hours a team of seven policemen discovered that the councillor had merely fallen off his bicycle. He was fined £100 for wasting police time.



INVESTIGATING the disappearance of 4,000 copies of their 'Comment' newsletter which had been waiting to be distributed, Richmond Liberals discovered that fellow Liberals had mistaken them for rubbish.

They had sent them to be re-cycled as part of the party's Save for Britain campaign.



NOT ENOUGH porn can be a bad thing, Reading magistrates decided. They fined a firm £50 for selling 'glamour' films which were too short.

"Love Positions" and "The Best of June Palmer" were advertised as 200-foot reels. But when measured, one film was 170 feet long and the other only 95 feet.

Birkenhead and Liverpool, which at present operate every 15 minutes, are likely to be reduced as an economy measure.

Birkenhead News

THE NATIONAL FRONT is expelling about 20 "Non-European" members. Proposing the move, Mr Bert Wilton of Southwark, said: "We have to be 100 per cent racist in the National Front. If people who are half or quarter coloured are allowed in, it will kill everything."



SCREAMING Lord Sutch, who led his Go To Blazes Party to defeat in Stafford at the General Election, has been fined £35 for dropping litter... his own election leaflets.



A SPECIAL EDITION of Playboy is now available... in Braille.

Hiccy hacks

JOURNALISM is thirsty work alright. Ask the nine Post and Echo men who felt a little dry one night before Christmas.

So dry, they consumed £27-worth of wine on the way home. Unfortunately their terrible thirst gave way to a terrible dizziness.

Steve Thompson and Paul Eccleston ended up bumping into the law. The duet spent an uncomfortable night wondering why they weren't getting the same kindly treatment the Post and Echo reserve for the police.

Next morning each was fined £3 for being drunk and disorderly.

Local Government Editor Ian Craig also bumped into something. But then he was driving.

None of this compares with the shame and disgrace brought on his paper by Peter Trollope.

The disgusting Trollope scared comedian Ken Dodd half to death. Doddy was leaving the Post and Echo offices after concocting his life story with the aid of a presumably sober hack.

The shocking sight in the van bay almost cut the story short. There, sprawled out, was the bumbling, and apparently homeless, Trollope.

Advertisement

What workers are saying about ...

TONY CLIFF
THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM

Tony Barrow, plant convenor at Ford Leamington, writes:

"Tony Cliff's latest book is a brilliant expose of the tottering system and the Labour government's ineffectual attempts to prop up ailing capitalism. It is a book for every worker, white-collar or blue, young or old, a book which shows workers that the defence of their standard of living and of themselves is entirely in their own hands. Not to be missed at any price." Single copies 75p (bulk orders 50p each) from Alex Buhagar, 45 Brookdale Road, Liverpool 15.

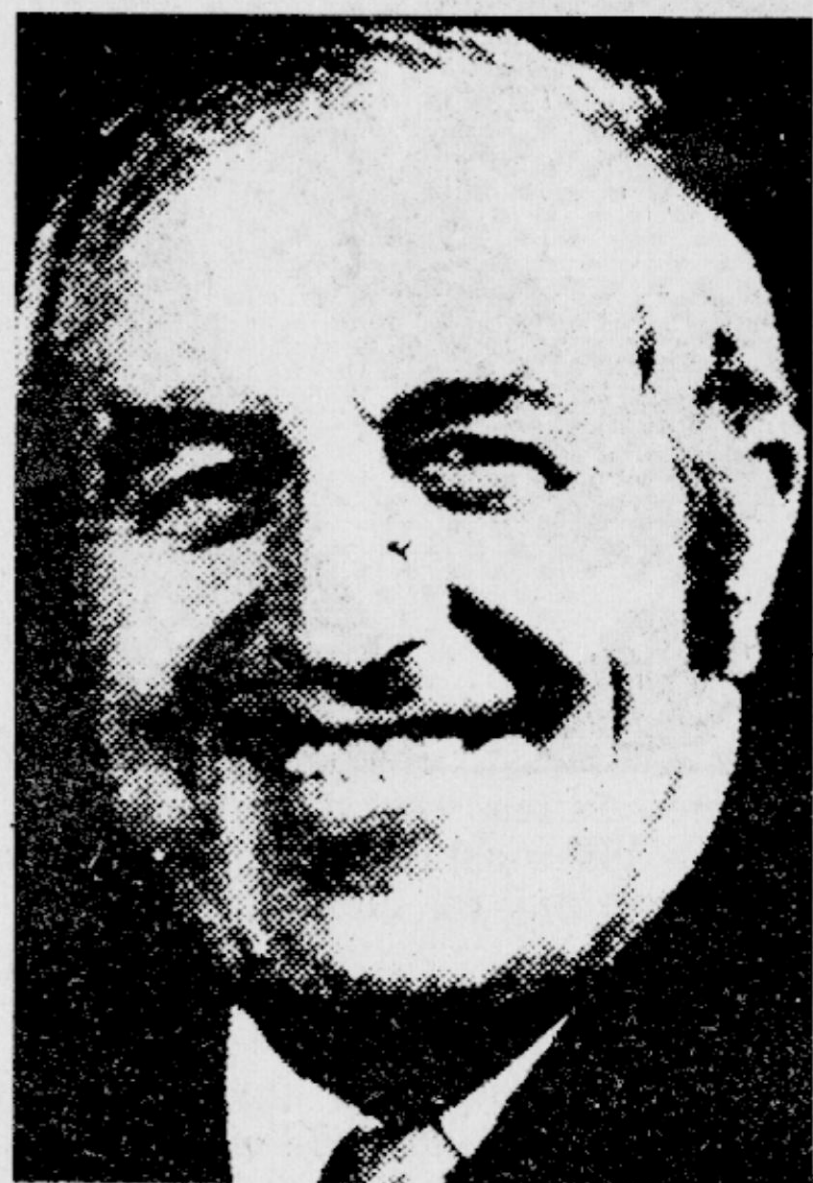
PUBLIC MEETING
TONY CLIFF ON

"THE CRISIS: SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM"

At AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, 7.30 p.m., Thursday, 27 February

At a time like this with increasing redundancies now and on the way discussion and action on the fight back is vital.

ALL WELCOME



COUNCILLOR ROBERTS — his firm built up debts.

County picks a loser

AT LEAST Merseyside County Council have a sense of humour.

Their choice for chairman of the powerful Finance and Resources Committee was magistrate and leading Labour man Councillor John Henry Roberts.

Councillor Roberts could well ask his committee (which keeps a check on the county's expenditure) to take a look at his own finances.

For this former Mayor of Birkenhead has been dabbling — none too successfully — in the world of property.

Roberts became director and secretary of an obscure building company called Meadway Developments in November 1973. But the company built up a pile of debts, including one for over £900.

The other directors of this company were his wife Margaret, John Thomas Roberts, of 49 Birch Road, Birkenhead, and John Brian Scarisbrick, of 44 Meadway, Upton.

About a year ago this crew agreed to repay £1,000 owed to a leading local supplier of building materials, over a period of twelve months.

They paid one instalment. Then nothing.

And mysteriously the company changed its name to Whetstone Construction in March 1974.

Very soon, our socialist hero Councillor Roberts may take great pleasure in seeing the crisis of capitalism move one stage nearer — if his company is forcibly wound up.

Customers back club pickets

A SIX WEEK strike has rocked the owners of one of Liverpool's most expensive night-clubs.

Night after night staff have been picketing the entrance to Bailey's Club in St John's Precinct, causing the club to lose about £40,000 in takings.

When Ritchie Molyneux, a receptionist, and Ritchie Clarke, a doorman, were sacked about 9.30 p.m. on January 8 there was a spontaneous show of unity. Twenty others also walked out.

And by the next night, a total of 45 barmaids, doormen and receptionists were out. Since then only about ten of these have been forced back — for financial reasons.

The directors of the Bailey's Group, who own about 20 clubs throughout the country, at first said the strikers were a "disorganised mob" and refused to negotiate with them or the union they joined, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

But then they were amazed to find that the strikers were supported by the night-clubbers who refused to cross the picket lines.

Normally about 5,000 go to Bailey's during a week, but for the first three weeks of the strike only 300-500 a week were going into the club.

This hit the owners where it hurt... in their pockets.

Not only did they lose the entrance money (£1 each on Saturdays) and the huge profits on the bar, but they also had to continue the cabaret.

Since then the directors have tried everything to break the strike, using the tactics of large industrialists.

They have employed scab labour,

brought up people from their other clubs, and enticed customers in by making the entrance free or a token 10p.

The strikers, who are demanding the re-instatement of the two sacked men, have now forced the Bailey's men to negotiate with their union. And as a sign of goodwill they called off the pickets during the fifth week.

Both the sacked men were said by the management to have threatened a barmaid, and one was accused of having a drink without paying.

Both deny these charges and have invited the present manager, Dave Roberts, to take them to court. What's more, up to 20 barmaids have been out on strike to support them.

Explaining the unity amongst the strikers Rowland Hill, one of the pickets, said: "What else do you expect from people from Liverpool? I have worked with most of these people before at other clubs. We always stick together."

"If there's ever any trouble on the bar, the barmaids always expect us to look after them."

"And anyway, the wages aren't wonderful. A barmaid only gets about £14 a week for working five nights a week."

Ritchie Molyneux also says that he was told not to let in too many coloured people. And this has become a small, but important, issue in the strike.

Rowland Hill described the instruction as ridiculous. "There's no reason for it. They don't cause trouble. And if anyone did, they'd be thrown out in no time."

IPD cash grabbers

CRITICS of the Government's grant to the new workers' co-operative in Kirkby have kept very quiet about the reckless generosity of the former directors — to themselves.

Already the Free Press has revealed how Ivor Gershfield, a financier, made at least a million pounds by manipulating the transfer of the Fisher-Bendix factory to International Property Development Ltd (IPD) three years ago.

Gershfield bought the factory for £1.2 m and sold it for £1.8 m, so making a quick £600,000, and then made over £400,000 by speculating in IPD shares.

During this bizarre deal, three new members joined the board of IPD. They were HAROLD KING, whose

ventures have an unhappy knack of going bust, JACK MENDOZA, an estate agent, and LIONEL P. ALTMAN, President of the Motor Agents' Association.

Gershfield wasn't on the board. There was no need. These three were, in effect, his nominees. But while looking after Mr Gershfield, they didn't go broke themselves.

Harold King took home a salary of £20,000 a year, when shareholders believed he was earning £12,000.

He also acquired one-and-a-half million shares (worth £525,000 at the time). King insists he paid for these with money from a family trust. If there is a family trust, his father, a retired postman, would certainly like to hear about it.

Then there is Mr Mendoza. He handled the sale of the factory from Thorn to IPD, and naturally was entitled to a juicy commission.

More interesting still is an amazing deal involving Mr Altman. At the time he was a director of another company, Pre-Divisional Investments.

His co-director, until just before

the deal went through, was (you've guessed!) Ivor Gershfield.

Through this company Altman did remarkably well out of IPD. Within two years he bought from IPD an Exeter-based motor firm for (on paper) £405,000 — exactly what IPD had bought it for in cash.

Altman agreed to pay £242,000 in cash and the other £163,000 over three years.

But at the most only £27,000 in cash changed hands, because IPD already owed the motor firm £215,000.

What's more, IPD, who are heavily in debt, charged Altman an extremely low interest rate on the £163,000 — so low it was actually 2% below what IPD were themselves paying for bank loans.

So Altman cleaned up. He got a motor firm with annual profits of £45,000, dirt cheap.

What IPD got out of it is difficult to imagine. When they needed cash most, they were lending it at ridiculous rates, without security.

Avalanche victim rescued

A 16-YEAR-OLD member of a mock mountain rescue team was dug out alive to-day after being buried for 20 years by an avalanche at Mittenwald, West Germany.

Liverpool Echo