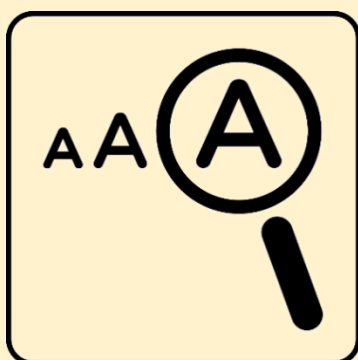


Large Print guide - Booklet Two

On The Line: 100 years of strikes & solidarity

Sections: Lifelines and Battlelines

Text size: 18pt



Transcription

This guide contains:

- Large print of the wall texts and labels within this exhibition section.
- Short descriptions of the objects and images within this exhibition section.
- Transcripts of any larger amount of text within this exhibition section.

Magnifiers and colour overlays are also available.

Please ask a staff member if you need any further assistance.

Booklet Two: Lifelines and Battlelines

Contents	Page number
Section: Lifelines	8
Section Introduction – Lifelines	8
The Past is Another Country painting, 1984-2012	9
Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) photograph, 1984	9
Womens’ Day in Support of the Miners poster, 1985.....	10
Photographs of Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) march, London, 11 August 1984...	11
Food collection during the Miners’ Strike photograph, 1984	12
Soup kitchens photograph, 1926	12
Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) t-shirt, 1984	13
U.C.S. Our Fight Is Your Fight! poster, 1971	14
Grunwick Strike Benefit poster, 1977	14
Fuel Foundation of the Nation poster, 1984	15
LGBT+ Socialists Support the Rail Workers t-shirt, 2022	16
Pits and Perverts t-shirt, 1984	17

Contents

Join the Pit Dragon poster, 1985	17
Joe Short photographer portrait, late 1950s	18
Mining families swimming at the pond photograph, 1926	19
Photographs of Nottinghamshire miners' families on day trips and holidays arranged by Enfield Miners Support Group, 1984	20
Cased objects: Lifelines	21
The New Leader, 11 June 1926	21
The Labour Woman, November 1926	21
Miners' Christmas Appeal notes, 1984	22
Cab Trade Collection card, 1926	23
Women Against Pit Closures calendar, 1985	24
Wimmin's Weekend poster, 1985	24
The Miners' Song songsheet, 1926	25
Black People Support the Miners badge, 1984	26
Black People Support the Miners Notting Hill Carnival '85 badge, 1985	26
Shock! Horror! Lesbians and Gays Support the Printworkers badge, 1986	26
Cased plinth: Lifelines Miner's lamp	27
Miner's lamp presented to Ewan MacColl by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), 1985	27

Section: Battlelines 28

Section Introduction - Battlelines 28

Murdoch is Bad News banner, 1986..... 29

Society of Graphical and Allied Trades
(SOGAT)/National Graphical Association
(NGA) demonstrators carrying Murdoch Is
Bad News banner, photograph, 1986 30

Rupert’s Reward the Sack! poster, 1986 30

Support Silentnight Strikers poster, 1980s.. 31

Introducing Your Next Personnel Manager
poster, around 1971 31

Taking Scabs to Work, Barking Hospital
painting, 1984 32

Photographs of military convoys during the
General Strike, 1926..... 33

Lest We Forget photomontage poster, 1980s
..... 34

The London Policeman broadsheet, 1985 .. 35

A picket wearing a toy police helmet faces
police at Gascoigne Wood Mine, West
Yorkshire photograph, 17 August 1984 35

Volunteers patrol the streets of London on
horseback during the General Strike
photograph, 1926 36

Riot police outside Orgreave coking plant
photograph, 29 May 1984 36

Sunday Worker newspaper, August 1926 .. 37

Contents

The derailed Flying Scotsman during the General Strike photograph, 1926.....	38
Overtaken car in Poplar, London, during the General Strike photograph, 1926.....	38
Cased objects: Battlelines.....	39
Special constables autographing truncheons after they were disbanded photograph, 1926	39
Presentation truncheon, 1926.....	39
Greetings Xmas '84 card, 1984	40
The Adventures of "The Duke" (No. II.). cartoon, The Miner, 26 September 1926	41
Cartoon from Lansbury Labour Weekly, 26 May 1926.....	41
The I.C.W.P.A. pamphlet, 1926	42
Under Arrest What to Do and How to Act When Arrested pamphlet, around 1926	43
What To Do If You Witness an Assault or Are Arrested flyer, 1986	44
Section: Transcripts	45
Transcription of the lyrics of	45
'The Miners' Song songsheet, 1926'	45
Transcription of the lyrics from the.....	46
'The London Policeman broadsheet, 1985'	46
Transcription of the cover text for 'What To Do If You Witness an Assault or Are Arrested flyer, 1986'	48

This guide follows the order of the displays within these sections of the exhibition.

When you have finished using this guide, please return it or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.

Section: Lifelines

[Section Introduction] – Lifelines

The impact of strikes reaches far beyond the workplace. For the families and communities affected, it can be a matter of survival. Without wages and with minimal or no strike pay, poverty and hunger are real issues.

Support groups have played an important role in fundraising, setting up soup kitchens, delivering food parcels, and providing emotional support.

While some groups were examples of communities self-organising, others came from across the country as part of wider networks of solidarity. Unexpected alliances and friendships were formed through these networks, bridging gaps between diverse social groups.

During the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985, some miners' wives became politically active for the first time. With new skills and confidence, they explored roles outside their domestic life. Keeping up spirits and morale was also important, and some support groups organised holidays and day trips for families, offering an escape from the everyday hardships of the strike.

The Past is Another Country painting, 1984-2012

By David Rumsey

Oil on board

This painting depicts key scenes and people from the 1984 to 1985 Miners' Strike, alongside individuals from labour movement history, such as Keir Hardie. During the strike, the artist lived in Herne Bay, where both he and his wife were active members of the local miners' support group. The painting was started in 1984 and completed in 2012.

[Object description]

Vibrant colours are used to depict a crowd of people of different genders, ages and ethnicities. Every person wears a yellow circle sticker; some are holding protest signs. In the background are banners, the silhouette of a pit headstock, and a horse mounted police officer wielding a truncheon above a bloodied crowd member.

Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) photograph, 1984

By Martin Jenkinson

From the very beginning of the Miners' Strike women and miners' wives started organising support groups. What began as small regional groups, soon developed into a national network. Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures

Lifelines

(WAPC), seen here marching through London, were one of the first and most prominent of those groups.

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of a large crowd, mainly women, marching arm-in-arm. Many are wearing 'Women Against Pit Closures' t-shirts. They carry banners and placards, including a prominent banner reading 'BARNESLEY WOMEN AGAINST PIT CLOSURES'.

Womens' Day in Support of the Miners poster, 1985

Miners' support groups sprang up across the country during the 1984 to 1985 Miners' Strike. This Womens' Day event was organised by Longsight Miners' Support Group in Longsight, Manchester. The topics also covered other aspects of activism like the peace movement and women's health.

[Object description]

The central image is a photograph of smiling women with hand-drawn speech bubbles detailing activities like stalls and a creche. One of the women is holding a 'Victory to the Miners' sign. Along the bottom 'LONGSIGHT MINERS' SUPPORT GROUP'.

Photographs of Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) march, London, 11 August 1984

Many friendships and alliances were formed during the Miners' Strike. These photographs show women from the Greenham Common Peace Camp marching with miners' wives.

'One miner's wife said, "I used to think the Greenham women were scruffy layabouts who should get back to their families – but now I understand, and I want to leave my family to go to Greenham.'"

- Extract from Kathleen Hall's diary, kept during August 1984, while staying in Mansfield with a family of striking miners.

[Object description]

Three colour photographs of a protest march. The crowds are mainly women. In each photograph, protestors are holding placards and banners, including signs reading 'VICTORY TO THE MINERS'.

Lifelines

Food collection during the Miners' Strike photograph, 1984

[Object description]

Colour photograph of tables piled high with canned and packaged foods. People of different ages are visible in the background, smiling and talking.

Soup kitchens photograph, 1926

By Joe Short

Soup kitchens were established in colliery villages during the 1926 dispute, providing 'a meal a day' to the mining families. For some it was a saviour from starvation. Joe Short photographed several examples, including this one at Darfield. Items were donated by local shopkeepers and members of the public.

Image courtesy of Brian Elliott

[Object description]

A black and white photograph of a posed gathering of adults and children; some are holding containers or jugs around a large basin.

Striking miners and pit boys picking coal for home use on the tip at Mountain Colliery, Pontypridd, known as 'The Pimple' photograph, 1926

[Object description]

A sepia photograph of four young men and boys, amongst a huge pile of coal. Two men are kneeling, collecting fragments. Two boys stand smiling at the camera, one holding a sack while the other empties a shovel full of coal into it.

[Guidance]

As you move to the next object, please be aware that there is a shin height red plinth that extends approximately 50 centimetres from the wall. The plinth is 70 centimetres wide.

Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC) t-shirt, 1984

WAPC were involved with all aspects of organisation around the strike. This included setting up soup kitchens, fundraising, picketing, organising events, and providing essential supplies for families across the country. The women also produced pamphlets and promoted the cause in the media. Despite this, the group received very little financial support from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Lifelines

[Object description]

A cream V-neck t-shirt with a red 'women against pit closures' logo which features a female symbol.

U.C.S. Our Fight Is Your Fight! poster, 1971

This poster is an appeal for money to support the 'work-in' at the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders in Glasgow. Fundraising for the industrial action was hugely successful and reportedly included a £5,000 donation from John Lennon (about £64,000 today).

[Object description]

A purple on white print depicts a stylised figure, pointing upwards towards text 'U.C.S OUR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT!'. They are wearing a U.C.S hard hat and a trenchcoat with a 'UNITY' label on the chest. Smaller text at the bottom reads 'SEND CASH TO R.McKENZIE U.C.S CLYDEBANK'.

Grunwick Strike Benefit poster, 1977

Music has always played an important role in strikes, whether by boosting morale on the picket line or raising funds through benefit concerts. This concert included performances by folk artists Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger, and Leon Rosselson.

[Object description]

A photograph of a large crowd facing away from the camera, towards horse mounted police in the distance. Many people have their fists in the air. Over the centre of the image is large orange text announcing 'GRUNWICK STRIKE BENEFIT'. Below is small white text detailing the event.

Fuel Foundation of the Nation poster, 1984

By Brett Turnbull

This poster advertises Test Dept's Striking Miners Tour. The London based industrial music group collaborated and toured with a choir of striking miners from South Wales, raising awareness and funds during the Miners' Strike in 1984. Test Dept members remained friends with the mining community, supporting the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and regularly attending the Durham Miners' Gala.

[Object description]

The design uses block colours of red, white and black. Stylised illustrations include a mining rig, hammers, and a figure on one knee appearing to hold a heavy weight. Text includes 'SUPPORT THE MINERS TO FIGHT WINTER 84'.

Lifelines

[Guidance]

As you move around the corner to the next object, please be aware that there is an ankle height red plinth that extends approximately 1.2 metres from the wall. The plinth is 1 metre wide.

LGBT+ Socialists Support the Rail Workers t-shirt, 2022

This t-shirt was produced by LGBT+ Socialists, a grassroots campaign group. It was made in solidarity with National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) and the strike action that began 2022. The t-shirt uses a graphic style similar to the iconic 'Pits and Perverts' design. It also features an image of the then RMT General Secretary, Mick Lynch.

[Object description]

A white t-shirt with a collage design of two black and white photographs. The foreground image is Mick Lynch, layered over a group of campaigners holding banners. Printed in pink across the middle, is the text 'LGBT+ SOCIALISTS SUPPORT THE RAIL WORKERS'. Bottom right is a colourful 'LGBT+ SOCIALISTS' logo.

Pits and Perverts t-shirt, 1984

This t-shirt was designed for Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM)'s Pits and Perverts fundraising night in December 1984. The event was headlined by Bronski Beat and took place at the Electric Ballroom in Camden, raising over £5,500 (about £18,000 today). A bond formed between miners and the LGBTQIA+ community, which lasted long beyond the strike.

[Object description]

A white faded t-shirt with a bold black graphic design and pink text. The image is of a miner wearing a hard hat, and two overlaid inverted triangles in pink and black. Across the image is printed 'PITS AND PERVERTS LESBIANS & GAY MEN SUPPORT THE MINERS 1984 - 1985'.

Join the Pit Dragon poster, 1985

Pit Dragon brought together artists from the alternative comedy, poetry, and music scenes to support striking miners. On a cold day in February 1985, over 50 acts performed outside Neasden Power Station in London. The stages were set up to block coal lorries entering the power station. It was followed by an evening fundraising event at Islington Town Hall.

Lifelines

[Object description]

Black text on an orange background, announcing the 'ALL OUT FOR THE MAGNIFICENT MINERS' event. It lists numerous artists including Benjamin Zephaniah, Rik Mayall and Ben Elton. It details a daytime 'MELT THATCHER DOWN' picket and an evening benefit event.

Joe Short photographer portrait, late 1950s

Reginald Joseph Short (Joe Short) was born in Caterham, Surrey, in 1903. He would later move to Darfield in South Yorkshire, where he worked as a miner. In his early 20s, a keen amateur photographer, Short captured many local scenes during the long miners' lockout of 1926. This photograph was taken when Short was a well-established professional photographer, with his own studio.

Image courtesy of Brian Elliott

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of Joe Short, in shirt and tie, with a smart heavy overcoat. He is seated and resting his hands on what appears to be the chair back.

Mining families swimming at the pond photograph, 1926

By Joe Short

This image was taken by amateur photographer, Joe Short. Using a basic Kodak camera, Short documented the mining community during the lockout of 1926. Here he captures some of his workmates and miners' children having fun in the hot summer weather, when the clay or brick pond was a big attraction.

Image courtesy of Brian Elliott

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of a large group of people, mainly men and young boys, gathered by a pond. Most people are dressed in swimwear. One person is mid-splash, entering the water, whilst others stand on the muddy bank.

Lifelines

Photographs of Nottinghamshire miners' families on day trips and holidays arranged by Enfield Miners Support Group, 1984

Children and some of their parents were hosted by Enfield families during the 1984 to 1985 Miners' Strike. The holidays were paid for by donations, mainly from the Enfield trade unions. Activities included a visit to London Zoo, a boat trip on the Thames followed by an afternoon tea hosted by Ken Livingstone, and a day out to Margate.

[Object description]

Three photographs of families on a day trip. The first has young people looking at an outdoor arcade game. The second photograph shows a group boarding a train. The third shows families queuing at a large doorway which has 'MAIN ENTRANCE' written above.

Cased objects: Lifelines

The New Leader, 11 June 1926

The New Leader was a newspaper associated with the Independent Labour Party (ILP). This issue was published soon after the end of the 1926 General Strike, appealing for funds to support the miners. The cover depicts the threat of poverty, emphasising the helplessness of women and children and the strength of mining men. In reality, women played a very active role in organising and surviving the lockout.

[Object description]

Front page of the publication.

The central image is a black and white illustration of a family around a table. The man stands in front of the table, holding a stick looking outwards, the woman sits behind the table head down, whilst the child holds an empty bowl gazing downwards. A skeletal shadow looms over them. The caption reads 'The shadow of hunger'.

The Labour Woman, November 1926

The Labour Woman was a monthly magazine edited by Dr Marion Phillips, the first Chief Women's Officer of the Labour Party. This issue was part of a fundraising initiative to

Cased objects: Lifelines

sustain mining communities. Phillips knew how to use the press to her advantage, emphasising the political purpose of the campaign in the radical press, while focusing on the humanitarian story for broader appeal. Here she selected the worn-out shoes of a miner's child to show the impact on children.

[Object description]

Front page of the journal. There is one large black and white photograph showing the top and underside of a pair of very heavily worn boots, with holes and tattered material. The image is captioned 'BOOTS OF A MINER'S CHILD, Will YOU help to get new ones?'

Miners' Christmas Appeal notes, 1984

This selection of notes and messages of support were sent along with donations made to the Miners' Christmas Appeal. The Appeal raised over £360,000 (around £1.2 million today). Hundreds of pensioners donated their Christmas bonuses, and one disabled person sent their £76 mobility allowance.

[Object description]

Handwritten note on blue paper. Text includes 'Please do not use any of this money to buy TURKEYS. I don't want to combat one

form of oppression and cruelty by subsidising another’.

Handwritten note on white paper attached to newspaper. Text reads ‘I WOULD LOVE To SEND £300.00 BUT AS A 70 YEAR OLD do NOT HAVE VERY MUCH TO SPARE MY PRAYERS AND GOOD WISHES TO ALL DECENT STRIKING MINERS ALL GOOD CARING PEOPLE’.

Completed form donating £20. Central is a black and white photograph of two Christmas stockings, one full of gifts, one empty. It is titled ‘Let’s make it a Happy Christmas (and confident New Year) in the pit villages’.

Cab Trade Collection card, 1926

This collection card was issued by the Transport & General Workers’ Union (TGWU) cab trade to raise funds for miners' wives and children during the 1926 General Strike. The card references the support miners provided during the taxi-cab strike of 1913.

[Object description]

A small brown manilla card. Text includes the words ‘The Miners helped the Cabmen in 1913. Do not allow them to be starved into Submission’ And ‘Weekly Collection of 6 D’.

Cased objects: Lifelines

Women Against Pit Closures calendar, 1985

This calendar was produced by Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC). It was designed and printed by the Sheffield Women's Printing Co-operative. This page of the calendar features a photograph of the 1984 Mines Not Missiles march, illustrating the support between different activist groups.

[Object description]

A calendar showing the pages for July and August with a black and white photograph of women marching. Some women are holding banners, most are wearing 'women against pit closures' t-shirts. Underneath is the text 'women against pit closures'.

Wimmin's Weekend poster, 1985

Lesbians Against Pit Closures (LAPC) and Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) organised this fundraising event, which brought together women from mining communities and women from across London.

'We organised a women-only social on the Saturday evening and had such a laugh! We talked about how attitudes had changed towards childcare, domestic work, our sexuality and relationships. Our lives have changed, as women we were now intervening in local, national and international political struggles.'

[Object description]

A black and white, collaged poster.

A photograph of a smartly dressed smiling woman is the most dominant feature. This is overlooking hand drawn figures and text detailing the event. Everything is cut out by hand and the text is either handwritten or made up of newspaper letters. There is a Women Against Pit Closures logo. Activities include 'BENEFIT BOP, CRECHE, WORKSHOPS, FUN' with 'ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SACKED AND JAILED' MINERS'.

The Miners' Song songsheet, 1926

The Rhedynog Glee Party toured the country during the 1926 General Strike and lockout that followed. The choir from Ferndale, South Wales, gave concerts to raise funds for miners' families. This included a performance at Manchester's Free Trade Hall.

[Object description]

The lyrics are black text printed on paper that has yellowed with age. The opening lines read 'Ye are friends who stand around us, Full of music you have found us, Yet the chains of care have bound us - Help us in our need!'. Text includes 'PRICE ONE PENNY'.

Full transcription of the lyrics at the end of this booklet.

Cased objects: Lifelines

Black People Support the Miners badge, 1984

Black People Support the Miners

Notting Hill Carnival '85 badge, 1985

Shock! Horror! Lesbians and Gays

Support the Printworkers badge, 1986

These three badges are examples of solidarity campaigns organised by marginalised communities. The groups wanted to express their solidarity and support for the miners, as they had personal experience of the oppression the strikers faced.

[Object description]

Orange badge with black text 'Oppose Police Violence Black People SUPPORT THE MINERS'.

Pink badge with white and black text 'SHOCK! LESBIANS & GAYS SUPPORT THE PRINTWORKER HORROR!'.

Yellow badge with green and red text 'BLACK PEOPLE SUPPORT THE MINERS, OUR STRUGGLES CONTINUE, CARNIVAL '85'.

Cased plinth: Lifelines Miner's lamp

Miner's lamp presented to Ewan MacColl by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), 1985

The Salford born singer, songwriter Ewan MacColl (1915-1989) was an activist throughout his life. This miner's lamp was presented to him on his 70th birthday by Arthur Scargill, President of the NUM. MacColl was very active during the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985 distributing free cassettes of songs supportive of the NUM.

[Object description]

Brass miner's lamp with a hook at the top. Towards the bottom is a clear glass section revealing internal components. Engraved text reads 'To Ewan MacColl, for outstanding service to the working class, from National Union of Mineworkers, 21st January 1985.'

Section: Battlelines

[Section Introduction] - Battlelines

Many of the major industrial disputes of the last century have pitted the working class against the state.

After the First World War and into the 1920s, poor working and living conditions led to a series of national and local strikes. When miners were threatened with longer hours and lower pay, workers stood alongside them during the 1926 General Strike.

Conservative Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin denounced the strike, claiming it as both 'a challenge to parliament' and 'the road to anarchy and ruin'. He responded by mobilising troops and special constables.

Similar clashes between the state and workers defined the strikes of the 1970s and 1980s. The Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985 was seen by some as a civil war, and as revenge for the Miners' Strike of 1974, which brought down Edward Heath's Conservative government.

In 1979, Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister. She believed unions were too powerful and implemented many of the strategies that were outlined in the 1977 Ridley Plan. The plan defined how a future government could fight and defeat a major

strike in a nationalised industry by undermining trade union power. Tactics included building up coal stocks and establishing mobile police units to deal with picketing.

Murdoch is Bad News banner, 1986

This banner calls for a boycott of News International newspapers. News International's owner, Rupert Murdoch, was heavily criticised for his handling of the Wapping dispute. He quickly replaced thousands of striking print workers by hiring members from the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU) to staff the Wapping plant.

[Object description]

Vinyl banner measuring approximately 3metres x 0.5metre high, with black and white newspaper fonts. Headline text 'MURDOCH IS BAD NEWS' sits above a diagonal red instruction 'DON'T BUY', followed by logos of newspapers 'THE Sun' NEWS OF THE WORLD' THE TIMES' 'THE SUNDAY TIMES'.

Battlelines

Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT)/National Graphical Association (NGA) demonstrators carrying Murdoch Is Bad News banner, photograph, 1986 By Andrew Wiard

[Object description]

Black and white photograph depicts a crowd of people protesting, holding a banner reading 'MURDOCH IS BAD NEWS' and 'DON'T BUY THE SUN, THE NEWS OF THE WORLD, THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES'.

Rupert's Reward the Sack! poster, 1986

Rupert Murdoch's News International wanted to modernise newspaper production by relocating from Fleet Street to a new, computerised facility in Wapping. When negotiations over new working conditions failed, print unions initiated a strike. Murdoch responded by sacking all 5,500 striking workers. Despite mass pickets and a boycott, the 54 week strike ultimately failed.

[Object description]

Black and white caricature of Rupert Murdoch holding a money bag. Text states 'Rupert's Reward: Rupert Murdoch's Newspaper Workers have made him millions in profit their reward - THE SACK!'.

It states 'Show solidarity, BOYCOTT....'
followed by logos of The Sun, The Times, News
of the World, and Sunday Times.

Support Silentnight Strikers poster, 1980s

From 1985 to 1987, workers at Silentnight's bed
factories staged a 20 month strike after its
management went back on a no redundancy
agreement. The strike was the longest in
British history. This poster produced by the
Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union
(FTAT) is an appeal to boycott the company's
products.

[Object description]

A yellow, red and black poster reads
'SUPPORT SILENTNIGHT STRIKERS'. Below
this heading a yellow band features illustrations
of beds and mattresses titled 'Beds Galore!!'.
Along the bottom, a red diagonal band reads
'DON'T BUY SILENTNIGHT BEDS MADE BY
SCABS'.

Introducing Your Next Personnel Manager poster, around 1971

This poster was first produced as a campaign
against the Industrial Relations Act of 1971. It
would go on to be used at many protests
throughout the 1970s including the Grunwick
Strike.

Battlelines

[Object description]

A two-tone poster featuring a police officer in a helmet, rendered in dark blue against a bright yellow background. The text reads 'INTRODUCING YOUR NEXT PERSONNEL MANAGER'.

Taking Scabs to Work, Barking Hospital painting, 1984

By Steve Rushton

Acrylic on board

On 19 March 1984, workers at Barking Hospital, London went on strike following the privatisation of cleaning services. The new contract meant a reduction in cleaning hours and pay. The workers felt that both the conditions of employment, and the impact on hygiene in the hospital were unacceptable. Steve Rushton created this painting after observing scuffles between police and pickets.

[Object description]

This painting depicts a chaotic confrontation outside a hospital building between a crowd of people and the police. Some protestors are being grabbed by officers, who are trying to contain the struggling crowd. In the middle of the scene three figures huddle together whilst being guided through the crowd. Nurses are visible in the windows above.

Photographs of military convoys during the General Strike, 1926

The government made a show of force in London, running a series of military convoys with armoured escorts from the East End docks to Hyde Park, where the food was distributed around the capital.

[Object description]

Three sepia photographs showing scenes from the 1926 General Strike. The first shows an armoured military truck in an empty street with two children to the right.

The next photograph shows a dense crowd of men surrounded by police, amongst a backdrop of buildings. The crowd is facing away from the camera.

The third photograph shows an open truck filled with goods in a busy street. Two men wearing military uniform with helmets are sitting at the back looking outwards. 'FOOD ONLY' is written on the back of the truck.

Battlelines

Lest We Forget photomontage poster, 1980s

By Artists

This fundraising poster is dedicated to David Jones and Joe Green, who died while picketing during the 1984 to 1985 Miners' Strike. The poster's photographic collage shows images of police violence during the strike. The collage also includes images of casualties from other protests including Greenham, Brixton and Ireland.

[Object description]

Titled 'CAPITALISM' and '1984', a series of collaged black and white photographs showing mounted police, some in riot gear, and scenes of protest. A large blue triangle fills a wedge of the poster. At the top Margaret Thatcher has red dripping from her hand onto photographs and details of casualties from other protests involving police. Text includes 'DEDICATED TO DAVID JONES AND JOE GREEN, WHO DIED WHILE PICKETING FOR THEIR RIGHT TO A FUTURE'.

The London Policeman broadsheet, 1985

This black and white broadsheet features the music and lyrics for a song that would have been sung on the picket line or at events supporting miners. The London Policeman portrays the Metropolitan Police Officer as a cynical figure motivated by money and violence.

[Object description]

Illustrated line drawing of police officer in front of a horse wearing a helmet with a visor. He leans towards the viewer pointing his truncheon. Below is sheet music and lyrics.

Full transcription of the lyrics at the end of this booklet.

A picket wearing a toy police helmet faces police at Gascoigne Wood Mine, West Yorkshire photograph, 17 August 1984

[Object description]

Black and white photograph, in the centre a man is wearing a toy police helmet, jeans and top. He looks quizzically at two uniformed police officers who flank him, who are standing with their backs to the viewer.

Volunteers patrol the streets of London on horseback during the General Strike photograph, 1926

Members of the elite Ranelagh Polo Club were employed as special constables during the General Strike and patrolled the streets of London policing pickets.

[Object description]

Black and white photograph showing a line of men on horseback, dressed in formal attire and pith helmets. They are riding two abreast along a street past grand buildings. They are resting long sticks on their shoulders, in a similar manner to how a polo stick is held.

Riot police outside Orgreave coking plant photograph, 29 May 1984

By John Harris

This photograph was taken a few weeks before the Battle of Orgreave, it shows the heavy police presence guarding a convoy of lorries carrying processed coal. The policing of the Miners' Strike of 1984 to 1985 has been heavily criticised with extensive allegations over unlawful tactics, including the use of violence, excessive force, and the fabrication of evidence.

Copyright John Harris/Reportdigital.co.uk

[Object description]

Black and white photograph. There are multiple lines of assembled police officers and in the background is a convey of coal lorries. The police at the front have riot helmets and shields. There are further lines of officers behind them and at the back are police mounted on horseback, wearing riot gear.

Sunday Worker newspaper, August 1926

This edition of the Sunday Worker suggests the derailed Flying Scotsman was a set up, and that the rail had been pulled up 'after the fact' to frame the miners. In contrast newspapers like The Daily Graphic splashed images of the famous train wreck across their front pages, claiming it was proof of the General Strike's revolutionary aims.

[Object description]

Black and white newspaper front cover. Headline reads 'WAS TRAIN WRECK A FRAME-UP?' followed by 'Rail tampered with after smash? Eight Miners Jailed, But Belief in Innocence Widespread'. There are two photographs of the train derailment.

Battlelines

The derailed Flying Scotsman during the General Strike photograph, 1926

The Flying Scotsman derailed just outside Cramlington in Northumberland on 10 May 1926. A section of the line had been removed by a group of miners the previous evening. The plan was to stop the transportation of coal around the country. The train was being driven by students, and moving very slowly when it derailed, with one person sustaining slight injuries.

[Object description]

Black and white photograph of the aftermath of a train derailment, with carriages toppled on their side. A figure in a flat cap and coat stands amidst the wreckage, looking towards the camera.

Overtaken car in Poplar, London, during the General Strike photograph, 1926

[Object description]

A sepia photograph of an overturned very badly damaged car in a street, surrounded by several uniformed policemen and onlookers. Debris from the car litters the ground.

Cased objects: Battlelines

Special constables autographing truncheons after they were disbanded photograph, 1926

Special constables were volunteers, recruited by the government during the 1926 General Strike. They included university students and ex-servicemen amongst their ranks.

[Object description]

A sepia photograph of a group of men, mostly wearing flat caps or bowler hats and coats. They are gathered in a semi-circle and each appears to be writing on a truncheon they are holding.

Presentation truncheon, 1926

Presentation truncheons such as this one were given by Bradford Corporation to special constables after the 1926 General Strike. On loan from Greater Manchester Police Museum

[Object description]

A dark brown cylindrical wooden truncheon with a ribbed handle and faded decorative gold royal insignia. Text reads 'General Strike May 1926'.

Cased objects: Battlelines

Greetings Xmas '84 card, 1984

This handmade card was created during the Miners' Strike. It was sent to mining families in Tredegar, Wales, with a message of solidarity. Christmas 1984 was difficult for striking miners and their families, with no wages coming in and rules introduced to reduce the amount of support benefits families could claim from the government.

[Object description]

Front and back of a collaged Christmas card. One side has printed 'GREETINGS' and 'XMAS 84'. The central image is a photograph of a policeman positioned with one foot stamping on flowers, the other is kicking a toy Santa, whilst knocking over a birthday cake. To the right is a headshot of a man laughing.

The other side includes handwritten text 'All the best to the mining families of Tredegar, from Steve' and 'SANTA SAYS: ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'LL WIN IN THE END!!!'. There are two central images. One animal is defecating into a police helmet, held by a toy Santa, and the other is a pig looking on.

**The Adventures of “The Duke” (No. II).
cartoon, The Miner, 26 September 1926
By Flambo**

This comic strip shows a miner’s wife attacking a caricatured upper-class gentleman who is bothering her. Women were far from passive during the General Strike, with numerous accounts of women using physical force. In Manchester women pickets pulled strike breakers off trams and there are also reports of women, with aprons wet from washing day, forming pickets to stop buses.

[Object description]

A black and white cartoon made up of six panels. These show a miners’ wife confronting a man dressed in a tailcoat wearing a coronet and carrying a cane. She hits him with a stool and treats him like laundry: washing him, wringing him out in a mangle, and drying him on a washing line. Finally, he runs away, chased by thrown clothes irons.

**Cartoon from Lansbury Labour Weekly,
26 May 1926**

Many in the government and the media tried to frame the 1926 General Strike as unpatriotic and an attack on British values. This cartoon responds to an illustration published in Punch and the British Gazette, which pictured a

Cased objects: Battlelines

powerful John Bull, facing off with a cynical Trades Union Congress (TUC) figure holding a red flag. This image reverses these roles with the upright union man against a capitalist surrounded by the military, police, and special constables.

[Object description]

A black and white cartoon. A smartly dressed man in a top hat and bow tie is holding his lapels under a Union Flag. Behind him stands a figure with a truncheon and two military figures. Standing in front, a man in a flat cap, holding a flag marked 'Socialism' looks over his shoulder at them. Text reads 'In answer to the "British Gazette"' and 'UNDER WHICH FLAG?'

The I.C.W.P.A. pamphlet, 1926

The International Class War Prisoners Aid (ICWPA) was established to provide support to workers who were jailed or lost jobs for participating in direct action. They were prominent in campaigning against the imprisonment of the eight miners convicted of derailing the Flying Scotsman. This pamphlet is a report on the ICWPA's work in Britain, which was delivered to an international conference the group hosted in Moscow.

[Object description]

Faded cream pamphlet cover. Central image is a black and white illustrated headshot of a smartly dressed middle aged man. Text reads 'The I.C.W.P.A.', 'A Speech Delivered in Moscow by GEO. LANSBURY' and 'Price of 2D Illustrated'.

Under Arrest What to Do and How to Act When Arrested pamphlet, around 1926

Around 9,000 people were arrested during the 1926 General Strike. The majority were for distributing bulletins and leaflets. International Class War Prisoners Aid (ICWPA) provided legal and financial support to those arrested. They produced this pamphlet shortly after the strike, advising people on their rights and explaining legal procedures.

[Object description]

Pamphlet cover. Paper is aged yellow with black print. The central image is a photograph of two police officers arresting someone in a flat cap and suit. Written by 'DR. R. DUNSTAN (Barrister-at-Law)' 'PRICE 1D'.

Cased objects: Battlelines

What To Do If You Witness an Assault or Are Arrested flyer, 1986

This double-sided flyer, produced by print unions, offers step by step legal advice on situations that may arise while protesting. It was produced for the Wapping dispute, which was particularly violent, with 1,200 arrested and hundreds injured.

[Object description]

One side of a slim cream flyer, with red print. Under the titles 'WITNESS!' and 'ARRESTED!' it lists how to approach being photographed, fingerprinted, answering questions, as well recording and reporting details when witnessing an assault or arrest.

A transcription of the cover text is located at the end of the booklet.

Section: Transcripts

Transcription of the lyrics of 'The Miners' Song songsheet, 1926'

THE MINERS' SONG

Tune: Men of Harlech. Verses by Francis Brown.

Ye are friends who stand around us,
Full of music you have found us,
Yet the chains of care have bound us –
Help us in our need!
Miners' wives at home are weeping,
Hunger near and nearer creeping,
Death around the corner peeping,
'Tis for them we plead!

Chorus-

You can help the children,
Womankind and children,
You can give that they may live,
Women who are fearing for their children!
Kinly hearts are always willing,
Empty plates now need filling,
If you ever spared a shilling,
Do it, do it now.

Transcripts

Transcription of the lyrics from the 'The London Policeman broadsheet, 1985'

THE LONDON POLICEMAN

Once I believed that life was fine
And all I had to do
To serve my Country and my Queen
Was join the Boys in Blue.
So proudly in my uniform
I stood in the belief
That if I did was I was told
I'd never come to grief.

And for ten years I kept the law
And knew I could not fail
When I stood in the witness box
The scum they went to jail.
Until one day from London's streets
My Chief Inspector said
"I've just the job for you my lad
S'like standing on your head."

I didn't know just what he meant
Until he added then
"You'll learn some extra cash my lad
With a thousand other men."
So we came away from London
And drove up to the mines
Where a thousand other Boys in Blue
Take scabs through picket lines.

Like Caesar's troops of ancient times
We stood with shield and staff
Wishing we had mighty swords
To cut the sods in half.
I'd read the news that very day
The miners they were scum
While we would save the Nation
If we got them on the run.

We stood our ground so bravely
Against the surging mob
Yelling as we cracked each skull
"Take that you bleeding job."
The suddenly I stood quite still
And looked down at my feet
Like Matador in Bull-Ring
There was blood upon the street.

The something in my brain went snap
I saw the surging crowd
As one enormous enemy
(Both sides were shouting loud)
I laid about me with a will
And felled another score
And half of them were friends of mine
All lying on the floor.

And suddenly a silence reigned
And both sides looked at me
"You arrant bloody fool" they cried
And straightaway did agree
To strike me down with fist ad club
And shake each other's hands

Transcripts

And march down into London
Led by their famous bands.

While I went to the hospital
A martyr to the Cause
Of bringing men together
By the breaking of their jaws.

Music by S.S. Westley. Lyric by S. F.
Robertson.

Transcription of the cover text for 'What To Do If You Witness an Assault or Are Arrested flyer, 1986'

WITNESS!

If you see an arrest or an assault:

1. Memorize the:
Victim's name or description.
Time of the incident.
Place of the incident.
Police officers numbers.
2. Telephone 01-261 9302 or 01-928 2388 or
tell a legal observer.
3. Ask other witnesses to do the same.
4. As soon as possible write down what
happened at and just before the incident.

ARRESTED!

If you are arrested shout your name so people
who has been arrested.

DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS OR MAKE A WRITTEN STATEMENT ABOUT THE EVENTS LEADING TO YOUR ARREST.

AT THE POLICE STATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

Do not agree to be photographed, the police have no right to use force.

FINGERTPRINTS

You are obliged to give fingerprints for most offences and the police can use reasonable force if you refuse.

INJURED?

Ask to see the police doctor, when you have been released see your own doctor and have photographs taken.

The end

This is the end of the Large Print guide - Booklet Two for the On The Line exhibition. Please return the guide or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff