

NEW VENUE IN
Glasgow

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE
- WAPPING & KINNING PARK

The Exhibition

3 - 28 October 2016

**Unite the Union, John Smith House,
145-165 West Regent Street,
Glasgow G2 4RZ**

**DRAMATIC IMAGES
AND ACCOUNTS OF
THE DISPUTE**



Exhibition is open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm
Group visits welcome – other times by arrangement

Organised by the News International Dispute Archive and supported by Unite the Union,
National Union of Journalists, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and the Marx Memorial Library

Further Information: 0141 404 5424, 07964 883129 or info@wapping-dispute.org.uk

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE

WAPPING & KINNING PARK

Rupert Murdoch's newspapers stand accused of debasing the British media. Revelations of industrial-scale phone hacking at the News of the World and corruption of the police and national politics have laid bare the malign influence and power of a global media empire.

That power was accumulated over 30 years but the crucial episode was the year-long Wapping dispute. When negotiations broke down and the strike began in January 1986, Murdoch shifted production of the papers overnight to a new, non-union printworks, sacking the existing production and administration workforce of 5,500 employees.

Supported by the Tory government and its anti-union laws, Murdoch's vast resources had enabled the company to equip and staff the Docklands plant in secret, with strike-breaking labour recruited by the electricians' union in an act of treachery unparalleled in labour movement history.

The High Court ordered the sequestration of the funds of SOGAT, the largest union involved, when distribution workers in London refused to handle Murdoch's papers. Other unions were ordered by the courts to refrain from solidarity action and fined for contempt.

More than 1,400 strikers and supporters were arrested, six were jailed and hundreds injured during demonstrations and picketing. Complaints of police brutality and unwarranted arrests led to an inquiry that described police actions as violent and undisciplined.

The story is being told from the point of view of the sacked workers and their trade unions. The Exhibition, the booklet "The Workers' Story" and the website offer graphic accounts of the determined resistance of the sacked printworkers and the "refusenik" journalists who joined them.

The Scottish Dimension – eye witness account:

'It's the first night of the dispute at Kinning Park, and the TNT lorries roar down the street and enter the plant. After an hour they appear to jeers from the picket line, a union official shouts 'where are they are going?' Then I'm in a car following the lorries, will it be to a large distribution warehouse somewhere in the city? No, we find ourselves sitting on a runway in Glasgow Airport watching the bundles of papers being loaded on to a plane bound for London. A strong presence at the picket line lasted for weeks during some of the coldest winter nights.'

Share the experience, visit the exhibition at:

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The Marx Memorial Library