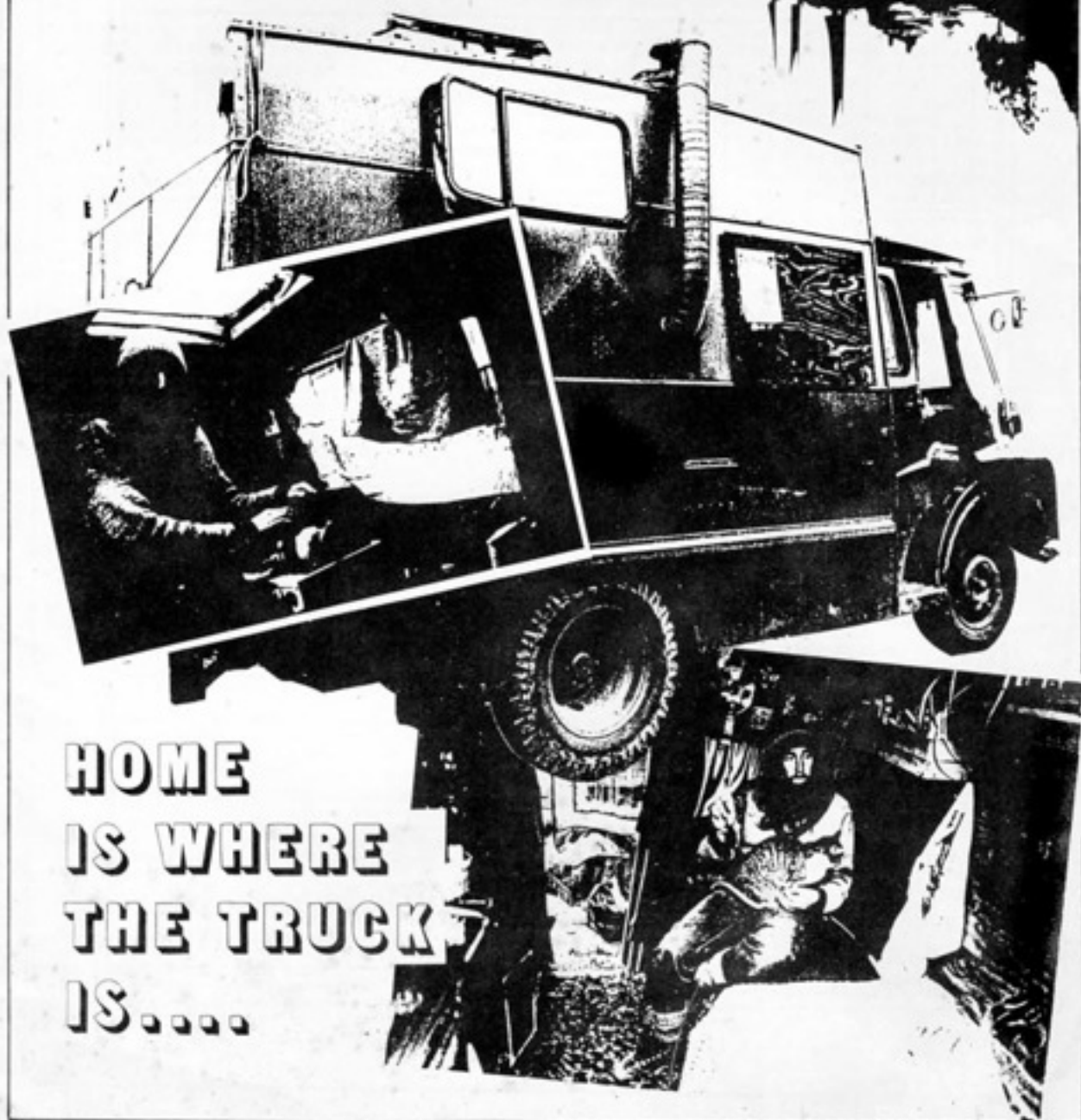


# WAVENEY CLARION

Monthly 30p

APRIL 1984

Vol. 12 No. 4



**HOME  
IS WHERE  
THE TRUCK  
IS....**



# OWD BOR'S ALMANAC

APRIL, 1984



The name April is thought to be derived from the Greek *APRILIO* - "I open". It was the first month of the ancient Alban Calendar. For our Anglo-Saxon forebears it was *EOSTUR MONATH*, after 'Eostre' their god of Spring & Re-birth. And rightly so, for April is a time of new beginnings, or re-birth and rekindled life. By the end of the month the signs of the great awakening of mother Earth abound - trees are clad in a fresh green mantle; blossom appears; the birds return from a-far and the crisp bright mornings resounded with their joyous songs. Short sharp showers of refreshing rain wash away the last vestiges of Winter, and Sunshine, with her ever-warmer breath, plays on everything encouraging it to grow and procreate. In truth, APRIL is a time to rejoice at the power and wonders of Nature.

Day of Month	SUN rise sets	HIGH TIDE: LOW/STOFT	NOTABLE EVENTS
1 S	0636 1934	1051 2300	● NEW MOON (12hr. 10min) St. Gilbert. ALL FOOLS DAY. Mothering Sun St. Ilbba. Hans Christian Anderson b. 1805.
2 M	0634 1936	1121 2328	St. Richard. John Napier - inventor of logarithms d. 1617.
3 T	0631 1938	1150 2357	St. Isidore. Herbert Welch, oldest Bishop d. 1969 aged 106.
4 W	0629 1939	1220	St. Tigernach. U.S.A. Entered W.W.I, 1917.
5 Th	0627 1941	0028 1251	St. Sixtus. Richard Coeur de Lion d. 1199.
6 F	0625 1943	0101 1323	St. Hegesippus. Jos. Thomson sold his wife for £1 and a dog 1832.
7 Sa	0622 1944	0146 1358	
8 S	0620 1946	0217 1439	St. Dionysus. 5th in Lent PASSION SUN. Asquith became PM 1908.
9 N	0618 1948	0307 1532	D 1st (TR. St. Dotto. Pony Express Service started in US 1860.
10 T	0616 1949	0419 1653	St. Bademus. 1st organ introduced in church, Compiègne AD787.
11 W	0613 1952	0547 1825	St. Guthlac.
12 Th	0611 1953	0717 1950	St. Victor. Badminton Horse Trials begin.
13 F	0609 1954	0829 2043	St. Caradoc. Leslie Cole ate 1lb eels in 43 seconds 1971.
14 Sa	0607 1956	0927 2145	St. Renezet. Bill Adams (1st Englishman to enter Japan) d. 1620.
15 S	0605 1958	1058 2311	● FULL MOON (19hr. 11min). PALM SUNDAY. St. Mandee.
16 N	0603 1959	1139 2352	St. Dracon (Patron of Shepherds) Battle of Culloden 1746.
17 T	0601 2001	1218	St. Anicetus. First day of Passover (Pesach).
18 W	0558 2003	0032 1258	St. Apollonius. Eire created a republic 1949.
19 Th	0556 2004	0113 1336	St. Ursmar. HUNNY THIRSDAY. George, Lord Byron, poet, d. 1824.
20 F	0554 2006	0155 1412	St. Serf. GOOD FRIDAY. End of marbles season. Hitler b. 1889.
21 Sa	0552 2008	0240 1453	St. Eingan. QEII b. 1926. Fakefield Church destroyed 1941.
22 S	0550 2009	0334 1445	EASTER DAY. St. Rufus.
23 N	0548 2011	0441 1655	☾ Last (4hr 0026hrs). ST. GEORGE'S DAY. EASTER MONDAY.
24 T	0546 2013	0603 1823	St. Mellitus. ST. MARKS EVE. A comet appeared over England 1066.
25 W	0544 2014	0729 1948	St. Mark. Oliver Cromwell b. 1599.
26 Th	0542 2016	0826 2040	St. Cletius. Sunday sports authorised by Elizabeth I 1569.
27 F	0540 2018	0910 2121	St. Zita the Virgin. Year 2733 of the Nabonassar Era.
28 Sa	0538 2019	0947 2155	St. Vitalis. A goat which sailed twice round the world d. 1772.
29 S	0536 2021	1017 2226	St. Fiachna. LOW SUNDAY. Stilton innkeeper rode 213m in 12hr.
30 N	0534 2022	1048 2257	St. Maximus. WILPURGISWACHT. Owl Bor's birthday (er 19.....)

**NOTES:** All times are approximate and in British Summer Time. Lighting up time is half an hour after sunset.

**IN THE GARDEN:** Sow most main-crop vegetables - peas, turnips, onions, leeks and carrots. Towards the month end beet, spinach, french & runner beans can be sown in sheltered positions; also 2nd early spuds, lettuce (cos & cabbage) and winter greens. Ideal month for sowing new lawns - keep an eye on them dicky-birds tho! Newly planted trees should be mulched during the month.

**TO CALCULATE EASTER:** It is always the 1st Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after March 21. If the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after.



"WHEN APRIL BLOWS HIS HORN 'TIS GOOD FOR BOTH HAY AND CORN."  
 "AN APRIL FLOOD CARRIES AWAY THE FROG AND HIS BROOD."  
 "CUCKOO OATS AND WOODCOCK HAY MAKE THE FARMER RUN AWAY."



# GIMME SHELTER

"The problem is that people aren't shocked by horror any more".

Neil McIntosh, director of Shelter for the last seven years was brooding in his office. Outside traffic roared in Waterloo Road. What does a major national pressure group do when its played the emotional theme so successfully in past, and rather easier times?

Basically, it divides its time between local practical help and national lobbying aimed at getting the existing system changed. Shelter supports twenty-four Housing Aid Centres throughout the country, which attempt to grapple with the problems of the homeless and badly housed as recession and poverty deepen into the 80's.

Many of the problems are obvious: the massive underbuild of new stock, progressive deterioration of the old, the selling off of council housing. We are obviously creating years of massive misery for the future.

#### PROBLEMS

Some of the difficulties are new and disturbing: the spread of single persons homelessness, the temptation for teenage girls to get pregnant so as to be sure of accommodation, the return of an attitude that the homeless are as they are because of drink and carelessness. "They're drunks second, homeless first", Neil emphasised.

What does Shelter want? Firstly and obviously greater investment in rented accommodation together with subsidies given

equally to all forms of tenure. Next, the Homeless Persons Act extended to all single people genuinely without a secure home. (Newcastle has just recognised the single 16 - 18 year range as a 'vulnerable group'). Lastly, that emergency accommodation is short-term and decent; currently the very opposite is often true.

#### FAULTS OF THE SYSTEM

McIntosh's fundamental criticism of our housing system is its inflexibility. Moving in between the public and private sectors with any degree of ease is difficult. There's no real way of moving from dependence to independence. The various needs of people at differing stages of their lives are not catered for.

What are the results? Constant incentives to buy, the mismatch of people and dwellings, an inefficiency in the system which ends up with people on the street. McIntosh is scathing about the role of political parties, especially those on the left who might have expected to grasp some of the netles. "Labour's record's pathetic, and the Alliance's ideas are not much better. They've all got trapped by over-occupation and by big top-down bureaucracies moving council housing.

#### FREEDOM OF CHOICE?

"The first leads inevitably into the right to buy, sometimes public housing at huge discounts. Older people are being urged to buy, to capitalise on their assets, by their children who will get the benefits. Recently, a 94 year old was given a mortgage.

This is wealth creation, not housing. "All this stuff about freedom of choice is off the mark. The real freedom of choice is to have the ability to move into the type of property best suited to you - and to have more control over it. This is particularly true of council housing: we should decentralise council stock into neighbourhood units, managed by a local Trust made up of elected tenants' representatives and council nominees. Unfortunately some of the main resistance to this comes from the town-halls themselves, from the professional unions and the experts who feel they know best".

#### HOMELESS IN THE END

The end result of this muddle, this lack of planning, this lack of caring is the overcrowded home with its family tensions, the plight of those from split families, the increasing horror that faces the young as they look first for work, next for shelter, and finally for oblivion. They're long-term things, these crises which catch the nation's conscience. Unfortunately, according to Neil McIntosh, "the issue will become alive again - and when it does the pain of housing misery will be seen to be that much greater".

For anyone interested in housing matters Shelter's magazine 'ROOF' is indispensable. For details of this, membership and all of Shelter's activities contact:  
157 Waterloo Road,  
London, SE 1 8SF  
Tel. 01 633 9377

D.N.

## WAVENEY CLARION



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people need  
**Shelter**

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE HOMELESS

Join the Campaign!

Boxes are packages. They're for storing things in. For stopping the outside getting in, as it were. Put something in a box and you know where it is. Boxes are filling systems. Some boxes are made of concrete or bricks or steel. These are very permanent containers.

Some people have solved this problem by adding wheels. Living in converted trucks they move as the need takes them. Or, for a time, they don't. (It won't be long before they are, power wise, totally self-sufficient. Solar panels on the roof, fold-up windmills ready to erect when the trucker stops.)

#### WHY DO PEOPLE DO IT?

Why do people live like that? Insecure, impoverished, at the mercy of authority, the victim of media, myth and hype?

Because they are none of those things. A lot of those on the road have been a part of the Kingdom of the Box. They came to the conclusion that it didn't help, it was going in the wrong direction, it was in a word, crazy.

"I've done everything else. Done the oil rigs, earned me hundreds of pounds. I was poorer then than I am now, I spent all my money on going to work and I never had any time. Crazy."

#### IT'S THE WAY YOU DO IT THAT COUNTS

It's that paradox that's so extraordinary about the philosophy of truck dwellers. It's the understanding that the endless drive towards a mortgaged - in every sense - existence - stops people seeing what is obvious. The dream is quite clear to nearly everyone, but the route toward the dream is non-sensical, is actually preventing people reaching it. As Mel says "The less you want, the more you have. Because everything you want is all around you, if you can only see it." It's all relative, of course. But "We live in the twentieth century. There's nothing we can do about that. If it was horse and carts, then I'd have a horse and cart. But it isn't. It's re-cycling what's around you. Making - technology work for you, rather than you for it. Using it. Changing it."

## A GOOD ENGINE, A GOOD TRUCK..



Tony agrees "A good engine and a good truck. That's all the technology you need."

#### FREEDOM

When you get down to it, it's an attitude and a feeling. "A feeling of freedom" said Tony, who is large, and to my experience, almost impossibly gentle. Tony was heavily involved in Waveney Friends of the Earth, but he seemed to grow disillusioned. Nobody was affected by what they did. As time went by, everything got worse, rather than better.

Mel: "Nobody takes the time, nobody sits down, thinks about the problems."

Tony: "It must take much less energy to sit round a table than it does to build a gun and then kill people with it."

Mel: "Yeah, it's much better to get into a truck and get away from all that. It's so stupid."

They think that most people's priorities are way off the mark, and in the end will destroy the earth. Not that they think all truck-dwellers are angels.

"There are people who live in trucks who are terrible. But there are good and bad anywhere. But we've all got to live on the planet, together. That's what it is."

"Yeah, it's just an attitude to life," said Mel.

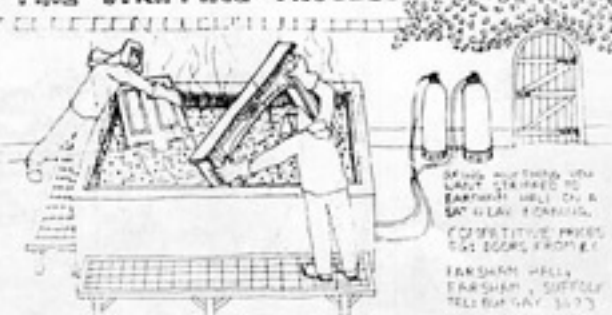
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AFTER EXPLAINING PROPOSALS TO SPEND £30,000 ON A SHELTER FOR COUNCIL REFUGES, COUNCILLOR TWINGET KINDLY POINTED OUT THE PROVISIONS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE REST OF US.

"Perhaps it doesn't matter if you live in a house or a truck. But for me, it's easier to live right when you're in a truck. It helps you to see what's going on, what the important things are."

#### GETTING CLOSE TO NATURE

The important things are freedom to live the way you want, and being aware of the importance of nature. "Psychologically, I feel like I'm living outside. The rain beating on the roof, the wind, all the sounds people only notice when they're doing a two week camp somewhere. Though you're in a truck, it's more natural somehow."

#### PRACTICAL MATTERS

On the other hand, caring for the natural world doesn't mean that warmth and keeping dry aren't important. They take a pride in the comfort created by living in a cosy truck. And take heart from the disasters that always seem to be hitting more conventional housing. "I asked the Local Authority guy when he came around 'Any damp? Is it cold? How's your council housing then?'" The problem with the Barrett estate off Long Road, Lowestoft, also caused them a lot of amusement. "Thirty thousand quid and they still can't build 'em right. I wonder why the Council Building Inspector didn't notice."

I suppose it all boils down to this. The society they are held in, is in a mess, and they want no part in it. They think that many have mis-understood what life is for (Mel: 'Life's a hobby, not a toil.' They want to live a simpler, more direct life. They are not interested in upsetting people, it just causes them a lot of unnecessary hassle (though they do reckon that one of the reasons they get harassed is that their life somehow threatens the shaky beliefs of the majority "They're always complaining. Why do they complain so much? They don't seem to be very happy with what they're doing. Maybe that's why they defend it so unpleasantly").

Perhaps the truck is only important in that it stands for freedom, for most of us associate freedom with movement. And living in a truck is economical, it uses existing technology, it recycles things.

And it's fun. J.E.

#### LOCAL GREEN GROUP

Would anyone who is interested in the Green Movement or ideas which may lead to a non-violent society that cares about its environment and people developing as individuals, like to be part of a local Green Group? If so, would you write to: Bob Walker, 4 Bruce Street, Lowestoft. or Telephone: Low. 87042

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#### WACI

Chris Allen and Pat Sarson are keen to speak with local women who have been through a hysterectomy, to discover the exact needs and demands of the group that they are forming, which is to be known as The Women's Advice and Counselling for Hysterectomy. They would provide individual counselling and sometimes group meetings.

There is a questionnaire to be completed, which they will deal with in confidence and which will help them with their research. If you would like to help contact Chris Allen at or Pat Sarson  
31 Southwell Road, 129 Sands Lane,  
Lowestoft. Oulton Broad, LT.

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