



Alan Dalton was the most energetic and uncompromising safety activist of his generation, his considerable success a product of his keen brain, eye for mischief and his mantra: "Be annoying."

Over the years, Alan was sued and bankrupted for attacking the asbestos industry, "greylisted" by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for exposing its shortcomings and secrecy (*Hazards* 63) and fired from the board of the Environment Agency for supporting community pollution protesters instead of embracing its cosy but unhealthy consensus.

Alan helped create *Hazards* magazine in the 1970s, so the new generation of safety reps with legal rights also had union arguments and support to convert rights into influence. As health, safety and environment coordinator for the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) from 1995-98, Alan nurtured a new network of union safety reps and forced environmental issues to the centre of the union safety agenda (*Hazards* 69).

Alan had many, many successes. When he became frustrated at the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) lack of openness about its enforcement record against Britain's workplace safety criminals, he demanded the information under its "open government" policy. Open government came at a cost - he was told the charge for the information would be £226,399.41 (*Hazards* 50).

HSE was stung by the extensive press coverage arising from this less-than-freedom of information policy, particularly as Alan reinforced the message with a string of successful Ombudsman's complaints (*Hazards* 31 and 46). HSE now publishes an annual online "naming and shaming" dossier of its enforcement record.

Alan was among the first to call for jail sentences for dangerously negligent employers. At an HSE press conference in the late 1980s he quizzed HSE top brass about why no employer had ever been jailed after the death of a worker. HSE officials laughed and said it was not possible under existing laws.

Over a decade of campaigning later, several directors have served jail time under those same laws and the business-friendly Labour administration is promising a corporate manslaughter law (page 20).

Most of Alan's real work was away from the public gaze - supporting workers facing victimisation or work-related disease; as an inspirational trade union safety tutor; providing support to bereaved relatives with hard information and soft words; working with local communities. Alan's books have been read and re-read by union reps over three decades. Alan died on 11 December 2003, aged 57. *Hazards* will miss him.

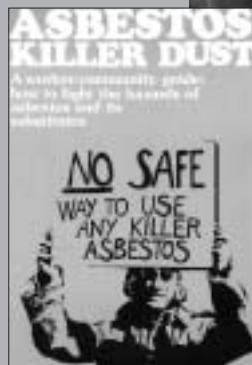


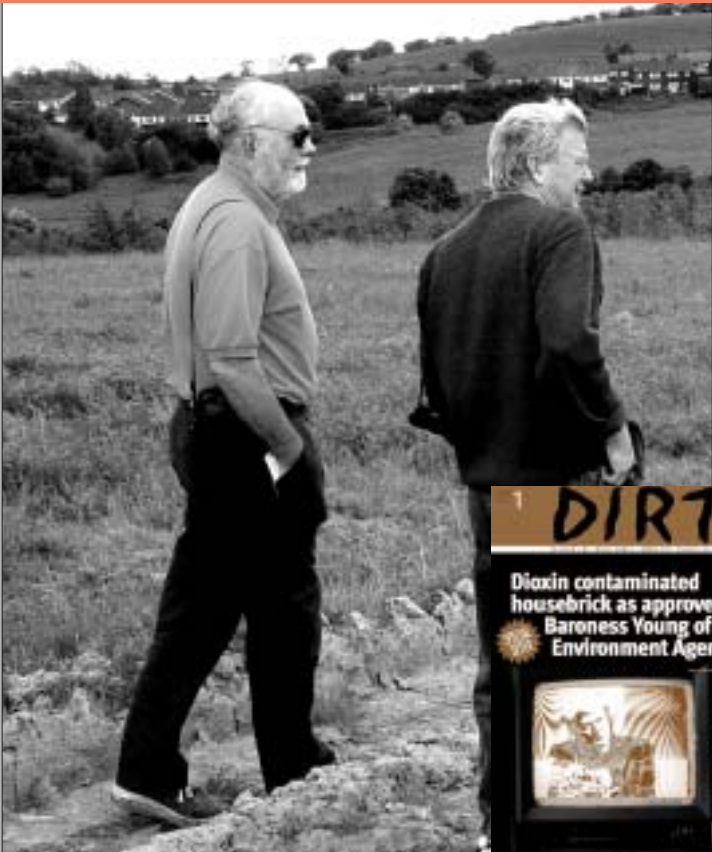
PROFIT V SAFETY: Alan had little time for the "consensus" and "partnership" approach to safety that asserts safety is in everybody's interest. He believed people joined unions because they stood up for workers' health and safety, not because they compromised all the way from government committees to the shopfloor. In his January 2000 book, *Consensus kills*, he argued there was a straightforward issue of profit versus safety. As a safety lecturer at South Bank University he impressed the realities of the workplace on his students - course work included placard-waving attendance at safety protests outside HSE's HQ and dangerous workplaces.



Be annoying!

IN THE DOCK: *Asbestos killer dust*, written by Alan a quarter of a century ago, exposed the deadly asbestos industry con, aided and abetted by corrupt medics and bought-and-paid-for scientific "experts," that kept industry's most effective killer on the market. He was sued and bankrupted for his trouble - despite every single allegation now being accepted as fact, repeated in serious medical journals. The publicity did what Alan hoped - alerted a generation of workers, community and environmental activists to the industry's deadly secret.



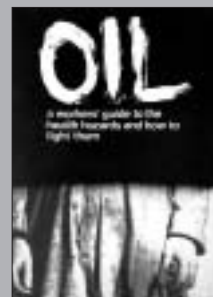
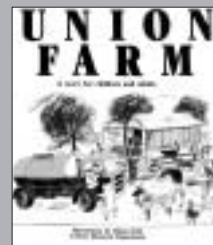


If you want to help Alan's work continue, send donations payable to "Centre for Environmental Protection" to:

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 Working Lives Research Institute
 London Metropolitan University
 Stapleton House, Holloway Road
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DIGGING THE DIRT: Alan believed it was crucial to fight for improvements today and for a safer living and working environment for future generations. Pictured above with Paul Dainton of Wakefield's Residents Against Toxics (RATS), Alan was fired from the board of the Environment Agency for supporting groups like this opposing polluting landfills and incinerators. As one of the founders of London Metropolitan University's Centre for Environmental Protection (CEP), a unit "working with trade unions and communities fighting pollution," he created DIRT, a shockingly good campaigning tabloid, to show just what could be done.



AWARD WINNER: Over three decades of asbestos campaigning were recognised in November 2003 when Alan became the first recipient of the Construction Safety Campaign's Robert Tressell Award. Alan was a strong supporter of the grassroots campaign, and was a regular face at the CSC demonstrations at deadly construction sites and coroner's courts. He was also made a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, the world's most prestigious occupational medicine organisation.