

# Sorry We Missed You

Directed by Ken Loach

(101 minutes, 15)

Most FiBQ reviews are of books, but every now and again a film appears which is so work-centred that it demands to be reviewed as well. Such is the case with *Sorry We Missed You*. My wife and I recently saw this and it is definitely a film that will linger long in our memories.

The director is socialist Ken Loach, famous through films like *Kes* and *I, Daniel Blake* for his searing exposé of major social injustices. His target this time is the contemporary gig economy. The central character is Ricky, a middle-aged, debt-ridden husband and father-of-two who seeks a more lucrative existence through working as a franchised delivery driver. He rapidly

discovers that the first thing he needs to do is sell his wife's car in order to raise the deposit for the van he drives. He then embarks on a highly pressurised lifestyle dominated by demanding targets set by a decidedly unsympathetic boss and the electronic device which keeps constant track of his movements and reminds him whenever he is behind schedule. Along the way he gets into numerous foul-mouthed exchanges with unhelpful customers about everything from rival football allegiances (the film is set in Newcastle but Ricky comes from Manchester) to one customer's unwillingness to produce the required ID in exchange for a parcel.

The working conditions are gruelling enough, but what really makes the film gripping and sets Ricky on a downward spiral is the knock-on effect the work has on his family life. His wife Abby is also overstretched as an agency care-worker, the pressures now exacerbated because she has no car but relies on public transport. Their children become latch-key kids, parents arriving home hours after they do. Their 11-year-old daughter is remarkably delightful, and the brightest episode in the whole film is the day when she helps her dad deliver parcels (but Ricky then gets into trouble for having someone else in the van). The teenage son is another matter. He's not a bad

## Recycling Plastic - With Walkers Crisps

In our last issue Peter Heslam alerted readers to some positive business initiatives to recycle plastic. We are pleased to report that Walkers Crisps are one company that are taking this responsibility seriously.

Walkers say: 'At the moment, the packaging we use is the best way to keep our crisps crunchy and delicious. However, we're aiming to make all our packaging 100% recyclable, compostable or biodegradable by 2025. In the meantime, we've partnered with recyclers TerraCycle to make it easier to recycle our crisp packets and reduce the impact we have on our environment.'

Thousands of people round the country have joined the Walkers scheme which entails saving and delivering used crisp packets to one of 1600 local collection points (Walkers claim 80% of UK households live within four miles of one).

Alternatively crisp packets can be returned to Walkers head office, 4 Leycroft Road, Leicester LE4 5ZY.

They're not just taking their own brand packets either. Walkers claim their packets are already being recycled into flooring and fence posts, which sounds intriguing.