



WILDCAT!

Local Newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation - FREE | May - June 2010 | #1

WILDCAT STRIKE ACTION HITS MERSEYSIDE



WORKERS in parts of Merseyside recently defied draconian anti-union laws by staging unofficial industrial action.

Almost 100 postal workers walked out at the Brunswick Dock delivery office in a row over what a shop steward called "teething problems" following the depot's move from Copperas Hill in the city centre.

Meanwhile, dozens of ship repairers at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead took wildcat strike action in protest at redundancy plans and changes to employment conditions. It's not the first time Cammell Laird workers have taken matters into their own hands. In 1984, 37 workers were jailed for protesting against compulsory redundancies by occupying a gas rig and the warship HMS Destroyer.

While the latest strikes were small and isolated, they demonstrated that there are ways for working-class people to fight for their own interests and challenge injustice without having to seek the approval of politicians or well-paid trade union bureaucrats.

The oncoming attacks of the LibCon coalition government will be defeated not by trying to get 'nicer' politicians elected to parliament, but by working-class people fighting back on the streets of our local communities and on the picket lines.

The Mersey wildcats have shown us the way forward.

LIVERPOOL REJECTS THE BNP'S FASCISM

THE people of Liverpool roundly rejected the BNP during the recent elections.

The fascists averaged a humiliating 1.82% in the three parliamentary seats they contested, losing their deposits in every one. They also didn't come close to winning a single seat on the council – and their percentage of the vote dropped dramatically.

This is partly due to the higher turnout, but it shows that the BNP's message is not finding new support locally.

The BNP have nothing to offer working people but division. The BNP should have no purchase in this city.

At a time when we are facing unprecedented cuts in jobs and services, we need unity among working people, not the spectacle of neighbour turning on neighbour, as the BNP would have us do.



*Above: BNP founder
John Tyndall*



100 Years of Anarcho-Syndicalism in Spain

Our Spanish sister organisation, the CNT-AIT, is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. Liverpool SolFed members extend our best wishes to our Spanish comrades for the next century of struggle!

solidaridad y libertad!





NO PUBLIC DOUGH FOR JOE!

Liverpool SolFed members recently handed out leaflets outside the Metropolitan Cathedral protesting against the use of public funds to meet most of the cost of the pope's UK tour in September.

We made it clear that we respect anyone's freedom to worship and our opposition is to the church hierarchy, not ordinary Catholics.

We also expressed solidarity with the victims of clerical abuse, opposition to religious hypocrisy and stated that there should be no refuge for religious bigots and child abusers.

We would like to hear from any like-minded groups or individuals who would be interested in taking part in future protests against the use of public money to pay for Ratzinger's visit.

Mini Sudoku

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Working-Class History

June 14th 1911

Local seamen kick-start the Liverpool General Transport Strike.

Q&A: ALUN PARRY

Radical folk singer and founder of the Woody Guthrie Folk Club

Why do you find Woody Guthrie such an inspiring musician?

I think because Woody was someone who went against the grain and started singing songs that celebrated people like us when hardly anyone else was. Despite the suffering that people were going through, there were songs like Putting On The Ritz that didn't describe the lives of people at all.

Woody connected with the struggles of the many rather than the privileges of the few, and wrote songs that uplifted us and made us proud of ourselves again. He sided with the poor against the bosses and was both political and popular.



What kind of reaction have you had to the folk club since it began?

It's been astonishing to be honest. I wanted to create a folk club that had Woody's edge and rebellion. But at the same time I was still thinking "still, its only a folk club".

But the opening night was just crazy. There were tons of people locked out. The room holds about 50. I think we had more than double that. I was sorry for everyone who couldn't get in, but really inspired that political folk could strike such a chord in people.

Every night since has been sold out. And we have heard great music from singers from Canada, America, Scotland and more locally.

Are we going to see the return of the Working Class Music Festival this year? If so, what can we expect?

Not this year but only because I decided to change the Festivals place in the calendar.

I think the back end of April makes more sense because then it leads right into May Day which is the traditional time when workers celebrate international workers day.

Liverpool is now the only place in Europe that has a festival of this type, so I'm keen to keep it going.

Next year too of course is the 100th anniversary of the transport strike, of Robert Tressell's death, and it's 100 years of international women's day, so there's lots for us to commemorate. Workers Memorial Day happens on the 28th April each year too so there's lots of important things for us to pay tribute to and April 2011 makes more sense I think.

Working-Class History

June 20th 1937

Basque children fleeing the Spanish Civil War are welcomed by local people in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

Read the full interview at liverpoolsolfed.wordpress.com

Find out more about Alun's music at parrysongs.co.uk



WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool Solidarity Federation, a local of the UK Solidarity Federation. We are a group based on the idea that through solidarity and direct action, working-class people have the power to improve our lives.

Want to know more? Get in touch! | liverpoolsolfed.wordpress.com | Email: liverpool_sf@riseup.net
National Website: solfed.org.uk | International Website: iwa-ait.org