



WILDCAT!



Local newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation | July - August 2010

Liverpool: The front line in Cameron's "Big Society" class war



Citizen Cameron: Power to the people?

Prime Minister David Cameron recently came to Liverpool to unveil his "Big Society."

The promise is to build a culture "where people, in their everyday lives, in their homes, in their neighbourhoods, in their workplace ... feel both free and powerful enough to help themselves and their own communities."

If this were the case, Liverpool SolFed would be over the moon. Locally based self-organisation, after all, is the basis of anarcho-syndicalism.

But that's not what Cameron's offering at all. This "people power" is being managed from the top-down, not the bottom-up, and the real agenda is privatisation.

That's why "government has a crucial role to play in bridging the gap – and indeed, more widely, in connecting private capital to investment in social projects."

The Big Society will "help finance social enterprises, charities and voluntary groups through intermediaries," allowing them to "leverage" private sector "investment."

The government isn't freeing us from hierarchy and control, simply replacing state shackles with private ones.

Where ordinary, working class people need it, there will be no autonomy. We have no say on the state axing health authority jobs, slashing school funding, and laying waste to public services.

The government is increasingly using the rhetoric of the libertarian left to sell its ideas, which in reality come from the

right. The Tories' plans for "free schools" bears no resemblance to the curriculum of Summerhill School or to the vision of Spanish anarchist Francesco Ferrer.

For them, it is governors and private owners who need freedom, not the children being educated. We saw the consequences of this in Tony Blair's Academies and the rise of creationist indoctrination.

Their plans for "workers' cooperatives" in the civil service had nothing to do with collectivisation and democratic self-control. The agenda there is to turn workers against one another – competition for work between different "cooperatives" driving a race to the bottom which opens services up to private buyers at low prices, all in the name of workers' control.

Like these two initiatives, the "Big Society" isn't a road to increased freedom. It certainly isn't democratic self-organisation from below. It **is** a veil for predatory capitalism to hide behind as it attacks the working class.

If we want to challenge that, we need to draw upon the substance lacking from Cameron's hollow words. We need to build up a culture of self-management from below, and challenge attempts by government and capital to control our lives.

In the community and the workplace, the key to this is militancy and direct action.



**DON'T COMPLAIN!
GET ORGANISED &
FIGHT BACK!**

Liverpool's working class is grounded in this tradition. From the 1775 Seamen's Revolt and the 1911 Transport Strike to the Poll Tax Rebellion and the Toxteth Uprising, ours is a history of resistance. This is the spirit we need to call upon as the ruling class unleash their attacks.

The most powerful weapon against the Big Society is working class solidarity.



Remembering Liverpool's Bloody Sunday

In August 1911 Liverpool was in the grip of widespread industrial action. On August 13th, thousands of workers and their families gathered on St George's Plateau to hear speakers including the renowned trade union leader, Tom Mann. At around 4pm, and without warning, the police brutally attacked the demonstrators, injuring dozens. Fighting broken out for several days between workers and the authorities. We believe the event should be remembered not only as part of Liverpool's history, but as part of working-class history too.

To find out more, visit: libcom.org/history/1911-liverpool-general-transport-strike

Liverpool fans intensify campaign against club owners



Liverpool SolFed members recently went along to a mass meeting organised by the Spirit of Shankly (SoS) Liverpool FC supporters' union outside St George's Hall.

Several thousand Liverpool fans attended to demonstrate their opposition to the club's current owners and hear about SoS' proposal for supporter-ownership of the club.

Our members handed out a special edition of our newsletter *Wildcat* supporting efforts aimed at bring LFC (and other football clubs) under the direct control of fans, and calling for a campaign of direct action against parasitic club owners.

A Liverpool SolFed member who is also active in SoS attended the rally. She said: "It was a very good event, with some great speeches and good music and singing in between. At one point there must have been over 5,000 people there, and it felt fantastic to be part of such a mass of supporters. The day was all about the fight against Liverpool's owners, and the steps we will take to take control of our club."

Weblinks

★ *Spirit of Shankly*

www.spiritofshankly.com

★ *Not a Penny More - Direct Action to Save Liverpool FC*

www.notapennymore.net

Crosby: Another clone town?

Plans to build a multi-millionaire pound Sainsbury's superstore on Moor Lane in Crosby have met with growing anger locally.

A music festival on Saturday 31st July in Crosby Village hopes to raise awareness and support in a bid to maintain local heritage. The supermarket chain, which already has a considerable presence in the town, submitted plans earlier this year for the 50,000 sq foot development.

If given the green light, the expansion would mean the closure of many local shops that have been a vital part of the local economy for many years.

A SolFed member who lives in nearby Waterloo said: "The Village has always been an ideal location for community based activities such as charity runs, music festivals and continental markets. Allowing Sainsbury's expansion plans to go unchallenged would jeopardise community activities and diversity, turning Crosby into another clone town."



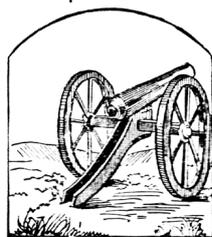
Read *The case for direct action against Sainsbury's in Crosby* on our website: liverpoolsolfed.wordpress.com

★ **Freedom, solidarity & working-class self-organisation!** ★

Working-Class History

August 30th 1775

Liverpool Seamen's Revolt, 1,000 sailors bombard Town hall with the ship's cannon



Mini Sudoku

		3	
4			
		1	
2			

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Get in touch with us by emailing:

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WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool local branch of Solidarity Federation, the British section of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers' Association. We are a group based on the idea that through solidarity and direct action, working-class people have the power to take control of our lives.

Local website: liverpoolsolfed.wordpress.com | National website: solfed.org.uk |

International website: iwa-ait.org |