



WILDCAT!



Local newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation / Spring 2011 (#5) FREE

Working-class news and views from an anarcho-syndicalist perspective...

Councillor Joe Anderson is no ally of the working class!



Eric Pickles long-lost twin?

Joe Anderson, the leader of Liverpool City Council, is trying to paint himself as some kind of anti-cuts rebel. On 29th January he joined an anti-cuts march in Liverpool, not long after he wrote to David Cameron to withdraw Liverpool from the Big Society, and then he had the cheek to **lead** a march against the cuts in February. This is nothing more than cheap political opportunism, and it should be rejected.

He tells us that the council is "bracing itself" for the cuts. He "warns" us that compulsory redundancies in the council will come. He is "incensed" by Liberal Democrats accusing him of having a "politically motivated" approach to job cuts.

But, for all the talk, **he** and **his council** are the ones who will be wielding the axe in Liverpool, and who have already promised that 1,500 jobs will go, and who has made the decision to rob people of their livelihoods whilst their own pay and pensions are entirely secure.

Anderson claims that cuts aren't "what I'm about,"

but in the same breath states that "we're not deficit deniers." He accepts the arguments put forward by the government that cuts are needed, and all claims to oppose what is happening amounts to crocodile tears.

That is why, when he has attempted to join or lead anti-cuts marches, he has consistently faced heckles, jeering, and angry confrontation from protesters. People are beginning to see through the lie that Labour are in any way a party of the "left" or of the working-class.

Despite his gestures, Anderson and other Labour politicians on local councils are greasing the wheels so that the government's attacks filter smoothly down to a local level. But when both Ed Miliband and Ed Balls accept the need for public spending cuts, who would be foolish enough to think otherwise?

Party politics does not serve the interests of the working class, either in this fight or more broadly. This struggle does not hinge upon arguments but upon the balance of class power, and we will only see those in power yield when we can shift that balance through direct action.

Those who claim to represent us are nothing but a dead weight. We must continue to call out and cast off parasites such as Anderson, in favour of militant working-class self-organisation.

'Name and shame blacklist collaborators'

A construction worker is calling for Unite union officers who colluded in the blacklisting of trade unionists to be named and shamed. Five union officers have been identified by Unite, but only one is being investigated further.

Colin Trousdale, who was a victim of blacklisting in the building industry, said: "It appears to me that these officers will go unpunished if it is left up to the hierarchy of the union both past and present! We must continue with our endeavours to unmask these wretches and make them face the wrath of their victims if nothing else. I have seen three comrades go to the grave without the chance of clearing their name or at least having the knowledge of who in our union betrayed them, I will not go to mine without justice for them and myself."



Ruling-class cuts hit Chester

Our Chester correspondent writes...

The latest round of Tory cuts has started to bite in Chester, with the relatively small Citizens Advice Bureau being hit with twelve redundancies. These are thought to include 1.5 welfare rights advisers and 3 debt advisers due to the scrapping by the ConDems of the Financial Inclusion Fund. But lets face it, who needs Welfare Rights Advisors when the government plans to make sure that those on Welfare have no rights at all?

Meanwhile, a youth centre called The Hub is under threat. This particularly nasty move is part of the government's plan to axe Connexions. The Hub is a lively part of youth community in Chester, I myself was part of a drama production which they staged in a Church in Blacon, a solidly working-class area and one in which many young people need places like this in order for something to do. To cut The Hub is just heartless posturing by a government doing what all governments do: protect privilege at the expense of the rest of us.



Liverpool SolFed out & about



The Liverpool Solidarity Federation banner has had a good airing over the last few months. We try and take part in as many demonstrations as we can to spread our ideas of militant solidarity, direct action and working-class self-organisation.

Recently we marched in solidarity with the 342 workers at the Burton's Biscuits factory on the Wirral who face losing their jobs.

On a recent anti-cuts demo in Liverpool we met a comrade from our Spanish sister organisation, the CNT-AIT, who now lives on Merseyside.

Some of us took a journey to Manchester for an NUS/TUC demo that saw spineless 'student leader' Aaron Porter humiliated and union bureaucrats heckled at the post-march rally. The comrades also joined an 'illegal' breakaway march back into the city centre which resulted in a game of cat-and-mouse with the local plod.

Meanwhile in January, a Liverpool SolFed member met up with comrades from our new Thames Valley local for a demonstration in Witney (David Cameron's constituency) against the cuts and the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Working-Class History

March 10th 1911

Women workers at the Mayfield Sugar Works on Falkner Street take industrial action demanding a 100% increase in wages.



SolFed weekend school

Around 25 Solidarity Federation members met at a venue in Northampton for our organisation's annual weekend school.

Discussion topics included industrial strategy (how we move towards becoming a functioning anarcho-syndicalist union), how we should engage with the wider anti-cuts movement and the progress being made with our revamped national website: solfed.org.uk.

A member of Liverpool SolFed also presented a discussion on community strategy, looking at ways in which we, as anarcho-syndicalists, can promote solidarity and mutual aid locally, outside the workplace.

Many thanks to our comrades in Northampton for their hospitality!



WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool local of the Solidarity Federation. We are an anarcho-syndicalist group who believe that through solidarity, direct action and working-class self-organisation, we have the power to improve our lives and bring about radical social change.

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