

Police assist racist EDL marchers

Jon Redford
Brighton Socialist Party

A combination of Hampshire, Surrey, Metropolitan and Sussex Police - over 350 officers in total - ensured that the far-right and racist English Defence League (EDL) marched through Brighton on 24 April.

The mobilisation of police was far larger than the numbers of protesters on both sides, and included at least a dozen police horses! Anti-EDL protesters blocked the street outside Brighton station for over an hour, but the sheer bulk of police ensured the 150 mainly EDL marchers passed.

However, as they marched through Brighton, people came out of shops and restaurants to shout at

them in opposition.

The event was called by March for England, under the cover of a 'celebration' of St George's Day. They claimed the EDL would not be tolerated on the march. But the main presence was the EDL, who had mobilised from as far afield as Cornwall, and who made Nazi salutes while repeating typical EDL chants.

As they marched they targeted their sexist chants, including "she's got chlamydia" or "go home and cook my dinner", at any women opposing the march.

It is clear the police cannot be relied on to prevent racist marches from occurring, as the double standards on the policing of this demo showed. At the end of last year, school students were hauled off demonstra-

tions by the police in Brighton for the slightest transgression.

We spoke to the highest ranking officer at the 24 April demonstration, complaining about the lack of action against EDL members abusing the public. The police refused to acknowledge it was happening while EDL members leaned over their shoulders to interrupt our conversation with abuse!

A mass mobilisation is needed, drawing in the organised working class from trade unions and workplaces, to prevent divisive movements such as the EDL from marching in the future. Racist sentiment is being whipped up by Cameron and Co as a distraction from the austerity agenda of the Con-Dem government.



Police ensured EDL members could march photo T Greenstein

Opposing the BNP

Steve Faulkner
Yorkshire Socialist Party

A successful campaign has been launched to oppose the racist British National Party in South Elmsall, West Yorkshire. SESKU Against the BNP (South Elmsall, South Kirkby and Upton) is a local organisation set up by trade unionists and anti-racists.

For the past four weeks, we have been running a stall in the centre of South Elmsall, in the spot where the BNP had been campaigning.

The decision to organise was taken after the BNP began running its own stall in the centre of South Elmsall in March. Despite opposition to this from individuals, no organised campaign took place and so I took it

on myself to do this.

Following a small number of phone calls, word spread quickly of the campaign, and in our first week, around 15 people joined us. Over the past two weeks, the number has swelled to over 30 people.

As well as Socialist Party members, other left groups have stood alongside us and trade union banners from the NUT teachers' union, Unison public sector union and the old Frickley Colliery National Union of Miners (NUM) banner stood proudly behind us.

The response from the general public has been overwhelmingly supportive, whilst the local BNP organiser, who drove down for a look himself, merely turned his car around and drove away!

Swansea says: make the fat cats pay!

On Saturday 23 May the Socialist Party in Swansea held a public ballot in the city centre that asked who should be responsible for paying for the financial crisis: banks and big business, or public sector workers such as teachers, nurses, and civil servants?

The Con-Dems are hell bent on destroying public services. They want to dismantle the welfare state and privatise whatever is left. Labour and Plaid Cymru are not much better; the terrible actions of the Labour-run Neath Port Talbot council shows evidence of this, cutting council workers' pay and conditions without blinking an eye.

The 350 people who took part



photo Swansea SP

voted unanimously in favour of the banks and big business paying for their own crisis.

Claire Job
Secretary, Swansea Socialist Party

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MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS ON UNISON NEC

Roger Bannister, Jean Thorpe, Hannah Walter, Vicky Perrin, April Ashley
(all personal capacity)

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Socialist Party teachers say:

"All out on 30 June to defend public sector pensions"



Solidarity and socialism to all those in the frontline fighting cuts and austerity. From the Medirest picket lines to the streets of Bahrain workers



are making a stand for their futures. We will be celebrating May Day and the fight for international democratic socialism across the Southern Region in Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester, Reading, Surrey, Aylesbury and Oxford alongside our new comrades in Andover, Alton, Basingstoke, Bracknell and Gosport. Fight all cuts in jobs, benefits and services! **Southern Region Socialist Party**

May Day greetings from the Socialist Party

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International Workers' Day greetings from Youth against Racism in Europe
No to the BNP & EDL - For jobs, homes and services, not racism

May Day in Manchester: March for the alternative
Celebrate International Workers' Day
Sunday 1 May

- No cuts, no privatisation, save our NHS
 - No to racism • Workers of the world unite
- Assemble 1pm, All Saints Park, Oxford Rd
Rally at 2.15pm in Peace Gardens, St Peter's Sq
Followed by food and entertainment for all ages in Friends Meeting House from 3pm

