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"Fueled by the tears of
Nick Griffin"

BRISTOLIAN AND PROUD? BRISTOL REJECTS RIGHT WING

On July 14th, the same day as Bristol Pride, Nationalist organisation the English Defence League (EDL) plan on marching through Bristol to spread their divisive messages and ferment ethnic tensions while promoting their leader Tommy Robinson's move in to party politics.

The EDL's mission statement on their website says they are against "religiously-inspired intolerance and barbarity... including, but not limited to, the denigration and oppression of women, the molestation of young children, the committing of so-called honour killings, homophobia, anti-Semitism, and continued support for those responsible for terrorist atrocities." You might read that and think "well, that's ok, I'm against all that too", I know I do. But when we look beneath the veneer of the EDL's shakey public image it is quite clear what the truth is.

Many EDL members hold racist, xenophobic, sexist, homophobic and fascist views. They are not members because they are concerned about women's rights within Sharia law but because they would rather see an Aryan far-right state in the UK. Accepting these view points is just the first step on the slope into fascism in this country.

It is clear from history and a quick

glance around Europe, particularly in countries like Greece, France and Hungary but also here in the UK that as mainstream party politics absorb right of centre parties such as the UK Independent Party (UKIP) room is made for increasingly extreme views.

The fact that people left the BNP to join the EDL because they were "not right-wing enough" and then others left the EDL to form The Infidels and other splinter groups because the EDL were "not right-wing enough" should be of real concern.

The right wing must be combated in Bristol. Community groups, national organisations, workers unions and so on are working together to mobilise and counter the EDL march. One such group is named We are Bristol and is the largest and broadest of the local groups organising



against the EDL.

On July 14th the EDL will march from Temple Meads station to the city centre. We Are Bristol supporters intend to line the route and make sure their racist and xenophobic messages are not heard.

- Guest Columnist James Calshaw (We Are Bristol)

For more information keep an eye on www.bristol.indymedia.org or contact wearebristol@ymail.com

BRISTOL COUNCIL KICK DISABLED MAN ONTO STREET

Gordon had tried for months to get housing assistance from the council, despite having no home and suffering from a chronic back condition, arthritis, partial blindness and mental health issues his requests were ignored. He decided to take matters into his own hands and moved into a disused council flat. The other residents welcomed him, the council responded by sending a team of bailiffs round.

Early in the morning the bailiffs marched up to the flat, expecting it to be easy to kick one disabled man in his 50s onto the street. What they weren't expecting was the group of local people and squatters standing in solidarity with him. The group managed to not only stop the bailiffs but also see off the cops they called in as back up.

Celebrations were short lived as just

over a week later police broke down the door, but the show of solidarity had bought Gordon the time and attention necessary to further his application for housing. The council still decided he was not a priority, in a shocking display of indifference their reply included the line, 'your GP has not indicated that your mental health problems would be made worse by you becoming street homeless'.

When this is coupled with their decisions to cut day centres and close care homes it is clear the council has little interest in helping the vulnerable. Still, remember 'we're all in this together'.

At the time of going to press Gordon temporarily has a roof over his head, no thanks to the council. The flat he squatted remains empty.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MP

Last month members of Bristol Anarchist Federation found themselves in a brief discussion with Bristol West MP, Stephen Williams with a handy recording device.

We asked if public consultations or letters sent to MPs affected his decisions. 'Apart from the fact a thousand people wont have emailed me about it' he replied, 'with the internet it is quite easy for any well organised campaign to get a lot of people to email an MP or fill in a consultation'.

Apparently government consultations can be ignored by blaming campaigns, instead of admitting people disagree with you, hardly reasonable. His first point is better, a hundred or so emails is a lot, but not compared to thousands of constituents. So next we asked 'what if more than half

of your constituents signed a petition? Whilst he admitted this would be 'compelling evidence', he went on to say "I don't think MPs or councillors should vote simply because there is a strong voice of either opposition or proponents of a particular measure. You have to use your judgement and that's why we have a representative democracy".

That's why representative democracy is not representative or democratic. 'Representatives' do what they want to, rather than what people want them to do. Voters have little say in the real decisions, and replacing a politician with a different politician (voting) is yet to solve the problem.

That is why anarchists believe individuals and communities should come together as equals to make the decisions that affect their lives, not have these decisions made for them by politicians or businessmen.

The full transcript will be released online in the near future.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ROUND UP

The Formula 1 season heated up this April at the Bahrain Grand Prix as running battles were fought between democracy supporters and security forces resulting in one death and a petrol bomb being thrown at a Force India race car.

Protesters made sure attention was drawn to the Bahrain government's

attempts to show the world it was apparently "uniF1ed". Despite Western governments and therefore the media being chums with the oppressive regime, they couldn't hide the truth. Grand Prix F1 owner Bernie Ecclestone may want to separate sport and politics, but while both are under the thumb of capital they are one and the same.

Ethnic cleansing has begun on both sides of the Atlantic in the name of Sport. London is in the process of trying to deport 300 families to Stoke-on-Trent as their benefits wont stretch to the increasing rent caused by **Olympic** gentrification. Meanwhile in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the government with the unquestioning support of FIFA is seeking to bulldoze and "re-urbanise" the cities Favelas around the **Football World Cup** stadium. No doubt replacing them with the same yuppie pads they are building in London.

Brighton saw host to a **Rugby** scrum competition on April 22nd. Activists from Unite Against Fascism and Local Anarchists, plus Punks from a nearby music festival made successful attempts to hold back the Nationalist "March for England". Even with the advantage of being backed up by cops on horses, others wielding batons, shields and pepper spray



the nationalists were prevented from completing their intended route and soon escorted back to the holes from whence they came.

Rugby Players are also welcome to come and support the counter demonstration against the EDL on July 14th in Bristol, other relevant sports also welcome.

Back at the greenwashed **Olympics**, despite controversy, "global Olympic partner" Dow Chemical are putting up their fabric "Ring of Death" around the main stadium. Dow part own Union Carbide who's India arm caused the deaths of an estimated 25,000 people from a gas leak in 1984. Dow have refused to apologise.

Worker killing, environment trashing, oil hungry scum guzzlers BP are a major sponsor too. They are the "Sustainability Partner", we don't even need to make this shit up!

Law suits to the usual address please!

"DEMOCRACY" CRIMINALISES SQUATTERS

At midnight of the 27th March 2012 the bells rang out for the end of squatting as it's currently known. In the early hours the House of Lords voted through amendment 136, criminalising squatting residential property as part of the Legal Aid Bill.

Much of the debate that evening had been against the Bill and in support of squatter's rights but this late vote meant many Lords had gone home to bed. Amendment 136 was added to the Bill just 3 days before it was voted through parliament. This allowed for very little debate and disregarded the opposition of homelessness charities, the law society; and the 'public consultation' where 95% of people who responded were in support of squatters.

The whole Legal Aid Bill is a shoddy piece of legislation disadvantaging huge parts of the population with removal of Legal Aid from many people.

There are currently 720,000 empty houses in this is the country, despite this

we have constantly increasing numbers of homeless and rough sleeping people. Last year homeless figures increased by 18% whilst rough sleeping increased by 23%. As the economic crisis increases and more people lose their jobs and homes, these problems will increase. The banning of squatting is the criminalisation of people who are trying to survive, trying to house themselves and their families.

During the lead up to the vote there have been increasing numbers of illegal and violent evictions of squats across the country and increased persecution of

squatters.

On the brighter side, this legislation is not in force yet. There is still time to unite and resist. There has to be consultation with the services and organisations affected, until this is complete the law will not change.

There have been marches and demo's across the country against this harsh and unnecessary law change. The struggle to house ourselves will continue, however much the government attack our rights. Support squatting, support squatters, resist eviction. Rent is Robbery!

see squashcampaign.org for more info



**DEFEND BRISTOL
FROM THE EDL
14-JULY-2012**

BRISTOL ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Bristol Anarchist Federation is a branch of the Anarchist Federation. It is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. For more information, to join, come to our meetings or if you would like to write an article, visit our website bristolaf.wordpress.com or contact us bristol@afed.org.uk

