



WILDCAT!



Local newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation | December 2010 (#4) FREE

Sonae industrial accident claims two lives



Two workers have been killed at the Sonae industrial plant in Kirkby after they were reportedly dragged by a conveyor belt into the workings of a silo.

It is believed that James Bibby (24) and Thomas Elmer (27) had been contracted in to carry out maintenance work at the plant which manufactures wood-based panels for use in the furniture and construction industries.

One Sonae worker told the *Liverpool Echo*: "For a long time, staff have been warning about concerns over safety at the plant."

Previously, the plant has been the scene of chemical leaks, fires, as well as other industrial accidents. Residents on the nearby Northwood estate have also raised environmental concerns about Sonae, claiming that emissions coming from the plant were having an adverse effect on their children's health.

Liverpool Solidarity Federation expresses its condolences to the family and friends of James and Thomas. We also hope that, one way or another, Sonae ceases to pose a risk to the lives of its workers and those living nearby once and for all.

Workers' Memorial Day will take place on April 28th 2011.

Ignore sell-out 'student leaders'

Liverpool's so-called student 'leaders' showed their true colours by condemning students who stormed Tory party HQ in London during the recent anti-tuition fees demonstration.

Josh Wright, president of the City Guild of Students, told the *Liverpool Echo*: "We will not allow them to take attention away from a peaceful and successful protest against an attack on our education system."

Meanwhile, Lily Rumsey, president of Liverpool John Moores student union, said: "We are here to protest in a legitimate manner against the increase in fees which will triple student debt."

What Mr Wright and Miss Rumsey fail (or refuse) to grasp is that they are pursuing a dead-end strategy. The *official* anti-war movement, led by the likes of the Socialist Workers Party, proved that endless protests and lobbies of parliament don't achieve anything except give those who participate a chance to let off steam. However, the anti-poll tax movement showed that a sustained campaign of direct action can lead to a successful outcome.



It's not up to 'student leaders' to decide what constitutes legitimate forms of dissent. We believe the best way forward is for radical students to continue organising on a militant, non-hierarchical basis and totally ignore the leaders and bureaucrats of the National Union of Students.

Bootle homes threat

Residents in parts of Bootle face having their homes bulldozed in just the latest attempt by a local authority to break up and disperse working-class communities on Merseyside.

Compulsory purchase orders have been delivered to people living in the Bedford Queens and Klondyke areas as part of Bootle's Housing Market Renewal Scheme.

Hertford Road resident Pat Dunn told the *Big Issue in the North*: "Our home wasn't originally down for clearance but then, in about 2004, they changed their minds. When I asked someone from the council why the sudden increase in demolition, he said: 'Because the developers want the land.' I and the rest of the residents don't feel that's a good enough reason to lose our homes."



A street of boarded-up houses awaiting demolition, an increasingly common sight throughout Merseyside

Liverpool SolFed takes anarcho-syndicalist message to Bootle



Liverpool Solidarity Federation members recently held a street stall in Bootle town centre to spread our message of community/workplace resistance and working-class self-organisation.

As well as handing out copies of our *No War but Class War* leaflet, we also gave out our new *Beat the Bailiffs* advice pamphlet.

The conversations we have with members of the public suggest that libertarian anti-capitalist and anti-state sentiments are widespread, but anarchism isn't always seen as a viable alternative to the status quo. We aim to try and change that.

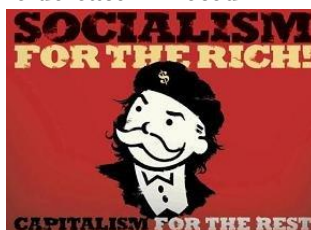
Currently our Local has members in Kirkby, Toxteth, Walton, Aigburth and Waterloo, with sympathisers in other parts of Merseyside. Unlike many revolutionary groups, we don't want to recruit-at-all-costs just for the sake of it. However we do aim to grow as an organisation, recruiting those along the way who agree with anarcho-syndicalist theory and the aims and principles of our organisation. If you think that includes you, get in touch!

Cuts in Britain: Workers Pay for Capitalism's Crisis

Solidarity Federation statement issued through the International Workers' Association (IWA/AIT)...

'The next four years are going to be critical for the British working class but at this point it's hard to predict how much organised resistance there will be to the cuts by workers. The British working class has still not recovered from the defeats inflicted upon it by Thatcher and the massive economic changes that have taken place in Britain over the last 30 years. The reformist unions may number some 7 million workers but they are weak and pathetic. The unions have talked about organising strike action but their only response to the cuts so far is to organise a national demonstration in March next year!!!'

Read the whole statement at www.iwa-ait.org



Working-Class History

December 6th 1973

Larry Doyle and Brian Owen, two rent-strikers from Kirkby, are imprisoned for 'contempt of court'.

Watch a YouTube video on the rent strike here: <http://tinyurl.com/362m92n>



Picket outside Walton Prison



International anarchist news

CNT-AIT holds tenth conference

Over 500 workers' delegates have met in the Andalusian city of Córdoba for the tenth conference of our Spanish sister organisation, the CNT-AIT. In a statement, the revolutionary, rank-and-file trade union said:

"For the CNT, this Congress is particularly significant, thus it is not in vain that it will be held when this anarcho-syndicalist organisation celebrates one hundred years of its existence. A century of struggle, full of comrades who have built the libertarian ideal with their lives and efforts. A century of successes and also of mistakes, but always filled with the conviction that the working class can create a different society through direct action, solidarity and self management. A society for the people, not for money."

Read the full statement at: <http://www.cnt.es/en>



Anti-fascist solidarity statement

Our Local expresses solidarity and best wishes to our comrades in Tranmere Rovers Anti-fascists.

No Pasaran!



WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool Solidarity Federation, a local of the UK Solidarity Federation. We are an anarcho-syndicalist group based on the idea that through class struggle, solidarity and direct action, we have the power to improve our lives and bring about radical social change.

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