

NAFA MEMBERS NEWSLETTER: JUNE/JULY 95

Lots of new things since last time...

* New secretary.

After three years Ross Bradshaw has retired as secretary, being replaced by someone younger and fitter (ho ho). Not long enough for the gold watch, but many thanks all the same. For security reasons the new secretary's name is being kept quiet at the moment. Ross will not be lost to the movement, and will be working more on keeping NAFA's public newsletter *Unity* coming out regularly.

* New leaflets

A whole new batch of short, punchy leaflets are being prepared for summer festival and other use. Subjects covered are racial attacks/refugees/who are the fascists?/nazis are no fun/join the resistance (ie us)/Eric Cantona was right. The old leaflets on trade unions and on anti-semitism are being redesigned. If you'd like samples of any of these, or batches of say 100 of any or all, write to the box number.

* New money/supporters.

Around the time of the May elections an appeal went out to local unions and community groups which has had an excellent response. New members include Abbey Labour Party, JFK Labour Club and many more including one school and the staff of a computing organisation. Thanks also to old friends who have dipped in their pockets again including Mushroom Bookshop, MSF Trent, UNISON and others. Finally thanks to the people from the old Campaign Against the Gulf War Committee. At the end of the War there was some discussion about that group moving on to form an anti-racist group in the wake of the strong anti-Muslim feeling in the country at the time and to respond to local fascists putting out anti-Jewish and anti-Arab stickers and leaflets (supposedly produced by Arabs and Jews respectively). Nothing came of that in the end but the Committee have now passed on their residual funds to NAFA to pursue those ends. Thanks to all.

* Watch out!

Colin Mellors who used to be active in the BNP (did he ever stop?) has been resurfacing again. Watch that name. An Ulster Volunteer Force Flag (the UVF are a group of "loyalist" murderers who have had plenty dealings with the far-right on the mainland) astonishingly appeared in someone's window in Lenton. This did not go down too well and has now been removed following action. UVF material has also been seen around Wollaton. Is there something going on that we should know about? NAFA members have recently been doing the rounds in Heanor and are now satisfied that the BNP are no longer drinking there. The last pub they were reported in closed hurriedly (we understand that a barman ran off with the money). So where are the fascists drinking now?

*One of ours?

On the day the ANL occupied the site of the proposed BNP anti-gypsy rally (see Kirkby article), one group of touring anti-fascists in a white cortina rang the ANL on the ANL's mobile phone and was told there were no sign of fascists apart from some iffy looking people driving round... in a white cortina. The white cortina in the meantime had been tailing some iffy looking people... from Leicester Anti-Fascist Action.

*Aspley (and elsewhere) black children

NAFA has been in discussion with some black parents from Aspley and elsewhere who are concerned about racism in schools (often playground racism) and a lack of interest from some heads and the Council about their concerns. Are there any NAFA members who have a particular interest in this area who could get involved in these discussions? Offers to the box number or ring Ross on 9603355.

Finally: a reminder about our next educational meeting: poster enclosed.

Kirkby: another BNP failure

Garry Marshall, standing for the British National Party in Kirkby in the recent local elections, polled 96 votes - 1,300 votes behind the winning candidate. Although this represents about 97 more votes than the BNP deserve, the result is particularly damning given the effort the BNP put into the election.

The main estate, Coxmoor, has been frequently leafleted by the nazis, and the BNP were canvassing regularly over the election period. The May edition of the "British Nationalist" (the BNP's paper) ran an election feature on the Ashfield area, which amongst the usual half-witted rhetoric made the grandiose claim that *"It is important to remember that our (the BNP's) views are supported by well over 80% of British people."*

It must have come as something of a surprise to Garry Marshall then, that in an area like Coxmoor, which has been targeted along with other areas of North Nottinghamshire as a fertile recruitment ground for the BNP (overwhelmingly white, economically deprived and fairly isolated), he could barely muster 4% of the votes. Makes you wonder what happened to the other 76%, really?

The BNP faced regular opposition during the election period:

- * Anti-fascists leafleted Kirkby shopping centre on several consecutive Saturdays up to the election, receiving solid support from local people.

- * The Coxmoor area was leafleted regularly by anti-fascists and trade unionists. These leaflets drew attention to the BNP candidate's record of violence against women and the criminal convictions of Marshall's election agent, Stephen Belshaw.

- * The BNP had a "mass" canvass on the Saturday before the election - their national effort pulled out

about 20 nazis. This was disrupted by anti-fascists, resulting in the BNP being escorted off the estate for their own safety by the police. However, the police weren't so generous towards the anti-fascists, who faced mounted police, dogs and the new side-handled batons, resulting in one person being hospitalised.

In Newark, the Christian Nationalist candidate, Bryan Kent, polled a divine 89 votes. We understand that his Christian Nationalist newsletter enjoys a circulation of two - him and his son.

That the BNP were demoralised by the scale of their Kirkby set-back was shown when they failed to turn-up for an anti-gypsy demonstration they'd called in Leicester. Trying to take advantage of local opposition to a proposed gypsy site in the Anstey area, the BNP had obtained a permit for a demonstration. Some anti-fascists occupied their site, whilst other groups were ensuring that no nazis got through - not that there were any to stop.

The collapse in the BNP is being mirrored nationally - the new danger is that more and more of their disaffected young (and some not so young) are

GRAFFITI
SPOT

Veterans of the 70s will remember that "NF" spraypainted on walls was often turned into "NF = No Fun" or "NEWS". We understand that modern nazis hate it if 'C18' sprayed on walls is turned into "C18 are soft". Nothing wrong with soft of course - but C18 hate it.

The above article is from the updated 'Unity' no. 3. Members have already received the issue but we've reprinted it with the above in the wake of the election, the previous front page was pre-election.

If any member wants bulk copies of 'Unity' for distribution eg to union branches, please contact the box number.

Members meetings are at the I.C.C., Mansfield Road every 2nd + 4th Monday at 7.45. Note earlier time for Germany meeting.

moving over to the overtly nazi National Socialist Alliance, C18 and similar groups who have given up on electoral politics in favour of a less subtle approach.



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