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Nottingham Anti-Fascist Alliance

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NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER: NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER: NEWSLETTER: OCT

EDITORIAL

Over the summer it became obvious to NAFA activists that the various far-right groups in this area were becoming less active, particularly in Nottingham. In part this reflects the failure of the BNP to turn their organisation outwards and recruit following their short-term victory in the Milwall by-election. Blood and Honour have declined somewhat since the death of Ian Donaldson (though were able to turn out 500 skins to a memorial gig in Sheppey, down south). In part this reflects the setbacks they have had through the bad press and closure of their Red Lion pub following the raid on Mushroom in January. There have also been huge divisions within the BNP as their various factions, literally, battle it out for control. Police action, local government action and anti-fascist action has made it difficult for the far-right to operate publicly. There is of course no room for complacency - as more and more fascists lose their jobs and pile up a trail of convictions, they are increasingly setting up their own firms - see below - which gives them money and power. Nevertheless, for the moment things are a little quieter. In consequence NAFA has decided to spend more time on general anti-racist work, while not letting go of our anti-fascist commitment.

This immediately bore fruit with NAFA launching the Ronald Thomas Campaign which now has a life of its own. We also agreed that this newsletter should be bi-monthly, reflecting a more realistic schedule. This will be topped up with occasional one-off mailings and broadsheets, the newsletter being longer than before.

Do come to the Leon Rosselson gig, leaflet enclosed!

FASCIST WATCH

The BNP organised a national organisers meeting in Sutton-in-Ashfield approximately a month ago. This appears to be one of a series and the skin-head faction of the party were in a minority. The meeting was at St. Edmund's church hall, booked under the name of the Rambler's Association. The vicar of the church was most displeased, realising only late in the day who was in his hall and he attended part of the meeting and made his views known. In consequence members of Southwell Diocese, advised by NAFA, are circulating churches and church organisations with guide-lines on taking bookings to try to prevent this happening again.

JCB Security, which works for local authorities have been employing known fascists. JCB have also been acting as

security for Hunt organisations, which is where the fascists have been spotted. JCB also employ black staff, so it is conceivably that they do not know they are employing fascists too.

The Portland at Jacksdale is not the best pub for anti-fascists to drink in, having become a local fascist watering place. Could someone let the box number know if it's a free house or tied to a brewery...

STOP-PRESS - the nazis who attacked Mushroom Bookshop are at the Crown Court on October 14th to plead. We understand that they will be pleading not guilty and the case will then be given a trial date - at last. There has been considerable concern that Nelsons, a firm which specialises in race and immigration, has been acting for several of the nazis. This has caused concern particularly among the black workers at the firm and the only black worker in the Immigration Unit has not had her contract renewed. Nelsons wrote to NAFA on 8th August (we'd written to them exactly a month earlier) with a holding letter, promising a full reply later. We're still waiting. We can only hope that they defend the nazis with the energy with which they deal with correspondence.

If you are in Derby - watch out for Paws and Purrs, 1 Westbury St. A nazi owned firm. While we're at it, please remember to tell anyone who buys punk gear at Void in Hockley to ask the owner about his British Movement involvement and why he has employed nazi thugs like Dave Warner, who managed the Sheffield Void.

FUNDRAISING

Over the summer NAFA held two benefits, a rave and a jazz and funk night. These were both successful - the latter having 220 paying. Ian C.I.A. has been doing a tremendous job with snappy leaflets circulating round the pubs and clubs. Enclosed with this is a leaflet for the next gig - a Folk Against Fascism do with Leon Rosselson. Something for the older folks to follow the raves? Not quite. Something for us all. If you can put up a poster, or distribute some leaflets - ring Ross on 582506. Urgent!

RONALD THOMAS

Ronald Thomas is a local black man who was charged with GBH, ABH and Affray, following an attack on him by racists. Over the summer he got in touch with NAFA and we put together a support campaign. This was launched at a public meeting on 22nd August, attended by about 150 people. The meeting was addressed by Alan Simpson, John Taylor from the City Council, David Weaver from the National Black Caucus. The Campaign has two main aims - to publicise the case (and out of it there has been significant discussion about the general lack of support for black people subject to racist attack) and to raise money towards Ronald's huge legal costs. thus far over £1,000 has been raised. The campaign now has the support