

NAFA NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER

EDITORIAL

At the last but one NAFA meeting we came up against one of our most difficult decisions. At the time there were two national demonstrations in London on October 16th - see the enclosed leaflet. Whilst the majority at the meeting were in favour of supporting the "Unity" demonstration, a minority were in favour of the ARA demonstration. Rather than having a straight vote a compromise was agreed that we publicise both events and at the same time criticise the national organisations for their failure to agree to have one and only one national event on the same day. Possibly the decision failed to please anybody but it was felt important that we were not torn apart by coming down in favour of one side or the other. What was clear is that the major national organisations themselves are undemocratic and plough on regardless of the movement as a whole and the views of their own members who have no decision making role. As an independent, democratic local group NAFA has to plough its own furrow and has increasingly been in contact with other independent groups in the region and elsewhere. That's fine for local activities but a major problem for national activities. Perhaps we can, next year, start discussing organising a conference of independent anti-fascist groups, of which there are many, to try to work our way through this problem.

UNITY DEMONSTRATION

~~It appears that ARA have now called off their event on October 16th. NAFA therefore calls on all our members and our friends in the local ARA to now back the Unity demonstration. Transport details will follow.~~

EDITOR'S NIGHTMARE! THE ARA EVENT IS STILL ON: DETAILS OF BOTH OCT. 16th EVENTS TO FOLLOW.

YOUTH WORK

A number of NAFA members have been discussing setting up a youth project/event aimed at white youths from the estates where fascists are finding support. The aim is to both show the realities of fascism to the youths and get them to look at their own problems rather than seeking scapegoats. This is an important activity and requires careful planning. At the moment the group are looking at options, funding and resources and have had a positive response from youth workers. If you wish to get involved or can offer specialist advice write to the box number.

ARYAN FESTIVAL

The last mailing concerned the proposed Aryan Festival which we were trying to stop. With the few days notice available NAFA concentrated on contacting councillors, MPs, MEPs and others to try to get the event banned. This the police did and their operation covered all we had asked the Police Committee for. The premises were closed, no attempt at fascist regroupment was allowed and the roads off the motorway were controlled, fascist buses

were turned away. The day before the event NAFA agreed to call off our mobilisation and monitor the event only, cars were sent up to keep watch. The ANL did stage a small demonstration in Heanor, but the police were true to their word in stopping any fascist activity. We understand incidently that one of those responsible for the proposed Aryan Festival was the owner of Better Fuels, a coal distributor from Brinsley.

A week later 50 people drawn from a number of independent groups throughout the region did a follow up leafleting in Heanor and Ilkeston and found considerable support.

ASIAN ARTS

Our bank balance is a lot better from helping steward the Asian Arts Festival. Thanks to all who helped, all who did are invited to a party at the Indian Community Centre, Rawson St., 7.30 on September 10th

UNITY NEWSLETTER

The first of our public newsletters is enclosed, 1500 have been printed and mostly distributed. The next issue will appear in October. The response to this issue has been excellent. If you wish more copies or to order regular batches for your group please fill in the form below. If you want a large number a contribution to costs would be welcome, small quantities are free.

Anti-gay attacks

We have been approached by a probation worker looking at attacks by fascists on lesbian and gay people and meeting places. Any members interested in this issue please contact the box number to make contact with her.

NAFA meetings.

A reminder that we meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road. In October we have public meetings instead on the 2nd and 4th Monday, at the Friends Meeting House. Both the public meetings have excellent speakers, do try to attend.

Welcome to new members and best wishes to all.

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Please send me further copies of Unity number 1
Please send me copies of each new issue
Please send me leaflets advertising the October public meetings.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....