

burnt flag

December 5th saw the EDL circus roll into town: a shabby coalition of cryptofascist populists, fuckwitted Ingerlund lads and beergut nazis. They hoped they would have the run of the city, riding the wave of jingoism surrounding a march of returning troops, and stamping their brand of white-male-Britishness on the city centre. But there were plenty of local autonomous antifascists who had different ideas, and the EDL were greeted with insults, scuffles, abusive graffiti, banner drops and hostile leaflets.

As usual, their organisers had already struggled to stifle the frequent outbreaks of racist chanting in front of the onlooking media. But the high tension of day increased the strain on the already shaky union between the pub patriots and their 'respectable' organisers, with their aspirations of movement-building and their quest for the approval of 'England: love it or leave it' types, stirred by the sight of the St George cross but repelled by the sight of a crowd brawling with the 'brave bobbies'.

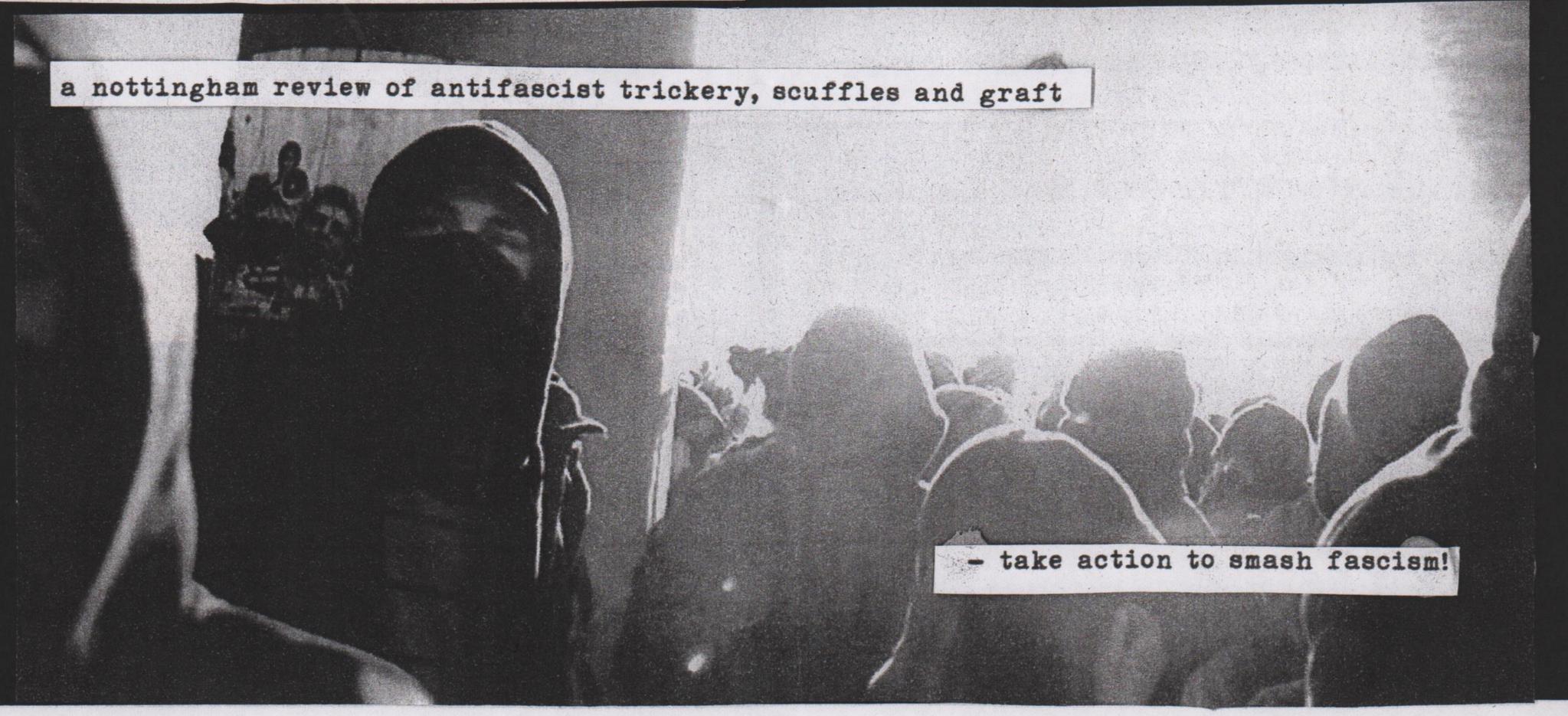
Chaos reigned in the city centre as police poured resources into keeping the EDL apart from our 'welcoming committee'. Nervous coppers had already spent the previous week despatching squad cars to take down anti-EDL posters and pressurising local 'community leaders' with a mixture of lies and threats in order to try to keep antifascists at home. On the day our threats of trouble were still enough to ensure that the only people who had to endure the sound of the EDL frothing themselves into a boring frenzy of foot-stamping outrage were the EDL themselves, some mainstream journos and a thick ring of cops, as their rally was shunted out of the city centre and cordoned off.

Before and after their rally the EDL spent their time in the pub, making occasional trips into the streets for bouts of unimaginative chanting. Here again, it was vital that they were made to feel uncomfortable. No thanks are due to the UAF who - having early in the day contrived to march 200 yards to get into the prepared police kettle, where they could settle into their time-honoured role of comfortably ineffectual official opposition - proceeded to shuffle off home later in the day, seemingly satisfied with having made their token gesture. Up stepped some local youth who gathered in lively groups later in the day to chase the EDL around, eager to present them with a 'physical petition' suggesting they leave town.

This enforced close attention from the cops - combined with taunts from outside the cordon - proved too much of a provocation for many in their crowd, and before long we were treated to the heartening sight of the filth and the fash at each other's throats. This played on the tensions within the EDL, between organisers and the day-trippers that comprise the bulk of their numbers.

Among the lessons to be learned from the day is this: symbolic opposition is next to worthless, but even a few people actively fighting back is enough to totally change the character of these events. If the EDL show their faces again let's show up in numbers and make sure we get our point across forcefully.

a nottingham review of antifascist trickery, scuffles and graft



- take action to smash fascism!

FEB x Red White and Blue (RWB) festival organiser, David Shapcott, is serenaded in the middle of the night by half a dozen personal attack alarms planted about his property by antifascists.

x RWB host, Alan Warner, has his farm gates glued shut and 'RACIST BNP SCUM' painted on his walls.

MAR x BNP fundraiser in Liverpool attacked by antifascists with hammers who total vehicles and attack BNP activists.

APR x BNP activists in Leeds and Bradford receive night-time visits from antifascists who glue locks, damage cars and paint 'BNP SCUM' on walls and doors.

x Two Gloucestershire fascists' work vans have locks glued and a repaint job.

x South Cambridgeshire BNP stall mobbed by antifascists who destroy their leaflets.

MAY x BNP blocked from entering European election hustings in Bath for over an hour.

x Postal workers across the country refuse to deliver BNP propaganda, despite threats from bosses.

x BNP election billboards destroyed.

JUN x Shrewsbury BNP activist, Alan Cole, has his union flag set on fire in his garden. The burning flag was, in his words, "the final act of a three-night campaign of abuse.."

x Nick Griffin pelted with eggs at his 'victory' speech in Parliament Square.

JUL x Alan Warner gets another visit. Gates D-locked and 'DEAD NAZI' spraypainted on the wall.

x Nick Griffin has pint poured over him in Gloucestershire.

AUG x Over a thousand anti-fascists protest the BNP's Red, White and Blue festival. Attempts are made to block roads leading to the site.

DOCT x Griffin pelted with eggs in Lanarkshire.

NOV x BNP paper sale surrounded by antifascists in Newcastle. Missiles thrown at fash.

DEC x EDL march in Nottingham met by militant opposition.

x Protesters at BNP's 'Trafalgar Club' dinner in Ross-on-Wye attempt to block members' entry and pelt cars with eggs.

x BNP pull their Freepost address after only a few months following "sustained abuse and illegal activity.. from their political opponents.

The two recent leaks of the BNP's membership list allowed antifascists to examine the party's fortunes over the intervening year. By comparing names from the 2007 and 2008 lists it is possible to see that the BNP is losing members at an astonishing rate - almost 60 left during the course of the year in Nottingham, a reduction of 35%.

Particularly badly hit were Long Eaton, Clifton and Carlton with losses of 45-60% of the membership. The combination of a party that is unable to secure its members details and sustained antifascist pressure has cost the BNP dearly.

The party has fared little better in traditional strongholds such as Eastwood, Brinsley and Ashfield where there are also significantly fewer BNP members than before (27 fewer in 2008). A very small number of areas have seen gains though - Cotgrave, Ripley and Heanor all have more BNP members than before and should be targeted by antifascists in the future.

Even before the party's latest headaches over allowing non-white members and the freezing of the membership list, the local BNP were in poor shape and their supporters were deserting them in droves. A bit of extra pressure from antifascists will help to send the BNP into further crisis.



This issue's pick of the BNP membership list ...

BNP Activist

01

He'd like to receive:

- * PIZZA
- * TAXIS
- * DOGSHIT

*Remember, phonebox calls only!

