

burnt



flag

Winter 2011

MILITANT ANTI-FASCISM

Giving it the little one

It's been a rollercoaster ride for the EDL over the past few months with considerably more downs than ups. Their August Bradford demo was supposed to be the "Big One" but ended up being more of a little one. Only a few hundred nationalists turned up to stand around looking forlorn in a construction site for a few hours. The ones that stayed in their pen started fights with their own stewards. The ones that climbed out got chased and battered by the local youth. Result: big disappointment.

In Leicester they fared a bit better, getting a few hundred more along and managing to break out in numbers. Of course, this was bad for their public image as the papers were filled with pictures of angry racists fighting the police. More arrests. More intelligence gathering by the police. More bricking of their coaches on the way home.

In their most spectacular tactical mistake to date, the EDL then decided to go to Amsterdam to support Dutch racist Geert Wilders. Wilders wanted nothing to do with them and the 50 EDL ended up stranded in remote docks with their vehicles trashed by antifascists. Leaders Stephen Yaxley-Lennon (AKA Tommy Robinson) had his union jack taken off him by locals before running off. Result: total humiliation.

Along the way there have been expulsions of regional organisers (who accused Lennon of defrauding the EDL), more criminal investigations into the leader and the revelation that Lennon was a fully paid up BNP fascist. Most recently it was revealed that Richard Price, one of the EDL leadership, was put on the sex offenders register for paedophilia charges. All of this is causing a lot of

unrest amongst the rank and file. Is their leader totally compromised? Who is really running the show? Why isn't the EDL making any progress?

Although their antics sometimes look like a bad joke, the EDL have the potential to divide communities and do the state's dirty work. Antifascists need to keep working to undermine them and building genuinely revolutionary movements on the streets.

News in brief : Anti-fascist actions from further afield

Kevin Quinn, would-be fuhrer of tiny grouplet "November 9 Society" woke up to find his Bedford home enjoyed less glazing one morning in May.

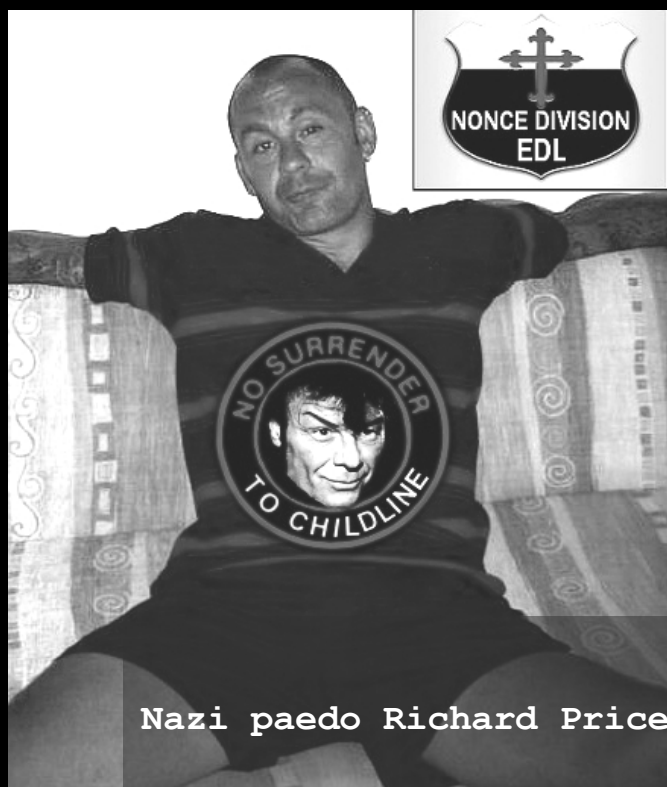
Nick Griffin was the latest target for human rights activist Peter Tatchell in July. Griffin's heavies attempted to silence Tatchell's tirade and scuttled away when Tatchell refused to be silenced.

The EDL offshoot "English Nationalist Alliance" attempted to march in Brighton in August. Their 30 chubby hooligans were harassed and hit by anti-fascists until police marched the fascist losers back to their trains.

September was a bad month for BNP street stalls. A group of young people spontaneously formed to picket a BNP stall in Wrexham with Griffin's stooges soon packing up and going home. Meanwhile an emergency mobilisation in Glasgow managed to chase off a BNP stall and a "Scottish Defence League" mobilisation on the same day. A good day for Scottish Anti-Fascism!

Moving overseas, Jock Palfreeman is an imprisoned antifascist who needs support. He is an Australian anarchist who came to the aid of two Roma boys who were being attacked by a gang of 16 fascists in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the melee, one fascist died and Jock was arrested. To find out how you can help, see

www.freejock.com



Nazi paedo Richard Price

BNP = Bankrupt, Nazi and Pisspoor

It's been a pretty terrible year for the BNP. They put months of campaigning and thousands of pounds into a general election campaign but still failed to get close to winning a seat. Despite targetting the East Midlands the party did fairly dismally and lost many deposits. They were scraping the already quite shoddy barrel fielding ex-National Front and KKK members like Ian Meller and Michael Shore. Meller has a conviction for carrying a weapon to attack gay pride in Leicester.

The party's finances are in a terrible state. Griffin keeps sending begging letters to the members (for money which may or may not be going straight into his back pocket) but it isn't filling the holes in the BNP's accounts. The party foolishly breached Marmite's copyright in an election broadcast and ended up having to pay Unilever £175,000! The party also sank thousands into funding an ongoing legal battle against the EHRC for the right to be racist. All of this led to the party sending a letter to its creditors saying they could only afford to pay back 20p for every £ owed. Is the BNP on the verge of bankruptcy? We can only hope.

The far right seem to love nothing better than fighting amongst themselves. In 2010 the BNP was rocked by a bitter leadership contest as Eddy Butler challenged führer Nick Griffin and split the party even further. The year has seen a wave of high profile expulsions including London GA member, Richard Barnbrook, legal adviser Lee Barnes, web master Simon Bennett and Nazi golden boy Mark Collett. There is a growing hatred of Griffin's dictatorship amongst the rank and file and backstabbing aplenty. Expect to see more scum jump the sinking ship soon.

All of the infighting, desperate legal battles and serious cashflow problems have meant that the party has vanished from the public eye in recent times. The local groups aren't up to much either with many blogs abandoned since the elections. Antifascists need to remain vigilant, however, as the BNP's national conference was held in Leicester in December 2010. They clearly still have their sights on the region and need to be flushed out for good.

What, no party? - Red, White & Blue goes down the drain

The BNP's annual gathering of jowly racists - their 'Red, White and Blue' festival - was called off last year. The BNP said that this was due to concerns that their sorry event rerouted Derbyshire police resources away from combating the threat of Muslim extremist terrorism that is so pernicious out in the Dales.

It might perhaps be more likely that the Party didn't fancy a repeat of the last couple of years, when their summer fête attracted not only fascist campers but also thousands of angry antifascist protesters to the otherwise quiet village of Denby. Moreover, cadaverous Nazi Alan Warner, who used to hold the festival in a bleak field at the back of his house, may well have declined to continue playing host due to being repeatedly visited in the night by antifascists. His gates have been chained shut and abuse has repeatedly been sprayed on his walls. The most recent well wishers were kind enough to leave a "nasty package" in his mail box.

In the event, whether due to sustained pressure from militant antifascists or worries about the Peaks chapter of al-Shabab, the BNP decided not to bother this summer. They substituted the national event for a variety of small gatherings where local racists could enjoy traditional amusements such as chewing on greasy butties and leering at children in paddling pools. Unsurprisingly, these events, in the few places where they materialised, were the kind of sad failures befitting a party that is collapsing under the weight of its own ineptitude.

On the 12th December, the Party held its annual conference at the Best Western Stage Hotel in Leicester. Antifascists held a protest outside after being tipped off the day before. The Party's crummy festival was kicked out of Derbyshire by a couple of angry protests and a spate of nasty inconveniences inflicted on its host. Maybe the same thing could happen to its conference if it returns to Leicester.