



Barricade Bulletin

Derry Anarchists Info Bulletin

No.4 Free!

CONSTRUCTING ANARCHISM LOCALLY

For this issue Barricade Bulletin has interviewed local anarchists to hear some thoughts on activism and building anarchism locally.

Over the past number of years anarchists in Derry have been organising and engaging more with various campaigns and struggles in an attempt to build and promote anarchist ideas locally. In doing so they have become a visible presence on the city's streets at protests, rallies and demonstrations. This is no mean feat when you look at the society in which we live; still divided among sectarian lines despite of current era of 'peace', 'stability' and 'normality'.

"Politically society is still heavily dominated by sectarian politics and attitudes which for anarchists remains a barrier to building working class unity but we can never allow that to deter us from organising. Each election we can see the divide becoming more entrenched yet we're told that things have somehow changed."

Locally anarchists have had a patchwork history however in recent years we have grown in size becoming more active which can only mean a positive outlook to the future.

"Yes anarchist numbers locally have grown

and so has the ideas and actions as well. More and more people are identifying with anarchism so the next stage then is becoming active politically. Its an important stage in our development when ideas are coming to life such as initiating educational or historical projects which is highlighting class struggle achievements in the city or creating the radical bookfair in which people can have direct access to political material and of course this will now become an annual event locally."

Anarchists have organised different talks and discussions both formal and informal on anarchism and anarchist related themes over the past few years. How have these went?

"Attendances have varied of course but what's important is that we engage publicly on anarchism as little is known about it or its history, other than what you hear about on the news and even from the party political left which is just as negative of course. So talks and discussions are part of a process of self education. However arranging meetings in pubs and peoples homes is far from ideal. We feel in order to build and grow further what's badly needed is our own centre. A self-organised, worker lead centre to educate, to learn and to organise from, to put our non-hierarchical politics of mutual aid, self-organisation and collective action into practice

BARRICADE BULLETIN

This is the forth issue of Barricade Bulletin, a free bi-monthly local news sheet produced by Anarchists in Derry to help generate anarchist news, info and knowledge of class struggle anarchism. We're a small group of activists involved in different community and workplace struggles from social justice to prisoner support, antifacist to pro-choice campaigns. As activists we also work on different educational and historical projects such as the now annual Derry Radical Bookfair. If you live in the Derry area and would like to get involved with anarchists locally then drop us a line to our email:

derryanarchists@gmail.com

Derry Anarchists

facebook.com/derry.anarchists
derryanarchists.blogspot.com

Workers Solidarity Movement

www.wsm.ie

Solidarity Times

facebook.com/SolidarityTimes

Industrial Workers of the World

www.wireland.wordpress.com

Support & Solidarity

Alliance for Choice Derry

email: equalchoice@aol.com

Alliance For Choice Belfast

facebook.com/Alliance4Choice

Women on Web

www.womenonweb.org

Women Help Women

www.womenhelp.org

Free Tony Taylor Campaign

www.freetonytaylor.com

*(continued from front page)
is the next stage."*

Derry has a long and undocumented history of self-organisation and collective organisation this is clearly a source of inspiration for anarchists?

"For anarchists in Derry we can look towards large forms community self-organisation and self-defence in practice such as Free Derry. But it's well known that through out the years ordinary working class communities have rallied round each other to help build supportive projects, groups and organisations which were collectively managed. From football leagues to youth clubs, support for women or welfare advice, festivals and street parties, transport to visit prisoners or bus runs to the seaside for the day, the list is endless. This was all voluntary and natural forms of community solidarity, mutual aid in practice and we wish to continue with this legacy of self-management self organisation and mutual aid.

"There was no grand marxist theory tomfoolery behind it or grand egos. To put it simply, for ourselves this is anarchism in practice. We can still see examples of this happening today but in many ways 'state funding' has virtually wiped out most forms of DIY organisation, free expressions of genuine working class solidarity."

What plans have you with regards creating a centre in Derry at the minute?

"To date some activists in Derry have already met to discuss initiating a project as we all agree there is a need, now more than ever, to look at ways of creating different or imaginative ways of taking on or challenging issues which directly face our class more and more each day. It is something that could openly facilitate activity, debate or learning, a place for activists to come together to encourage and develop a community orientated and self-organised centre for the city.

"Everything from starting up non profit/funded social groups to organising around areas of social change based on shared resources, participatory democracy, co-operation, true solidarity. But as anarchists this is much more than just reaction campaigning it's also a place to explore ideas that could contribute to initialise local initiatives which will challenge the present forms of power based structures and initiate projects led by and for the community and working class people themselves."

What will it achieve and how will it be run?


"Because of our size it may be a case that it becomes shared with other non-aligned activist based groups that are non-party political in nature be it community or workplace based and can adhere to the principles of non-hierarchical politics based on cooperation, mutual aid and self-organisation.

"The aim of creating a free workers centre would be to provide an informal base for people to become informed and inspired in an open environment, to share and obtain information on local, national and international campaigns, struggles and activities. To create and assist local campaigns, strikes and protests with information and other resources that are of direct relevance to the people who use it.

"Having a non-profit making collective based around a centre would help provide an useful resource for activists to come together. Already the possibility of creating a free workers centre has thrown up many ideas as to what people would like to create; all are of course are only suggestions but in time, limited only to peoples energy and motivation could prove to be achievable goals.

A radical library of books and pamphlets, alternative media archive, Art and Music, Radical Labour History Archive, computer internet access, Women's space, advice and support from volunteers, café and of course a meeting space for groups"

If you would like to know more on this project or get involved then get in touch!



The 2nd Annual
**DERRY
RADICAL
BOOKFAIR**

Stalls, Books, pamphlets, magazines, talks & much more!

SAT. 27 JAN.

Pilots Row Community Centre, Rossville St, Derry 12pm - 5pm
for more info. derryradicalbookfair.wordpress.com

STOP THE REPRESSION: FREE TONY TAYLOR!

Several hundred people marched through the streets of Derry (23rd July 2017) to demand the immediate release of Derry political prisoner Tony Taylor, interned without trial by the British State for 500 days.

In marking this occasion of his 500 day of incarceration Anarchists in Derry joined with the relatives, friends of Tony Taylor including other republican organisations, socialists, trade union and human rights activists, the largest seen in the city for a number of years. At the Guildhall Square as the marchers rallied each speaker to the platform call for the continued support for the Taylor family and the end to selective internment without trial of political activists.

Amongst the many banners and placards from the various groups and organisations in support of the release of Tony Taylor, Anarchists in Derry carried a banner in solidarity which read 'Stop Repression Free All Political Prisoners!'.

One local anarchist activist said *"Its vital that we add our voice to demand his immediate release. We feel that this fight, above all else, is a human rights issue that everyone, anarchist, socialist or republican should be concerned about.*

"We are totally opposed to prison system in all its forms and reject the disappearance and imprisonment of any political activists.

"For us we will continue take part in unified solidarity demonstrations such as todays as in the streets is where we will achieve our goals, not in the chambers of Stormont or Westminster. It's important that anyone interested in human rights speaks out, no matter what political opinion they hold, to speak out against Tony Taylor's imprisonment and demand an end to similar practices carried out by the State."



Banner Drop in Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners

Anarchists in Derry took part in a series of solidarity actions in a show of international support and solidarity with anarchists and antifascists imprisoned in Russia.



Last month the Anarchist Black Cross of Moscow issued an international call for solidarity in support of activists currently facing an extremely intensive political and repressive situation in Russia, especially anarchist and antifa comrades and those fighting for human rights and social justice issues. Many of who have recently found themselves locked up in high security prisons or isolated in modern day forced labor camps across Russia because of their activism. Some of who were also convicted on the basis of forced confessions obtained under torture.

In Derry's Bogside area at Free Derry Corner, local anarchists took part in a banner drop as part of this international call to support of our Russian anarchist and anti-fascist comrades in a gesture of international solidarity and to add our voice to call for their immediate release.

Long live anarchy!

Да здравствует анархия!

Ainrialachas abú!

www.abcireland.wordpress.com

What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is a revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission.

This means taking over the industries and communities and changing them to meet the need of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist-Leninists), and all will have their part to play in shaping it.

Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try and dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite.

Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which from the original Soviets and Collectives of the Russian and Spanish Revolutions, to the community resistance and collective organisation during Free Derry to that of the Miner's Support Groups of 1984/85 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to the ruling class power is continual and widening struggle - for social revolution and anarchism.