
LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST

≡ Issue V

Free Newsletter

February 2020 ♦

Food Not Bombs

You might have seen us giving out free, hot food at the top of Church Street, and wondered who we are and why we're there. We are Liverpool Food Not Bombs. We collect food that is about to be thrown out from a local shop. We use this food to cook a tasty and nutritious vegan meal, and serve it on Church Street along with hot drinks, and often a fruit salad for dessert. Most diners are people living on the streets of the city centre, but anyone can eat the food if they want. We are not a charity made up of people with homes feeding the homeless. We are people working in solidarity to solve a problem – there is food going to waste, so we take this food and feed it to anyone who wants it. The food is vegan, and free to all (we sometimes give out non-vegan donated items to avoid food waste, but don't put these in the meals we make). We don't have a leader, we are all involved in making decisions that affect the group. The first Food Not Bombs group was set up in the USA nearly 40 years ago, by people involved with campaigns against nuclear weapons (hence the 'not bombs' in



the name). But we are not linked to them other than the fact that we share a name. The first Food Not Bombs group felt it was important that anyone could set up a group, anywhere in the world, and there are now hundreds of groups on many different continents, running independently of each other.

We meet every Tuesday from 2pm in Next to Nowhere, in the basement of 96 Bold Street (you are welcome to arrive later than 2pm if you need). We plan to start meeting on a Sunday too. New people are always welcome, you can just turn up, or you can join our email group by emailing fnb_at_n2n@lists.riseup.net •

“The world is not divided between East and West. You are American, I am Iranian, we don’t know each other, but we talk and we understand each other perfectly. The difference between you and your government is much bigger than the difference between you and me. And the difference between me and my government is much bigger than the difference between me and you.

And our governments are very much the same.”

~ Marjane Satrapi

International Inspiration

It's no secret that there is little resistance to oppression in Britain. Perhaps the most rebellious thing to happen in Merseyside this past month was an anti-tory rave. It was in the street though?

From the news you might get the idea that, if anything, things are worse elsewhere. When they mention people fighting back, it's usually to show how much better off we are in comparison. After all, what could we possibly have to complain about in our austerity ridden police state? But maybe we can take some inspiration from struggles elsewhere.

On the 8th of January, India saw its largest General Strike yet with an estimated 250 million walking out to protest their government targeting workers and Muslims. That's more people than voted for them in the first place! Many strikers took it one step further, blocking roads and railways as well as directly attacking the property of the state.

In France, Macron's plans to raise the retirement age were met by a General Strike on the 5th of December. At the start the strikers



numbered around a million, including workers at the Eiffel Tower. Electricians have been cutting the electric supply of symbols of power like Amazon and the state, while using the same supply to provide for homes who can't pay their bills. Robin Hood does exist it, and he is on strike! The Yellow Vests from last year are still around and have joined this struggle. As of the beginning of February the strike continues, with a number of concessions already having been pried from the hands of the rich and powerful.

At the start of October, secondary school students in Chile responded to fare rises through a deliberate mass fare evasion campaign, ¡Evade!, which quickly escalated after attempts to control access to stations were met by riots. The state responded with severe repression, while rioters have burnt down 17 metro stations. 3.7 million protestors have supported the rioters in the streets. Despite attempts to buy off the protestors with promises for a new constitution and a 20% increase to pensions, the struggle continues. As of January, students have even besieged and burnt exam halls and papers.

If solidarity is working for them then why not try it for you and me? •





Walter Crane: Internationalism and Education

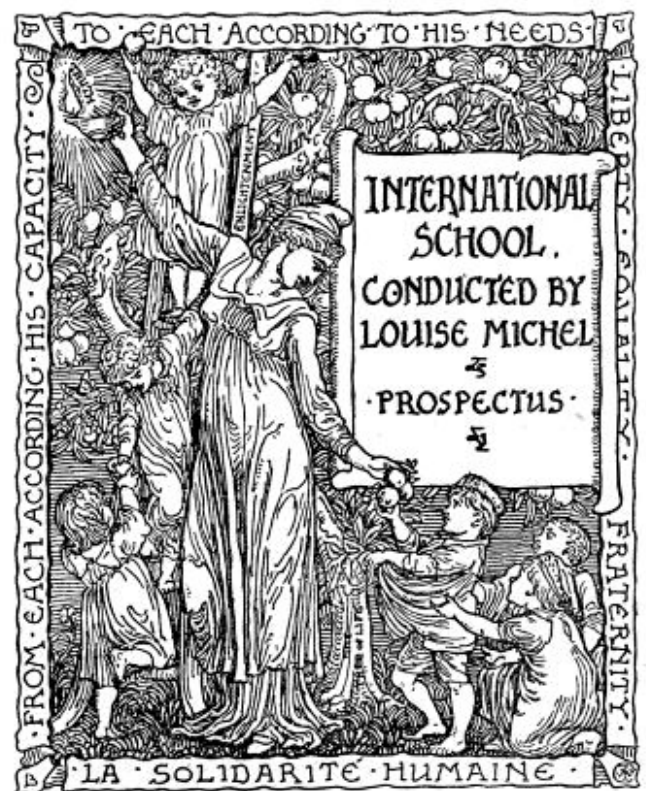
Born on Maryland Street, off Hope Street, in 1845, Walter Crane is remembered today for his children's book illustrations and socialist drawings. Close to William Morris in both art and politics, Crane was a member of the Socialist League when it was able to accommodate both anarchists and non-parliamentary communists. A member of the Fabian Society, in later life he was happy to receive honours from the King of Italy, giving the appearance of a general drift into 'moderate' politics and comfort. This little article is intended to celebrate some of his more radical contributions.

1: Vive la commune! Like so many of his generation, Crane was radicalised by the Paris Commune of 1871, an experiment in direct democracy brutally crushed by the French Republican government. The fact that Parisian artists such as Courbet had actively participated in the Commune was an inspiration to Crane, who contributed commemorative drawings celebrating the memory of 1871 to the Socialist League's newspaper *Commonweal* and the French anarchist magazine, *La Revue blanche*. In his memoirs Crane described the Commune as 'brilliant'. And it was.

2: Louise Michel's school. One of the great figures of the Commune was the future anarchist Louise Michel, a teacher who was sent as a prisoner to New Caledonia after the suppression of the Commune. Later exiled in London, Michel set up a libertarian 'International School' for the children of refugees. Along with the anarchist Peter Kropotkin, Walter Crane was an honorary member of the school committee, and illustrated the school's prospectus (see the adjacent image).

3: Esperanto. The international language became strongly associated with anarchism and libertarian educational initiatives in the early 20th century. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Esperanto didn't gain much traction in the UK. However, when the *British Esperantist* journal was set up in 1905, its cover was designed by Walter Crane, who depicted an angel sat on a globe holding a banner that read: 'La mondo estas mia patrujo' – 'my fatherland is the world'.

Following the example of the Commune, Crane envisaged a world that wouldn't be divided into nations but which would be brought together by an association of 'free federated communes'. He didn't live to see this dream come about. But through the day-to-day commitment to commemorate past struggles, provide libertarian and playful resources for education, show solidarity with refugees, encourage international organisation and language learning, he kept the dream alive. More than enough reason to raise a glass to Walter Crane the next time you find yourself in one of the fine boozers within a stone's throw of his birthplace! •



There is no space to list all the sources for this article, but the most important is Grace Brockington, 'Rhyming Pictures: Walter Crane and the universal language of art', *Word and Image*, 28:4 (2012), 359-373

EVENTS THIS FEBRUARY

8th – Fuck the Tories Street Rave Protest, Church Street at 14:00

14th – Youth Strike 4 Climate (details to be confirmed)

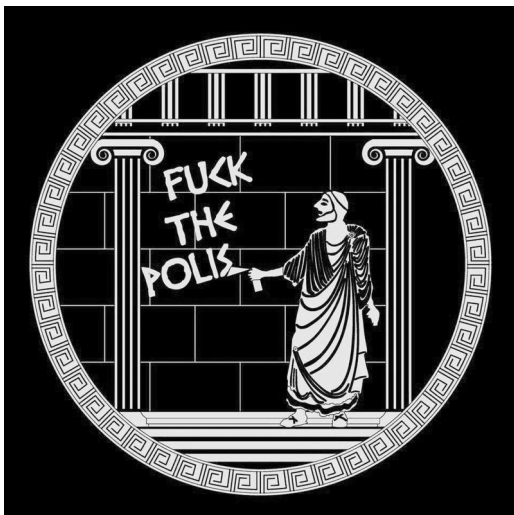
17th – Class Struggle in the 1970s, a film screening hosted by the Communist Workers' Organisation, at Next to Nowhere, starting 18:00

18th – Basic Rights at Work workshop, run by the Solidarity Federation, at Central Library 4th floor at 18:30

21st – Spycops in the Northwest, talk and discussion, Next to Nowhere at 19:30

LOCAL GROUPS

- ♦ **Food not Bombs** meet every Tuesday at Next to Nowhere from 4pm
- ♦ **Hunt Saboteurs** at lpoolhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk or Facebook @LiverpoolHuntSabs
- ♦ **Louder than Proud** [queer collective] at louderthanproud@protonmail.com
- ♦ **Merseyside Anarchists** at merseysideanarchists@riseup.net
- ♦ **Merseyside Animal Rights Campaigns** on Facebook @MARcampaigns
- ♦ **Merseyside Anti-Fascist Network** on Facebook @MerseyAFN
- ♦ **Solidarity Federation** [anarcho-syndicalist initiative] at liverpoolsolfed@gmail.com



We aim to publish the *Liverpool Anarchist* monthly, and welcome all submissions in line with the following principles:

- ♦ *Anti-State*
- ♦ *Anti-Capitalist*
- ♦ *Intersectional*

Send in feedback, comments, and submissions to:

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