



# Newcastle Local SOLIDARITY FEDERATION May Day Bulletin

Newcastle Local has been fighting for a better life for workers & our communities for two years. From workplace organising, anti-workfare campaigns & international solidarity actions, we believe that the interests of working class people are best served through collective, direct action – fighting for ourselves!

**Here's some of what we've been doing lately. If you're interested in anarcho-syndicalist organising – get in contact with us!**

## Industrial Organising

A Workmates initiative is being developed by a Newcastle Local member in the construction industry.



Successes in showing a united front to bullying bosses, a campaign to end increased workloads by refusing to take repairs & maintenance calls from another city and an ongoing collective pay negotiation, demonstrate the importance of small victories in giving workers the confidence to engage in workplace struggle and build autonomous union-like organisation.

## Abolish Workfare

Workfare is the name used for a range of schemes in which people are forced to work without wages as a condition of receiving their benefits. Newcastle SolFed were on Northumberland St, highlighting the use of this unpaid labour recently. High street chains, Poundland, Holland & Barrett and Marks and Spencer have all been targeted by Newcastle SolFed members & as ever there's a positive response from the public.



**\*May Day Social \*May Day Social \*May Day Social \*May Day Social**  
Join us for a discussion on anarcho-syndicalist organising followed by music from local bands, dj's & good crack!

**7pm, The Telegraph, Orchard St (behind the Central Station) £5/£2**

**solfed.org.uk**



[solfed.org.uk](http://solfed.org.uk)

**Solidarity Federation (SolFed) was formed in 1994. It is a federation of groups across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Everyone involved is helping to build a non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian solidarity movement. Solidarity Federation is the British section of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers' Association (IWA).**

## **International Solidarity News**

### **Putting the 'sol' in Solidarity!**

Sunny days in March seemed appropriate weather to turn the heat up on Santander & HSBC banks & shine a light on their slave labour policies and union repression. We were supporting comrades from Spain (CNT) & Argentina (FORA) who were holding actions to highlight abuses of workers' rights. We were joined by two comrades from the Italian anarcho-syndicalist union USI as we picketed city-centre branches.

There was lots of interest from workers on their lunch-break for whom solidarity needs little explanation. Most people on Tyneside have friends or family who have suffered erosion of their rights & our presence today was well received. Several suits from HSBC bank attempted to block us however their attempts at intimidation only served to illustrate what bankers they are!



### **Stuff Your Boss**

Flexible working & zero-hours contracts are ways of exploiting us more than ever. Employers will sack workers they do not like, knowing full well that many are unable to go through an employment tribunal. It is not enough having a few legal and contractual rights at work; only by standing together can we stop bosses from harassing and victimising us. We cannot leave it to the Government, the bosses, political parties, or the established trade unions. The most effective way of defending our rights is by organising ourselves and taking collective direct action.

**Newcastle SolFed is launching its 'Stuff Your Boss' campaign, a mutual-aid initiative to learn about your rights at work, resist oppressive bosses & take collective action in your workplace.**

**Find out how to get involved at the social!**

### **Events**

**Sun 25 May, 6pm.** Tales from the Mexican Anarcho-Punk Movement. Star & Shadow Cinema NE1 2NP. **Free**

**Sat 14 June, 9am - 4pm.** SolFed Workplace Organiser Training. Star & Shadow Cinema NE1 2NP. **£5**



**Every Sunday 3pm-7pm.** Canny Little Library – Newcastle's radical space for books on Anarchism, DIY Culture, Workers' Struggles & Migrant Solidarity. Star & Shadow Cinema NE1 2NP.