



WILDCAT!



Local newsletter of Liverpool Solidarity Federation / Summer 2011 (#6)

Working-class news and views from an anarcho-syndicalist perspective...

Victory against Office Angels



In March, South London SolFed began a campaign against the temping agency Office Angels over wages that had been withheld to an employee.

The company's offices in London were picketed on a regular basis and in May a national week of action took place against Office Angels (including a picket in Liverpool city centre), with an international week of action also planned. The pressure and disruption was too much for Office Angels and following the national week of action they paid up in full.

The result was a great victory for SolFed and a demonstration that solidarity and direct action are powerful weapons of the working-class in the fight against exploitation and wage slavery.

Read more about the campaign at solfed.org.uk.

office devils

Local news round-up...

★ Parents in Anfield blocked a road with wheelie bins after a six-year-old lad was hit by a car on his way to school. The accident took place on Walton Breck Road as young John Broughton was on his way to primary school.



★ Postal workers at two Liverpool sorting offices took unofficial strike action in response to the unfair dismissal of six colleagues. Around 200 workers walked off the job at the Sandhills and Brunswick depots.

★ Liverpool SolFed called a picket outside the offices of Atos Origin in the city centre. The company is profiting handsomely from denying people disability benefits.

★ Teachers at Shorefields Technology College went on strike against management plans to turn the school into an academy. (See report on side 2).

A message to Vince Cable...

After his appearance at the GMB union's conference in June, Liverpool SolFed emailed the following message to business secretary Vince Cable.

Dear Dr Cable,

We noted with interest and contempt your warning to trade unionists that a rise in industrial militancy in the UK will result in a hostile response from the State.

Our message to you is simple:

BRING IT ON!

The day the working-class is intimidated by mediocre ruling-class lickspittles like you is the day 'Hell' freezes over.

Unkind regards,

Liverpool Solidarity Federation



Solidarity with Shorefields College



Recently, teachers at Shorefields College in the Dingle took strike action in response to plans to turn the college into an academy. Parents and teachers are opposed to the plans, but are not being listened to by the headteacher or board of governors.

The picket line outside the school saw a significant turnout of teachers as well as those such as the Merseyside Network Against Fees and Cuts and members of Liverpool Solidarity Federation who came to demonstrate support. There was a short march locally and a rally after the initial picket line, and reports are that spirits were high and support from people locally was strong.

Academies first emerged under Labour, and are part of a broader agenda of privatisation. Becoming an academy puts a school outside of the local authority's control and means that complete control of the school's agenda goes to whoever puts up the cash. This leaves the education of the children at the mercy of private whims and has seen the kind of creationist teachings commonplace in America emerge in Britain, amongst other things. It is a move to increasing top-down control, when what we need is a move towards more open and democratic education in the interests of the pupils themselves rather than vested interests.

Liverpool Solidarity Federation extends its full support to the campaign to stop Shorefields becoming an academy. But we also favour a broader fight as ultimately all schools are under threat from plans to corporatise education.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

Anti-cuts protesters target Tory HQ

Protesters assembled outside Chester Conservative party headquarters recently to voice their concerns about government imposed spending cuts and proposed changes to the NHS directly to local MP Stephen Mosley. Campaigners received enthusiastic support from passing motorists and passers by, many of whom were only too pleased to sign our petition. A small group were allowed into the building to confront Stephen Mosley in person, the discussion focusing primarily on proposals for the NHS, with Mr Mosley vehemently denying any privatisation agenda, in spite of evidence to the contrary.



If you live in or near Chester and are interested in setting up a new SolFed local, get in touch at: chestersf@solfed.org.uk.

At the HMRC walkouts

On Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th June, PCS members in HM Revenue & Customs staged a series of walkouts. This was in opposition to a harsh new sickness policy being imposed upon staff. Members of Liverpool Solidarity Federation were amongst those who turned up on the picket lines to show support.

Read the full report at: solfed.org.uk.

"I hate it when the blood starts flowing, but I'm glad to see resistance growing."

- Gil Scott-Heron,
1st April 1949 – 27th
May 2011.



WILDCAT! is printed and distributed by the Liverpool local of Solidarity Federation, the British section of the International Workers' Association. We are an anarcho-syndicalist group who believe that through solidarity, direct action and working-class self-organisation, we have the power to improve our lives and bring about radical social change.

**Want to know more? Get in touch! | Email: liverpoolsf@solfed.org.uk | Website: solfed.org.uk
International Workers' Association: iwa-ait.org**