the Leveller
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A WORKERS' EUROPE



While the recent UK referendum on membership of the European Union voted narrowly in favour of exit, we take a look at the type of Europe we would like to help forge with workers and the oppressed across the continent.

The referendum and the debate around it were set almost exclusively in anti-immigrant sentiment and have undeniably led to racists feeling more confident in publically expressing and acting upon their hatred. On the other side of this we have seen a surge of condemnation from the liberal middleclass media of working class people and all working class leave voters as uneducated racist thugs. It has to be reiterated that not all leave voters were racist.

Many voted leave out of opposition to the EU as an oppressive institution, little more than a club for the rich which represents the interests of capital. Lies and propaganda marked both "sides" of the "debate" while many of the arguments of "lexiters" (leftwing leave voters) were based on the illusion of a radical left-wing movement that does not currently exist.

In the aftermath of the vote some are simplemindedly portraying the leave vote as a blow against the establishment - it is not. It is a fallacy to see the establishment as a single homogenous entity that is of one mind. Some in the establishment will benefit from the current situation while others will not. There will be no massive boost, however, for the working-class, the poor, or migrant workers.

Faced with the outcome of this referendum, no matter what course of action is decided by the bosses, in the factories or in government, we need to strengthen bonds of solidarity among the working-class across Europe and the globe. Capitalism and the attacks it is implementing under cover of "austerity" is a global system which can only be confronted by a globally organised, revolutionary, working-class movement.

We can expect nothing of significance from parliamentary parties. At the same time capital continues to devastate and destroy our world. We must organise in the struggle for a workers Europe, a workers planet, free from oppression and exploitation.

Belfast

Rally for Choice



Saturday 2nd July was a day that will go down in the history of the struggle for reproductive rights.

Belfast Rally For Choice, a group of activists that includes members of Belfast Solidarity Federation, decided to take to the streets to demand an end to archaic abortion legislation. Previous years have seen us protest the so-called "Rally For Life", with much screaming and chanting at the "pro-life" bigots as they marched by in their thousands. This year was different. Despite the rain, turn out for Rally For Choice was huge.

Despite their ability to mobilise from pulpits all across Ireland the bigots only managed to mobilise well under their usual turnout of 4000 - 5000. Rally for Choice, for the first time in history, got more people on the streets to demand free, safe and legal abortion - a significant indication of how years of campaigning, education and direct action have paid off by successfully shifting attitudes on this issue.

We need to keep it up and make their archaic laws unworkable, and force the politicians to change the legislation. The resolution of this struggle will be based on direct action on our streets and in our communities. Together we will win.

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BREXIT, WOODBURN DRILL STOPPED, CORBYNISTAS, LAIBAZ WAGE THEFT, CHEESE AND TOAST, SOLFED ACTION AGAINST BYRON BURGERS, CAPITALISM KILLS, PHOTOS FROM THE RALLY FOR CHOICE & MORE

An Anti-fascist Response to Brexit



The Brexit referendum question was: 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?' But the debate, from both the Leave and Remain camps, was drenched in nationalist language. Xenophobic attitudes were projected into the mainstream. Fascistic concepts were normalised. As a result, England and Wales have witnessed a 42% increase in racist hatecrimes in the month after the Brexit vote (*The Guardian*), pointing to a new confidence among the far-right. Something similar is likely also afoot here. Racists feel vindicated in their small-minded bigotry, and are now targeting migrants and minority ethnic communities.

It's not clear that a Remain vote would have made *much* difference in this regard, and of course the EU is itself a racist and increasingly far right institution, exemplified in the brutal tactics used by Frontex to defend the borders of Fortress Europe. Some left-wing people argued for Brexit, and yes, free movement of people was defended by corporate interests seeking cheap labour, and yes the EU is an unaccountable super-state based on neo-liberal ideology – but when your mates are faced with the threat of deportation because they were born somewhere else, the core issue of Brexit becomes clear. However, Brexit is only the latest extension of fascistic policies in the UK – Theresa May, as Home Secretary and head of UKBA, had been detaining and deporting hundreds of 'illegal' immigrants long before Brexit. The list of those deemed 'undesirable' might now be substantially longer, and the new PM is not shy about victimising 'illegals.' The Political circus around Brexit has been a major distraction (note the mainstream media silence on the thousands of people who are drowning in the Mediterranean this summer), but one salient outcome has been a legitimisation of racism.

In the context of a state that will be closing its borders up even tighter (and might soon be deporting tens of thousands of people), and with an emboldened street-level far-right, anti-fascist activity takes on increased importance. But this has to be more than a series of knee-jerk reactions.

The term 'fascist' is thrown about quite loosely, but to effectively combat fascism it is important to understand the cultural, social, and economic roots which give rise to xenophobia and racism. Anti-fascist activity often becomes mired in a turf war against boneheads, fought out through stickers and graffiti, supplemented with the occasional counter-protest. This stuff is important; fascism needs to be countered at *every* level, and physical force resistance is essential in neutralising their ideology of violence, but analysis of, and activism against, fascism needs to move beyond reactive containment, to pro-active strategy. Antifa groups across Europe have been arguing this point for a while. Locally, now is the time to emphasise a broad understanding of what fascism is, and the conditions that allow it to fester. Anti-fascism, anti-racism, anti-sectarianism, anti-sexism, anti-capitalism (and all the rest) go hand-in-hand. So get organised, and support your friendly neighbourhood Antifa group. Join your local anti-fascist union. No one is illegal!

Donna Haye

Woodburn Campaigners Stop The Drill



On June 16th Infrastrata pulled out of Woodburn forest claiming that they had not found oil. It later emerged that this was far from the whole story and that their withdrawal from Woodburn forest, near Carrick, was a direct result of an on-going campaign to stop extreme gas extraction there and across Ireland - north and south. Hoping to drill deeper, Infrastrata were stopped in their tracks as a number of investors pulled out due to the popularity of the campaign against the drill.

The campaign had been building support day by day. A huge family friendly info day in opposition to the drill had been planned for the 18th. Trade Unions were planning a rally at the forest the week after. The rally and march went ahead as a celebration, as did the family friendly day of opposition that had been finalised at the Belfast Solidarity Centre as a result of a meeting of campaigners there.

This locally based campaign provided a real example of how to build grassroots support and took on huge multinational interests, local politicians and won.

In reality though this is only one battle. Infrastrata are threatening to carry out exploratory drills across the Larne basin. A company called Gaeltricity plan to store fracked gas in a mined out saltmine on the east Antrim coast - fracked gas that is to be used to supply the new power plant next to the existing Kilroot power station. While planning for all of these projects have been lodged separately it is clear that they are part of a co-ordinated plan to develop a locally supplied power plant that if fuelled by gas extracted using extremely damaging methods with no concern for the local environment or the water supply of thousands of ordinary people across Northern Ireland. Local councillors have shown themselves to be in the pockets of these developers and have no concern for the safety of ordinary people supplied with water from the nearby reservoir nor the devastating impact on our lives that aggressive extraction will cause.

Lisa Life

Corbynistas



If Corbyn is the answer you are asking the wrong question.

Under attack from the Parliamentary Labour Party and the media, the current leader of the Labour Party appears to be a man of principle. He is certainly unpopular with the right-wing of the Labour Party and has been slandered and vilified in the ongoing campaign against him.

Many on the left have flocked to Corbyn's side, supporting him as a credible left-wing alternative to austerity. Thousands have joined the Labour Party to help ensure he remains leader.

There can be no doubt that much of the support rallying around Corbyn comes from the desire to see real, meaningful change for the better for working-class and poor communities across the UK. Anarchists have of course been attacked and vilified themselves for having the audacity to point out that Corbyn will not be able to deliver any such change.

It is as if the recent experiences with Podemos or Syriza had never happened. The lesson we should draw is not that the "credible" alternatives they too supposedly presented "sold out" but that there can be no alternative based on electoralism. Capitalism is currently destroying the planet, "austerity" is the cover-name for its latest more aggressive global attack on the planet and the poor, and parliament is about taking on the local management of people on capitalisms behalf.

Corbyn, like Obama, like Tsipras, like Bernie, are personalities that the left have supported out of weakness and the delusion that an individual can effect meaningful change in office. The reality is office is not a position that can deliver such change. Labour have a habit of tacking left in opposition only to fuck us over in power. They will, Corbyn at the helm or not, continue to implement imperialism and serve the rich.

So what should we do instead of rallying around Corbyn?

We must focus on involvement in community and workplace struggles, just like many working class people actually do every day because they have no choice. We must take on capitalism's utter disregard for and destruction of life where we can. Creating space for solidarity and ideas, for small victories and increased confidence in ourselves.

We should not hand over our power based on a dangerous cult of personality, which, when the inevitable let down comes, will have many miss the point and blame either one man for not saving us or have us point at the many Judases around him. Some feel that such a let-down will shift many people further to the left, it is as likely to lead to disillusion and withdrawal from politics or to an increase in support for right-wing populism.

We cannot become part of a project that strengthens capital, the state and recuperates faith in representative "democracy", when all of these things are at their lowest levels of credibility with working class and oppressed people that any of us can remember. We need to stand WITH those working class people who, with better instincts based on bitter experience, know that parliament will not deliver for them, while working to build a movement that can actually transform society.

CORBYNISTAS

Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter hit Belfast on 26th July. In the pishing rain people gathered in solidarity with those murdered by cops in the USA.

A statement issued before the vigil at Belfast city hall stated:

the racial, social and gender justice movement, comes to Belfast. Belfast stands in full solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter Movement, highlighting the importance of racial justice and equality across the world.

The emphasis for the organisers of the event was on the intersecton between issues of race and gender.

Today, #BlackLivesMatter (or #BLM) is a global movement for racial, gender and social justice. The central focus of #BLM activism is to highlight and campaign against multiple forms of injustice that especially affect black people. #BLM is also an inclusive movement, which strongly emphasises intersectional issues affecting racial and gender minorities. Indeed, in many cities in North America and as of late elsewhere, #BLM campaigns, protests, vigils, sit-ins and marches have been largely led by LGBTQI people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

While recognising these intersectional oppressions is laudable the, organiser who spoke to The Last Round (an online radical magazine) completely missed the class element that is an obvious factor in the killing of black and other civilians by American cops.

It is undoubtedly true that:

The toxic legacies of enslavement and colonisation are such that in world politics today, 'white' lives still continue to be regarded as more important, if not more precious than black and other non-white lives.

However class erasure highlights the limitations of this approach. Of course black lives matter and racist murder has to be stopped. The fact remains that US cops also happily kill poor white people. While racism must, and cannot, not be denied we should not be blind to the fact that the overwhelming majority of people killed by cops are from poor and working-class backgrounds. Cops are not gunning people down in the wealthy boulevards of America. Of course the legacy of slavery means a disproportionately high amount of black Amercians are also poor and working-class. A class approach that acknowledges racism and transphobia provides a better analysis of what is going on in the US at the same time as it boasted its first black president. Removing class from the analysis may suit those who aspire to climbing the greasy pole but it cripples any attempts to tackle the issues and build solidarity on a class basis against racism, oppression and exploitation in the US or anywhere else.

Manchester Solidarity Federation On Brexit

Manchester Solidarity Federation rejects both the 'leave' and 'remain' options presented in the EU referendum and are especially appalled by the overt racism and xenophobia that accompanied the campaign to leave the EU. This was a referendum brought about by the Tories simply to appease their racist right wing and prevent defections to UKIP prior to last year's general election.

The vote to leave the EU was, at least partly, based on the growing resentment of immigrants and refugees, who are being blamed for the failings of capitalism. Whole immigrant communities have been consistently targeted over the years by the fascist right and the nationalist tabloid press, being blamed for everything that's wrong with this country. We are already witnessing the results of this poisonous rhetoric as racist attacks against immigrants and British-born non-white people have accelerated across the country since the referendum.

We reject the claims that the vote to leave the EU will improve our lives, as the brutal attacks on the working class over the last forty years have been a direct consequence of the crisis ridden nature of capitalism. The vote to leave changes nothing. The crisis within capitalism will continue along with the austerity that makes ordinary people, instead of the rich, pay the price for capitalism's failings.

But rejecting the vote to leave does not mean that we favour rejoining the EU at a future date or that we endorse any of the 'remain' campaign's ideals. The idea that being in the EU somehow protected us from the worst aspects of UK capitalism is simply ridiculous. Over the last forty years we have faced brutal capitalist attacks that have decimated whole areas of the country, have destroyed communities and have widened the gap between the rich and the poor, and this all took place while we were still a member of the EU.

Not only does the EU not guarantee us a better future but on the contrary, it has proven time and again to be the driving force towards a more austere and unjust society. We've all witnessed how Fortress Europe has led thousands of refugees to their deaths, many of them children, and we've come to realise what the European dream of a working class looks like as its treatment of the Greek people testifies. The EU is a brutal capitalist institution, run in the interest of the elites, and we would never fight to preserve it in any shape or form. As an anarcho-syndicalist organisation, we aim to destroy capitalism and all its institutions, and that includes the EU.As a revolutionary union, we firmly believe that the answers to the increasing problems we face in our daily lives do not lie with putting our trust in politicians, whether they are based in Europe or in Britain. Politicians' only real interest is in their own kind and in the capitalist system whose interests they represent.

Nor do we buy into the false hopes that the so called 'progressive' leftist politicians are trying to sell in the midst of the referendum's aftermath. We've been around long enough to know that no matter what politicians claim to represent, they cannot escape the system that feeds them, and sooner or later, the working class will end up at the receiving end of even more austerity, job losses, privatisations and wage cuts.

Manchester Solidarity Federation believes that any improvements to our lives can only come about when we organise ourselves and fight back in our communities. And that is what we will continue to do as an organisation, aiming to bring people together in the struggle against the bosses and capitalism.

Capitalism Kills, Kill Capitalism

On the fifth anniversary of the death of our comrade Sarah Mair, Belfast SolFed were saddened, but not surprised, to learn 318 suicides were registered in Northern Ireland last year. This is the highest annual death toll since records began in 1970. Shockingly these figures mean an average of six people each week took their own lives in 2015 - a19% increase on the suicides recorded in 2014.

Of the suicide deaths registered last year, 77 per cent (245) were male. One hundred and thirty-two were between 15 and 34-years-old and five people were aged 75 or older. Ninety-three were recorded as being in the Belfast Health Trust area. The vast majority of those taking their own lives were poor and working-class.

A statement from Health Minister Michelle O'Neill, in which she claimed "The suicide rate in the North of Ireland has remained quite stable for the last 10 years", is unacceptable.

O'Neill went on to claim that suicide was "a highly complex issue and a result of unique interaction between personal circumstances, wider societal influences, emotional resilience, and adverse life events. High levels of deprivation, the legacy of conflict, and high levels of mental ill-health create a very challenging set of circumstances for many people in the north of Ireland." While undoubtedly complex, O'Neill refuses to address the reality. Personal circumstance and "adverse life events", and the "societal influences" that lead many to take their own lives are fundamentally class issues. Working-class people face ever increasing uncertainty, worsening working conditions, access to education is pulled out from under us, we face mounting debt. High levels of mental ill -health are inextricably linked to our class position and the legacy of the conflict weighs heavy on working-class communities in a way it never will on the bosses and the middle-class. It is no coincidence that Sarah described her call centre position as a "whipping post at capitalist scumbag bastards", and to make the point even more clearly, when her acceptance to a university place was followed by the disappointment of being told there was no funding available to her, she stated she was "too poor to study". There were undoubtedly other factors, but Sarah, and many like her, could have coped better with these factors had the reality of their class position not continued to weigh more and more heavily.

They, and we, are repeatedly being told that this society simply does not value people like us.

A total of 7,697 suicides have been recorded between 1970 and the end of 2015 - roughly twice the amount killed in the troubles. Between April 2014 and March 2015 there were 8,888 people presenting to emergency departments across Northern Ireland with self-harm injuries.

This is a society in which government cut mental health care, the ill are forced off benefits, with no support for working-class people affected by the conflict, where workers are not valued as people. We face increasing exploitation and insecurity. This is not a society that can ever hope to improve our "life chances".

Sarah was, in the words of her father, "a fearless anarchist fighter" and an inspiration to many. A working-class woman with a no bullshit approach to fighting oppression and exploitation. Unfortunately Sarah was among far too many working-class people who could no longer go on with struggling to survive in a society rendered increasingly toxic by capitalism. It is unacceptable that suicide has become so commonplace across working-class communities. While we remember all those working-class people who have taken their own lives, and those communities left with the aftermath of their decisions we should never forget that capitalism kills.

We need to kill capitalism.

Images From The 2016 Belfast Rally For Choice









SolFed Take Action Against Byron Burgers

Byron Burgers acted despicably when they collaborated with the Home Office to deport their workers during a fake training event on July 4th. After the story broke from Spanish language newspaper El Iberico a number of groups and unions with Byron worker members have organised and called for action against Byron (see list below).
In a joint leaflet we demand:
no more threats to staff by immigration enforcement!
no discrimination against migrant staff members. no to
exploitative pay and conditions.
A larger picket was held on Monday 1st August at the Holborn Branch. In the meantime London IWW and South London Solfed have organised pickets at other branches to broaden the pressure on Byron. The previous Saturday we picketed the Greenwich Branch, turning away several groups of diners after talking to them and discouraged more by our presence. The restaurant remained mostly empty whilst we picketed. We spoke to one of the workers before starting whose main concern was that we keep the protest outside, perhaps worried about what kind of insects we might have up our sleeves.
Byron and other employers need to get the message that they can't get away with setting their employees up for deportation. They can have their businesses shut for 48 hours and fined large amounts by the Home Office so we need to hit their income more than this, there's only one language they understand. This means keeping the pressure up in a number of locations and using diverse tactics.
Monday's picket was co-hosted with the Unite Hotel and Restaurant Workers Branches, the United Voices of the World Union, London Latinxs, Black Dissidents, London IWW, Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants, South London Solfed, War On Want and Global Justice Now.

WHAT IS SOLFED?

Organise! is the Ireland region of the Solidarity Federation. Solidarity Federation (SolFed) is the section of the International Workers' Association (IWA) that organises in Britain and Ireland.
We are building a new, revolutionary, union. We already have a number of victories under our belt and an approach that is very different to the NIC-ICTU, ICTU and TUC and their affiliated unions. The theory and practice of how we organise is based on these principles:

Standing up for ourselves
There is a fundamental antagonism at the heart of society. It means what's good for us is bad for the system which orders our lives. We benefit from working less, in better conditions and having more freedom to live as we want. But those who own businesses, manage public services and 'run the economy' have very different interests to our own - they thrive when we work more for lower pay or benefits.
It is only by recognising this and organising economically and politically against capitalism and oppression that we can end them. Partnership with the ruling class would mean surrendering our lives to those in power and serving their interests rather than our own. Instead we need to organise and fight for what we need; as long as class relations define society, there will always be class struggle.

An injury to one is an injury to all
In this age-old struggle, the ruling class try to divide us. Men/women, protestant/catholic, citizen/migrants, temps/permanent staff, public / private sector, employed/unemployed… the list goes on. We stand together because we recognise that we can only be free when everyone is. This is the bond of solidarity.
If you want something done, you have to do it yourself
We can't rely on representatives to solve our problems, whether they are political "representatives" in parliament or economic "representatives" in trade unions. We can only trust ourselves and our ability to work with others who share similar circumstances. We call this kind of action, which empowers us to take control of our own lives, direct action.

We don't want to fight forever
Whatever we win today can be taken away tomorrow. The only way to make our gains permanent is through revolutionary social change, replacing capitalism with a classless, stateless society based on the principle 'from each according to ability, to each according to need'.

Join Us
We are a membership organisation. If you agree with what we are about and want to help create an organisation capable of creating a better world for us all get in touch to join up.



Email:
belfastsolfed@gmail.com
Phone:
02895430203

Support the Campaign Against Laibaz Wage Theft in Bolton

Manchester Solidarity Federation are engaged in an on-going dispute with Laibaz, a restaurant in Bolton. A number of the restaurant's former employees are owed wages for hours worked and holiday entitlement. The restaurant's owner has paid workers at an hourly rate below the minimum wage and has failed to provide pay slips. He also failed to provide P45s when workers left their jobs at the restaurant.
We started the campaign by organising a phone blockade on Saturday 23rd July, aimed at preventing "take away" orders. The blockade was a tremendous success and we are confident that the restaurant was unable to take any orders between the hours of 6pm and 10pm, the busiest period of the week for take away orders. The workers involved would like to thank people for their fantastic support in making the blockade a success.
We will now be writing to the owner of the restaurant again demanding that he pay the monies owed to the workers. Should he fail to pay up we shall be stepping up the campaign against the owner to return the wages he has stolen from the workforce and to prevent him from robbing workers in the future.
Support the campaign against Laibaz. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Call for second telephone blockade of Laibaz restaurant, Bolton - Saturday August 6, 6pm - 10pm - 01204227649.

The restaurant owner, Sunar Alom, has refused to enter into dialogue with Manchester SolFed to resolve this dispute. He insists he has done nothing wrong, that paying below the minimum wage is a matter between him and his employees. Manchester Solidarity Federation's campaign is aimed at recovering all the monies owed to the workers and ensuring Sunar Alom acts within the law and treats him employees with more respect in future. **The campaign therefore continues with a second blockade on Saturday August 6. We ask that you phone the company repeatedly between 6pm and 10pm in order to block take away orders getting through. Dialling 141 before the restaurant's number will mean your number will not be identified.**
Should you get through we ask that you hang up and redial or simply state "pay the workers what they are owed" and then redial. Remember the person answering the phone will most likely be another worker, not the owner, so please do not be abusive or hostile towards them.



Cheese And Toast Socialism in Action

A former worker of the Cheese & Toast café contacted a member of our Brighton SolFed Local after she was accused, without any evidence, of stealing money from the till and was harassed by the manager and owner of the business, leaving her no other choice than to leave the workplace.
After an informal visit where the worker was paid cash in hand for the last week of work and an "extra" £100, we studied the case and found out that no contract or payslips were given, and that the worker's salary was under the minimum wage, and did not include holiday pay. In conjunction with the worker we decided to write a demand letter and start negotiations with management.
After a couple of phone calls and a second visit to the café to hand in the demand letter, the manager insisted in putting us in contact with his accountants, so we started negotiations with them. The accountant made clear that the owner of Cheese & Toast didn't want any more visits and was willing to pay the worker. Even if the worker was not given an apology by the manager and couldn't inform the customers of her situation, she was quite happy about the result.

Where We Are At
What We've Been At



On the 29th April the Belfast Local of the Solidarity Federation opened our Solidarity Centre at 22 Berry Street. In the heart of the city and easily accessible from the Royal Avenue end of Berry Street (no, not the end with Maddens on it, the other end, between Castlecourt and H&M) the centre has meeting space, a library, silkscreen printing, tea, coffee, free wifi and hosts Just Books radical bookshop. We are open daily from noon to 6pm, excluding Sundays, and for regular events, meetings, seminars, workshops, community education events, socials and games nights.

We stock a wide range of anarchist, left-wing and radical magazines, books, pamphlets, patches, badges and t-shirts

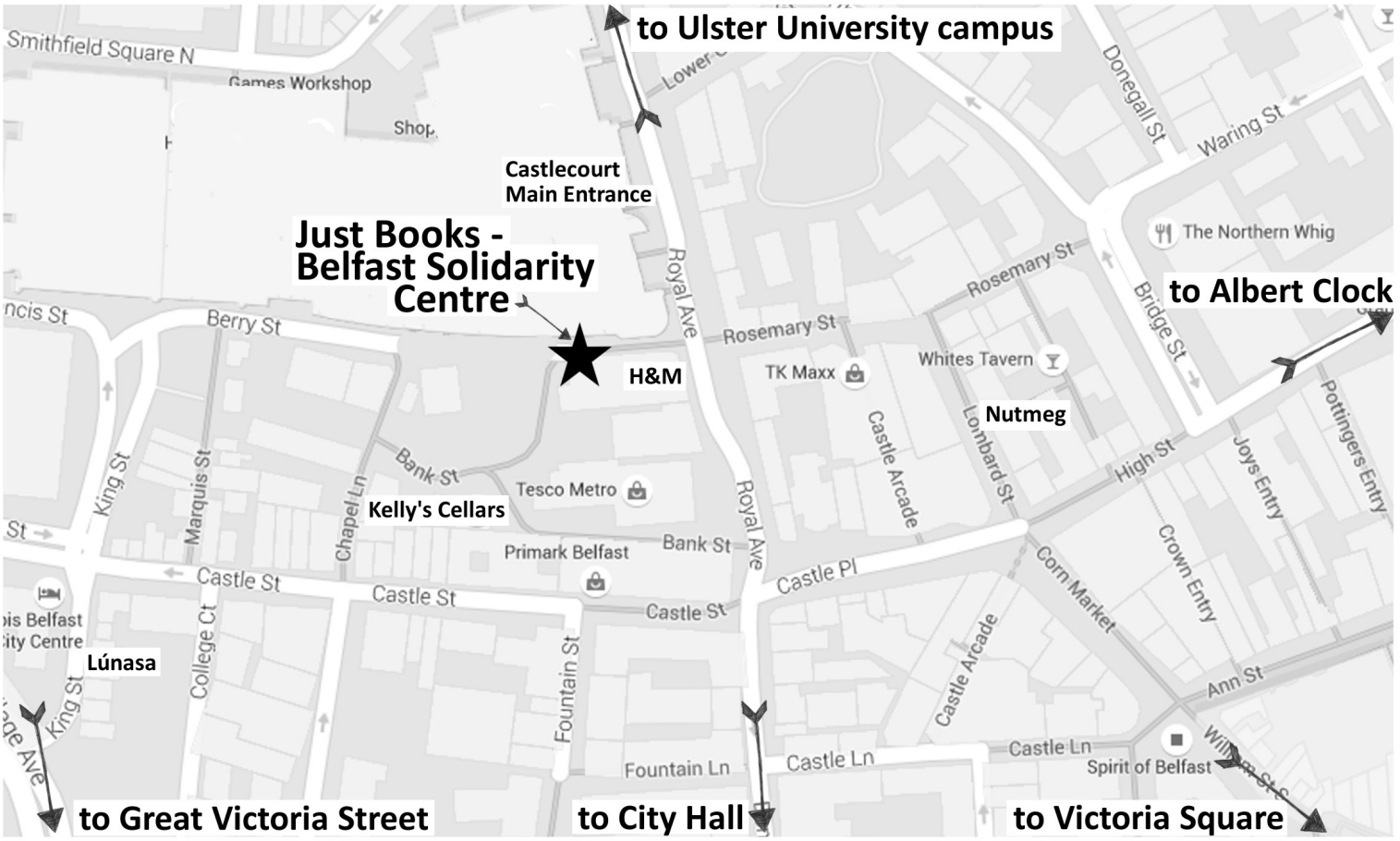
We are building a centre that we want to see becoming a hub for solidarity and struggle against capitalism and oppression. A centre for working-class self organisation based on direct democracy and workers control.

Since opening we have hosted meetings by asylum seekers and environmentalist groups, in July we ran a series of events marking the 80th anniversary of the Spanish revolution.

We have established a regular Cineforum at 6.30 on Thursday evenings and from August we will be running games nights on the last Thursday of the month. For upcoming events see the listing on the back page of the Leveller

Central to the centre is support and solidarity for and with workers in struggle. The centre is an essential element of our work in building a revolutionary, anarcho-syndicalist, labour movement across Ireland. If you like what we are doing call in and have a chat about getting involved. You can also help out by setting up a Friends of Just Books Standing Order for £5 or more a month, this will go towards covering our running costs and in addition to a warm fuzzy feeling inside you will get a £20 book voucher once a year and complimentary library membership.





Listings:

Saturday 6th August - Pride 1pm.
Join us on Belfast Pride parade, starting Custom House Square 1 pm. Queer Pride with Class! Opression, discrimination, exploitation - one solution revolution! Also come along to our post-parade queer tea-party at 5pm in the Solidarity Centre, 22 Berry Street, (Off Royal Avenue between Jacamo and H&M, above Bebeauty).

Friday 12th August - Lúnasa Solidarity Night 8pm.
On Tuesday 26th July the workers co-operative café Lúnasa was devastated by a fire in their kitchen. Please come along and join us in a show of practical solidarity. There will be tapas for sale, music and craic - suggested donation £5.

What is SolFed? Wednesday 17th August 7.30pm.
SolFed Belfast Local is part of the Solidarity Federation which organises across Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. We are affiliated to the International Workers Association. Locally we have a history that dates back to the formation of Organise! in Ballymena and Antrim in 1984. In recent months we have opened Just Books - Belfast Solidarity Centre in Berry Street with meeting space, drop in, library, books for sale, tea and coffee, and information from and about a range of radical initiatives in and beyond Belfast. We aim towards the revolutionary transformation of society from one dominated by capital and state, riven with oppression and exploitation to one based on freedom, workers control and production on the basis of need not greed. Come along and find out more about us, what we do, what we want to do and how we propose to help get rid of the current sick society we live in and replace it with one fit for us all.



Anarchism and Intersectionality - workshop Wednesday 24th August 7.30pm.
Anarchists have historically recognised that the struggles we face are not simply economic nor can they be reduced to opposition to capitalist exploitation alone. Other oppressions have and do exist in our society. This workshop explores issues around intersectionality including the positive and some not so positive examples of intersectional analysis in action from an unapologetic anarchist perspective.

Games Night Thursday 25th August 8pm.
For something a bit different, because we all need to unwind, socialise and have a bit of craic. This is the first of our easy-going, monthly gaming and social nights at Just Books - Belfast Solidarity Centre. Board, role-playing, card games… play ours or bring your own! Refreshments available. All welcome.



All events, unless otherwise mentioned, are in
Just Books - Belfast Solidarity Centre
22 Berry Street
Belfast BT1 1FJ





***Pride* Thursday 4th August 6.30pm.**
Based on a true story of a group of lesbian and gay activists raising money to help families of striking miners in 1984. Encountering homophobia when they tried to donate money through the NUM they by-passed the union structures and took their donations to a small mining village in Wales. The alliance forged between the two communities was truly historic.

***Intersexion* and *(A)ce* Thursday 11th August 6.30pm.**

Intersexion is a heart-warming story of a group of intersex people who, with a mix of laughter and tears, tell their stories. *(A)ce* provides interesting and enlightening insights from the asexual folk interviewed.



***Year of the Beaver* and *The Lucas Plan* Thursday 18th August 6.30pm. Presented in association with Breaking the Frame.**
40 years on - 1976 was a high tide of workers' struggle. Giving the lie to sexist and racist myths that Asian women were submissive and would work for a pittance, workers at the Grunwick plant rallied the left behind their struggle for the right to join a union. At the Lucas Aerospace, the Shop Stewards' Combine Committee took the fight to the bosses, with their workers' Alternative Plan for socially useful production.