LIVERPOOL ANARCHIST

≣ Issue II Free Newsletter November 2019 ♦



On Sunday the 6th of October Deliveroo riders went on strike during peak hours. They gathered at the Bombed Out Church, along with supporters from the *Solidarity Federation* and *Communist Workers Organisation*. The couriers themselves are not part of a union, though some are members of the IWGB. Workers don't need unions to go on strike, and often they are actually barriers to taking action.

The strike took place in reaction to Deliveroo making Liverpool a 'free-login zone', essentially treating the workers here as guinea pigs to see what proves most profitable. However, couriers aim to go beyond merely revoking this, with demands such as a minimum £5 fee per delivery.

Riders organising in Liverpool are part of a national, and global, struggle. They work under particularly precarious conditions, often dressed up as liberating. "Work for yourself" Deliveroo say. What they mean is we aren't going to give you basic workers' rights. Often working conditions force couriers to choose between their own safety and making a living. However, across the country they have been fighting back. The IWW and the IWGB are "new unions" that have largely grown out of these struggles. Considerable success has been found across the country from Cardiff to Leeds, Manchester to Bristol. These successes have largely come about due to a focus on direct action and the riders organising themselves, rather than being directed by some fat cat bureaucrats. The IWW also have a long tradition of syndicalist organising in the US which prioritises workers' autonomy and direct action. Hopefully this strike is just the tip of the iceberg for local couriers organising against Deliveroo. •



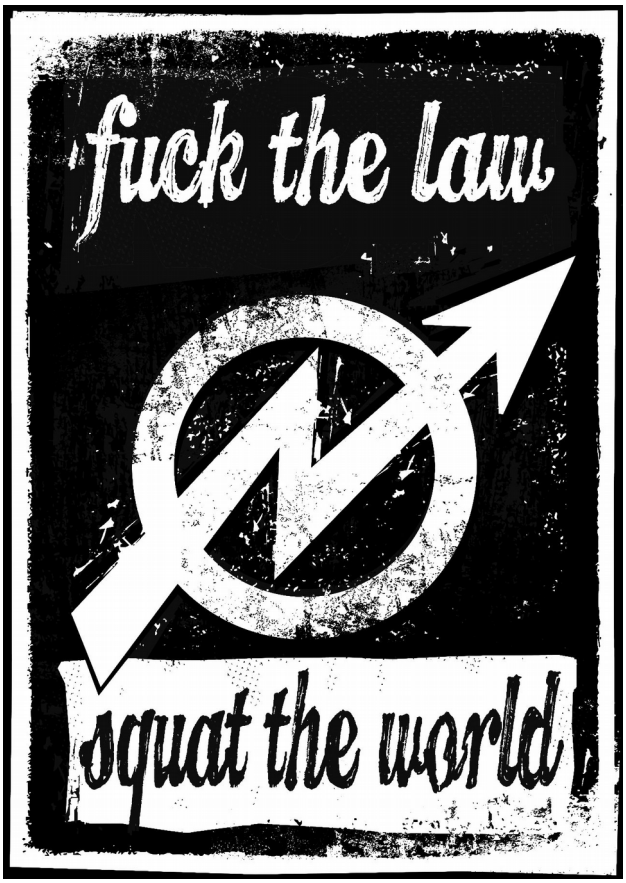
"We live in capitalism.

Its power seems inescapable.

So did the divine right of kings.

Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings."

~ Ursula Le Guin



Homelessness Crisis

Nearby in Chester, people denied their basic need for shelter have taken matters into their own hands, squatting the empty and unused levels of a council building. On the ground floor of Hamilton House is a homeless 'support hub', opened earlier this year, but it turned out to be completely inadequate. Pushed to action by the punishing weather, a group of homeless people made a home for themselves on the upper floors, aiming to establish a self-managed homeless hostel. The local council immediately moved to get an eviction order, and in the meantime besieged the squat with fencing and private security guards. Local people and activists stood by the group in solidarity, passing essential supplies over the fences.

The eviction order was eventually granted, the sanctity of private property prevailing over basic human welfare and freedom. Since being evicted from Hamilton House they have moved through at least two other locations in Chester. But with winter approaching, the homeless group plan to continue squatting, making use of otherwise abandoned buildings to keep a roof over their heads. •

"The state and the capitalists erect a system of military defense of private property, of the circulation of money and commodities, unleashing at the same time the war of all against all, the fiercest conflict of isolated interests. The authority of the state thus finds its basis again in the confused hostility that reigns over society in its totality."

~ **Os Cangaceiros**

Merseyside Anarchists

In the Merseyside area there are several different anarchist groups and many unaffiliated individuals. Our various projects, formations, and struggles create an eco-system of revolt in which many different ideas and actions can be united or differentiated by the demands of life. For the purposes of coordinating actions between groups, and providing a common space for discussion, a network is being set up under the name "Merseyside Anarchists". The network aims to meet weekly, although the details are yet to be settled.

Get in touch at:
merseysideanarchists@riseup.net

Care Workers' Network

In Liverpool and Manchester, care and support workers are getting together to organise ourselves in defence of our interests, outside the grip of trade union management. Between agency work and high staff-turnover, it is vital that we build strong connections in our area outside of the workplace. If you're tired, stressed, and angry because of work... contact us and fight back!

liverpoolsolfed@gmail.com

Posties Strike Against Racism

Last month around 50 postal workers picketed the Bootle and Seaforth depot for seven days. A solidarity strike also took place in Warrington. This took place after a female manager asked a male Muslim worker "do you like women?", in response the workers wanted her to be moved to a different depot. Workers went on strike without their union or a ballot in what is called a Wildcat, or unofficial, strike. This gives workers greater control over the strike, rather than union bureaucrats. Wildcat strikes also allow for a more immediate response which give bosses less time to prepare for the strike, making it more effective. The posties went back to work after the Royal Court of "Justice" declared the strike illegal. While the Communication Workers Union backed the strike they were quick to back down after the ruling, even though the strike could have been continued.

There are two lessons to be taken away from this strike. Firstly, strikes are not just tools we can use to improve working conditions but also to fight racism, sexism, war, pollution etc. Secondly, the Wildcat strike is a powerful tool, and for this very reason the state will be quick to declare them illegal, and the union leadership will suggest more diplomatic solutions. It's important that, with ongoing disputes with the Royal Mail, workers remember that unballoted strikes are a tool they can use, even if they are ruled unlawful, if they want to take the strike into their own hands and beat their bosses. •





EVENTS THIS NOVEMBER

6th - Free film screening of Güeros from 19.30 at Next to Nowhere, Bold Street.

8th - "Scrap Universal Credit" protest outside Toxteth Job Centre at 1pm organised by the Solidarity Federation.

8th - Liverpool launch for Lumpen: A Journal of Poor and Working Class writing. There will also be readings from the authors of Faultline and Chav Solidarity. From 18.30 at Next to Nowhere, Bold Street.

21st - Radical Readers first meeting . Will be discussing "Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire" by Akala from 18.30, location tbc.

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7th of December - Manchester & Salford Anarchist Bookfair. A day of stalls and talks from 10:00 to 16:00 at the People's History Museum, Manchester.

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 Anti-Fascist Network** on Facebook @MerseyAFN
- **Merseyside Animal Rights Campaigns** on Facebook @MARcampaigns
- **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:

liverpoolanarchist@tuta.io

You can find us online at:

liverpoolanarchist.wordpress.com

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