

BOURNEMOUTH DOESN'T NEED THE EDL

On Thursday 29th August a group of far-right extremists calling itself the English Defence League or EDL, held a 'flash demonstration' outside the Havana café in Charminster road. This is a deliberate provocation and insult to a friendly cosmopolitan district that has traditionally welcomed people from all over the globe. This is the same bunch who recently threatened to march into Altab Ali Park in Whitechapel, a memorial to a young man killed by racists. Now they plan a major demonstration in Bournemouth; they come to spread fear and conflict in our peaceful community, it would be tragic if we allowed them to succeed.

WHY WE OPPOSE THE EDL:

The EDL is a fascist organisation formed by former members of the BNP; it has no interest in winning arguments or votes but represents a return to the thug tactics of 20th century fascism. Whilst some of its members deny that it is racist, its leadership is crawling with neo-Nazis; its activists are recruited from football hooligans and petty criminals. A quick glance at its social media presence will reveal a shocking level of ignorance, paranoia and hate.

We live in dangerous times; two decades of war, one economic crisis after another, a scaremongering media and governments that appeal to patriotism to cover their failures have all created a climate of division, which has allowed the far right to shift the political debate in their favour, the deluded mugs who follow the EDL are no more than pawns in this game.

The EDL seeks to exploit the anger of working class people by blaming immigrants and Muslims in particular for our problems, they shamelessly milked the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich for free publicity, much to the distress of his family. Their hatred also extends to trade unions, culturally diverse communities, alternative lifestyles and anything that doesn't fit their warped view of 'England' – an England in which few of us could live.

EDL marches are always followed by a sharp rise in racist attacks; left unopposed, they turn into drunken rampages. Their presence gives comfort and confidence to violent extremists who would like to think they are part of a popular movement.

We cannot rely on the state or rival political interests to counter this threat; we need the entire community to turn out and show these people they are not welcome in Bournemouth.

WHO ARE WE?

Just concerned Bournemouth residents like you, brought together in answer to this new threat. We don't ask you to support any political or anti-political group, just help to keep our town diverse, peaceful and free of fascists.



England hates Nazis! They don't like it up 'em!



Bournemouth needs you! Contact: bhstoped@riseup.net

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