

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

July / August 2010

Twenty-Six Years of Irish Anarchist News

There is Another Way

Does the system we live under, capitalism, offer enough scope for achieving lasting solutions to all the problems it causes? Of course, some improvements are made and some problems are alleviated. Yet new kinds of problem also arise in a society which is changing rapidly, constantly seeking new ways to make a profit.

Capitalism is based on the concept of a minority having control over the majority, of the boss over the worker. It is driven by a lust for profit rather than a desire to satisfy human needs. It cannot guarantee economic security because the 'boom and bust' cycle is integral to it.

That's why anarchists want to get rid of capitalism. Unless we organise for an alternative, the profit system will continue on its blind, unswerving path. But what is the alternative?

Anarchists stand for:

- Common ownership, which means the resources of the world (such as factories, land, offices, transport firms, oil & gas fields), being owned in common by the entire population. This



will mean everybody having the right to take part in decisions about how global resources will be used, and to share the benefits.

- Production for use, and carried on in an environmentally sustainable way. With the vast natural and technical resources of the world held in common and controlled democratically, the sole aim of production would be to meet human needs, and to do so in a manner which leaves our planet in good condition for future generations. The old

slogan of "from each according to ability, to each according to needs" would be our goal.

- Direct democracy is essential to anarchism. We are for a society where the only limit on the freedom of the individual is that they do not deny that same freedom to others, and where everyone will have the right to participate in making the decisions that affect them. Workers' control of the workplace, neighbourhood control of the neighbourhood; and all efficiently organised on a national and international scale.



Radio Solidarity

An interview with the NEAR FM show makers on independent media.



Struggle in South Africa

Millions wasted on stadiums as shack dwellers organise for change.



5th Dublin Bookfair

Anarchists take over Liberty Hall once again.

Sinn Féin - DUP Add to Armoury

Any public protest of more than 49 people will have to apply for permission at least 37 days in advance. Otherwise it will be illegal. While emergency protests are allowed, the Bill says it has to be an "extreme emergency" and permission must be applied for three days in advance.

Barbara Foster

This is from the Public Assemblies Bill that Sinn Féin and the DUP have brought to Stormont. They tell us this new legislation is just an update of laws already dealing with "contentious parades". But that's just not true; the existing law is only about marches or parades. The new Bill would give the police greater powers and would apply the same restriction to street rallies that don't go anywhere.

However, that's not all, anyone organising a march will have to say how many banners would be carried and what each would say. It doesn't explain how the organisers are supposed to know who will turn up on the day and what their banners will say? Maybe you'll be able to consult a free crystal ball at your local PSNI station.

Groups of workers have organised rallies at a few hours notice when something happens – like a sectarian murder or attack. There were demonstrations in support when the Visteon workers occupied their workplace. When the Gaza Aid ships were raided, protest rallies were organised for the following day.

Now, we don't think Stormont is planning to ban all protest, nor do we expect the entire Bill to be always implemented if it is voted in. But it can be when the police or politicians want to. It's not just about sectarian provocations or band parades, when framing the Bill they were also thinking of trade union and community protests.

Sinn Féin's John O'Dowd, one of the group of six MLAs (three Sinn Féin and three DUP) that produced the Bill, has denied that it would prevent or delay protests against cuts we all know are coming in schools, health and other public services. However the 'Explanatory Notes' that were published with the Bill give the specific example of a neighbourhood wanting to protest against the closure of a sports facility having to give 37 days' notice. O'Dowd should read over his homework before handing it up.

Newry Council of Trade Unions organised a protest against the Bill. Other protests have happened in Belfast and Derry. What we need now is a campaign, by those who will be affected, to stop the Bill. That means by our unions, community groups and campaigning organisations. And we should let MLAs know that their attack on the right to protest will be defied.

solidaritybooks



43 Douglas St., Cork

www.anarchistblackcat.org



A friendly and respectful online discussion board for anarchists of all stripes and those just interested in seeing what anarchists think.

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Shell to Sea
Campaign to move Shell's gas pipeline offshore from Co. Mayo.
<http://www.shelltosea.com>

Hands Off the People of Iran
Anti-imperialist network for solidarity with Iranian trade unionists & the women's rights movement.
<http://www.hopoi.org>

Choice Ireland
Abortion rights action group
choiceireland@gmail.com
<http://www.choiceireland.org>

Alliance for Choice (NI)
<http://allianceforchoiceni.org>

Residents Against Racism
Opposing racism and deportations.
24 hour helpline: 087 666 2060

Cork Palestine Link
Part of the Free Gaza Movement that is sending a convoy of aid to Gaza.
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The Hidden Struggle Behind the World Cup

The World Cup is over, the TV crews have departed, and the South African government must be happy. The world's media portrayed it as the crowning achievement of sixteen years of post-apartheid development. With the African continent's largest economy and one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, South Africa is considered by most to be a model middle-income developing country. Many in Ireland will look on with pride, happy that they helped play a part in the anti-apartheid boycott movement which helped to bring that terrible racist system to an end.

Alan Morkan

The Reality

However, there's another side to South Africa - both in its history and its current circumstances, a side generally neglected by the western media, a side that the average person would need to seek out, a side that does not sit well with the rosy picture painted above. This side tells us that South Africa is the most unequal society in the world. It tells us that South Africa is ranked 129 out of 182 UN member states in the Human Development Index - 19 places below the besieged territories of Gaza and the West Bank.

It tells us that it has steadily become worse since the mid-1990's when Nelson Mandela's ANC government voluntarily adopted neo-liberal economic policies, privatising water and electricity. Average life expectancy has dropped by 13 years in this time. This side makes clear to us that although racial discrimination is no longer tolerated; the issue of class is still firmly on the table.

The Farce

It is in contrast to this stark reality, that the approximate €3.5bn spent on hosting the World Cup comes sharply into focus. The ANC has done everything in their power to airbrush their dirty secret out of the vista of the average football tourist and journalist. Whether it is by building walls around the shack settlements close to Cape Town's international airport, or clamping down on casual traders around the stadia where they make their living, or by banning protest marches for the duration of the World Cup, the ANC are adamant that the spectacle will be unblemished.



The Opposition

In response to these problems, there has been a huge growth in social movements - the Poor People's Alliance made up of the Landless People's Movement, the Rural Network, the Western Cape Anti-Eviction Campaign and Abahlali baseMjondolo (Zulu for "people based in shacks"). South Africa now has one of the world's highest per capita protest rates. Over the past several years, the country's largest social movement, Abahlali baseMjondolo has been at the forefront of grassroots direct action against inequality.

Emerging in 2005 in the Kennedy Road settlement during the course of a dispute over housing with the local ANC city councilor, the shackdwellers movement has grown to include over 30,000 members in more than thirty informal settlements throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal. They practice a politics that is of the poor, by the poor and for the poor and reject electoral politics and the interference of NGOs.

They provide practical solidarity in their communities - reconnecting electricity and water supplies and resisting evictions, while also developing a sustained voice for shack dwellers, marching on the offices of local councillors, police stations, municipal offices, newspaper offices and the City Hall in actions that have put thousands of people on the streets. The movement also organised a highly contentious but very successful boycott of the March 2006 local government elections under the slogan "No Land, No House, No Vote".

The Repression

Naturally, given the interests of the ruling-class in South Africa, Abahlali have faced increasing repression in the past year. On 26th and 27th September 2009, a mob of 500 people attacked the Kennedy Road settlement in Durban, targeting members of Abahlali in particular. Not a single person has been arrested for this violence, yet 12 members of Abahlali are still facing the courts - with no evidence presented thus far. Their next day in court was conveniently set for the day after the World Cup Final. Other members are in hiding since this event, spurious arrests are continuing.

The Good Example

Abahlali is one of the largest, most inspiring, participatory, non-hierarchical, and direct action oriented social movements existing in the world today. Let us learn from their example.

Find out more:

Abahlali baseMjondolo
(shackdwellers movement)

www.abahlali.org

South Africa's anarchists at

www.zabalaza.net

Find out more - Check out www.wsm.ie

After Croke Park: Facing Reality in Our Unions

In mid-June the votes were counted and the Public Services Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions Public Services Committee accepted the 'Croke Park deal'. 'Social partnership', presumed dead and buried when the government unilaterally imposed pay cuts on public sector workers in the December '09 budget, was revived and given a new lease of life.

Gregor Kerr

But this is 'social partnership' with a difference. Instead of the union leadership believing that 'partnership' gives them some input into government policy (as they have wrongly thought for the past 20 years), all they can now offer in its defence is that this is the "least worst deal" and that "it's better to be inside the tent than outside."

It is a testament to the strength of the sway the union leadership has over the members. In the INTO, for example, union members were 'led' from a position where 79% of members voted for industrial action to prevent pay cuts last October to a 63% vote to accept those same pay cuts and a raft of changes to working terms and conditions. What had changed in just 7 months to bring about such a seemingly impossible turn-around?

The most obvious thing is that the union leadership chose to sell the deal on the basis of the fear factor. They argued that the only alternative to this deal was a sustained campaign of industrial action. The threat of "industrial warfare" which would see us spending months on strike was used as a stick to beat the membership into submission.

The leadership did not see industrial action as being a weapon with which

we could win. The idea that we could work out a strategy which would involve rolling strikes and action in key areas - a strategy worked out on our terms and designed to hurt the government and force the trade union movement's analysis of how the financial crisis should be dealt with onto the agenda - did not form part of their version of "industrial warfare".

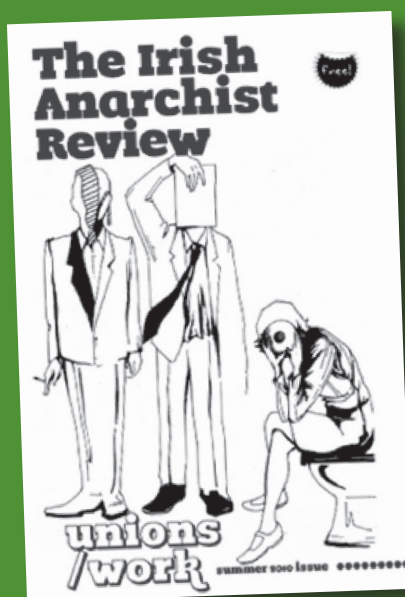
Another element of the 'fear factor' which the union leadership exploited was events in Greece. While it is clear that the economic and social turmoil in Greece was as a result of the greed and avarice of financial speculators and showed the importance of a strong trade union movement to defend workers against this greed, the trade union leadership took the simplistic view of pointing to Greece and saying 'conflict on the streets is the alternative to this deal'.

Union leaders such as Jack O'Connor, Sheila Nunan and Peter McLoone took this stance in relation to the Croke Park deal because they have accepted the government's TINA (There Is No Alternative) analysis. 20 years of 'so-

cial partnership' leaves the trade union movement without a real social and economic alternative. They genuinely do believe that they are better off 'inside the tent than outside.'

They were able to sell this TINA analysis because anarchists, socialists and those who have an alternative viewpoint have failed to establish any real base in the unions. Small groupings did come together, most notably in the INTO and IMPACT, to oppose the deal. However these groupings clearly failed to connect with the mass of ordinary union members in being able to espouse an alternative strategy.

That's the challenge now for those of us who fundamentally disagree with the current union strategy of appeasement and acceptance of the attacks on our living standards. We cannot give up the struggle for the real soul of our trade unions. We need to attempt to build on the small groupings which came together to oppose this deal and to begin in earnest the task of discussing and developing an alternative strategy.



Irish Anarchist Review

This magazine explores ideas and practical struggles that can teach us about building a revolutionary movement today. We will take, print, and discuss anything that we find useful for our needs. We hope that readers will have a similar attitude, and will use the magazine to discuss, debate and develop ideas. We also welcome submissions and responses to articles.

Contact us with your postal address if you would like to receive a copy or download a PDF from <http://www.wsm.ie/c/irish-anarchist-review-1>



Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary received a cheque for nearly €30,000 from the European Union last year to "help" him maintain his Mullingar farm. In 2008 the 'Squire of Gigginstown', who has a prize herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle on his 200-acre farm, received €55,821 under the Cap scheme, but he only received €28,746 last year. Other well-known beneficiaries of the Common Agricultural Policy last year were Fianna Fáil senator Francie O'Brien, who was given €80,849, the cathaoirleach of the Seanad, Pat Moylan from Banagher, Co Offaly, who was awarded €11,069, while Clare TD Pat Breen pocketed €23,834.

Former US ambassador to Ireland Richard J. Egan cheated his way out of paying more than \$62 million, a federal judge has ruled. The fiddle to avoid paying capital gains tax on more than \$327 million in profits took place while Egan was serving as former president George W. Bush's ambassador to Ireland.

After losing a fortune speculating on the property market, EBS building society has dumped former finance director Alan Merriman and the boss of their Haven Mortgages wing, Tony Moroney. But as "compensation" they gave Merriman €1.2 million while Moroney trousered €600,000.

The banks were bailed out with workers' tax money. How are they using it? Bank of Ireland boss Richie Boucher gets an annual €34,000 "car cash allowance" on top of his basic salary of €690,000. He will also pick up a pension of €460,000 a year when he reaches 60. In May Boucher and ten others were re-elected to the board, for which they get €63,000 in return for two days work a month.

anarkismo.net
International Anarchist website
with news & discussion from all
five continents.

Thinking About Anarchism: Storming the Dáil

If you've been following the news or listening to Liveline over the last few weeks, you'll have seen a few references to protesters trying to "storm" the Dáil or to the Guards' attempt to prevent an anti-capitalist march from, well, marching.

James O'Brien

The media, when it doesn't completely ignore the left, flips like a moody teenager to the opposite extreme and hypes up protests as if a horde of Bolsheviks were about to ravage our civilisation. In the end, of course, it emerged that confrontations were being a bit over-hyped; the stormers of the Dáil weren't looking to seize power and raise statues of Lenin. They just hoped to stage a sit-down protest in the Dáil car park.

The street protests occurring in Greece provided the backdrop for the reporting of these small protests. On our TV screens, we see a blazing conflict but, like the smaller and infinitely calmer demonstrations in Ireland, the reasons why our unhappy citizens feel the need to be on the streets rarely gets a mention. The focus is always on the confrontation, even when that is kicked off by police.

As readers of Noam Chomsky will know, the media is institutionally biased in favour of the right. Can anyone remember the last strike that got support from the newspapers? The media's recent coverage of protests has mostly been confined to associating them with violence. This fosters the impression that if do you feel like protesting, you had better be prepared for some violence. As anyone who has attended protests in Dublin knows, there is as much chance of a row happening there as at your local bingo club.

Still, the reality of today's world is that one of the few ways of reaching a mass audience is through the media so like it or loathe it, it can't be ignored.

The desire to receive coverage puts pressure on organisers of demonstrations to make them sexy enough to warrant attention from the editors. Given a choice between covering a protest and a Z-list celebrity opening a chip shop in Mulhuddart, editors' ingrained preference for the latter comes up trumps every time.



For this reason, you'll often see NGO's pull stunts when they want to highlight an issue. Otherwise they just wouldn't get in the papers. The same pressures apply to the left, anarchists included. The necessity of receiving some of the oxygen of publicity requires that demonstrations aren't just a mobilisation of whoever is immediately concerned about an issue, but are ones that attract media attention.

This is a problem. The whole socialist project depends on having mass support, even participation, in the creation of a more equal society. But how can such support be built up if the only realistic way of even being a blip on people's radar is through a media that swings between cool indifference and manic scaremongering?

There is, unfortunately, no easy answer. Stunts and even the occasional minor bit of confrontation with the police can serve to garner a bit of attention. Even though we weren't involved in the "storming" of the Dáil, the WSM's website received a spike in visits after the Guards' baton spree. No doubt the Socialist Workers Party, who were involved and who have competent spokespeople available to speak to the media, did much better. So, stunts aren't without their uses, especially for a weak movement. However, we should be under no illusions that they are anything other than a sign of weakness.

And their impact depends on their novelty,

so there's a fairly tight limit on what they can achieve unless the level of confrontational is increased.

Escalating such confrontation is a tactic that runs counter to the WSM's vision of socialism. A movement which revolved around stunts would never succeed in mobilising the numbers required to achieve real change. By their very nature, stunts separate the performers from the spectators and it was opposition to this division that led to the creation of anarchism in the first place.

While we are not pacifists, confrontation for the sake of mere publicity is not a wise move in itself. It alienates as much as it attracts. Some confrontation is necessary from time to time, if only because the state wishes to attack a popular movement and a movement which doesn't defend itself is doomed to extinction.

For these reasons, stunts (or PR actions) have played very much a background role in our politics over the years. Apart from popularising anarchism itself, our emphasis is placed on work in unions and campaigns where everybody can make a contribution and see for themselves that collective action empowers them. Over the longer term, we have to create a left media so that we aren't dependent on an inherently hostile press to deliver our message. The alternative is, when our existence is noted at all, to be the permanent bogeymen of the readers of the Irish Independent.

Anarchism & the WSM

The past couple of months have been active ones for the WSM. We attended a number of protests around the country following the Israeli attack on the Gaza aid flotilla, which resulted in the murders of nine aid workers. We also organised two anti-capitalist marches that fed into the Right to Work campaign series of Tuesday night protests outside Leinster House. We supported a picket of Anglo Irish bank that took place following a police attack on supporters of a number of Eirigi members arrested following an occupation of the Anglo premises. We attended other Right to Work campaign protests and endorsed and participated in a demonstration in Dublin as part of a Europe-wide week of protest and solidarity against austerity measures being imposed across the continent. We also had our usual presence at the Cork and Dublin celebra-



Protestors outside the headquarters of Anglo Irish Bank during the Right to Work Campaign March

tions of May day. Finally, our street activity culminated with our participation in the annual Pride celebrations in both Cork and Dublin.

Our six-monthly national conference was held in May, where we passed a number of motions aimed at increasing our output of alternative news and opinions, with an increased focus on developing our internet presence. A week later, we successfully hosted the fifth annual Dublin Anarchist Bookfair in Liberty Hall (see article for more details). Following two week-ends of meetings, many of our members took the opportunity for a well-earned break by attending the Rosport Solidarity Camp annual gathering on the June bank holiday weekend. A combination of workshops, swimming, socialising and beautiful weather ensured that a good weekend was had by all. Our Cork branch capped off this busy period with a public meeting outlining the problems intrinsic to capitalism and advocating the revolutionary alternative. If this goal is to be achieved we will need your help so if you have enjoyed what you have read here please feel free to get in touch with us to find out more!

Don't Hate, Create: Radio Solidarity

The WSM now has its own monthly radio show on Dublin's Near FM. Radio Solidarity is broadcast on the first Tuesday of every month on at 15.30hrs and is also available online. We caught up with one of the show's producers, Dermot Sreenan.

WS: How did Radio Solidarity Come About?

The idea behind Radio Solidarity really has its origins quite some time ago when Jack Byrne of Near FM (North East Access Radio), along with journalists Harry Browne and Vincent Browne, gave a public talk in the run up to May Day 2004 on the nature of the mainstream media and alternatives to it. At that time May Day protestors were labelled as dangerous conspirators intent on causing trouble. Very little media coverage was given over to the issues we were actually protesting about.

With this in mind, and after a long hiatus, NEAR FM approached the WSM with an invitation to make a show for them. So, a few of us interested in making this program became members of the Near Media co-op, and trained in their studios in what it takes to make a program.

WS: Why did you decide to get involved in Radio Solidarity?

Famed intellectual and anarchist, Noam Chomsky, when recently asked in an interview if he had any advice for a young person becoming interested in politics for the first time, said; 'if Obama or the boss or somebody else in the power system says something is the way it is, either dismiss it or assume the opposite'. The established media has always been the carrier of the people in powers message.

I also remember the words of Jello Biafra, ex

lead singer of punk band, The Dead Kennedys, who said: 'Don't hate the media, become the media.' At its core, punk brought a do it yourself ethos to many facets of life and when the established media have no interest in your message, it becomes important to find an alternate way to get that message out. The use of the Internet and the ability to create a show, which can then be podcast and listened to when one chooses, has brought about a blossoming of alternative views.

WS: Can you give us some details on the show and its content?

By the time this interview goes to press, we will have produced five shows. Following the broadcast of each show, we then post a link to the podcast on our blog. We choose a theme for each show and then we actively seek to do interviews with those who are en-

gaged in struggles around that issue. We do not pretend to be objective; we wish to see a very different world to the one that we now live in. People are constantly engaged in battles to bring about those changes, at a local, national and global level. On Radio Solidarity we wish to bring you the voices of those people.

Find out more:

Near FM: www.near.ie

Radio Solidarity blog: <http://radio-solidarity.wsm.ie/>

Radio Solidarity on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/%23/radiosolidarity>

In Defence of the Rich

Dear Sir,

In the ... brazenly condescending column 'That's Capitalism' (WS114) I read a very short but very puzzling piece on Aidan Heavey (Founder and CEO of Tullow Oil). You feel it newsworthy to mention that his total remuneration for the year amounted to €25,962,983. By the general theme of your paper and this column in particular I can derive a clear negative slant on any business issues you report on.

It clear you feel you are shedding the light on business and its dirty little secrets and informing the public of the murky goings-on of the corporate elite-how self-righteous. ...

I fail to see how this man making over €25million in one year is worth reporting in your paper. I can only assume you are inferring that this level of pay is excessive. Is this correct? Perhaps the millions in tax his company pays to the incompetent Irish Government is excessive too? Perhaps this man should join the many others who locate off shore and keep it all to himself?

This man repeatedly risked everything he

had to get where he is today. Let me repeat that. He repeatedly risked everything he had. He left a secure job. Mortgaged his home. Took on massive debt to finance a very risky venture. After years of struggle and hard work his efforts are paying off. The company just recently borrowed yet again to purchase a larger competitor. Things are going well for this man and his company and as a fellow Irish citizen we should applaud him.

I also notice you care to mention the extensive philanthropic work Mr. Heavey does. I personally know of his involvement in several Ugandan charities that bring clean water to villages and fund education programmes for women. How come this did not make your paper? I assume because it does not fit your childish and simplistic opinion of capitalism.

Best of Luck, ...

Michael Conway

In Defence of the Vast Majority

Aidan Heavey may be a nice guy to go for a pint with, and there is no doubting his charitable donations. But how did Heavey get all this cash?

If the average industrial hourly wage is €15.73 an hour, it would take someone on this pay 781 years to earn what Heavey picked up for just one year. There is something very wrong with, and that's capitalism, a system that exists to look after the wealthy.

The means of producing and distributing goods (land, factories, offices, technology, transport fleets, etc) are owned by a small minority of people. These are the capitalist class. The rest of us, the majority, must sell our ability to work in return for a wage. This is the working class, which also includes our dependents like children, the retired and the unemployed.

We are paid to produce goods and services, which are then sold for a profit (or, like education & health, are essential to the system, although increasingly both health and education are being treated as commodities also). The capitalist class takes the profit because they can sell what we have produced for more than we are paid to produce it. That is why we say the working class are exploited.

In capitalism, the reason for producing goods

and services is to sell them for a profit, not to satisfy people's needs. The profit motive is not just the greed of individual capitalists. They do not have a choice about it. The need to make a profit is a condition for not losing their investments and their position as capitalists.

But what about the risks Heavey took? He "mortgaged his home". Big deal, most of us are on mortgages. He took on "massive debts". In other words he borrowed money and gambled that he could pay it back. Are we really supposed to think that the rich deserve all the loot they have simply on the grounds that they could get a loan to purchase the means of production? Meanwhile, the rest of us, the ones who actually do all the work, are only entitled to a basic wage, the threat of unemployment in bad times and no prospect of a 'bail out' if we can't repay our debts?

The alternative we propose is a society that would operate on the basis "from each according to ability, to each according to need". That is what makes us implacable enemies of capitalism. We don't hate most of the rich as individuals but do hate their system of greed, exploitation and selfishness.

Alan MacSimóin

Anarchists Take Over Liberty Hall Once Again!

Saturday the 29th of May saw the return of the Dublin Anarchist Bookfair to Liberty Hall. It is the 5th Bookfair to be held in the city and what started out as a small event in a community hall in the Liberties is now one of the landmark events in the calendar of the Irish left, organised by the Workers Solidarity Movement.

This year's Bookfair was jam-packed full of talks and workshops on a wide variety of subjects. One of our headliners was a table discussion on the topic of "The Successes and Failures of the Workers Party", with Brian Hanley and Scott Millar, the authors of the book "The Lost Revolution", who were joined by Alan MacSimoin, a WSM activist who was a member of the Workers Party during the 70's. Another highlight of the day was Anne McShane from the group Hands off the People of Iran (HOPI) and an Iranian-American anarchist from the WSM speaking on women's rights and struggles in Iran today. Both talks were well attended, with around 100 at both.

Other events during the day included a union organiser from the anarcho-syndicalist CNT union from Spain speaking about his experiences, a workshop on mental health, history professor Conor Kostick spoke about revolutionary experiments in Ireland from 1917 to 1923 such as the Limerick Soviet, and talks on the Shell to Sea struggle in Mayo and



pro-choice issues in Ireland today.

And of course, there were books! Lots and lots of books. We had bookstalls from a wide variety of organisations and campaigns, such as the WSM,

Solidarity Books (Cork's Radical Bookshop), Rebel County Books, Anti-Fascist Action, Shell to Sea, Irish Socialist Network, the Anarchist Federation (UK), Organise!, Just Books, HOPI, the Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal Campaign, Choice Ireland and many more.

During the day itself around 1000 people passed through our doors. Plenty of books, pamphlets and merchandise were sold, and leaflets, newspapers and magazines given away for free. That night, a great time was had by all at the official Post-Bookfair party held in Seomra Spraoi, Dublin's radical autonomous social centre, with music being provided by DJ Jay Carax of Punky Reggae Party fame. To round off the weekend, a Radical Walking Tour of Dublin took place on Sunday, covering topics such as strikes, occupations and rebellions in the city, kindly organised by the lads from the "Come Here to Me" blog on Dublin life & culture.

Over the coming weeks, audio, video and images from the bookfair weekend will be uploaded onto our site at www.wsm.ie/bookfair (as well as a full list of the events that happened over the weekend). At the time of writing, we have the audio recording from the talk "Israeli Apartheid, BDS and Grassroots Resistance in Palestine", given by Freda Hughes from the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign uploaded, and we urge you to have a listen as the issue is currently quite relevant due to the Israeli attack on the aid flotilla to Gaza.

We all had a great time at the bookfair this year, and we can't wait for next year already!