

TRANS PRIDE PAISLEY



Hundreds marched down Storrie St and then into the town centre

ON THE 21ST OF MAY 2022 350+ people from across Scotland marched down the High Street demanding Gender Recognition and improved Trans Healthcare. Paisley's first pride event was organised by Trans Pride Scotland with stalls and workshops held in UWS. These

included zine-making, political education, improv and more! All with a specific focus on the trans community. Hopefully in the near future a mutual aid network will be set up by and for the local trans community in Paisley. 2022 also saw the passing of the Gender Recognition bill after years of campaigning. Although it's made little change in trans lives practically, symbolic solidarity is significant given the recent 'hostile climate'. We must continue to take to the streets and tell our own queer anti-capitalist history and radical stories, or they will be lost. Many trans elders were forced into the shadows for their own safety, or out of shame. **We march for all those who can not be visible and all those we have lost.** Violence is an everyday reality for many trans people particularly black women and women of colour. Structural violence is experienced by every trans person; when accessing healthcare or finding and remaining in employment. People across Paisley will relate to these struggles.

That is why we fight together! For an NHS that serves us all, for well paid employment, for secure housing and ultimately for communities that not only celebrate difference but grow and learn too.

**JOIN
LIVING
RENT
TODAY!**

livingrent.org/join



**INDUSTRIAL
WORKERS
OF THE WORLD**

Join the Union for All Workers

<https://iww.org.uk/>
clydeside@iww.org.uk

RADICAL PAISLEY

Number 2

January 2023

PAISLEY BACKS THE STRIKES

DEMO

SAT 28 JAN 1PM HIGH ST

at top of New St

• bring banners, placards and noise makers!



BUDDIES BITE BACK!

SAVE PAISLEY'S GREEN SPACES takes on the greedy property developers! Locals set up a Facebook Page Save Paisley's Green Spaces to fight two developments at Dykebar and at Thornly Park Campus. They have been battling for two years including a petition with 1160 signatures and putting forward 11 objections highlighting; a strain on schools, traffic congestion and the destruction of biodiversity in the area. The developments completely ignore the Propose Local Dev. Plan, which calls for 25% affordable housing (already measly).



Once it's gone, it's gone: demonstrators outside Renfrewshire Council HQ, February 2022

A lively demonstration was held outside the Renfrewshire council office in Paisley with an attendance of 60+ people. Co-organised with Living Rent Paisley, it included passionate speakers highlighting the importance of biodiversity and housing for all.

Although the battle has not been won, the resistance shown by the local community is impressive. At a local council level the plans were successfully scuppered but ultimately overruled by the Scottish Government. The group continues to flag local areas where there is proposed development e.g. Barrhead. As Paisley sees an increase in population and popularity so too comes Capital with all kinds of plans for the 'betterment' of the town. We must continue to be wary of snake oil salesmen, and ask, do these developments serve the entire community? What's being sacrificed to build them? What future do we **ALL** want for Paisley?

Find **Save Paisley's Green Space** on Facebook

DON'T PAY UK is a movement designed to take on the profiteering energy companies. It is a community based movement with no hierarchical structures and relies on consensus. In a very short space of time DP has organised successfully across the length and breadth of the UK. The DP campaign has already compelled the government to act, forcing them into introducing temporary payments directly to the energy suppliers to head off strike action. But don't be fooled by these payments as they will run out and then further price increases will take effect in 2023...



"We are united by our history of struggle"

Don't Pay Renfrewshire at Enough is Enough Rally in Glasgow, October 1st 2022

DP is calling for strike action - through non-payment of energy bills. Other forms of action are also proposed by DP, in the form of community resistance, as not everyone in our communities are in a position to go on strike.

For instance, those on smart and pre-prepayment meters will be automatically disconnected. Also the millions who are already in arrears and unable to pay the demands of the greedy, profiteering, energy companies. This means we all have a part to play in winning this fight, through civil resistance.

Civil resistance can take many forms and will help to frustrate the energy companies/government in

their efforts to victimise those who refuse to pay or those who can't pay. It's important regardless of our situations that we come together in strike action and / or targeted protests.

For more information see dontpay.uk or locally in Renfrewshire j335355@gmail.com

LIVING RENT PAISLEY IS ON THE FRONTLINE OF THE TENANTS' STRUGGLE. Our union is a band of local tenants and community members using our collective power to fight back against a corrupt housing system, winning improved conditions for our members through negotiation and direct action.

Living Rent members in Paisley recently saw a private landlord try to impose a 20% rent increase. We did not sit back and take it - we demanded negotiation and forced the landlord to bring the rent increase down to just 5%.

"Living Rent gave us the support, the knowledge, and the strength we needed to resist an extortionate rent hike. Without their support, we would most likely have been made homeless just before Christmas."

- David and Daniel, Living Rent Paisley members.

This success has been repeated by local Living Rent branches all across Scotland on many issues including illegal fees, evictions, and black mould to name just a few.

Not only do we battle against individual landlords - be that private, social, or council - our union fights for change on a political level too. The Scottish Government's emergency rent freeze would not have happened without the mass pressure of campaigning by Living Rent's members.



Work o' the weavers: Paisley members crafting the group's banner

When we come together and realise our collective strength as tenants, landlords run scared. Join Living Rent today to fight for your rights and to build a housing system for the people - not for profit.

Join **LIVING RENT**: Scotland's Tenants Union, livingrent.org/join

DARKWOOD CREW based in the Ferguslie area are also tackling climate change, with a local community focus. They work tirelessly reaching out to the lonely, bringing food to the hungry and reminding us the importance of connecting to the natural world. They started as a group hoping to clean up their local green to then providing community aid throughout Covid.

Website: darkwoodcrew.co.uk, **Twitter:** @CrewDarkwood

Climate catastrophe affects the poorest communities first. We already see this in action; poor quality housing with little to no insulation, the rising cost of fuel, inefficient and privatised transport systems, less value and investment put into low emission jobs such as teachers, careers and nurses. Poor areas have dirtier air from emissions putting a further strain on the NHS. These areas also have less green space, which is necessary for our general wellbeing and mental health.

STAR PROJECT have been continuing the outstanding work they do for the Paisley community. They are passionate about tackling the stigma faced by people living in poorer communities. Their work is even more important as we face 2023 with grave uncertainty about our cost of existence. They offer counselling services, cultural events, artistic projects, a food pantry and lots more. They recently attended an Enough is Enough rally and stood alongside the Don't Pay Renfrewshire contingent. One organiser remarked it was good to see more Renfrewshire representation at rallies like these.

Website: star-project.org.uk, **Twitter:** @StarProjPaisley

STAR Project and other Renfrewshire based groups at Enough is Enough Rally in Glasgow, October 1st 2022

It is a sign of a new current of political activity in Renfrewshire and Paisley. One that reflects its radical history and stresses the need for all of us, the beaten down, to resist. We must always fight the greedy profiteers! No matter how much they kick us to the ground, we rise, we rise and we rise again!



PAISLEY BACKS THE STRIKERS

AS THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS DEEPENED in 2022, workers all across the country fought back - and will continue their fight into the new year. Hundreds of thousands of workers have decided to down tools and grind their respective industries to a halt. Why have they stopped the trains running, your post getting delivered, your children's schooling?



Posties braving -7°C on the picket line at Renfrew Delivery Office, December 2022

All of us are feeling the squeeze with the cost of food, energy, and housing skyrocketing. Many former "COVID heroes" are left with no choice but to sign on the dole and access food banks while they are **still working**. Several industries are faced with threats of mass lay-offs, worse working conditions, and lower real-term wages. What are we to do to defend ourselves and our communities?

Politicians and big business (*what's the difference?*) would prefer for us to grin and bear this

crisis, or at the very most go cap in hand to our bosses and ask nicely for some relief.

However, the workers currently on strike know their power and their history. As an individual there isn't much you can do to change things. But when you get together with your workmates

- locally and across the country - in a trade union you collectively have the power to make demands and win. Much of this work goes unnoticed; hundreds of agreements are made between employers and workers every year without resorting to strike action.

Workers want to avoid strike action at all costs. Every day a worker is on strike, they lose their pay and are faced with harassment from their employer. Striking can be a very difficult and isolating experience - but it doesn't have to be...

If you despair at the thought of what is happening to the people of this country, get involved in supporting striking workers today!

These workers are not the enemy. They are your family, your friends, and your neighbours. They are workers just like you who put in the hard graft to keep the wheels of society turning. Your neighbours need your support.

Nothing we have has been freely given to us - we have fought every step of the way. A win for one group of workers is a win for us all. If the strikers lose, we all lose. We need to show our strength and stand shoulder to shoulder with every striking worker.

PAISLEY STRIKE SOLIDARITY



Join the **Paisley Strike Solidarity** Whatsapp!

We organise fundraising events as well as groups to go and support picket lines

