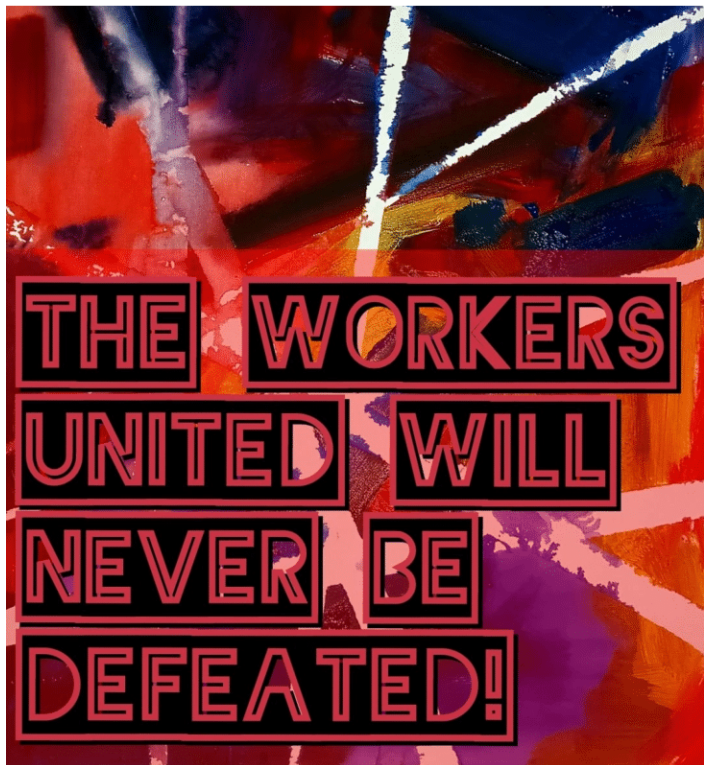


RADICAL PAISLEY

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THE WORKERS
UNITED WILL
NEVER BE
DEFEATED!

LOCAL FOOTBALL FANS recently mourned the loss of **St Mirren legend Frank McGarvey**. McGarvey launched his professional club career signing for the Buddies in 1975 under Alex Ferguson. His initial success came during the club's centenary season, scoring 17 goals and gaining promotion to the premiership in 1977.

Frank soon attracted attention from the English premiership and signed for Liverpool in 1979, but promptly returned to Scotland joining Celtic a year later. In his spell at Parkhead, Frank secured 113 goals, two league championships, two Scottish Cups and a league cup.

Returning to Love Street, Frank was among the star players in what so far remains St Mirren's last winning Scottish Cup run in 1987, scoring the semi-final winner against Hearts. With over 100 goals for the Buddies, he's been immortalised in the club's hall of fame.

Frank sadly passed away on New Year's Day 2023 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.



HOW TO JOIN A PICKET LINE

When workers go out on strike, they often gather outside their workplace to tell other people about their strike and to encourage their fellow workers to not go into work. Joining a picket line can be a very empowering experience and really helps bolster the morale of the strikers.

If you've never been on a picket line, here is what to do:

1. Find the time and place of a picket line. Join the Paisley Strike

Solidarity WhatsApp group to find the latest details! (join link inside)

2. Introduce yourself to the steward and ask for permission to join the picket. The steward is a union official elected by the members, and will usually be wearing a high-vis armband.

3. Chat with the workers!

For a more detailed guide, have a look at this article from rs21: <https://www.rs21.org.uk/2022/08/12/how-to-visit-a-picket-line>

Your questions on the strikes answered

WHY ARE WORKERS GOING ON STRIKE?

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS in different sectors are taking industrial action. What's going on?

Living standards across the country are getting worse. The value of our wages is falling while the cost-of-living rises. At the same time our underfunded public services are no longer fit for purpose and more people suffer every day as a result.



Teachers at Paisley Grammar School showing their collective strength on the picket line

We are told the money is not there and that our employers cannot afford to pay us a decent wage. We are told the economic impacts of the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic are to blame. Meanwhile, the rich and powerful are hoarding more money than ever before, rewarding themselves with massive bonuses and salary increases, and big businesses like energy companies are making record profits while ordinary people go without the basics like heating their homes.

We know this will only continue for as long as we allow it. We know the money is there and the wealth at the top wouldn't exist without the work we do. We deserve a fair share and a society that works for all of us.

We understand that the only way we can achieve this is to organise and stand together.

Striking shows our value and collective power. It builds pressure and sends our message to the top - **we demand better**.

Next issue: **What does striking achieve?**

Got a question about the strikes? Send it to paisley_strike@proton.me

PAISLEY STRIKE BULLETIN!



Who is on strike and why?

Teachers

After 13 years of falling wages, relentless budget cuts, and being overworked, teachers have said **enough is enough!** The EIS, SSTA, and NASUWT have announced national strikes on 28th Feb and 1st Mar. EIS is following this with 20 days of rolling strikes where each week day different individual local authorities will be out on strike.

Posties

Royal Mail workers have been striking since Aug 16th 2022 in face of being threatened with mass lay-offs and being forced to work **more hours for less money**. The bosses have dug their heels in and have made it clear that the workers have no choice but to fight to save their jobs and conditions.

Members of the CWU are currently being re-balloted to continue their strike action.

Firefighters

Compared with 2010, there are around 10,000 fewer firefighters today protecting our communities. After being offered yet another real terms pay cut and serious concerns about safety due to the dwindling numbers of firefighters,


88% of FBU members voted in favour of strike action to fight back. Without strike action the public would continue to be put at **serious risk** due to **chronic under-investment** in the fire service.

Civil Servants

The hundreds-of-thousands of workers who run the public services we all rely on have been pushed to **breaking point** by years of under funding, poor pay, and forced redundancies. Many of these key workers are paid just above the minimum wage for their essential work. Around Renfrewshire the strikes by members of PCS will affect DVSA in Linwood, Border Force at the Airport, and Social Security Scotland, among others!

Uni Lecturers

Members of UCU and EIS-ULA at UWS overwhelmingly voted to strike for 18 days between February and March. Against the backdrop of budget cuts, precarious temporary contracts, decimated pensions, and the financialisation of higher education, the bosses have failed to negotiate in good faith with the workers. Lecturers have been left with no choice but to strike to make their voices heard!

For the **latest** strike dates and information on local picket lines, join the **Paisley Strike Solidarity** WhatsApp by scanning the QR code 



WIN FOR FUEL POVERTY CAMPAIGNERS!

ENERGY SECRETARY Grant Shapps was recently forced to crackdown on energy companies, ordering them to stop forcing customers onto prepayment meters (PPMs). Ofgem has also announced a legal investigation.

Pressure ramped up on the government by several avenues including a string of scandals uncovered by i news, parliamentary debates demanding the practice be banned and Citizens Advice revealing unprecedented numbers of prepayment customers being disconnected.

DEMAND BAN

As pressure built, Fuel Poverty Action took to the streets, leading a mobilisation along with allies like the NPC and DPAC. Demanding a ban on forced PPMs, 4 days of protest included vigils and demonstrations in multiple towns and cities along with an interruption of First Minister's Questions at Holyrood.

Westminster's position shifted each day, but its strongest intervention followed nationwide 'warm-up' protests on Saturday 21st January. Warm-Ups have been used throughout Fuel

Poverty Action's history, entering buildings and public spaces on the basis of being unable to keep warm at home. This time round locations included the Scottish Parliament, Museum of Liverpool, an EDF call centre, a Barclays Bank and Liberty of London.



Warming up inside the Scottish Parliament

The victory shows the power of collective action but FPA is pushing the government to go further by banning forced PPMs and removing unsafe meters from homes. The group is also demanding Energy For All; which the Campaign Coordinator, Paisley-born Stuart Bretherton, describes as, 'a free amount of energy to cover everyone's basic necessities, paid for by higher tariffs on luxury household energy use, windfall taxes and ending fossil fuel subsidies.'

Search "Fuel Poverty Action" for more info

FASCISTS ON THE STREETS OF ERSKINE

ON SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, a demonstration was organised in Erskine by the **openly fascist Patriotic Alternative** to oppose the housing of up to 200 asylum seekers in the old Erskine Bridge Hotel.

Concerns were raised by the local community over lack of consultation and a small demonstration was planned on Sunday 5th. PA caught wind of this and decided to offer their "help" to organise the demonstration. Soon PA leaflets were put through letterboxes making a point of the ethnic background of the "fighting age men" being temporarily housed in the hotel.

After realising that PA were not there to help Erskine but to whip up racial hatred, the locals who had originally planned the demo distanced themselves from it and staged an alternative demonstration on Saturday 4th which was poorly attended.



Anti-fascists outnumbered the Nazis 2 to 1

On the Sunday, the fascist thugs were met by over one hundred anti-fascists at a counter demonstration called by Paisley & District Trade Union Council, Clydebank TUC, and Stand Up To Racism. Disappointingly some of the original organisers went back on their word and joined the PA demonstration, along with a fair few other local people.

While the anti-fascists stood strong, the Nazi's numbers slowly

dwindled until none were left. Towards the end two fights among the fascists broke out, reportedly between two different far-right factions within the group.

Our message was loud and clear: by **uniting as a working class**, we can - and will! - build a society where there is no hunger, homelessness, or collapsing public services. Instead of blaming asylum seekers, let's direct our anger and passion at the ruling class who are the real culprits!

It is **not** a choice between looking after "our own" or looking after immigrants. It is a choice between a society run for private profit or a society run by and

for the people.



THE DIFFERENCE

OUR EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN INDUSTRIAL ACTION OVER THE YEARS has led us to the conclusion that strikes are worth supporting because they work. In fact, the difference in terms and conditions of employment between those who do strike and those who do not strike is quite **striking!** We also support striking workers because it is the right thing to do, we feel we have a duty to support others in need.

We are certain that the action which the following workers are taking -

- university lecturers @ UWS
- railway workers and train drivers
- postal workers
- Civil Servants at driving test centres
- nurses, paramedics and many others

- will be successful in winning gains in pay and in terms and conditions of work. Our school teachers are fighting for a 10% pay claim, at a time when their workloads have been increasing exponentially, they have been facing huge cuts in pay due to raging inflation. We are certain that all of these workers will win something, some more than others, but they will **all win something**. The difference between those willing to take strike action and those not willing to take action is **STRIKING**.

- Striking in terms of levels of pay
- Striking in relation to terms and conditions of employment
- Striking in relation to how they are treated at work.

The figure of speech “**the difference is striking**” sums up the importance of taking action, and of supporting others who do it. Research shows that those who do take action are better paid than those who don't. Those who do take action have better conditions of work, those who do take action have strikingly better workplaces to work in than those who don't.



IS... STRIKING!



Around 60 people marched on Paisley High St. on 28th Jan in support of strikers

Photo by @cameron_scott

So, we support those who have been striking and those who are about to take action. It is worth noting that the Tories have repeatedly sought to reduce the power of trade unions' ability to organise strikes, they do this because they know that strikes work! It is also worth considering something which frequently comes up on picket line discussions, at rallies and on social media – public support.

Union members often wonder if they have the support of the “public”. In fact, trade unions have been reporting not only record numbers of people striking, but also record numbers of people supporting

their action. This is hardly surprising if we look at the list of people striking at present or in recent times:

- Posties
- University lecturers
- Refuse workers
- Nurses
- Civil servants
- Warehouse/factory workers
- Railway workers
- School teachers
- Council workers
- College lecturers

To name but a few. And yes, they make up a sizeable portion of the ‘**general public**’. So don’t forget, when you see or hear of others on strike, we urge you to support them, messages of solidarity and support mean a lot, when someone toots a horn, turns up at picket line, or posts messages of support on social media, these are great things to do, and clearly promote the message that...

PAISLEY SUPPORTS THE STRIKES

Always Has, Always Will!