

End the Occupation of Iraq: Bring the Troops Home



Tony Blair's lies have led to 85 service deaths

Demonstrate in London on the second anniversary of the start of the illegal invasion of Iraq, 19th March. Called by Stop the War Coalition and CND.

Swindon coach leaves Regent Circus (Swindon College Car park) 10:00 am. £12 waged / £6 unwaged - ring 612409 to book a place.



Andy Newman

Andy Newman - Secretary of Swindon Stop the war Coalition says bring the troops home:

"Britain went to war based on lies. The lie that Iraq has Weapons of Mass Destruction. and the lie that Iraq posed a threat to Britain. Our New Labour MP voted for the war, and 85 British servicemen and women have died as a consequence, along with maybe 100000 Iraqis, and 1600 Americans. The recent crash of a Hercules from Lyneham cost ten lives, some of the victims from Swindon. We should support our troops by bringing them home out of harms way."



The people spoke and New Labour didn't listen : we didn't want war

Anti-Social Behaviour

New-Labour's Con-trick

Our New Labour MP, Michael Wills, is trying to sell the idea that problems with nuisance neighbours can be easily solved with **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)**. Everyone knows that anti-social behaviour is a problem, for example, playing loud music, graffiti, inconsiderate parking and dumping of rubbish can make life a misery. But New Labour don't have the answer, they are just trying to exploit peoples' fears. They are not really interested in solving the problems; they just want us to vote for them!

NO EASY ANSWERS

Some of the things that ASBOs are used for are already against the criminal law, and the police could prosecute but they use an ASBO instead. Sometimes people are behaving badly just because they need help from social services, or have a mental health problem that should be treated by a doctor.

If you breach an ASBO it is a criminal offence, even if what you have actually done would not be a crime if anyone else did it. Probation Services and child welfare charities say this can turn our young people into criminals. There is a real danger of the law being used against people just because they are a bit different or don't fit in.

ASBO's are also incredibly expensive. Across England the average cost of each one ASBO is £5,350, but some have cost up to £18000 to administer. The money would be better spent on providing youth clubs and facilities for young people to have fun safely; and for more money to social services and the NHS to help people with problems. We also need to recapture a spirit of pride in our communities.

ASBOs are not the answer; and it is only a matter of opinion what sort of behaviour is really anti-social. The BBC has reported some bizarre ASBOs. A 47 year old man and his 48 year old girlfriend in Blackburn had an ASBO issued against them to stop them seeing each other because they argued too much; 17-year-old Luke Davies in Wales has an ASBO against him using his own front door, he now has to go round the back; a 26 year old man in Scotland had an ASBO issued to prevent him playing Bob Geldoff's "Do they know it is Christmas"; a 28 year old man was jailed for 4 months for howling like a werewolf; A 21 year old woman in the Midlands has an ASBO to stop her using a pay-as-you-go mobile phone: she has to have a contract; 21 year old Christopher Wood has an ASBO against him wearing a baseball hat. If your neighbours don't like your behaviour, they could apply for an ASBO against you!

No to Council Cuts

Both the Tories and New Labour are squabbling about who is to blame for cuts in Swindon, including cuts to the voluntary sector that will hit some of the most vulnerable - such as cuts to Age Concern and the Womens' refuge.

The truth is both Tories and New Labour are to blame - the New Labour government demanded cuts of 2.5% of the council's total budget, and the Tory council have just gone a bit further and cut 3%. This is a huge amount of money.

Instead of the stupid choice every year of a big rise in Council Tax or cuts in essential services we need MPs and a council that will really fight central government for more money.



Local Socialist activist **Andy Newman** believes we must fight to defend the environment
"Ordinary people can make a difference. Over the last year there have been several community campaigns in Swindon, involving hundreds of ordinary people demanding that the politicians and the fat-cat businessmen listen to us."

socialist unity

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Victories for Community campaigns



Post Office saved

Campaigners in Shaw prevented TESCOs from shutting their local post office, which would have meant a bus journey for elderly people collecting their pensions.

Community Forest Saved

Campaigners to defend the Community Forest prevented property developers ruining this popular green space. They had planned to rip up the forest to build loads of expensive houses, and move the football stadium there. **We now need to ensure that Swindon Town FC get help refurbishing the County Ground.**

Labour's Shame

Our useless New Labour MP, Michael Wills, is backing a property developer building a University campus, along with thousands of yuppie houses, near the lovely park at Coate Water. He has also said he would like to see the town centre completely knocked down and redeveloped. The green belt land between Swindon and Cricklade is also under threat. Michael Wills doesn't care about quality of life in Swindon, because he lives in a huge house in London, with just a weekend home in his constituency - in the small village of castle Eaton - as far away from Swindon as he can get.

Swindon Socialist Unity is not a political party. We are a group of local people fed up with Tony Blair and New Labour, who cooperate to get things done. We would like to see a socialist alternative to New Labour. Why not join us? We meet regularly at 7:30 in Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square. The next meetings are on 23rd February, 16th March, 20th April, 18th May and 15th June.

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Maternity Hospitals Saved



Campaigners from Swindon and across Wiltshire achieved a brilliant victory in keeping open Malmesbury and Devizes Maternity Hospitals. A mass campaign forced the intervention of the Health Minister despite the local NHS deciding to close these units. This allows mothers in Swindon with uncomplicated pregnancies a choice of either using a midwife led cottage hospital or the GWH.