

RIC EDINBURGH REPORT TO NATIONAL FORUM, 29.4.18

This was held in Dundee

We now have 123 members

RIC- Edinburgh Assemblies

i) 24.1.18 - Contesting the Edinburgh City Council Cuts

Facilitator - Pete Cannell

Speaker - Duncan Smith - Chairperson City of Edinburgh

Unison

A report can be seen at:-

<http://radicalindyedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/contesting-edinburgh-city-cuts.html>

Following the discussion it was agreed to circulate RIC-Edinburgh supporters with notice of the Edinburgh TUC meeting on 3.2.18

ii) 28.2.18 - Rail Nationalisation (postponed to May due to snow)

iii) 28.3.18 - Climate Change

Facilitator - Steve McMurray

Speakers - Sarah Beattie-Smith, World Wildlife Fund ,Caroline Rance, Friends of the Earth

A full report can be seen at:-

<http://radicalindyedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk/2018/04/climate-change.html>

iv) 24.4.18 - No Problem Here - Understanding Racism in Scotland

Facilitator - Samena Dean

Speakers - Neil Davidson, Maureen McBride, Allan Armstrong (contributors to the book *No Problem Here*)

This can be seen on You Tube at:-

https://youtu.be/_mC4qE9Dx1Y

RIC Edinburgh Organising Meetings

29.1.18 -

12.2.18 (special conference organising meeting)

5.3.18

2.4.18

28.4.18 (preparatory organising meeting for National Forum) - 4 people attended - draft motion agreed

Other RIC events

i) RIC-Edinburgh hosted the RIC National Spring Conference, Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, 10.3.18 , 11.00-1700

Session 1: 11.30-12.30

The effect of Brexit on Scottish independence

Chair - James Foley (Dumfries RIC)

Maggie Chapman (Scottish Greens) & Neil Davidson (RS21)

Lunch : 12.30-13.15

Session 2: 13.15- 14.15

What now after the Scottish Independence Convention meeting

Chair - Myshele Heywood (Aberdeen RIC)

Lesley Riddoch, Jonathon Shafi (RIC)

Session 3: 14.15-15.30

The effect of Corbynism on Scottish politics

Chair - Stuart Fairweather (Dundee RIC)

Cat Boyd (RIC), Rory Scorthorne (Labour Party), Tommy Sheppard (SNP)

Session 4: 15.30-16.30

International connections Catalunya and Ireland

Chair - Frances Curran (Glasgow RIC)

George Kerevan (SNP), Gerry Carroll (People before Profit MLA)

Winding Up: 16.30-17.00

(all speakers in personal capacity)

Over a 120 people attended

The event had been covered by IndyLive and an article in bella caledonia:-

<http://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2018/03/15/ric-spring-conference/>

It was agreed to support the Hands Off Our Parliament, Hands off Holyrood demonstration on March 10th.

Other events supported by RIC-Edinburgh

i) bella caledonia 10th anniversary event, Counting House, Edinburgh, 24.1.18

Performers - Kathryn Joseph, Siobhan Wilson

ii) Workshop- Edinburgh Council Budget, 3.2.18, 10.00 - 13.00

The City Council is expected to be making a further £50m of cuts in the coming year which will result in loss of services and loss of jobs.

Speakers -Alison Murphy, Secretary, Edinburgh, EIS, Brian Robertson, Secretary, UNITE, City of Edinburgh Council Branch, Des Loughney, Secretary, UNITE, Edinburgh Not For Profit Branch

iii) Anti-fascist Protest, Bute House, 4.2.18, 13.30

See report at:-

<https://www.commonspace.scot/articles/12292/scottish-defence-league-seems-have-been-facilitated-police-says-scottish-green-co>

iv) Art, Catalonia & the Spanish Civil War, looking at Picasso, Miro and the poster art of the Civil War, 5.2.18, 19.00, Augustine Church

Illustrated talk by Chris Bambery (author of *People's History of Scotland*) with George Kerevan (ex-SNP MP)

v) Book launch - *No Problem Here - Understanding Racism in Scotland*, Blackwells, 15.3.18, 18.30

Speakers - Neil Davidson, Minna Liinpaa, Nasar Meer

vi) Hands Off Our Parliament, Hands off Holyrood demonstration, 23.3.18

About 1800 people had attended, many from outside Edinburgh. Despite its size there was no press coverage.

vii) Demonstration in support of Catalan education minister, Clara Ponsati, Edinburgh Sheriff Court, 28.3.18

Despite the low-key publicity this had been well attended. On this occasion there were plenty of journalists.

It was agreed that RIC-Edinburgh should donate £100 to the legal funds to finance Clara Ponsati's legal defence

viii) Demonstration in support of Clara Ponsati, Edinburgh Sheriff Court, 12.4.18

See report of both demonstrations at:-

<http://radicalindyedinburgh.blogspot.co.uk/2018/04/defending-cara-lponsati.html>