

**History/timeline from the book 'Reminiscences of RAR' Roger Huddle & Red Saunders (Bookmarks 2021). Provided as an aid. The words used are not those of Lindsey German.**

1 May 1974: Asian workers at Imperial Typewriters in Leicester strike against a multinational firm and a racist local union which was influenced by members of the National Front. The strike, a significant step forward for Black and Asian trade unionism in Britain, ended in bitter defeat in July 1974.

May 1974: Robert Relf puts a 'For Sale to an English Family' sign outside his Leamington home in 'protest' against race relations law. The media treat him as the 'voice of middle England'. In fact, Relf was a hard-core Nazi, a member of the British Movement and the Ku Klux Klan who had been jailed for racially motivated crimes.

22 May 1974: Dinesh Choudhri and Riphi Alhadidi, stabbed to death by racists in South Woodford, east London.

15 June 1974: Kevin Gately killed by police during a protest a National Front march in Red Lion Square London.

3 May 1975: Brian Hosie, a member of the National Front and the Ulster Defence Association is jailed for the murder of Jamaican born Hector Smith in Glasgow. Hosie boasted of the murder, 'N\*\*\*\*\* mean nothing to me. It's just like shooting a dog. N\*\*\*\*\* make good fertiliser.'

24 May 1975: Glasgow Police launch a savage attack on 300 socialists and trade unionists protesting outside a national Front rally in Glasgow's Kingston Hall. Prominent members of the trade union and socialist movement in the west of Scotland were arrested and beaten. Glasgow City Councillor Andy McMahon says, 'I saw the most savage brutality by the police, something I've never seen before. I saw a woman kicked in the ground and punched in the face and members of the Sikh community with their turbans ripped off.'

July 1975: Some 400 Asian catering workers at Heathrow Airport strike for pay parity with other ground staff.

5 November 1975: Mounting anger at police harassment of Afro-Caribbean youth in Leeds boils over into running street battles on bonfire night.

December 1975: National Front thugs armed with bricks and bottles, attack a National Council for Civil Liberties meeting in Manchester.

May 1976: Asian refugees expelled from Malawi arrive in Britain to hysterical racist abuse from the newspapers. A *Daily Mail* headline declared, "We want more money say £600 a week Asians". The *Daily Telegraph* on the same day, declared "Migrants here just for welfare handouts."

4 June 1976 Murder of Gurdip Singh Chaggar in Southall. Asian youth break from their community elders and take to the streets in protest. Kinglsey Read, chairman of the Nazi National Party, a split from the National Front, declares "One down, a million to go." A year later he is acquitted on charges of incitement to racial hatred by Justice McKinnon who concludes his statement by telling Read, "I wish you well."

5 August 1976: Eric Clapton makes his notorious racist speech in Birmingham

23 August 1976: Start of the Grunwick strike in north London. It is the most significant strike of Asian workers in British history

31 August 1976: Notting Hill Carnival erupts into riots after mounting provocation by police.

September 1976: *New Musical Express*, *Sounds*, *Melody Maker* (music newspapers) and the *Socialist Worker* publish letter that calls for formation of Rock Against Racism.

November 1976, Rock Against Racism's first ever gig, featuring Carol Grimes, in the Princess Alice pub in east London

10 December 1976: second RAR gig at London's Royal College of Art, featuring Matumbi, Limousine and Carol Grimes.

23 April 1977: National Front march in Wood Green, north London. Anti-fascists attack the march. Tory-run Gravesend Council in Kent bans a Sikh festival.

May 1977: National Front attract 119,063 votes in the Greater London Council election and almost 15,000 in Leicester. In Blackburn, the breakaway Nazi organisation, the National Party field eight candidates and win an average 40 percent of the vote.

May 1977, heavily-armed police launched raids on the homes of 60 young black people in Lewisham in south east London. It was the Met's operation "PNH"—"Police N\*\*\*\*\* Hunt". Twenty one people were charged with conspiracy to steal. The raids were part of a campaign against street crime as politicians, the police and the press sought to label black people as "muggers".

May 1977: RAR produces its first copy of Temporary Hoarding for a Mayday gig at the Roundhouse

13 June 1977: Start of a week of mass pickets at Grunwick

23 June: Arthur Scargill leads thousands of Yorkshire miners on the Grunwick picket line

13 August 1977: The battle of Lewisham sees 5,000 local people smash a National Front march through a multicultural area of London.

8 October 1977: Greater Manchester police mobilise 9,000 officers to protect National Front march in Levenshulme. Some 3,000 officers escort NF National Organiser Martin Webster on a 500 metre 'one-man march' in Hyde, where the Nazis had been banned from demonstrating.

November 1977: Launch of the Anti-Nazi League.

December 1977: Chief Constable of Durham Police invites National Front leader Martin Webster to address officers on the subject of 'Law and Order'.

January 1978: Margaret Thatcher, her opinion poll ratings falling, makes her play for the racist vote, saying on ITN's *World in Action* programme, "...people are rather afraid that their country might be rather swamped by people with a different culture."

21 April 1978: 10-year-old Kenneth Singh stabbed to death yards from his east London home

30 April 1978: First RAR-Anti Nazi League carnival in Victoria Park, East London with X-Ray Specs, Steel Pulse, Tom Robinson band and the Clash. Some 80,000 march seven miles from Trafalgar Square to the gig.

4 May 1978: Asian textile worker Altab Ali murdered near Brick Lane on his way home from work.

14 May 1978: 18,000 demonstrate against the racist murder of Altab Ali

11 June 1978: Nazi gangs rampage down Brick Lane in the heart of east London's Asian community.

18 June 1978: 7,000 join protest at racist attacks in east London.

30 June 1978: Some 500 march in silence after murder of Ishaq Ali

14 July 1978: Grunwick strike committee, abandoned by their union and the TUC, calls off the strike.

15 July 1978. Rock against Racism Northern Carnival, Alexandra Park, Manchester. Graham Parker and the Rumour, Steel Pulse, Buzzcocks, Exodus and China Street. Graham Parker and the Rumour play a RAR gig in the city as a warm-up, two days before.

24 September 1978: Second London RAR-Anti Nazi League carnival in Brockwell Park, south London with Aswad, Sham 69, Misty in Roots, Elvis Costello & the Attractions

10 December 1978: Racist murder of Michael Ferreira, an 18-year-old Guyanese mechanic in Stoke Newington

December 1978: The number of RAR events organised since launch tops 300 local concerts and five carnivals.

March 1979: 'Militant Entertainment Tour' launches, involving 40 bands at 23 concert

14 April 1979: 'Militant Entertainment Tour' climaxes at Alexandra Palace with Aswad, Angelic Upstarts, John Cooper Clarke, Dambala, The Ruts, and the Leyton Buzzards

20 April 1979: Police deploy 2,000 officers, including 60 mounted officers to 'protect' a National Front election rally in Islington Town Hall, north London from 300 counter demonstrators. Police refuse non-National Front members access to the meeting.

21 April 1979: Police deploy 5,000 officers from 21 forces to protect 1,100 Nazis who hold a march to a National Front election rally in a girls' school. 2,000 counterdemonstrators are chased by police with dogs onto the university campus.

23 April 1979: Police deploy 2,700 officers to protect National Front election meeting in Southall, west London and run riot in a predominantly Asian area. ANL supporter Blair Peach killed by police in Southall, west London, during a general election campaign anti National Front protest. Clarence Baker, manager of Rock Against Racism stalwarts Misty in Roots is savagely beaten in the band's headquarters, left with a blood clot on the brain and hospitalised for 15 days. The band's equipment was trashed by rampaging police. Some 345 people were arrested during the protest.

25 April 1979: Metropolitan Police deploy 4,000 officers (with 3,000 held in reserve) to protect a National Front election rally at Newham Town Hall, east London, attended by 400 Nazi supporters.

28 April 1979: Police deploy 5,000 officers to protect National Front election meeting in West Bromwich.

28 April 1979: Metropolitan Police refuse permission for anti-racist march to pass the National Front headquarters. Some 8,000 officers deployed to marshal a 4,000-strong protest.

30 April 1979: Police deploy 1,000 officers to stop 200 protesters disrupting National Front election rally in Bradford

13 & 14 July 1979: Southall Kids Are Innocent gig at London's Rainbow theatre with Misty, The Ruts, The Pop Group, Pete Townshend, Bongo Danny, Aswad, The Members and The Clash.

January 1980: Major internal split in the Nazi National Front between traditional Nazis and would-be modernisers. NF would-be Fuhrer John Tyndall says 'unfavourable publicity' generated by the Anti-Nazi League and Rock Against Racism were key reasons for the NF's decline and he resigns from the organisation.

2 March 1980: Thousands of anti-Nazi activists force police to reroute National Front demo in Lewisham

15 March 1980: National Front march in Glasgow banned after mass pressure from anti-racists and the Labour movement. 100 Loyalist NF supporters try to march. A Labour movement social club and bookshop are burnt out by Nazis in revenge.

2 April 1980: Police harassment in St. Pauls area of Bristol finally provokes backlash when they raid the Black and White Café to arrest its owner. The dam bursts and police are forced to withdraw from the area

20 April 1980: NF 'secret' march in Lewisham met by 2,000 anti-Nazi opponents.

26 April 1980: 300 National Front supporters attempt to march in Corby, called under the slogan British jobs for British workers. Protected by 2,000 police, they are harassed by protestors shouting 'where were you when they closed the steel works at the Nazis and were bricked by local youth.

30 April 1980: Anti-Nazi League march in Bristol against police violence attracts 700.

27 May 1980: Inquest into the death of Blair Peach returns a verdict of misadventure, resulting in a public outcry.

21 June 1980: A series of racist attacks in Small Heath Birmingham prompts a 500-strong protest march.

June 1980: Hard core Nazi British Movement start organising in Rochdale

July 1980: Metropolitan Police station 150 Special Patrol Group officers, it's elite 'heavy squad' in Brixton. SPG officers are used to harass local unemployed youth and to threaten civil servants on a picket line fighting victimisation of shop stewards.

17 July 1980: Ali Atab Beg stabbed to death in East Ham High Street by four racist youths. The murder followed on the heels of a speech in nearby Hornchurch by Enoch Powell and a spate of attacks on black students and teachers at nearby Plashet School. The murders prompt the foundation of the Newham Youth Movement, spearheaded by militant local Asian youth. The death of Ali Atab Beg is the fifth murderous attack on black and Asian youth in east London in five years.

17 August 1980 NF plan to march in West Bromwich under the slogan British jobs for British workers thwarted by mass mobilisation. Small Nazi march eventually takes place in Nuneaton after ANL mobilise thousands

25 October 1980: 300 members of the British Movement march through Welling, south east London-shepherded around the back streets by police in the face of a large counter demonstrations

November 1980: Nazis make concerted drive to attract football supporters. At Chelsea home games, several hundred thugs chant 'there's only one Adolf Hitler' and sing 'super Nazis from the bridge', to the tune of Rod Stewart's sailing

November 1980: Anti-Nazi League relaunched in wake of rising racist violence in UK and wave of international Nazi terror attacks including the Bologna station bombing which killed 85 and attacks on a Paris Synagogue which killed 2 people and a fascist terrorist attack in Munich, which killed 14 people.

23 November 1980: British Movement calls its first national demo, near Paddington station. Promising 2,000 the new Nazi organisation get 500. They are protected by 3,000 police. Rival Nazi

marches take place elsewhere. The National Front mobilise 200 in Bolton, protected by 2,000 police and in nearby Chorley 80 New National Front protected by police also march

18 January 1981: New Cross Fire kills 13 young black people in a party. Police indifference to the tragedy turned grief into rage.

2 March 1981: Some 15,000 march from Deptford to central London to protest at both the deaths and the police and media handling of the New Cross fire. The march ends in clashes with the police.

January 1981: Tories' racist Nationality Act becomes law.

28 March 1981, Enoch Powell —then an Ulster Unionist MP, but still an influence on the Conservative Party — gives speech of a "racial civil war" in Britain.

10 April 1981: Rioting in Brixton begins after mounting anger at policing – particularly targeted at Black youth in what was officially called by the Metropolitan Police Operation Swamp – a reference to Margaret Thatcher's notorious 1978 statement -. In Brixton, over six days, 120 plain-clothes officers stopped 943 people, arresting 118 — predominantly Black youths.

10 April 1981: Malcolm Chambers, a young black man, murdered in Swindon in what was described as an 'anti-black riot'.

11 April 1981 Brixton rioting intensifies. Petrol bombs extensively used by local youth. Some 279 police injured, uncounted numbers of protesters, 30 buildings destroyed by fire.

12 April 1981: More violent confrontations in Brixton between police and local black and white youth.

18 April 1981: Satnam Singh Gill a 20-year-old student is murdered by racists in broad daylight in Coventry city centre.

June 1981: Lynval Golding, guitarist of the Specials is brutally attacked by racists outside a London gig.

2 July 1981: Home of Kahn family in Walthamstow set ablaze. Mrs Kahn and three children die. Mr Kahn is severely burned.

3 July 1981: East London fascists March through Southall, in west London, smashing Asian-owned shops on their way to a gig by Nazi supporting bands at the Hamborough Tavern. Asian youth fight back by driving the Nazis into the pub. Police respond by attacking the Asian community.

3 July 1981: Liverpool police harassment of the black community flares into confrontation that escalated over the following days.

4 July 1981: The Specials, Misty, Aswad and the Au Pairs play the RAR-ANL Northern Carnival Against Racism, in Potternewton Park Leeds.

7 July 1981: Police in Toxteth, Liverpool fire CS gas at unemployed rioters. It is the first ever use of tear gas in mainland Britain.

10 July, 1981: Ghost Town by the Specials is number one single.

11 July 1981, the "Bradford 12" — a group of Asian youths, members of the "United Black Youth League" — were arrested for manufacturing petrol bombs, allegedly to protect their community from a threatened attack. At the subsequent trial, they were acquitted by a jury, on the grounds of self-defence.

12 July 1981: Rioting which began in Toxteth has spread across the country to include Handsworth in Birmingham and Moss Side in Manchester, as well as serious disturbances in Bedford, Bristol, Edinburgh, Gloucester, Halifax, Leeds, Leicester, Southampton, Wolverhampton and elsewhere.

26- 28 July 1981: Rioting erupts again in Liverpool. Police using tactics from Northern Ireland, drive at speed into crowds on the street. Disabled 23-year-old David Moore dies after being crushed by a police van on waste ground in Toxteth.

Autumn 1981: Final edition of Temporary Hoarding published

6 January 1982 Lynval Golding is again attacked by racists. In Coventry, he is stabbed in the neck on, the blade narrowly missing his jugular vein.

### **Number of racist murders in the UK**

(Source: Violent Racism: Victimization, Policing and Social Context

By Benjamin Bowling, Oxford University Press 1999)

1975: 2

1976: 5

1977: 0

1978: 8

1979: 3

1980: 6

1981: 26 (The first year the Home Office began collecting data on racially motivated violence)

1982: 0

1983: 0