



WPJF's 30 foot banner tells George Bush where to go.

WPJF PROTESTS AGAINST BUSH STATE VISIT

From 18th - 21st November, members of WPJF took part in actions both locally and in London in protest at the State visit of President George Bush to Britain. It is incredible that George Bush, who is responsible for crimes against humanity in Iraq and elsewhere, should be feted as an honoured guest of the Queen (who, it has to be said, didn't look too happy about it either judging by the television coverage).

On Tuesday and Friday, large banners were hung at major road junctions in Wrexham with messages such as "**GO HOME BUSH**" and "**BUSH NOT WELCOME HERE**". These banners were seen by thousands of passing motorists and pedestrians, and featured in a front page article in the Wrexham Mail, complete with large photo.

Some of us travelled to London to join the national protests. On Thursday, at least three coaches set off from North Wales and the Borders to join a huge march and rally, which turned out to be the largest

midweek demonstration ever seen in Britain. We joined up to quarter of a million other protesters to march by a circuitous route from Bloomsbury, over the Thames and back, past Parliament and up Whitehall past Downing Street to Trafalgar Square.

The crowd was noisy and good-humoured, and a broad cross-section of society was represented including many Americans who also oppose Bush and his policies. Their position can be summed up in the words of Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic: "Proud of my country, ashamed of my president." There were samba bands, street theatre troupes, puppets, and loads of imaginative banners and slogans. The loudest jeers, chants and whistles were saved for Downing Street as protesters voiced their opposition to the Bush visit in no uncertain terms. By the time we reached Trafalgar Square it was dark, but we were just in time to see the toppling of a 6 metre tall papier maché statue of George Bush and hear speakers including Ron Kovic and MsP, trade unionists and peace activists.

Report continues on page 4