

EDL in West London

To Marble Arch in the West End of London for the EDL's first London demo since Walthamstow last year. Downing Street or City Hall were the favoured sites; however those areas were given priority for the many pro remain, anti austerity, anti-tory, left wing demonstrations all suddenly arranged for today in the City and Westminster since the EU referendum and the change of Prime Minister.

[large arch, made of marble](#), designed by John Nash and originally intended to be the formal entrance to Buckingham Palace. How it ended up on the site of the Tyburn Gallows instead is for another time.





There was only a very small counter demonstration; the big event(s) were at Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and points east. But there were a few people to shout through a megaphone.



"We are black, white, Asian and Jew, there are many more of us than you". Except there weren't. Not today. The modern British left wing can be very anti-semitic. However they are prepared to overlook that the victims of the Nazis were Jewish when it is a handy weapon to bash patriots with. The other chant was "Go and do like your leader – shoot yourself like Adolf Hitler"

And the ubiquitous "Racist nazis off our streets"



After the march moved off from the piazza down Park Lane they didn't follow. I think they went to join the main hive.





There were two speakers. They spoke on the matters outlined in the pre-demo statement. The continuing scandal of the grooming gangs. The proliferation of mosques. Joy at the vote to leave the EU; we are the 52%. We have nothing against genuine refugees; those unhappy people who with their families have fled for their lives from persecution and threat of death.



“Glad to be free from the slavery of Brussels. If that makes me a racist, so be it. “



People enjoying Hyde Park came and listened in the long tradition of Speaker's Corner. There were local families, tourists, shoppers from nearby Oxford Street, picnickers and cyclists.



Some of the posters.



When the speeches were over the rally dispersed.



It had all been very good natured from where I was observing. I'm told that the police let the stewards deal with the running of the march. There was no problem with the counter demonstration. Speaker's Corner proved a very pleasant place for a rally.

Photographs E Weatherwax London July 2016