

Surviving survival? Leon's fight



Leon believed that education was critical to challenging racism in all its forms. He was also a firm believer in active participation in the struggle against far-right extremists in the UK.

In 1993 with the election of a BNP councillor and the murder of Stephen Lawrence, Leon aged 82, led a 60,000 strong 'unity' demonstration that demanded closure of the British National Party (BNP) headquarters in Welling, southeast London. The image below shows Leon asking a police officer for permission to march in protest passed the location. The request is refused, and the mood became aggressive.

As mounted police charge at protesters, Leon was hurled to safety over a wall by a fellow activist, narrowly escaping the police batons and horses. The events that day were reported in the newspapers.



THE POLICE didn't convict Stephen's murderers, but they spared no effort to batter 60,000 anti-Nazi protesters off the streets in October 1993

'When far-right groups were entering mainstream political society in the early 1990s, Greenman was at the forefront of the struggle to stop them.'

Fellow campaigner
Julie Waterson