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Music news



Bragg launches anti-BNP tour

Singer Billy Bragg has warned fans not to vote for the BNP as he launched his latest UK tour.

A number of trade unions, politicians and anti-fascist groups have joined forces to back Bragg on his Hope Not Hate Tour, which will campaign against the BNP throughout April and May.

The singer said there was a danger that his home town of Barking in Essex, where he plays a sold-out show on May 1, could become the "Burnley of the south" because it was being targeted by the BNP in the May polls.

He said: "Complacency is the greatest danger. People in Barking are not racist but there is a feeling of sticking two fingers up to the Labour Party because they are angry with the Government.

"People in Barking feel very marginalised but I am hopeful we can successfully stamp out the BNP."

Jennie Bremner from Amicus told a news conference in Westminster to launch the tour that young people were disaffected with politics.

She said: "They are vulnerable and as a result are easy meat for far right organisations that appeal to their fear and insecurities.

"We would be delighted if politicians, particularly the Labour Party, would take a message from this tour and take a more pro-active stance in engaging young people in politics."

The tour calls at:

Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall (April 23),

Sheffield City Hall (24),

Bradford University (25),

Liverpool Academy (26),

Manchester Bridgewater Hall (28),

Gateshead Sage (29),

Cardiff St Davids Hall (30),

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