



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER NEVER TOO LATE...

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Go on lads - tell it like it is

LEICESTER PIGGED OUT LOW TURNOUT AT EDL DEMO

Another English Defence League march and another low turn out – this Saturday (4th February) it was Leicester’s turn to host flag-waving mob. Last time the EDL were in Leicester in October 2010 they mustered 1,500 and broke through police lines to run amok attacking Asians. Tensions were therefore running high before the event.

This time round Leicestershire police were taking no chances, spending £850,000 with over two thousand cops in public order gear on the streets and the blanket use of the Public Order Act to force the opposing sides apart. Leicester’s cops produced a leaflet expalining that they had they had the power to take any person under the age of eighteen to a ‘safe place’ during the demonstrations.

The UAF pulled an interesting bait and switch on the day – having previously promised to abide by police instructions and confine themselves to a symbolic march announced on Friday that all opposed to the EDL should get to Leicester’s clock tower for a static demo. The clock tower had the potential to be a great vantage point to actively oppose the EDL. By Saturday morning however the UAF were urging people back onto the police approved march route. Cunning or contradictory? - Only you, the viewer, can decide. In the event the UAF march was tiny as active anti-fascists and local youth spent the energy attempting to get to the route of the EDL march from side streets

The day started with hundreds of anti-fascists and locals ignoring any Section 14 warnings and gathering at the Clocktower. According to one eyewitness from the Anti-Fascist Network “They were not veteran protesters but people who just did not want EDL in Leicester’s city

centre” Police horses were used to kettle and push the crowd aside. According to a legal observer from the Network for Police Monitoring NETPOL, the costly police operation was directed at “controlling community opposition to the EDL” while facilitating the fascists unwelcome visit to the city.

An estimated 700 EDL marched past the shut up shops on Belgrave Gate. The official UAF march took a circular route back to Welford Place but some UAFers, assorted anti-fascist and local youths who had evaded the police also made repeated attempts to oppose the EDL along the way. They lined the latter stages of the EDL march and occupied the Clocktower area again.

NETPOL gave this summary of the 4th February in Leicester. “The EDL were enabled to move fairly freely, to break away from the main body of the march and form up in groups. They had few restrictions in reality whereas those who opposed them, especially young Asian men, faced a set of restrictions. They were picked on by police whenever they attempt to move in even relatively small numbers. One group of young locals were chased into a park and had dogs set on them. An ambulance was called. There difference between the policing of the EDL and the community response was marked throughout the day and everywhere in the city.”

After the marches were over locals gathered up in the city centre. It was clear to those looking on that anyone who was black or Asian put into a kettle. They were led with horses out of town. They were moved towards the Highfields area of Leicester and were, as one copper put it, being taken home. There have been reports of clashes – but no arrests were made.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being male and dressed in black...

A squat in Brixton was raided two weeks ago after a “male dressed in black” was alleged to have been seen spray painting graffiti nearby. The police forced their way inside, and when they discovered not one but five black clad males, confusing them confused them slightly. The police then found a police helmet in an empty bedroom and so decided to arrest every male in the house for handling stolen goods. Oddly, female house members where left alone (the cops must believe that the fairer sex are incapable of theft). Now the charges have been changed so that it wasn’t one male, but in fact five males spray-painting one spot. All have been bailed and are now awaiting the verdict. Things were even worse for one house member, a Brazilian, who, after his nicking, is now in the process of being deported to Brazil.

In one interesting development the EDL were seen burning the flag of Argentina (that hotbed of jihadism)– hoping to ctach a ride on another patriotic wave as tensions over territory and oil deposits in the South Atlantic cause another hoo-ha about the sovereignty of the Falkland islands.

What’s next for our flag-waving chums? Rumour has it that they might be heading to Bristol – watch this space...

INFIDELITY

Meanwhile tiny EDL splinter group the Infidels held their own breakaway demo in Rochdale on the same day. Standing in the snow in an empty carpark surrounded by cops without any audience, this event was notable only for the re-appearance of openly Nazi groups such as the British People’s Party.

For more anti-fash info, check out the ever-entertaining blog by Malatesta <http://malatesta32.wordpress.com/>

KIDDIE PORN COP BUSTED

Yeah we know - all coppers are bastards, but obviously some are more misbegotten than others. Step up Nicholas White, press officer for some of our fave cops - the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit a.k.a NETCU. He was found guilty in Cambridge Crown Court last Friday (27th) of possession of more than 110,000 photographs and videos of child porn.

Ironically despite being a specialist surveillance unit nobody at NETCU noticed Nicholas’s unusual hobby. Too busy keeping an eye on ‘domestic extremists’ no doubt. Anyway despite the mountain of evidence, the NETCU Nonce was allowed to walk out of court a free man, for now at least, with the judge only saying that “all options, including custody” are open. His lawyer, Nerida Harford-Bell, mitigating, said her client was so full of self-loathing he had referred him-

self to a doctor. He was also described as “very isolated” and with a history of self harm. Must have fitted right in then!

For those who aren’t so clear on what NETCU is, see here, here, and here for starters (and then just search the rest of our archive), as well as, of course, NETCU Watch, for a shedload more dirt on the sinister police spy agency. As we said a few years back - NETCU was essentially set up to protect corporations from increasingly effective animal rights campaigns such as SHAC. It monitors the policing of animal rights activists and other political movements; follows prosecutions through the courts and cultivates informants. Animal rights campaigners have been targeted with increasingly repressive new legislation in a series of show trials against the SHAC campaign and Stop Sequani Animal Torture (SSAT).

No doubt these revelations will do little to derail NETCU’s political surveillance operation. What is clear however, is that the same system that’s happy to see 4 year prison terms doled out to teenagers caught bullshitting on Facebook is treating Mr White very leniently indeed. After he quit his ‘police worker’ (OK, technically, not a police officer, but still cop enough for SchNEWS) job following his arrest he was allowed to step sideways into a cushy role as press officer for the Royal Society for Chemistry (he was sacked from the Royal Society after the verdict though). You’d imagine that you’d need a pretty good reference from your former employer to land a job like that, and it looks like NETCU did what they could to look after one of their own. But then what would you expect from what is effectively the spy arm of the exclusive club of Britains’ senior coppers?

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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TROUBLED OVER BRIDGWATER

Three anti-nuclear activists have occupied trees at the site of a proposed nuclear power station near Bridgwater in Somerset.

They braved the arctic blasts to prevent clear-cutting of the land in preparation for the construction of two reactors by EDF Energy at Hinkley Point.

South West Against Nuclear (SWAN) have are now asking for support to stop land being cleared saying 'we are outraged that clearance work has already started well before full planning permission has been granted'

Michael Hunt (no, really – poor sod, JM) one of three tree occupiers, said: "Once again we are seeing EDF Energy cutting corners and flouting regulations. This is a very worrying sign. If this is how they operate, how can we trust them to run a nuclear power station safely?"

Fellow campaigner Sarah Stone added: "This whole application for the Hinkley C nuclear power station has been characterized by deceit and corporate bullying. We urgently need help to defend this land."

According to the occupiers the site is ripe for resistance – "It's a 400 acre site with loads of trees and empty buildings" – so dust off yer climbing harness and dig that old tarp out from the back of the shed and head down there.

The action comes in the wake of last week's shocking revelation in a report jointly published by Unlock Democracy and The Association for Conservation of Energy. The report entitled, "A Corruption of Governance?" reveals how data provided to MPs and parliament during discussions on national energy policy was skewed in favour of the 'new nuclear' option.

The report also outlines that, on the basis of the Government's own evidence, the UK does not need new nuclear to reduce CO2 emissions. It also shows that the building of new nuclear power stations to provide electricity is likely to mean higher fuel bills.

Activists across the country have renewed their pledge to gather at Hinkley Point nuclear power station on March 10th for a mass rally against 'new nuclear' and to mark the first anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan.

For interviews/site directions contact Theo out of the Theo and Shannon band on 07805666239

For more details contact Nancy Birch on: 07980 509986.

SMASHING NIGHT AT THE 1in12

The legendary 1in12 Club social centre based in Bradford is going through a tough patch. After a fire inspection a couple of months ago it was evident that after almost three decades of DIY refurbishment to the old mill, much needed to be done to bring the building up to regulatory standard.

An online callout led to offers of help, both physical and economic coming in from all corners of Europe, with benefits being put on at social centres across the UK, and as far afield as Slovenia. After two months of hard work and thousands of pounds, the building was brought up to standard and passed the repeat inspection in January.

After all the hard work and inspiration it looked like the battle was won, but on Saturday 4th February, the club was broken into in the middle of the night. Much of the building was smashed up and destroyed, including many of the new installations – little actual money was stolen but plenty of damage done, and bottles of spirits and power tools were stolen. This happened only shortly after the Club passed its inspection, and is devastating to the countless people that dedicated their time, energy and money to the club.

The rumours are already doing the rounds that this was a planned attack by people after a little bit more than the change from the jukebox and a couple of bottles of Buckfast. Watch this space for rabid finger pointing and libellous statements in the not too distant future. Rough estimates put the damage at around £2000, so now the club needs help more than ever! If you can visit, offers of help for the clean-up are welcome, and of course they want your money as well.

The Cowley Club in Brighton is organising a host of fundraising events for the 1in12 Club, including a gig on Wednesday 22 February 7pm, with Black Light Orchestra & more TBC. A gig on Friday 24 February 7pm with Boredom, Pettybone and State Icons, and on Sunday 26 February 2-6pm a Vegan Sunday Roast.

For more on Bradford's best (albeit slightly battered) venue check 1in12.com

PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see
www.schnews.org.uk/pap

PALESTINE AT A GLANCE

Pro-Palestinian hackers have again taken the struggle into cyberspace by incapacitating the websites of two Israeli hospitals (OK, it may be bit morally dubious, but hey, at least wasn't a suicide bombing). A few weeks earlier the websites of the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange and Israel's El-Al International Airlines went down after similar attacks. It's the latest episode in the spat between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli hackers.

Hackers managed to bring down the websites of the Sheba and Assouta Medical Centers for several hours on Wednesday the 25th of January as they tried to break into their mainframes. On the same day the website of the Israel Festival was also paralysed. Hacktivists wrote "Free Palestine" on many sections of the site along with images of the Israeli and American flags burning.

The cyber war began in early January when a hacker known as OxOmar broke into over 80 Israeli servers, got access to the credit card details of thousands of Israelis, and published them online. The lone ranger was soon joined by a group going by the name Nightmare and together they brought down several Israeli websites. Pro-Israeli hackers got in on the game and published details of 20,000 Facebook users. Israel has stated it views cyber attacks as acts of terror and will retaliate forcefully.

In other news, an elderly Palestinian woman has gone on hunger strike in protest over settler attacks in the city of Hebron in the West Bank. Hana Abu Heikel began the strike after settlers burned the family car Saturday (21st). Since Israeli settlers moved into the houses surrounding her home in 1984, the family have seen eight cars scorched and another six smashed. In the past week the Abu Heikel's home was also attacked with stones.

Some of the worst settler violence in the Occupied Territories has occurred in Hebron. There is a predictable pattern to the aftermath. Whenever Israeli soldiers intervene they arrest Palestinians and take no action against the settlers. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu approved measures to curb settler violence last month - aggressive settlement of the West Bank is Israel's not so secret agenda, and the Israeli state pretends to act when while doing nothing. The violence in the West Bank from settler attacks has risen noticeably in the past year: In 2011 Israeli settlers killed three Palestinians, injured 167 and damaged an estimated 10,000 Palestinian trees. The Abu Heikels' olive grove was destroyed in 2008 after being set ablaze. The family have filed more than 500 complaints about settlers in the past 28 years but none of the complaints have been investigated. The family are besieged by settlers and continuously harassed to leave the area, yet the Abu Heikels refuse to leave their home.

On Saturday (21st) Palestinian activists played football in peaceful protest near an Israeli checkpoint. It was part of a weekly demonstration organised by the Popular Committees of Beit Ommar and Yatta, the Palestine Women's Struggle Committee, and supported by Israeli and international solidarity activists. This was the first time the protest had been held in front of the Tunnel checkpoint, along the road that connects Hebron and Jerusalem. Road access has been prohibited to Palestinians. Around 90 people (a large part of them Palestinian women), showed up at the entrance of the tunnel and started playing footie, while others waved flags and chanted against the occupation. As the match kicked off, dozens of Israeli soldiers rushed in and began to push and beat the participants, but the demonstrators held their ground despite the soldiers' treatment. Three days later, on Tuesday (24th), Israeli forces raided the town of Beit Ommar. Several families were forced out of their homes as soldiers inspected and tampered within but no arrests were made.

GIMME A SLICE OF THE ACTION

IWW Pickets Take It Away in Search of a Bigger Pizza the Pie

Pizza Huts across the U.K and the world were hit yesterday (Saturday 4th February) with pickets by the militant fightin' union the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World). The pickets in solidarity with workers at a Sheffield branch who've been in dispute with their management since last April. The dispute centers around the fact the the minimum wage staff at the Hut weren't getting paid extra for bank holidays and were expected to use their own cars for delivery runs for a mere 60p a trip.

SchNEWS spoke to one of the workers and IWW agitator at the heart of the dispute "Basically we started off using Pizza Hut's internal grievance procedure – a regional manager visited us and promised a review that would see us getting £1 per delivery – the bank holiday issue wasn't even mentioned. This rise was promised in November and of course didn't materialise." Further joint letters from all staff at the branch to Pizza Hut's owners YumBrands Inc, (the world's largest restaurant corporation and owners of KFC, and Taco Bell), didn't produce any results. What's important to remember about Pizza Hut and businesses like it, is that they are recession proof – when people haven't got much

money they're more likely to go for a takeaway than go out for a meal. In the last quarter of 2011 .YumBrands Inc saw growth of 13% - the managing director has seen a pay increase of 436% over recent years – a rate of increase that would put store staff on £36 an hour! In fact of course they've had a virtual pay cut as minimum wage levels always lag behind inflation.

Braving the cold, Pizza Hut branches were picketed the length and breadth of the country – with some IWW types turning out in Germany and in the U.S. Final words to our man in the union "What's happened with this dispute is that a group of us who were quite used to crap conditions at work turned around and realised that together we could do something about it. Despite our best attempts to talk to management, we feel like we aren't getting anywhere. It's a joke that as Pizza Hut's business continues to grow, the people that work the hardest and who are feeling the pinch are still receiving the bare minimum the company can get away with paying."

Got a job and want to organise in your workplace? Then contact the Industrial Workers of the World

ACTA NOW... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Anyone following the SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect IP Act) development in recent weeks might have breathed a sigh of relief after a seeming success. Wednesday (18th) was marked as the largest online protest in the history of the internet day to date. Websites of all sizes were in total blackout for 24 hours in protest of proposed legislation before the US House and Senate that will alter the internet for ever and for worse. Google, Wikipedia, the Internet Archive, Tumblr and Twitter and even Facebook opposed the bills along with everyone else that uses the internet.

Now there is a new baddie in town, meet ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement). The treaty already has the support of the US, Australia, Canada, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. It has been called worse than SOPA and PIPA and today it is due to be signed by Poland.

"ACTA is a proposed agreement for the purpose of establishing international standards on intellectual property rights enforcement. Negotiating countries have described it as a response 'to the increase in global trade of counterfeit goods and pirated copyright protected works'." In a world under the ACTA I would be fined and maybe if I was a regular culprit imprisoned for that quote. The ACTA is a long and often difficult to understand piece of scripture but simply put amounts to the following.

Under ACTA, ISP, the company you pay for access to the internet, will be forced to open up and inspect every single data package you send and receive to look for copyrighted information. If you send copyrighted material several times you will be disconnected and even face charges. Under the worst interpretation of the ACTA treaty, if you send a friend an MP3 through instant messenger, upload a video of a party with played copyrighted music or quote a copyrighted newspaper article in an email, you're gone! In the case of the newspaper article the publisher would be contacted and, based on their claims, you could be fined or sent to prison. Any sites such as Twitter and Youtube that hold content of music, videos or pictures will be greatly affected. How will they work under a law such as ACTA? Simple. They won't. The internet as we know it faces major reconstructive surgery to the point of no recognition.

This doesn't mean that artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, software developers, researchers and journalists will benefit in any way. They also lose as they will be restricted by the same rules. Protected ideas now cannot be reused, refined or developed any further. The whole agreement only benefits a small part of the industry- media publishing companies (RIAA, MPAA) which have long tried to solve the internet problem but have failed until now. ACTA is the result of their lobbying and under the table negotiations.

This copy protection is a great tool of information suppression. Once all the internet filters and blocking techniques are in place virtually all information taken as copyright can be suppressed. This is bigger than internet censorship; it is also about the restriction on freedom of speech, the total surveillance of all online activities and punishing individuals by taking the internet away from them.

Check the Stop ACTA website. Act now and sign the online petition, keep informed and spread the word.

Hacktivist group, Anonymous is waiting to hear the result of ACTA talks that are taking place today and preparing for an attack. "Expect us!" said a tweeted message...

SLEEPER DISSERVICE

BRIGHTON AND HOVE'S ANTI-HOMELESS POLICY

Lets all sit back and relax as Brighton and Hove Council give themselves a well earned pat on the back for significantly reducing the numbers of homeless people on the streets over the last ten years. According to the Homeless Strategy 2008-2013, the number of people sleeping rough in Brighton fell by 82% between 2001 and 2007, i.e. from 66 to 12 people. Maybe that's why they think it's safe to close the only overnight sleeper shelter in the whole city - St Patrick's.

Of course this is actually statistical manipulation of the North Korean variety. The reason the figure is low is that you need to be 'verified' by the Rough Sleepers Street Services team (RSSST) who alone have the power to turn a homeless person into an actual rough sleeper. In order to be eligible for help from the council, you have to be told that you actually exist by this team. So if you are vulnerably housed, sofa surfing etc. and there is a real danger of you ending up without roof over your head, you approach this lot and your fears will become a reality straight away. They will ask you to sleep out at a specific location, where they can then come and check you. Then and only then are you eligible for their particular brand of support.

Ironically enough as well as creating rough sleepers, this "assertive outreach team" has a part to play in the council sponsored disappearing act. As part of the CRI (Crime Reduction Initiative) Charity the team encourages rough sleepers to take advantage of the generous relocation policy, which pushes the poor back where they came from. Lucky them getting to reconnect with their roots. It's likely that they may have had good reasons for leaving in the first place, but as the disappeared, barely clinging on to their right to be alive and be seen, they don't get the luxury of choice. All this in the City which proudly proclaims itself 'The Place to Be'.

The RSSST are also commissioned by our local authority to carry out street counts of people sleeping out. These figures are routinely so low that you might be forgiven for thinking that in a triumph for equal opportunities they'd been carried out in in accordance with official guidelines, using criteria so rigid that the vast majority of those simply bedding out for the night are excluded from the official numbers or as has happened in the past conveniently granted emergency accommodation on the night of the count.

These dubious methods don't really square with the council's stated intent to reduce and prevent homelessness. Those with a boredom threshold high enough to handle their various publications on homelessness, find themselves puzzling over such pearls of gnomonic wisdom as "with this strategy we would like to provide clear and transparent pathways to independent living" and similar equivocations about psychological interventions to prevent repeat homelessness (Homeless Strategy Executive Summary pg 15, for those who want some light reading).

It doesn't seem to occur to anybody that perhaps the psychological interventions are slightly misplaced and may be better aimed at the policy makers, whose heads are so far up the social stratum that they fail to see that all the psychological, inspirational and motivational support and other such deceptive jargon cannot do the impossible and magic up the four walls and roof that make a house.

Evidently it is a lot easier to send someone on a metaphorical pathway than actually try and fill some of the thousands of empty properties in the area. Trudging through these articles one is left wondering whether any of the people devising

such useful policies have ever themselves tried to tread a "transparent path to independence".

Slightly misleading also is the much lauded aspiration of "independent living", which actually means "sustaining a tenancy in the Private Rented Sector". Surely those who have managed to survive life on our streets, or seek out alternative ways of living are far more self reliant than people paying astronomical rents off the back of coming from privileged financial backgrounds?

Of course it's not only in Brighton and Hove that this statistical and physical disappearing act is happening. Council websites nationwide are urging people to "report" rough sleepers on specially provided phone-lines while service providers such as the London charity Broadway are singing off the same sheet as the state and justifying relocation policies "as for the good of the community". As we speak authorities in the London boroughs are falling over themselves in a bid to "cleanse" the areas of the most entrenched and visible rough sleeping community in their drive to showcase their idea of London in time for the Olympic Games. This means that in the coming months, Brighton is likely to have more rough sleepers than ever, a fact that has been noted by people in the know, such as the CEO of Brighton Housing Trust.

To help cope with this influx and with impeccable timing as ever, in one last surge to finalise the disappearing act, Brighton and Hove Council has sat back and allowed the closure of St. Patrick's night shelter, the only remaining walk-in night shelter in not only Brighton, but all of East Sussex. Since being taken over by Riverside ECHG in 2010, the fate of this formerly charity-run facility - which has saved countless lives over the years - lays in the hands of England's fourth largest Housing Association and our local authority. The joint decision to close the night-shelter was undoubtedly a political one as St. Patrick's had always operated outside of local authority official policy and helped those who according to our council don't actually exist.

As of the 31st of January there will not be the option of arriving at St. Patrick's and getting support and advice there and then. If you're down on your luck in Brighton now, it seems you have to allow yourself into the grasp of the council, get chewed up for a bit, volunteer all your information for their records and then be told that they have no statutory obligation to house you. This is part of a nationwide trend, as housing associations vie for tenders and try and streamline their services and increase organisational growth and in doing so deprive those without homes of their rights to make any choices about their fate. Welcome to the Big Society!

CRAP ARREST OF LAST WEEK

For being in an enclosed space...

Whilst trying to get into an empty building, three squatters were arrested under the 1824 Vagrancy Act. The cops claimed (not without reason) that the squatters were found "in an enclosed area." Under the aforementioned Act they were thus "to be deemed rogues and vagabonds". The squatters were held for over 17 hours at the police station's own 'enclosed space.' Despite admitting that they were indeed roguish vagabonds, the cops decided there was insufficient evidence to charge them and let them all go. Luckily the Vagrancy Act has been amended slightly since its introduction, otherwise our three incorrigible rogues could have faced punishment by 'hard labour and whipping'.

SOUTHERN SQUATTING SHENANIGANS

Right on SchNEWS' doorstep, Brighton's dirty squatters have had one of their more exciting weeks recently.

It all began on Monday 23rd January or '**Mayhem Monday**' – Some happy squatters hanging out in their new home are violently evicted by thugs, and dragged out onto the street. Police took their usual stance that violence by 'the good guys' isn't really violence, decided that no crime had taken place and went on their merry way, leaving the squatters still sat on the street.

Tough Tuesday – The newly homeless look sad and look for a new home to lay their heads and stroke their dogs.

Wanted Wednesday – Police slightly confused by a large garden wall between them and some squatters suspected of househunting. The cops threaten to drop their dog over said wall, unless the squatters came out nicely. After showing off their wicked climbing skills, the squatters were arrested for vagrancy (see Crap Arrest).

Threatening Thursday – A newly squatted social project in the works is visited by an estate agent and his hired goons. They gracefully try and kick down the door, smashing windows and

being generally thuggish; a passing PCSO (once encouraged into action) calls for backup and the Police politely move the goons to a pub around the corner. Squatters decide to rethink the entire social project, as they generally do better when all involved don't have to physically defend their homes at all hours. Meanwhile, two nice squatters knock on a door on London Road. So ridiculous it has to be true, a police officer promptly turns up and started raving about criminal damage, and cuffs the two confused squatters. The words "I well recognise you" weren't actually said but feel free to read between the lines. A stop and search takes place and backup is called. The new police officer slightly calms the situation after it's clear the squatters were actually (just) knocking on what happened to be the wrong door. Meanwhile the first copper starts talking about how he was bullied as a child, and eventually it's agreed that the two squatters can leave.

Fuck Off Bailiffs Friday – Typical morning for one group of squatters, birds singing, brews a brewing and um, poles driven through your windows. As you stand looking through them. This particularly violent eviction was again accompa-

nied by it's troop of boys (and girls) in blue, who were ready as ever to arrest left right and centre. The eviction crew then marched along to the next squat, a long term, privately owned empty, which had a more peaceful air, although the eviction crew did smash up sinks and toilets on the way out, ensuring that any future occupiers were up shit creek in terms of sanitation. They also managed to squeeze in one more eviction before the end of the day, undoubtedly feeling well pleased with themselves.

These coordinated attacks perhaps mark an increase in intelligence in Brighton's finest evictioners. Whilst squatters usually encounter a few weeks of wondering after court when they'll be turfed out, very recently we've seen many squats having the same court dates and same (close following) eviction dates, coincidence? Meanwhile squats are seeing more surveillance, more high court bailiffs acquired quickly after a magistrates court trial (much like another recent high profile eviction), and more cops seemingly under the impression that squatting is already a criminal offence.

Although all the squatters have now found new squats, the shit will no doubt hit the proverbial fan once again, and the plight for autonomous homes goes on.

See schNEWS.org.uk for

BACK IN THE FASLANE

30 days of action for the 30th birthday of the anti-nuclear peace camp

SOUTH SUDAN: INDEPENDENCE AND DEATH

Oil and Ethnic Conflict in Sudan

...and finally...

On 1st December last year, the biggest police corruption trial in UK history collapsed after the Judge in the case decided it would be "unfair" on the 8 bent coppers and two dodgy witnesses as a result of the way in which evidence had been handled – including the deliberate destruction of documents by the defendants' former colleagues.

The police fitted up three men for the murder of Lynette White in 1988 – all three subsequently had their convictions quashed and another man was finally convicted in 2003. Following this the IPCC looked into the original investigation by South Wales Police, this led to a trial of 9 men and a woman on corruption and perjury charges – a trial that cost nearly £40 million and resulted in 10 not guilty verdicts (on the instruction of the Judge).

So... what happened to the evidence? Files were sent to the senior investigating officer, one Chief Superintendent Chris Coutts of the err... South Wales Police. Who ordered that they be shredded – all perfectly understandable.

Now the trial has collapsed the 'cleared' filth are suing for false arrest (sorry guys, must have missed that one for 'Crap Arrest of the Week'). Oh, and the evidence, or at least part of it, has now turned up safe and sound in a South Wales police station in a big box marked 'EVIDENCE' so it's no wonder they couldn't find it when their mates were on trial...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, we work to incredibly strict deadlines, which is how we manage to churn out an issue every week without fail. Honest.

FISH TALES

(YES WE KNOW THAT WHALES, SEA LIONS & DOLPHINS ARE MAMMALS)

Sea Shepherd are offering a \$10,000 Reward for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person/s responsible for killing sea lions in Puget Sound, State of Washington, US. Eight sea lions have been found shot dead in recent weeks. In 2011 they'd offered a reward of \$11,500 which led to the arrest and conviction of a man responsible for the deaths of 22 sea lions in New Zealand. "The person or persons responsible for these shootings must be apprehended and brought to justice", said Captain Paul Watson from onboard the Steve Irwin in the Ross Sea. The penalty ranges from fees to possible jail time. One of the sea lions found was a Stellar sea lion, protected under the endangered species act found in the Northern Pacific. Another found in West Seattle was a Californian Sea Lion also protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Meanwhile, the crew of the Sea Shepherd are still on their Whale Defence campaign 2012, Operation Divine Wind on the tail of Japanese whaling ships that are illegally targeting whales in the Southern Ocean.

At the moment the trial of Cove Guardian Erwin Vermeulen is underway in Wakayama, Japan. February the 3rd marks his 50th day of imprisonment. The defence presented their case in court on Wednesday (1st). The defendant entered the room in shackles whilst attached to a leash. "By treating him this way they make it appear like he has been charged with murder" said Captain Paul Watson, in his usual conciliatory style.

On December 16th Erwin Vermeulen was arrested in Taji, Japan, whilst attempting to take photos of dolphins being transported from holding pens to the Dolphin Resort Hotel. Erwin is accused of using violence against a hotel employee. Erwin denies the charge. Sign the petition demanding his immediate release. Closing arguments will take place on February 16th and the day of the verdict is set for the 22nd of the

same month. Sea Shepherd has called for candle-light vigils in Erwin's honour. Erwin travelled to Japan to dedicate his time to the Cove Guardian mission. The Cove guardians document the annual Dolphin slaughter that takes place in Taiji. Every year around 20,000 dolphins and small whales get harvested during the slaughter. This is put down to what they call a centuries old tradition, in fact it is decades old and the incentive is profit rather than due to any nostalgic notions of the past. Not only that, but the dolphin meat itself is toxic due to high mercury levels (mercury, like many human derived pollutants, get more concentrated the higher up the food chain you go), so apart from the cruelty of this enterprise its consumption is slowly poisoning the populace. Who knows, maybe they'll poison themselves before they kill all the dolphins.

In other nautical news, Animal Liberation Front activists visited one of the most destructive fishing companies in Europe, Kali Tuna, based in Ugljan, an island off the Croatian coastline. On Friday (27th) during the night, ALF activists paid a visit to the Bluefin Tuna farms of the company. A tuna pen around 500 metres off shore was made ineffective by cutting the net and enabling the fish to swim out into the open. A similar action took place last year; the target was a Maltese tuna farm. It amounted to 100,000 Euros worth of damages to the company and the liberation of an undisclosed number of animals. The ALF vowed to "intensify its efforts against this shameful and ruthless industry. Any company and operation that is responsible for the critical state of this magnificent animal species is on our list".

The Cove, a critical documentary about dolphin hunting culture, is showing at the Cowley Club, 12 London Road, Brighton on Sunday 11th March at 18:30. All proceeds will go to Black Fish, a European based marine wildlife conservation organisation.

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