



WAKE UP!! SQUATTING IS UNDER ATTACK!

# SchNEWS

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## OCCU-BYE LONDON

AS POLICE EVICT ST PAULS AND BANK OF IDEAS IN ONE NIGHT

Four and a half months after its conception, Occupy London was dealt two severe blows on Monday (27th) as the camp at St Paul's Cathedral and the School of Ideas were evicted in one busy night for the Met and City of London police. What happens next is anyone's guess – as OccupyLSX themselves have stated, "This morning, the City of London Corporation and St Paul's Cathedral have dismantled a camp and displaced a small community, but they will not derail a movement."

While the eviction of St Paul's was not entirely unexpected, the apparent cooperation of the Cathedral with the authorities was one aspect that took activists and observers by surprise. Meanwhile, the the School of Ideas was illegally evicted without any hint of due legal process - and incredibly was demolished by bulldozers in the early hours of the same morning. Around 20 people were arrested during the events.

SchNEWS was on the ground at the scene, where the first sign of imminent eviction was the scores of riot vans from both the Met and City of London police which started to gather at around midnight outside the Museum of London, just a few minutes from the protest site. People began to flock from all over London, and from the other two Occupy sites (School of Ideas, Finsbury Park), to join the resistance. However, within the space of half an hour police had cordoned off every road leading to the encampment, stopping people from entering the area. A lucky few managed to sneak in, and the rest gathered in crowds at all the access points, held back by the police lines.

Inside the cordon were about 150 occupiers and their supporters, some protecting their tents, others on a massive platform built from palettes where Tent University once stood, and more gathered on the steps of the cathedral. People had been told that the police had no right to evict from the steps as they were cathedral property, and the cathedral had promised to not give them permission. However, the church's later ambiguous statements said that the steps were being cleared for 'cleaning'.

The camp was given half an hour to remove their stuff and go. Although with

around ten massive dumpster lorries were parked around the site to chuck people's belongings into, it was clear the police and their goons weren't so into respecting property. Fifty or so security 'guards' were there to remove all trace of the camp, and there were as many as a hundred riot cops hanging around in squadrons while vans, also full of cops, lined the surrounding streets. No time was wasted as the high court enforcement officers in hi-vis started to drag tents, bags, blankets, kitchen equipment and palettes into the waiting trucks. Lines of cops were formed around the site, the people on the steps, and the tents.

Outnumbered so heavily by the authorities, people were left watching the process happen with little they could do but shout 'Shame on you'. Some managed to rescue blankets and sleeping bags for those who were going to be left on the streets that night.

Things went from bad to worse at about 1.30am, as the message came through that the School of Ideas was being evicted at the same time. As one activist told us, "No attempt whatsoever had been made by the authorities to follow the correct legal process, no IPOs had been granted, no court papers at all had been issued, so eviction was totally unexpected." A number of those at St Paul's left to try and stop the eviction, and also to try and save their belongings.

With numbers of activists inside the cordon dwindling, the media had caught up and collected in the area to document the spectacle. Soon all that remained was the platform in the middle of the site with twenty people on top, out of reach of the bailiffs. Riot cops formed rings around the platform, pushing the activists out, but bizarrely allowing the press and photographers to remain inside. The bailiffs started to pull apart the structure, managing to take out a few photographers with palettes as they went.

By 3am, the structure was down to a bare skeleton of planks of wood, and fifteen lads remained balanced on top. The hi-vis destructors went in for the kill. After much tussling, all were chucked off, with some bailiffs going arse over elbow as well as protesters. People regrouped on the steps



### CRAP HEADLINE OF THE WEEK

The closest thing that SchNEWS has to competition in its home city, crappy tabloid *The Brighton Argus*, finally jumped the shark this Thursday with its headline "Smash EDO's Threat To Queen's Jubilee".

The fact that two things were happening on the same day was clearly enough to prove that the last eight years of direct action campaigning to shut down an arms factory was actually just an elaborate ruse to hide their true intentions - smashing the monarchy and making sure that good, ordinary rightthinking people have a thoroughly bad time.

Winning quote from the idiotic article comes courtesy of Councillor Geoffrey Theobald, leader of the council's Conservative group: "They are not thinking of the residents or businesses in Brighton and Hove in my view." Funny thing that. Most of the protesters are residents of Brighton, and they have one business very much in mind.

But probably the whole *Argus* staff are great supporters of Smash EDO who wanted to big up their mates by making them look like an unstoppable barbarian horde battering down the gates to the city-by-the-sea.

In reality, it's most probable people wanted a demo on a bank holiday because they'd be at work otherwise. And what's the most repeated chant by idiots against protesters? "Get a job!"

of the cathedral. What followed was a bit like a playground game: The next hour was spent with police dragging people off the steps and dumping them on the other side of the road, only for them to run back and then be dragged off again. This lasted for a fair while but by 5am, the remaining protesters were left grouped on the other side of the road next to the pile of belongings they had managed to salvage.

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

A fence now surrounds the old protest site, leaving access to the cathedral only. As for the people, the overflow from St Paul's and the School of Ideas has now flooded Finsbury Square, the last remaining static Occupy site. Some are speculating that the decision to evict both other sites on the same night was a calculated ploy by the City of London to cause an issue of overcrowding at Finsbury Square, which, up until now, the police have been able to do little about. Coming under the jurisdiction of Hackney Borough Council, the camp has been allowed to stay, mainly because the council doesn't have the funds to evict. An agreement had been reached that the site would be turned into an ecovillage project, but now the council has made the ultimatum that if extra residents don't leave, the agreement will be withdrawn.

Squatters and activists from the Occupy movement have been tirelessly searching for empty buildings to take the homeless occupiers, but with the City of London police watching, filming, and recording everyone's movements, it's proving difficult. The question of what occupy will be with much less in the way of actual occupations will become clear over the coming weeks.

In one of their typically flamboyant press releases, OLSX assures: "Plans are already afoot: plans of some ambition, employing a diversity of tactics and delivered with the aplomb you would expect from us. All will be revealed in time. May is one of our favourite months."

### PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see  
[www.schnews.org.uk/pap](http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap)

## POUNDLAND AND FREEDOM

A major victory has been scored against WorkFare- the Tory's flagship forced labour programme. Ian Duncan Smith's pet project – to bring the logic of the Victorian workhouse to 21st century Britain (main difference: this time it's work but no house) has been hated and feared by benefits claimants ever since it slid out whole from the Tory policy sphincter. A spectacularly harsh programme, not even terminal illness is considered a barrier from involuntary, unpaid work at such esteemed establishments as Poundland, Superdrug and Sainsburys – terminal cancer patients with more than 6 months to live could be expected to spend their remaining months, not with family and loved ones, but instead stacking shelves or flipping burgers.

People with jobs have almost as much to fear from the scheme as those out of work. Unions and many economists see the scheme as a way of replacing waged labour with unwaged, a plan to push wages further down as part of the "race to the bottom."

The campaign against Workfare spread like wildfire on Twitter and Facebook, demos have been held around the UK out-

side (and inside) participating companies, and a case had been brought against it on the grounds that Workfare was against international covenants and human rights legislation on forced labour.

And then, starting about two weeks ago, cracks started appearing in Workfare. First charities (including Scope, Marie Curie and Shelter) pulled out and condemned the scheme. After the high street charities pulled out, high street retailers started to get cold feet. Sainsburys tried to quietly extricate themselves from the scheme, Tescos, Superdrug and eventually even Poundland pulled out, leaving the Tories red faced and desperate for somebody to blame. Chris Grayling, minister for (un)employment even went as far as to accuse the SWP of hacking his emails. As the Trots sensibly pointed out- there was no need to hack his emails to know his intentions, they weren't exactly a secret in the first place. The Latent Existence blog has a video of Chris Grayling performance on Channel 4 – arguing that black is white and mandatory is voluntary.

The campaign was so successful because no high street chain could be seen to be associated with a forced labour programme so easily comparable to serfdom and slavery. Once upon a time they might have been able to rely on a tame press and TV to hide extent of nationwide anger against the WorkFare, but, in the age of social media, information (and misinformation) flow unchecked and uncensored. The big brands knew that even if they like the idea of cheap labour, they could not withstand a lively grassroots boycott campaign that painted them as modern day slaveowners.

The Tories are livid. That makes everyone else happy. Killing Workfare didn't rely on the commons or the lords, and so grassroots, popular opposition proved itself (once again) to be the best, if not the only, means to check a government out of control. Now that Workfare is wounded, we need cut off its head and burn its body to make sure that it doesn't rise zombie-like from the grave.

The long term Tory plan is to undo the old post-war welfare state. There is no real opposition from within the political parties, so if we want to defend those few basic rights that our parents and grandparents won that haven't already been lost to the LibConLab experiment we're being subjected to we need to get angry and take the fight to the enemy. Boycott Workfare have planned for this Saturday (3rd) up and down the UK. See [boycottworkfare.org](http://boycottworkfare.org) for details and join in the fight for the right not to work.



## SAFE CRACKERS

On Wednesday 29th a group of Brightonian squatters received a rather unwelcome welcoming committee at their new home, as three vans and seven car loads of coppers arrived to thwart a suspected bank robbery.

As the residents were settling in on their first day in their new surroundings in the flats above HSBC – sirens, flashing lights and a horde of boys and girls in blue started to amass in the streets below. Though it was explained that the occupants were merely looking for a place to live and not the world's most incompetent bank robbers, the over excited bobbies decided otherwise on the grounds that "you're burglars because one of you is wearing a mask" and "there are special laws about being above a bank" – though they were a little evasive on the exact legislation they were referring to.

The cops scurried to a safe distance to discuss the impending raid, convinced that shortly they'd be kicking in the door, and some hippies. A callout was issued via the Squatters Network of Brighton (SNOB) and within minutes a group of 30+ squatters and supporters arrived – outnumbering and briefly kettling the police presence. Though police backup soon redressed this imbalance and the crowd was herded back across the street.

Meanwhile a cocky inspector and his chubby sergeant sidekick told the squatters that the bank manager was alleging criminal damage and that they either had to leave now or they would force entry and arrest everyone inside – "One way or another you're leaving, I'd rather it was peacefully". The squatters held their corner and refuted the claims of damage, calling the Inspector's bluff.

About 15 minutes later the Inspector returned in noticeably less bullish mood. Apparently the manager had now revealed that there was pre-existing damage to the window and door, so they would show him around the outside of the building and, if he couldn't find any new damage, the squatters could stay.

Having been given a clean bill of health the squatters received one last visit from the Inspector who explained he actually wouldn't be arresting anyone and he was only interested in upholding the law. The occupants pointed out that had they believed his threat they would now be homeless and that in future he should be less hasty. Visibly annoyed at being lectured by the unwashed masses he left with his tail between his legs to cheers and jeers from assembled mob.

While granted a reprieve for now, the bank will no doubt soon be pushing to evict the squatters from the four bedroom flat which had previously been empty for 10 years.

## DOW CHEM

Wikileaks have done it again. Together with Anonymous hackers, they've revealed the inner workings of STRATFOR – the corporate intelligence agency that hire out their services to the likes of Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Dow Chemical, to name but a few. Over 5 million emails have been released – including highly sensitive documents that reveal the company's international (and completely unaccountable) network of informants and spies.

Dow Chemical are one of their larger clients. US based Dow, for those who don't already know, have had something of an image problem ever since they bought out Union Carbide- the US company responsible for the largest industrial accident ever, in Bhopal, India. The scale of the Bhopal disaster is almost unimaginable. It has been described as the Indian Chernobyl, but in reality Bhopal was much, much worse. Three thousand people were killed shortly after deadly toxic chemicals leaked from the plant on December 2nd, 1984. Thousands more died over the following weeks. The total death toll is estimated at around 25,000, with more than 500,000 injured or disabled.

Dow Chemical, just like Union Carbide before them, have refused to take responsibility for the disaster, and the global campaign for justice for the victims of Bhopal is still active and vibrant, with several successes under its belt. Dow is afraid of the Bhopal campaigners, and, as revealed in Wikileaks' information haul, used (and almost definitely continues to use) STRATFOR to spy on Bhopal activists and sabotage their campaign. Under the heading 'Dow Confidential: Bhopal Monitoring Report', STRATFOR have gathered highly detailed information on the Bhopal campaigns and campaigners.

SchNEWS caught up with Brighton based and Bhopal born activist Farah Edwards. She and her husband Tim have been active in the Bhopal campaign for more than ten years. They are directly named in the Wikileaks documents – STRATFOR has been spying on them for years.

**Tell us about Bhopal activism in light of the revelations that Stratfor was spying on you.**

I was born in Bhopal and I was there when the accident happened in 1984. Me and my husband have been campaigning for more than 10 years. He cycled to India from Britain to raise awareness of Bhopal.

**Dow says it has nothing to do with Bhopal but if that is the case then why is it doing surveillance on us. We are just raising awareness on the whole issue that surrounds Bhopal, and I'm just surprised that we were being monitored. The 5 million emails were hacked by Anonymous from Stratfor- a private intelligence agency. They monitored everything about us- including Facebook comments.**

They are monitoring every little thing. I've made to promote the change.org" peti-

tion so people would sign it, I sent it to a lot of people- that's how in your own little way you you promote your campaign. They had the names of everybody I sent it to.

**Do you believe that Dow Chemical used Stratfor's organisation to sabotage your campaign?**

Several things happened. One time we had this water, water from Bhopal, in glass bottles. We decided to take it to Dow's CEOs, but when we got there they were shut down [for the day]. They had been warned. They are petrified of us.

**What are the latest developments in the Bhopal campaign?**

We found out that the 2012 Olympics had a wrap [a plastic cover for the entire stadium]. It is sponsored sponsored by Dow Chemical. We have a website called "Athletes Against Dow" with 126 athletes. Meredith Alexander (Commissioner for Sustainable London) resigned on Newsnight because she wasn't happy with the way things have gone. The Indians [Olympic team] have done a partial boycott of the Olympics. They are boycotting the opening and closing ceremonies. It's small but it shows they are making some effort. This is because of the Bhopal campaign.

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### EDL: RUN & HYDE

After the disturbances in Rochdale (see SchNEWS 807), Asian youth turned out against the wishes of some of the mosque elders to confront the EDL in Hyde. SchNEWS spoke to one anti-fascist who also made the trip.

*"The planned route for march through town from the train station didn't happen due to sheer numbers of Asian, around 250-300 youth who gathered outside close to the train station. The EDL had the briefest of marches and were herded along the side of ASDA round a side alley into a car park next to the bus station out of sight of the public."*

Jumping on the bandwagon were the BNP – with Nick Griffin himself tarnishing the town with his presence. They gathered a motley fifty in a small rally opposite the town hall under the slogan "Hope for England". Griffin appealed to EDL members and invited them to join in the fun – in fact virtually all the BNP apart from Nasty Nick himself joined the EDL march.

EDL numbers weren't amazingly high, possibly as many as 600.

According to our eyewitness *"As the EDL were dispersing, a group of them made their way across the ASDA car park to confront the youth outside the Mosque. They were chased off after the youth charged. In fact they ended up waiting to be kettled on the other side of the car park. The police eventually moved all the EDL on. Anti-fascists were present throughout the whole day,*

*mixing with the locals but not in enough numbers to make an impact."*

\*For more info see <http://brightonan-tifascists.wordpress.com> and <http://malat-esta32.wordpress.com/>

## PEACE ACTIVIST JAILED FOR AFGHAN WAR PROTEST

Long-time Hastings peace activist Maya Evans has just been jailed for 13 days for refusing to pay a fine. On 29 February at Hastings Magistrates Court Maya was jailed for non-payment of over £300 in fines and costs, stemming from a court case in November 2009.

She was originally arrested in May 2009 for taking part in a nonviolent "Die-in for NATO's Victims in Afghanistan" outside Britain's military nerve centre at Northwood, and later convicted of "obstructing the highway". The demonstration – held to mark the second anniversary of a NATO bombing attack that killed 47 Afghan civilians – was held to demand an end to the bombing of Afghanistan and the withdrawal of British troops from the country. NATO bombing has continued since then. NATO recently confirmed the death of eight children in an airstrike earlier this month.

Refusing to pay the fine on grounds of conscience, Maya explained that she had just returned from a trip to Afghanistan where victims of the decade-long war had pleaded with her to return to the UK and highlight their plight. "I don't feel what I did on 27 May 2009 was a crime", she told the magistrates. "We were trying to highlight the war crimes that had been committed."

Maya recently returned from a month-long visit to Afghanistan where she worked with Afghan peace activists, and met with refugees, human rights workers and the relatives of civilians killed in an unmanned drone strike.

She said: "In Afghanistan I met a young man whose sister had been left widowed, with an infant son, by a NATO airstrike that killed five civilians. Meeting the victims of US and British policies has only strengthened my conviction that we need to terminate Britain's role in this senseless and bloody war. Afghan peace campaigners urged me to do all I can to stop British involvement in their country. It is all of our responsibility to campaign against the death of innocent Afghan civilians, to pressurise our government which currently has blood in its hands."

For more info contact: Justice Not Vengeance 07783 226 987

Please send letters and cards of support to

Maya Evans  
HMP Bronzefield  
Woodthorpe Road  
Ashford, Middlesex  
TW15 3JZ Wood you believe it

# BASILDON BALLS UP

**AS THE MAN BEHIND THE EVICTION OF DALE FARM IS  
NOMINATED FOR 'COUNCILLOR OF THE YEAR'**

Earlier this week Westminster City Hall held the C'Ilr Achievement Awards 2012. Organised by the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) this was an opportunity for local councillors to receive a pat on the back and a jolly good handshake from Eric Pickles for all the sterling work they have been doing over the past year.

One surprising nomination for Councillor of the year was Tony Ball, leader of Basildon Council, whose main achievement this year was the violent eviction of 83 families from their own land at Dale Farm. Having spent ten years in office trying to eradicate travellers from Essex it seems ludicrous that someone felt he could deserve such an accolade especially after wasting up to 18 million of tax payers money on a pursuit that can only have been driven by pure hatred and racist beliefs.

Luckily common sense prevailed for although he failed to win councillor of the year the Traveller Solidarity Network (TSN) were there to present him with their own award of 'Community-Wrecker of the Year'. On leaving the awards Tony was confronted by demonstrators and had to beat a hasty retreat back into the building.

Unfortunately this is not the last we will be hearing from Tony and his ongoing plans for Dale Farm and it's displaced residents. Already this year much has been happening in this little borough of Essex.

Firstly Tony Ball and his council had to accept responsibility for the destruction of the electricity network that they ripped out during the eviction and they have finally replaced the power lines. So now the families that are allowed to remain on their own land can (theoretically at least) have an electricity supply. Unfortunately none of the big electricity companies will supply them, leaving them literally in the dark. Why this is we can only speculate for past bills have always been paid.

This is just one of the points that should make it the U.N. Commissioner report following his second visit to Dale Farm to look at the disgusting way Tony Ball and his bully boy bailiffs Constant and Co left the land that was once home to a community of elderly and young travellers – a place that was also a refuge for many of the families who in the past have faced violence and persecution from

the both the state and other individuals. Tony Ball was apparently annoyed that this visit was leaked to the media, feeling that his constituents should not be aware that the United Nations still have concerns regarding Basildon's treatment of Irish Travellers.

Tony stated that he was glad that the electricity supply had been reinstated on the licensed plots, as it now meant that he could take further enforcement action, against the plots on the legal site, who were harbouring the families, giving them a place to park their homes and recover from the trauma they have experienced. Tony is adamant that all travellers will be forced to leave Essex as he offers them an ultimatum – evict your families or you will lose your license, and thus your plot and you too will be homeless.

## **BALL'S IN THEIR COURT**

Dale Farm is still taking up court time as this saga continues.

In Chelmsford Magistrates Court journalists from the BBC, ITN and Sky News have been ordered to hand over hours of unbroadcast footage of the Dale Farm evictions after losing a court battle against Essex police. Although they are challenging this ruling, fearing that in the future journalists will be viewed as evidence gatherers for the state. This material is expected to be handed over in the next few weeks.

A test case was heard in the Court of Appeal on Wednesday and Thursday this week as travellers from the Dale Farm Community take Basildon Council to task demanding the right to be re-housed in 'culturally appropriate accommodation'. The appeal represents a landmark case for Travellers' rights as they ask for a home for their homes.

One final bit of good news from Basildon Council who have recently granted planning permission for a home for abandoned dogs on a piece of green belt land just a small distance along the A127 from Dale Farm. This land has never been built on and was previously used for car booties, but who cares about another bit of destruction to the Green Belt it's only nature. Yet again Basildon Council demonstrate their priorities – while they may have been able to find a home for stray dogs, caring about the travelling population is a compassionate step too far.

## **BARN STORMED**

A concerted effort by police and bailiffs saw the eviction of a barn occupied in protest against the building of the Hinkley C power station on Wednesday 29th Feb.

Activists had occupied an old barn on the 500 hectare site where EDF plan to build a new nuclear power station (see SchNEWS 806). Langborough barn was evicted by a team of twenty bailiffs including specialist climbers. The eviction started just before daybreak. Despite an attempt to get onto the roof of the building ultimately the protestors were only able to hold out for three hours.

Two men, Theo Simon and David Jesse were arrested and held overnight before Taunton magistrates let them off with a conditional discharge.

Defendant Theo Simon commented on his release "This was just one battle in the fight against new nuclear, we'll be back on March the 10th & 11th with Stop New Nuclear to surround and blockade Hinkley Point, we're not going anywhere until EDF and the government get the message that nuclear power is not clean not safe and not necessary".

As well as a possession order, EDF had originally tried to get an injunction against four local anti-nuclear groups to prevent future action against the power station. This was thrown out by the judge leaving the field open for more stunts.

Speaking of which, There's a weekend of action planned – on 10th & 11th March, STOP HINKLEY activists plan to surround the site.

There's transport going from Exeter, Bristol and London that we know – please let us know about any more.

\* For more: <http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk/>

*...and finally...*

### **CRAP ARREST CALLOUT**

**Been nicked lately? Share your personal tragedy with 10's of loyal readers just like you. Email [mail@SchNEWS.org.uk](mailto:mail@SchNEWS.org.uk) - printed stories win fuck all (except our undying gratitude).**

### **Disclaimer**

SchNEWS warns all readers, we're living in a world of hunter-killer drones and corporate spy-rings busted by underground hackers. We're living inside an '80s dystopian sci-fi novel. Honest!

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