



WAKE UP!! WAKE UP!! IT'S YER FOXY...

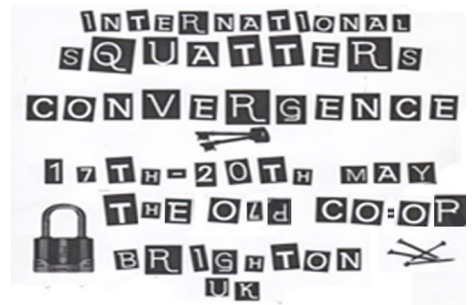
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TRAILS AND TRIBULATION

CRAWLEY & HORSHAM HUNT SCUM FOUND GUILTY OF BEING HUNT SCUM

Three members of the Crawley and Horsham Hunt were convicted of illegal fox hunting on Monday 14th at Haywards Heath magistrates. The verdicts were handed after two weeks and followed a seven day trial in April. This is the first case of its kind in Sussex and the three criminals follow in the footsteps of only eight other hunters since the ban came into force in 2005.

Hunt secretary and 'trail layer' Rachel Holdsworth was fined two loads of £500 after being found guilty on two offences and huntsman Neill Mallard was fined £1000. Both were ordered to pay £2,500 each in legal costs. Former hunt master Andrew Phillis, now hunt master of the Dartvale and South Pool Harriers in Devon, is currently on holiday and will receive his punishment on May 21st. Seeing as the two are both 'respectable' business people - Holdsworth managing her own PR company and Mallard the founder of a wealth management firm - their barrister pleaded for a long time for them not to get financial penalties as this would seriously damage their reputation and work prospects.

In his verdict District Judge Stephen Nicholls stated that he approved the evidence given by the prosecution witnesses and that their statements were not biased. Even more damningly he called the evidence given by the defence 'a scam' and said that the trail laying seen in the videos was 'just a show for the cameras'. He concluded that after a fox was sighted no steps were taken to call off the hounds in fact they were encouraged to pursue the hunt with calls like 'get on it'. None of the defendants gave evidence, and their only 'expert witness' was a fox-hunter himself.

According to prosecution expert witness Professor Stephen Harris, an internationally renowned fox expert, there were no signs of trail hunting in the video footage. He pointed out that the hounds showed no interest in Holdsworth or her duster with its 'artificial scent' and they did not follow the trail she supposedly was laying. Also her clothes were spotless and didn't look at all like she had been crawling through the undergrowth as you would if you were laying a trail. He demolished the defence idea that fox-hounds naturally chase foxes

by pointing out that as they have a life span of about five years* the hounds would not be accustomed to hunting live mammals, or their scents, if, as C&H claims, they have always kept within the law and done their law abiding trail hunting.

The Crawley and Horsham fox-hunt have been amongst the most flagrant breakers of the hunting ban since its introduction. They also have a long history of violence, intimidation and even fracking. They tried to gain an injunction under the Protection from Harassment Act to prevent hunt monitors

from filming their blatant law-breaking. So the fact that the video footage which secured the convictions was gathered by hunt sabs must really, really sting!

For all this, and more than you ever wanted to know about second-hand Land Rovers, go to the Hunt Saboteurs Association

*Not their natural life-span, it's just that after they've lived out their useful years, the hunts then shoot the hounds and then feed them to the other dogs. Real charmers aren't they!?

FEAR THE REAPER

DRONE ATTACKS IN YEMEN AND ANTI-DRONE PROTESTS IN BRIGHTON

There were at least seven separate US drone attacks in Yemen last week. Two strikes happened last Tuesday (15th May)- killing 15 and injuring a further 7. According to CNN, seven of those killed were fighters from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula holed up in the mountains of Northern Yemen. Meanwhile U.K campaigners are struggling to get the issue onto the agenda.

The US military has massively upped its remote war over Yemen- of the over thirty air-strikes that have hit the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country, at least twenty have occurred in the last month. This follows a presidential order authorising the killing by the Pentagon and the CIA of unnamed "high value targets". Authorised by the US government that is- extra judicial killings in foreign countries is, of course, totally illegal under international law, but who cares about that?

All of this to neutralise a terrorist organisation who's reputation far exceeds their capacity to cause chaos and destruction- despite the scary connotations that come with their badass name, all they have to their credit are two failed underpant bombings of passenger jets.

But never mind about the disproportionate reactions, law, morality or unforeseen consequences- drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are a favourite of 'democratic' countries that like to fight their wars without risk to their own troops, who are

safely squirrelled away in air conditioned bases in Arizona, where the greatest risk they face is a sprained thumb.

Drones aren't just a US issue- The UK is just as keen on UAVs as the Americans are, just without the half trillion dollar budget. Brighton's very own bomb-builders EDO, now part of US corporate giant ITT and renamed ITT Excelis, makes bomb racks for the MQ-9 Reaper killer drone.

Smash EDO campaigners have held a series of events against ITT's involvement in the drone wars. Yesterday UAV expert Chris Cole gave a talk at the Friends Meeting House. On Wednesday (15th) a colourful anti-drone demo was held outside the Brighton arms factory. Activists waved flags and made lots of noise with bells, a sound system, horns, pots and pans. Later on in the demo kites were flown over the factory to remind the workers of what its like to be constantly underneath the watchful eyes of killer robots. Some of the kites were equipped with (civilian) surveillance equipment kite to take some surveillance footage. Campaigners have told SchNEWS that aerial footage of the factory will be soon be released in a communique.

Follow the Smash EDO campaign's Summer of Resistance - smashedo.org.uk

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see
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SEDGE OF DARKNESS

A vast underground silo for lethal nuclear waste is planned for construction under Kent's Romney Marsh. It's a real kick in the teeth for anti-nuclear campaigners and locals who have in fact only recently celebrated the announcement that two Dungeness nuclear power stations are going to be phased out.

Plans for the proposed 250 acre storage facility for the high-level waste of energy and weapons production in Romney Marsh (near to Dungeness) only came to light today (17th). So far the local council claim that they're only testing the waters of public opinion before making any moves, but plans are surprisingly well advanced.

The £12 billion dump would cover an area more than 22 times the size of Wembley Stadium. A network of tunnels up to a 1000m deep would be used to seal up the waste, which would be brought into the area by two trains a week for approximately 80 years. The waste would then be sealed up for ten thousand years until it 'becomes safe'. The debris dug out would be around the same volume as during the construction of the Channel Tunnel.

However, even over and above the obvious eco-objections, nuclear experts warn that the site is geologically unsound for the development as well as being a high flood risk area. Oh, and it's also an earthquake zone.

One man not put off by the idea of some toxic paddling is local Tory councillor Tony Hills. Shepway District Council on the whole also has a history of being pro environmentally destructive mega-developments. While plans for a marsh wind farm were thrown out, it has recently approved an expansion of Lydd airport which would see annual passenger numbers jump from 5,000 to 2 million.

Resistance to the radioactive plans are yet to manifest, but there's bound to be a whole load of people determined to give the Council and the developers their marsh-ing orders.

LARGE ONE WITH MAYO

The seventh annual RosSPORT Solidarity Camp gathering is taking place in Erris, Co. Mayo, Ireland from the 1st to the 4th of June. You are invited to take part in workshops/discussions, skillshares, music and fun! There will be a chance to meet folk from other campaigns, like the anti-fracking lot, loads of workshops and talks, as well as a chance to find out about the continuing fight against Shell in RosSPORT, where Shell want to build an experimental gas pipeline through a community's land which the people there have been fighting for over 10 years now.

Come for the workshops, stay for the fun. There will be a couple of bands and DJs, and hopefully a session around the fire one night, so bring your instruments. Workshops will run Saturday, Sunday, and part of Monday. If you can't make it up to Mayo yourself but you would like to help out, please help us publicise the event by printing up posters and fliers and posting them up wherever you can:

<http://shelltosea.com/content/rossport-solidarity-camp-gathering-1-4-june>

CONVERGING ON THE RIDICULOUS

The Brighton International Squatter's Convergence has now began. They've taken over the old CO-OP department store on London Rd. Most of the site has been empty for years. SchNEWS took a preliminary stroll around the frankly labyrinthine building and with 150 property reclamation specialists from across Europe already in attendance it looks like it's gonna be a good weekend.

Workshops & activities are being added to the calendar all the time, so the best way to find out what's going on is to just turn up. Or ring the Squatters' Network of Brighton (SNOB) on 07583 010 898.

DATA CAPTURE

No, you're not paranoid they really are out to get you. Not content with fingerprinting and taking a DNA swab the moment you're dragged across the threshold of the newly-privatised KOPSHOP TM, they're now going to hack into your mobile.

Across sixteen London boroughs the Met have implemented a system that extracts mobile phone data from people in custody. The ACESO "mobile device data extraction solution" designed by military hardware specialists Radio Tactics will allow custody staff to use "intuitive, fully-guided touchscreen desktop data acquisition tool" to print off and retain all the data on a mobile phone. This will include calls and texts made and received, lists of contacts and photos. It will also show where the phone has been. The bad news? - the cops are allowed to retain it forever, whether or not you are charged. The bright side? - guidelines suggest "that data extraction can happen only if there is sufficient suspicion the mobile phone was used for criminal activity."

At the moment the terminals are fixed but the company is already preparing a mobile version meaning that mobile phone data extraction could be integrated with stop&search in the street.

Now of course if you've got a a contract phone all this info is out there for the police to get hold of anyway - this technology is aimed at anonymously purchased pay-as-you-go mobiles. So what does this mean for the average activist in the street? Well short of wrapping the dog and bone in tin foil and taking a hammer to it before you head out there's a few sensible precautions to take, especially if you're up to something. Don't take your usual phone anywhere you think you might get nicked. Swapping sim-cards isn't enough - both the handset and the sim card have identifying numbers. Don't identify your contacts by their real names in your contacts list. An old-style-phone is going to have a lot less useful info in it than a new-fangled smart-phone.

For more on activist security <http://www.activistsecurity.org/>

PARTY & PROTEST

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PENITENTIARY, MY DEAR WATSON

Anti-whaling veteran and top sea dog at Sea Shepherd, Captain Paul Watson has been arrested in Germany on a Costa Rican arrest warrant.

Captain Watson was detained at Frankfurt airport on Sunday for potential extradition relating to an incident that occurred ten (yes, ten) years ago off the coast of Guatemala, where Sea Shepherd intervened in a shark-finning operation. They were filming a documentary called Sharkwater at the time.

At the time, Costa Rican authorities examined the footage but didn't press any charges - however ten years down the line and a new set of prosecutors have decide to have a pop, filing charges that have lain in wait for Watson since October 2011.

Activists across Europe have mobilised to put pressure on the German authorities to release Watson. Things are looking hopeful as INTERPOL have declared that it is not satisfied that the request from Costa Rica is in compliance with INTERPOL's Constitutions and Rules.

Sea Shepherd had this to say "As Sea Shepherd becomes increasingly more effective at protecting marine wildlife globally, the enemies of the oceans are using all their resources to stop us."

...and finally...

Over 20,000 protesters took to the streets of London on Thursday 10th. Despite containing a significant minority of known troublemakers the march was not only allowed to go ahead, but also copped a remarkably hands off approach from the Met.

This ruly mob were moaning about proposed cuts to the policing budget, with onsite agitators bussed in by the Police Federation, who claim that 40,000 officers jobs are at risk.

Police are also worried that their pensions and wages will not remain as over inflated as they have been since the Thatcher years, when they were bribed to smash the unions and then the travellers.

It's not the first time in UK history we've seen the thin blue picket line - back in 1919 after two large strikes the police were bought off and in return the Police Federation became the only body allowed to represent rank-n-file officers, as a result ineffectual symbolic marches has become their sole weapon in disputes.

SchNEWS had been hoping for a sizeable blue bloc to split off from the main march and become involved in running battles with their colleagues, in the end we had to make do with re-watching footage from the Countryside Alliance protests to get our fill of scum-on-scum action.

Given that the police have refused to take any direct action in over 90 years, it's unlikely that this impotent symbolic gesture will have much impact on Tory policy. Welcome to the recession lads (& lasses)...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all readers to create a better society based on mutual aid and Co-op squatting. Honest.

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