



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER FERRY RIDE TO ANIMAL LIBERATION.....

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FERRY BIG COMPENSATION

OTIS FERRY, SON OF BRYAN, PAYS THOUSANDS IN COMPENSATION TO HUNT

Otis Ferry, arrogant son of rock star Bryan Ferry, has been forced to pay out around £16,000 compensation to two hunt monitors he attacked.

Back in November 2007, Helen Ghalmi and Susan Grima were monitoring the Heythrop Hunt, as associates of Protect Our Wild Animals, when a vehicle driven by a hunt supporter blocked them in on a narrow road. Otis Ferry then joined in attacking the two women in their car and stealing a camera and their car keys. Grima was left with physical injuries and severe post traumatic stress which prevented her leaving the house for some time.

Otis and his friend John Deutsch were arrested and convicted - but only fined £350 each. So the two hunt monitors decided to take out a claim in the civil court against their attackers. Otis Ferry agreed to settle out of court just before the trial began but the other defendant went through with the trial, after which the court found against him.

The moment Ferry handed over the £16,000 must have been beautiful: the guy is a class-A twat of the highest order. He has been arrested multiple times for militant pro-hunting protests and was previously in the nick for four months for conspiring to pervert the course of justice in 2009. On his release, when the charge was dropped, he gave an interview to the Torygraph which included vomit-inducing quotes such as the following: "This has been politically motivated. I am a Tory-supporting master of foxhounds, and the current Government is anti everything that someone like me stands for. This is a socialist Government and I am the epitome of everything they detest." Actually, Ferry, you're just the epitome of a twat. He also, bizarrely, claimed to 'love animals more than people'. He's certainly got a funny way of showing it.

JUSTICE!

Ghalmi said: - "I am so relieved it is finally over. The judge has listened to the evidence and rightly concluded that this was a vicious attack carried out solely because we were monitoring the Heythrop Hunt and these two individuals took it upon themselves to try and get rid of us.

"To be trapped in a confined space in the middle of no where while two men attacked us was a terrifying and distressing ordeal to say the least...I just hope this sends out a clear message to all hunts that we won't tolerate this kind of aggression towards monitors anymore... On that day we experienced a real taste of what the poor foxes go through."

Some sabs from Sussex may be particularly interested in this case as the recent trial of a similar attack on sabs in a vehicle has resulted in the hunt supporters being acquitted - despite clear video evidence, and one of the accused dobbing his mates in.

At the beginning of March a lone hunt monitor was viciously attacked at the Sinnington Hunt and needed hospital treatment. A couple of weeks later about 40 sabs turned up to ruin the hunt's day and show (as the Hunt Sab Association said) "a 'lone' monitor is never truly alone".

SHAC 'BLACKMAIL 3' ACTIVIST: GUILTY VERDICT

During the past several years the campaign SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Life Sciences) have been fighting against animal cruelty committed by HLS in the face of extreme police repression. This week, a UK-based SHAC activist became another legal casualty in the state-sponsored attempts to silence HLS' critics, and was passed a guilty verdict on a 'conspiracy to blackmail' charge. The verdict was given on the 18th of March and she is due to be sentenced next month. The other two defendants have not yet appeared in court as they await extradition from the Netherlands.

The drama began on July the 6th 2012 when activists' homes were raided to find suspects accused of 'conspiracy to blackmail'. The charge can be sentenced with up to 14 years imprisonment. A previous Schnews covers the situation more in depth, including the bullshit nature of the blackmail charge: the catch-all charge means a whole host of otherwise legal actions are bracketed with an unrepresentative sample of law-breaking.

This certainly seems to have been the case with Debbie's trial, during which she was accused of conspiring to blackmail over the course of a decade from 2001-2011. No spe-



"I am the epitome of everything you detest"

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being...

The prize this week goes to Vanda and the dozens of others arrested at Barton Moss. A journalist from the Salford Star reported "I saw one of the arresting officers repeatedly punch Vanda in the stomach. I went around to the other side of the fence to which the police had her pinned and saw blood dripping from her face and absolute fear in her eyes. She was screaming while an officer had his hands around her neck."

She has been remanded for 7 days for supposedly assaulting a police officer. You can see the video here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMoCLAyDW5g>

Vanda was previously injured during another over zealous arrest and left unable to move while the police failed to call an ambulance for over half an hour. Protests continue...

(This bit is supposed to be funny isn't it? Sorry.)

cific incidence of blackmail was referred to. The prosecution tried to drag up evidence such as "she has a book of George Orwell therefore she must be up to no good!", namely, involved in emails sent under the alias 'George Orwell' to one of HLS' clients. Because it's not like everyone and his dog has a copy of 1984 somewhere... They also scraped the barrel with some 'foreign' evidence from periods of time where Debbie was, inconveniently for them, very much in the UK.

NO JUSTICE!

In terms of silencing Debbie, she has been standing firm despite the pressure. In an interview she had stated that bail conditions disallowed for her to protest, house raids were consistently done to remove protest material (such as flyers) and her charges were constantly changed. Nevertheless, she consistently spoke out about the need for solidarity with animal rights activists in her situation and has been supported throughout by solidarity actions taking place across the continent.

As for the other two, the trial has been put on hold for now. To get involved yourself follow the link to a map sharing locations of groups still tackling Huntingdon Life Sciences.

<http://www.blackmail3.org/index.html>
<http://www.shac.net/>

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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'NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY' MY ARSE

Normally it's activists hoping their cases get struck out of court, but not this time: it's the Met. And they failed.

Five women who were deceived into relationships with undercover cops are fighting a case against the force for deceit, assault, misfeasance in public office and negligence. Alongside they're campaigning with the group 'Police Spies Out of Lives'.

The case concerns the intimate relationships spies from the (now defunct and superseded) Special Demonstration Squad had with women they were spying on. Since the unveiling of the spies, Bob Lambert, John Dines, Jim Boyling and Mark Jenner, the women have been fighting for justice for the state-sanctioned abuse they suffered.

The women who were preyed on by the most famous of the infiltrators Mark Kennedy are fighting the case on slightly different grounds as the abuse occurred after 2008 when the Human Rights Act was written into UK law.

The Met are pretty keen to avoid having to bare all in the dock and have been scraping the barrel to try and prevent it. Their latest effort was to claim that an official policy exists concerning disclosure of undercover operations known as 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' (NCND). They argued the policy meant a court case would be unfair to them, as they could not respond to the women's claims – NCND was presented as a blanket ban on giving any information in any circumstances.

Today (Thursday 13 March), they made the surprise move of withdrawing their application. They must've realised they didn't have a leg to stand on: The handling of the police-abuse controversy has been as cack-handed as they come.

MULTIPLE COMPOUND FRACKTURES

Things are busy in the world of anti fracking. The Barton Moss camp is still there, still disrupting the lorries with lock ons and slow walking, despite the best brutal efforts of the cops. The landowners have been given a possession order but some of the Barton Moss protectors are appealing the decision so any eviction will be delayed.

Most of the planning applications and drilling happening for extreme energy at the moment are for 'exploratory' drilling, but in Airth in Scotland, the local community has been fighting plans to start actual production of coal bed methane. Although not strictly fracking, the risks to the local community are much the same and it doesn't score too well on carbon emissions either. Community councils have voted against the plans and there have been strong petitions but Dart Energy are appealing. See <http://www.faug.org.uk> for more.

There are planning applications relating to exploratory drilling at several sites in Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Wrexham, but community resistance just keeps on popping up everywhere there is a potential fracking site. One site near Chester has eight schools within a mile of the drilling site.

There is a drilling rig working at a site in Farndon, near Chester (Mill House Lane - CH3 6NF). The local community have mobilised but want a boost, with a big demo called for this Sunday 16th. There are coaches going from Chester, Wrexham, Liverpool and Manchester.

Some of the smaller energy companies have been sneaking a bit of fracking exploration in while pretending they're just checking out the

CONSTRUCTION WORKER DEATHS

2 construction workers have been killed at work in the past few weeks. Kevin Campbell was a supervisor at the Stratford DLR site and was killed by being struck by machinery. Rene Tkacik was working on the Crossrail project when he was hit by falling concrete and killed. Another person was seriously injured in a crane collapse.

The Construction Safety Campaign held a vigil to remember Kevin Campbell and highlight safety concerns. David Cameron has declared he wants to "kill off health and safety culture for good" obviously caring more about his rich mates and their profits than workers whose lives are ruined by preventable accidents. Investigations into these recent deaths have not finished so we do not know the circumstances.

Firstly, they have failed to produce one document pertaining to the NCND policy (presumably because it doesn't exist). They also failed to mention it until many months after the women began legal proceedings in December 2011.

The Met claim the decision to withdraw was due to home secretary Theresa May's announcement that a public enquiry is to be launched into undercover policing: "It is now not proportionate or appropriate for the claims to be struck out". Let's hope they don't use the upcoming enquiry to further deflect from the women's case, because it's likely to be a washout. It's not set to begin until 2015, and it's coming from a woman who shows her love for activists by pushing for water cannons to blast them right off the streets, and her love for people in general by pushing for the repeal of the Human Rights Act.

The backstory, and legal ins-and-outs of the women's struggle, can be read here: <http://policespiesoutoflives.org.uk/twists-turns/>

conventional fossil fuels. (As SchNEWS explained in more technical language in 'Sneaking in the Frack Door') They have drilled sometimes about 5,000m deeper than needed for conventional extraction. (whoops!) This seems to mostly be happening in Yorkshire at the moment, but there's no reason they won't try it other places.

In the South, foolhardy Cuadrilla are asking to do more test drilling at Balcombe in Sussex. Apparently they weren't completely deterred by the hordes of people making it almost impossible for them to work last year.

Raithlin Energy have applied to do some 'Mini-Frac' tests, which though they sound cute are actually horribly polluting. One site alone might produce 88,000 gallons of radioactive waste. The radioactive material is normally deep underground but fracking dissolves it and brings it to the surface. There doesn't appear to be a plan as to how to dispose of this radioactive waste; there is already no permanent sites to dispose of the waste from nuclear power stations – it is just sitting about in containers waiting until someone comes up with an idea. Imagine if large scale fracking goes ahead, with hundreds of wells drilled and still nowhere to put the radioactive waste.

Productive fracking would need many more wells than the number of current test sites, as each well doesn't produce much. The companies have licences to frack hundreds of square miles with thousands of wells. Now is the time to stop them, before they really get rolling.

Check out www.frack-off.org.uk for locations and more details.

However, 148 people were killed at work last year in the UK and similar numbers every year. Many more suffer serious injuries in work related accidents. The construction industry has a lot more risk than many other workplaces but the risks are increased when bosses put on the pressure to cut costs by skipping safety checks and training or rushing workers.

One of SchNEWS' writers, Simon Jones, was killed in 1998 on his first day at Shoreham Docks. He had been forced into the unsuitable job by hassle from the dole and was not trained for this skilled work. His death kicked off a determined campaign against the casualisation of labour and his family and friends fought to bring the companies responsible to justice.

The 28th April is International Workers Memorial Day. There is an event at Tower Hill by Tower Bridge Road at 1030am. There is also a call to Tweet on that day about preferring red tape to bloody bandages. #WMD14. SchNEWS isn't so sure about the suggestion of sending photos of yourself to politicians – at least make them work to find out who to put on the next illegal blacklist!

Activists are still fighting for justice on the blacklisting scandal. You can find the Blacklist Support Group on Facebook and related blog at www.hazards.org/blacklistblog/ including a video of the attempt to citizens' arrest Cullum McAlpine, a boss most implicated in the blacklisting. Many workers were put on the blacklist exactly because they were campaigning for safer working conditions, which just shows how much industry bosses really care about their workers. Safety normally costs their money but ignoring it costs our lives.

Media coverage of the high death rate among migrant workers in Qatar working on projects for the 2022 World Cup has apparently hastened slightly the building of better housing for the workers. Without sufficient food, water, sleep or sanitation it is no wonder so many of these workers are dying. If current trends continue there could be more workers killed than footballers playing by the time it's all over. The IMF seems more concerned that the bad press will increase labour costs for the project.

...and finally...

Coppers come a-cropper

An alleged 'booby trap' in an alleged squat causes alleged injury to a couple of over-eager officers...

Not one, but two officers fell down a hole concealed beneath a rug in a raid on a Brighton squat earlier this month. Three men arrested after the raid were interviewed about the 'possibility' that their choice of rug placement over an exposed trap door constituted the offence of grievous bodily harm. The other possibility being that in their zealous pursuit of the squatters, the humming of a completely unnecessary police chopper ringing in their ears, the cops didn't look where they were going.

Given that the alleged booby trap was a 'one time' sort of deal – the alleged rug, presumably, was displaced by the first copper – one wonders how the second made the same error. Surely the second count of GBH will be thrown out of court as fast as a pig falls down a hole.

We hope there's video evidence in court.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, Otis Ferry is very good at being a twat, but that's all he's really good for. Honest.

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