

WAKE UP!! IT'S YER GLAM ROCK ANTIFASCIST...



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THIS TOWN AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US

March for England return to Brighton and it ain't SchNEWS who's gonna leave.

Sparks fly - are you ready for the March for England? See SchNEWS' promo video here: vimeo.com/92285643

Brighton likes its quirky little annual rituals - the Festival, the Zombie Walk, Burning of the Clocks, White Night and, of course, Gay Pride and its attendant semi-official munt-fest at Black Rock. Now thanks to the antics of a few misfits from Portsmouth it looks like we can add the knuckle-dragging March for England to this roll-call of honour. Yes - everybody's favourite EDL tribute group has promised to return every year on the same day.

Traditionally among the feistier events in the city's calendar the day has had its ups and downs, but police and organisers have continually tinkered with the arrangements to guarantee satisfaction for everyone. This year looked liked it would be a re-run of 2013 but in audacious coup de theatre Sussex Police have decided to run the whole thing back to front. The march on Sunday April 27th will start at 12.30 p.m on the bottom of West St and will make it all of four hundred yards along Kings Rd eastwards before stopping just short of the Aquarium roundabout.

NASTIES

For those unfamiliar with this unsavoury outing - the March for England is held the Sunday nearest to St George's Day. In previous years the organisers have tried to pretend that it was a harmless family day out. This time round that whole pretence has been dropped and the MfE are proudly boasting of their association with a coalition of far-right racist groups like the English Volunteer Force and the North West Infidels. They've come together under the bigoted banner of the United British Patriots, wannabe pretenders to the English Defence League's tarnished crown. For a full fact-file on these nasties: stopmfe.wordpress.com

BAD JOBBIK

In and of themselves the March for England, especially in the context of Brighton, are ludicrous - however what they represent, ultra-nationalism, is on the rise across Eu-

rope. Recent events in Ukraine where fascists Svoboda have entered government and in Hungary where the rabidly anti-semitic Jobbik are the third largest party in parliament remind us that hard times can lead folk to look for easy answers and the scapegoating of minorities. The entry of immigrant blaming UKIP into the political mainstream should give us all pause for thought.

BRIGHTON ROCKS

The March for England hate Brighton - they've made that very clear. They find it hard to comprehend how a town populated exclusively by dope-smoking genderqueer libertarians (well, mostly) could give them such a hard time. In 2012 the march was diverted, in 2013 they were forced to march

continued on the back...

HAMBACH TO THE FOREST AGAIN

The Hambach Forest, near Cologne in Germany, is turning out to be a shining star in the fight against opencast coal mining. The forest used to cover over 50 square kilometres but large areas of this have been cleared to dig huge open cast pits, since the late '70s. The resulting enormous hole (33 square miles and 400+ feet deep and counting) has eaten up whole villages as well as most of the habitat of the rare Bechstein's bat, for example. Germany is continuing with opencast coal mining on a scale similar to the US, since it decided to phase out nuclear in the wake of Fukushima.

A remaining part of the Forest was first occupied in April 2012 to resist the destruction. That occupation was evicted, over five days, by cops struggling to cope with Germany's first tunnel lock-on. But activists have repeatedly reoccupied sites in the area, using the usual protest site tactics like treehouses and tunnels. A site in the meadow is still running but at the end of March, the latest woodland site was evicted again, but this has not put off the dedicated treehuggers.

The mining company is RWE, part of the same psychopathic entity as n-power. They are using some of the world's largest diggers to extract lignite, a very low quality coal. Opencast mining destroys huge areas of



CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For standing idly by...

Walking down the street, minding your own business and being stopped by the cops may come as no surprise to some...

Being asked to show your ID and asked whether or not you are a squatter, again is uncalled for but not that unlikely...

Asking the police what gave them the right to do this and them laughing and saying "Hah! We're the police" by way of explanation is pretty much your run of the mill response these days...

But then arresting the person standing next to you? Well that would really take the piss.

And that is exactly what Dutch police did as they took the piss all the way to the station when they arrested someone last Wednesday (16th) in a south east neighbourhood of central Amsterdam and kept them banged up for a quite a few hours because "Hah! They are the police".

land, endangers the health of local residents, and adds to carbon emissions.

The 26th April is the 28th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. The campers explain: "We cannot separate the struggles against Coal and Nuclear Power... It's a common resistance against the destruction of nature and the ongoing growth without questioning the results. It's a criticism of capitalist thinking, which just divides in resources and capital. We cannot wait until the next big catastrophe opens the eyes of people."

Occupation Number 4 is already planned for the 26th April, with a march starting from the nearest station Buir, at 2pm then people taking to the trees en masse. If you are planning on being in Germany and were wondering quite how this will work, you might want to go to the skill sharing and planning camp from the 12th to the 25th, with the main organising meeting on the 13th. This camp is going to have a wide variety of theoretical and practical workshops, discussions and actions. Everyone is invited to participate, bringing your own skills and ideas to share. It's also about taking a step toward a world without hierarchy and discrimination, building instead on mutual aid and co-operation.

Of course the activists encourage people to come and join the occupation but also point out there's things to be fighting wherever you are.

hambacherforst.blogspot.de

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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Published in Brighton since 1994

THE GREAT PROBATION DEBATE

PROBATION SERVICES SET TO BE TAKEN OVER BY PRIVATE SECTOR MEGA CORPORATIONS, DURING 'REVOLUTION' IN PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICES

After four years of tory misrule, privatisation of public services is in full swing. Academy schools, the NHS, the postal service, higher education... But one of the biggest feeding grounds of the government's favourite private sector vultures hasn't aroused as much opposition as the others (other than demos by the National Association of Probation Officers, who are not our natural bedfellows). Presumably because they think no one cares about criminals, the probation service and the prison estate are being passed into private hands faster than you can say "I didn't see nothin', guv".

So here SchNEWS presents the whats, whys and whos of the great probation sell-off.

WHAT?

Plans to contract out the majority of the probation service are being steamrollered through, with the 2015 general election billed as the deadline. Under the new system, 'high risk' offenders released from long sentences will still be dealt with by the public sector National Probation Service (NPS). Those considered 'low' or 'medium' risk will be dealt with for one year following release by one of the private sector providers – representing 88 per cent of the rehabilitation services, a figure that has leapt upwards from the 70 per cent initially quoted.

Rather than simplifying the probation service, the probation plans involve creating a dual level service where the state and private sector work in the same areas. The private sector contracts are being sold off in 16 contract areas, designed to achieve 'economies of scale' and give reasonable samples by which to judge providers' performances which are on a 'payment by results' system hinging on reducing re-offending rates. At the same time, the service they provide is supposed to be 'locally responsive'.

The 'payment by results' system has its own inherent contradictions – success means less business coming your way in the long run – which is why the probation services have traditionally not been seen as a viable private project. Along with the fact that without some significant cost-cutting there's no way it could make a profitable business in the first place.

Of all the research into reducing rates of re-offending, the stand out theme has been that the act of imprisoning people, particularly short sentences for minor crime, is one of the major factors that encourage re-offending. Community sentences are significantly more effective, cheaper, and less damaging for the families of those convicted.

True to form, the government have chosen to ignore sense and logic in their quest to establish an authoritarian-capitalist dystopia in the British Isles and, instead of looking at alternative sentencing, are building a 'Titan' super-prison in Wrexham, which will house 2000 inmates at any one time with four further, smaller, radial prisons nearby each housing 1000. Whether the titan prison will be in public or private hands is yet to be confirmed.

The Prison Reform Trust have stated that this will do nothing for the vulnerable people incarcerated there, will be difficult to manage, and seems to be purely for 'political capital'. It's a sad world we live in when warehousing thousands of our fellow citizens in an uber-jail is seen as a vote winner.

WHY?

Bizarrely justice minister Chris Grayling, who's masterminding the probation 'revolution', has stated that the radical overhaul is "not a money-making exercise". This leaves a fog over the question of what's the point, leaving only ideological explanations viable: Giving as much power and money to the quasi-state, unaccountable mega-services corporations as possible. Those suspected to be in the running for the contracts, unsurprisingly, are the likes of G4S, A4E and Serco.

WHO?

That's G4S whose guard murdered a 15-year-old at a G4S-run children's home back in 2006 and later promoted the individual responsible to health and safety manager; baked an aboriginal elder to death in the back of one of their vans during an outback journey in Australia; who have seen riots at the prisons they run in South Africa after allegations they tortured inmates with electric shocks and forcefully administered anti-psychotic injections to non-psychotic victims; and had to be stripped of their UK asylum seeker removal contract after they suffocated Angolan deportee Jimmy Mubenga to death, to name just a handful of minor misdemeanours.

Their track record of spending tax payers' money is just as bad as their record for cruelty. They completely screwed up the Olympic security gig and had to be bailed out by the state, and recently had to be investigated for serious fraud after overcharging the government for their electronic tagging contract to the tune of millions.

A4E were also investigated for serious fraud after it emerged that during the course of their implementation of the Work Programme they failed to meet any of their targets and performed 'abysmally' yet still gave their chairperson £9 million in dividends. She later stepped down, embarrassed by the press but incredibly rich, so all's well that ends well.

Serco have been under pressure for the sexual abuse going on at Yarls Wood detention centre, which they run. They were also involved in the electronic tagging debacle, during the investigation for which both Serco and G4S were temporarily suspended for applying for government contracts. As they were to top bidders for another controversial Grayling plan to privatise three actual prisons, that plan had to be shelved. Handily, however, the whitewash/conclusions of the investigation are due to be completed just in time for them to get their claws into the £1 billion-a-year probation contracts. The murderous tax-money vampires live to see another day.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

ONE DOWN

The first of the Blackmail 3 to be tried in relation the SHAC campaign has been sentenced to 6 years in prison. You can write to her at:

Debbie Vincent, A5819DE, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Surrey, TW15 3JZ.

Messages of support make a big difference to political prisoners - it doesn't have to be a long letter. Remember prison staff read the mail, and prisoners may not be able to reply to all letters.

The other 2 in the case are still awaiting extradition from the Netherlands. For more background on the case see <http://blackmail3.org/>

Corporate Watch have also written about the case at <http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk/?lid=5349>

THIS TOWN AIN'T BIG ENOUGH *continued...*

inside a metal corridor outnumbered ten to one. Every year they are met with a barrage of noise to drown out their message of hate and this year should be no different.

Tony Campbell of Brighton based Stop the March for England told SchNEWS "Brighton has become an emblematic issue on the far-right – we have drawn a line in the sand here. It's obvious that the racists have no base here"

For regular updates on the day follow @stopmfe on Twitter or Stop the March for England on Facebook

For an excellent film on the 2012 counter-mobilisation see This is not England, This is Brighton.

For anti fascism in general see Anti Fascist Network see antifascistnetwork.wordpress.com

...and finally...

NAZI PORNSTAR KNOB CAKE SHAME

Ok – so across Europe the far-right are on a bit of an upswing – that's nothing to laugh about. But the fate of the the second in command of Germany's largest ultra-right party, the NPD will perhaps raise a smile.

Peter Marx (presumably no relation) had to throw in the towel after getting caught out attending a social gathering where the piece-resistance was a penis shaped cake. The icing on the phallic sponge was that accompanying Peter for the evening was porn star Kitty Blair (nee Ina Groll).

Kitty had been enthusiastically pursued by the men with stiff right arms as political viagra. Facebook likes went through the roof, bolstered by saucy poses outside polling booths and online rants against all parasitic non-Germans-living-in-Germany. Her slogan? "nationalism can be sexy too".

Unfortunately for the happy couple – footage of one Kitty's previous starring roles began circulating that showed that she wasn't quite as discriminating against non-Aryans as the party's mass base might like.

Peter's resignation followed shortly.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, antifascists are not necessarily as pretty, as Kitty, but are much more beautiful on the inside. Honest.

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