



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER WEATHERLY LIKE IT OR NOT...

# SchNEWS

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## TRECHEROUS WEATHERLY

**EXSchLUSIVE: AS ANTI-SQUATTING MP EXPOSES HIMSELF**

Mike Weatherly, the Tory MP for Hove & Portslade - architect of the squatting bill (see SchNEWS 794) - has spent much of his first 18 months in power attacking the homeless in his own constituency under the guise of a crackdown on 'lifestyle squatters'. For the most part his campaign has been dominated by a collection of factually inaccurate soundbites. His 'facts' about squatting have been repeatedly rebutted (including in an open letter from 160 lawyers - see SchNEWS 791) but Mike soldiers on.

One argument Mr 'Fair' Weatherly has used to deflect criticism of his anti-squatting campaign has been the supposed support from numerous homeless charities. Funny then, that most of these charities publicly opposed the criminalisation of squatting and said as much in the government's own consultation on the issue. Confused by this apparently contradictory stance, one of Mike's constituents emailed him to ask "You claim

*homeless charities support the criminalisation of homelessness, Crisis, Shelter, St Mungos and more don't - which do?"*

Mike could only come up with one: Off The Fence, a Hove based charity and, according to the MP, "We have had many long discussions about homelessness and how the Council, and the government, could do better. But they agree with me that lifestyle squatters are not homeless persons in the main."

Well, it's perhaps not that surprising that, if you try hard enough, you'll find one charity to back your argument up, but our intrepid citizen journalist was, for some reason, less than convinced by multiple liar Mike Weatherly's reply and contacted Off The Fence himself. Explaining his discussions with the MP he asked to be told, what Off The Fence's position on squatting is? The response was not entirely supportive of Mikey boy's position.

Firstly Paul Young, CEO of Off the Fence, stated that "Mike Weatherley has never talked to me or the Trustees about squatting. 1 million empty houses in UK is criminal. Anyone saying that Off the Fence's position is to criminalise squatting would be wrong". He then clarified Off

## CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

**For being out-standing in his field...**

As part of Surrey Police's harassment of hunt saboteurs (see Sab Land Rover Seized), one sab managed to get himself arrested for the heinous crime of standing in a field. As the Old Surrey and Burstow hunt was disappearing on horseback into the distance a handful of sabs were watching from a footpath. The heroic upholders of law and order were in hot pursuit and, having decided that one of them had drifted a few feet off the path, made an immediate arrest.

Despite the fact that the hunt was over 100 yards away and headed in the opposite direction, police eventually decided to charge him with aggravated trespass and (of course) impose bail conditions banning him from contacting any hunt saboteur, before giving him a phone to call a uh, hunt sab to come collect him from the station.

Job well done boys.

The Fence's official position as: "In regards to squatting, the only criminal element is properties that are left empty, while people are freezing to death on the streets of this City".

Well Mr Weatherly, SchNEWS believes that burning smell may be emanating from your Marks&Spencer's Y-fronts.

## SAB LAND ROVER SEIZED

Hunt sabbing is on the rise again - and of course so is the police backlash. While sabbing expeditions have yet to rise to the heights of the late 80s/early 90s numbers are on the up.

Forty hunt sabs from around the south-east headed up to get on the case of the notorious Old Surrey and Burstow hunt near Tandridge in Surrey this Saturday (3rd). They were met with a heavy-handed police response - two arrests and the seizure of the South Down's groups vehicle.

Despite the fact that hunting is in fact technically illegal - nobody seems to have told Surrey cops. SchNEWS spoke to one sab still splattered in mud from the fields "The police were out in numbers and immediately hostile, arresting one sab for spraying citronella on a footpath".

Sab vehicles were pulled over and subjected to intense scrutiny - needless to say none of the hunt vehicles got the same treatment. At around 2 p.m cops decided that the South Down's group vehicle was overloaded and seized the opportunity to impound it. One cop even said "We don't have to take the vehicle but we're going to because we want to". The legal niceties of the situation remain dubious to say the least.

The day's sabbing was successful as SchNEWS was told "All we have to do these days is be there and that alone prevents the kill" but the South Down's group need £200 to get their vehicle out of the pound and ready for next week's efforts to stop the hunt - Can you help them?

Please send a cheque to  
Southern Anti-Bloodsports  
6 Tilbury Place  
Brighton  
BN2 0GY

## WHAT LESSONS LEARNED?

**BRIGHTON PROTESTER ACQUITTED AS COPS COURT OUT BULLYING KIDS**

On Thursday (1st) a (now) 16-year-old protester was acquitted of assault police and resisting and obstructing arrest at last year's student kickoff/protests in Brighton, on November 24th, aka 'Day X'. His real crime? Speaking out against police brutality. There was plenty more of that to follow.

There was a kettle in Bond Street that had slowly started dispersing in different directions. A crowd decided to head towards that glorious Brightonian eyesore - the Amex building (next to cop shop).

Sussex Police managed to be both on the defensive as well as very offensive. The young protester witnessed police pushing other kids around and asked them to stop. They answered him with their truncheons, beating him pretty much everywhere except his face; a totally unnecessary amount of force against a 15-year-old kid. He wasn't even told he was being arrested. They charged him with assault police, and resisting and obstructing arrest.

During the trial three police officers stood witness to the fact that one officer already had hold of the protester on the ground and yet went on to kneel him on the left arm and head. Even though he was handcuffed they restrained him with a baton across his neck. They eventually released him at 2am the next day. He was offered a caution for their actions. The duty solicitor

was duly noted and dismissed for proven reliable and most solicitous of solicitors, Kelly's. He was released under bail conditions forbidding him to protest in Brighton.

The defendant had to wait until September this year to stand trial (just when kids are supposed to be back at school studying for their GCSEs). To make matters worse the expected 5-day long trial was booked in to Brighton Magistrate's Court for 3 days in September, one day on November 9th and another on November 18th, just to prolong the stress. And after all that, the outcome was that the three magistrates unanimously decided in favour of the defendant. Justice? Not exactly a lesson in swift justice.

The age of the defendant was the same age as Alexis Grigoropoulos, the 15 year old kid that still had all options open until the moment two police men chose to kill him. His death fuelled the turmoil that has ensued in Greece since. Just as Mohamed Bouaziz, a young graduate that set himself on fire in Tunisia after his stall was confiscated by the police for not having a licence kicked off the Arab Spring. For the Occupy movement it was Scott Olsen, the Marine Hero, who got shot in the face by... yeah you guessed it, the police. How much police action will it take for our reaction?

## PARTY & PROTEST

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

**INFORMATION FOR ACTION**

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## DIS-PUTIN' THE ELECTION

With the parliamentary election results out, Russians are taking to the streets of all major Russian cities to show their anger following reports of fraudulent procedures from a number of polling stations.

Russia's biggest party, United Russia, fronted by Putin and Medvedev, has lost a significant number of seats in parliament, its weak majority means it needs to ally with other parties to change constitutional matters. The rest of the votes have gone to the Confused Communist Party of Russia (their main objectives are to get tough on illegal immigration and introduce ethnic stamps in passports), loony right-wing Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (L.D.P.R.) and a centre-right Fair Russia party.

As far as voting goes, the Communists play on Soviet nostalgia and their supporters mainly come from the country's elderly demographic. The Fair Russia party and the L.D.P.R. have supported the current regime on a number of issues. The electorate are restricted to vote for parties which are essentially the same, so the way to show dissatisfaction with Putin is to vote for a largely identical party with some other dude at the front.

The government is not tolerating any outbreaks of demonstrations – they've shown time and time again that their definition of democracy is a (rigged) vote every four years for the dictator of choice. Moscow and St. Petersburg have already witnessed major police brutality and mass arrests, and any future demonstrations will see the same response.

Russian people have plenty of reasons not to be happy with the current regime. Corruption, distrust in politicians, distrust in police, pseudo-reforms, unwillingness to deal with discrimination of ethnic and sexual minorities, lack of independent media, a corrupt court system, privatisation of the public sector, human rights abuses, the appointing of regional heads as opposed to electing them, and ongoing instability in the Caucasus region – to name but a few.

The western governments couldn't care less about the plight of Russians. As long as there is a constant supply of cheap fossil fuels going their direction the West's pretence of caring for democracy in the world is limited to the occasional random comment about the lack of freedom in Russia.

After the chaos of neo-liberal 'freedom' many Russians are against western intervention in their affairs and like to see a strong Stalin-esque figure, such as Putin, defending them against the West. However, the problems mentioned above spell trouble ahead for their shepherd.

Unsanctioned rallies are being swiftly dealt with in the usual manner of mass arrests, while the pro-governmental rallies are free to demonstrate. Well no surprise there!

With the presidential elections in March, Putin's regime will have to come up with a few tricks to pull off another comfortable win, but that's not to say that it won't be able to appoint someone better instead. Either way, the light at the end of the tunnel is still a very long way off for ordinary Russians.

See [SchNEWS.org.uk](http://SchNEWS.org.uk) for:

### **OCCUPY USA GETS CRACKING**

The Occupy movement moves on to foreclosed homes

### **OFF THE SHELF**

Greek anarchists re-appropriate supermarket goods off the shelves into the hands of pensioners.

### **ISRAELIS STEAL ARAB SPRING**

Palestinians protest against settlers' theft of village water source

## REMEMBER GRIGORPOULOS

Tuesday (6th) marked the anniversary of Alexis Grigoropoulos's death (see SchNEWS 659). Thousands attended the two commemorative demonstrations in Athens. About 2,000 students showed up to protest, and smashed two shop windows and three bus stops.

Groups of teenagers attacked two police stations. Battles ensued around Syntagma square (parliament) and Exarcheia between several hundred anarchists and riot police. The police used tear gas and stun grenades and had petrol bombs, bottles and stones thrown at them (no plates though, not in these tough economic times). Earlier in the day cops had attacked Nosotros, the anarchist social centre in Exarcheia. Reports show there were 14 police wounded, 9 arrests and 6 detentions.

As the protests took place Greek ministers were huddled together to vote on another laughable austerity package - tax rises and spending cuts that will hopefully reduce the nation's deficit from 9% to 6.7%.

In another chapter of the ongoing Greek tragedy - 400 steel workers have been on strike for over a month now. They are the employees of the Halivourgiki steel factory, whose bosses had reduced the workers' salaries by 40% and enforced 5 hour working days, despite there being a recorded year to year profit increase of 30% for the company.

\*For all things anarchi and Greek SchNEWS recommends <http://www.occupiedlondon.org/blog/>

## IRAN AWAY

It's taken just a few months for Cameron and chums to do what Blair took 4 years to do. Back in '99 Clinton & Blair fought a war in Kosovo, leading to partition and regime change in Yugoslavia. Blair came to believe that UK military might was an all conquering force for good. So he invaded Iraq and helped kill a million people.

Fastforward to the present. Neo-Cameron and Wiliam "send him to the" Hague are feeling flush following an 'easy' (for them) victory in Libya. Now, powerful and idiotic members of the British political elite believe that they can go to war against Iran and win. The recent *Grauniad* and *Torygraph* stories planted by anonymous "senior officials" about joint UK-Israeli military wargames are part of the plan. The ratcheting of tensions, the protests at the British embassy in Tehran, and the UK's closure of its embassy, are steps on the way to war.

Hague is, of course, utterly wrong about the West's chances of winning such a war. Iran has 3 times the size and population of Iraq, and has a modern military with plenty of experience in 'asymmetrical warfare'. Its government is broadly popular, especially when it plays to its conservative, nationalist, religious base. That base hates Britain almost as much as it hates Israel and the USA. Were the West to strike, Iran would be free to leave the IAEA (the UN nuclear watchdog) and build the bomb everyone's so scared of. It's hard to see how a war would lead to regime change without an occupation of Tehran. It's hard to see the western powers even making it to Tehran, let alone staying there.

But the UK government could do with a war. The home front is looking decidedly unstable, and, as we've all learned post 9-11, war is great for controlling a population by fear. The (Neo-) Conservative Party could do with the distraction. And they've got friends in Israel (remember Osborne's Mossad-loving chum Werrity – busted after 'unofficially' meeting Mossad. Mostly Israel's loony rightwing leaders want an Iran War to distract from their domestic problems and their occupation of Palestine. It's dangerous to look

too hard for sanity in the Knesset these days – the Israeli government has 'jumped the shark' as far as rational politics goes. Their entire official political structure now consists of far right groups competing to be the most extreme. On some level they are aware that they can't go to war without America, but if Britain and Israel lobby hard together, it's uncertain whether Obama has enough leadership to stop the militarist, rightwing and Zionist lobbies from forcing his hand.

The Iran War, the scripted but never shot finale of the War on Terror trilogy, may be fast approaching. It might even already be there. Parts of Iran keep blowing up, on the 30th a second Iranian military facility was hit by a massive explosion. Israel's intel minister, Dan Meridor, explained, "*There are countries who act in other ways in dealing with the Iranian nuclear threat.*" 'Politics by other ways' – that famous euphemism for war. Now that there are no official lines of communication, it's that bit easier for a situation to escalate out of control.

On the plus side however, if the Iran War kicks off we'll only need to change the Q for an N on those old Iraq War placards before we go marching...

## ...and finally...

Human culture has finally jumped the shark (if it hadn't already – suggestions as to when on a e-postcard, please). US national political debate is expressed largely in allusions to, or critiques of, er, kids telly.

Last month a New York Post writer labelled penguin-tastic 'Happy Feet 2' as "Kiddie Karl Marx" while last Friday (2nd) Fox News got into the action by laying into the new Muppets movie.

Anchor Eric Bolling foamed about the goggle-eyed heroes' latest foe, an evil oil baron called Tex Richman. How could they portray a businessman as at all evil?! Guest Dan Gainor was only too happy to weigh in, "*You wonder why we've got a bunch of Occupy Wall Street people walking around all around the country, they've been indoctrinated, literally, for years by this kind of stuff.*" He denounced the whole pack of prankster puppets as a bunch of commies, deliberately put out there to brainwash the kids. Colleague Andrea Tantaros chimed in with the paedo-scare angle, saying "*I just wish liberals could leave little kids alone.*"

Yeah Fox, the Land of the Free should have rules against that kind of thing! But SchNEWS wonders why it doesn't just make them up. Like when they recently reported on a story about whether a presumed liberal-leaning US Supreme Court Justice should be able to exclude herself from ruling against the constitutionality of Obama's health reforms. To support their argument against her, they brought up an official looking graphic citing '**US Constitution, Article 28, Sec. 114**'. The problem? The US constitution only has 7 articles, none with more than 10 ten sections, and none remotely as 'quoted'!

And talking of the brainwashing the kids, spare a thought for wannabe Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain. His bizarre campaign consisted largely quoting er, the Pokemon movie. Sadly his sloganic gem "Life can be challenge, life can seem impossible, but its never easy when there's so much on the line." failed to set the world to right(s). He bowed out from the race last week, to spend more time with his toys (and avoid sexual harassment claims going back the 1990s).

\* SchNEWS says with muppet right-wingers running the world, give us the real Muppets any day - Animal for president!

### **Disclaimer**

SchNEWS advises all readers, we've been counting for months and just worked out we've just passed the two million words published milestone. We should get out more. Honest.

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