



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER BOTTOM FEEDING...

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 11th May 2012

Free/Donation

Issue 814

NO MORE FISH IN THE SEA

A MICROSCOPIC VIEW ON MARINE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, CONCENTRATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THE UPCOMING CAMPAIGN OF THE BLACK FISH THIS SUMMER.

The marine ecosystems are deteriorating at a terrifying rate. Alarming 85% of fish stocks are already depleted according to research figures. The attitude to the oceans seems to be - out of sight out of mind. No one is policing the illegal drift-nets, long-lines and trawlers that are ravaging our precious oceans and destroying the life within. In fact the opposite is true, governments spend billions to subsidise the commercial fishing industry. Half of all fish caught in the world is used to feed livestock, thereby making pigs and chickens the top predators of our seas.

One group, following in the wake of Sea Shepherd, is to take a stand in the Mediterranean. The Black Fish, a European based conservation organisation, will begin its blue-fin tuna campaign in the Mediterranean Sea on the 1st June - they'll then follow straight on with a campaign to against the use of illegal drift-nets. Check out their website for news. The use of illegal drift-nets alone is causing carnage amongst species such as whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks, swordfish and tuna. Add long-lines and trawlers into the mix and pretty soon the Mediterranean will be as barren as the Antarctic desert.

The Mediterranean with it's slim connecting point to other oceans has amazing bio-diversity. The tides are minute, and the climate is predominantly hot and dry in the summer, with mild and wet winters. These conditions provide

a suitable environment for migratory species to spend the winter and breed. The Med is a necessary habitat for cetaceans such as the striped dolphin, common dolphin, risso's dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, long finned pilot whale, cuvier's beaked whale, sperm whales and fin whales.

Drift-nets in the Med are intended to catch swordfish and tuna but research figures estimate that up to 100,000 cetaceans (dolphins and whales) and 100,000 sharks are also caught as unintended casualties of the fishing methods. Around 15% of the fish caught are the actual targets, leaving 85% of the catch unwanted, so they simply throw them dead over the edge into the deep. The most common victims are sperm whales (in their hundreds), fin whales, (not so) common dolphins, striped dolphins (the biggest casualties of driftnet by-catch), blue sharks, thresher sharks, short fin mako sharks, basking sharks (sharkwise Moroccan trawlers are the largest culprit with an estimated by-catch of 60,000 and 90,000 per year- which makes the estimated overall figure of 100,000 sharks caught by drift-nets seem rather conservative), sea turtles (with an estimated 60,000 kills a year in the Med alone - critically endangered are the loggerhead, green, leatherback and hawksbill turtle), shark rays, skates and the devil fish are other frequent victims.

DEBT & TAXES

CITIZENS DEBT AUDITS NETWORK LAUNCHED IN BRUSSELS

Recoiling from the austerity measures activists and organisations worldwide are starting to get together to fight back against the illegitimacy of the national debts and bailouts. On 7th April the first Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the newly formed International Network for Citizen Debt Audits took place in Brussels. Activists and organisations from Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, Egypt and Tunisia were present. The main intention of the group to organise a international network campaigning for transparency on the debt, the cancellation of austerity measures, and global regulation of the financial sector.

This new direction has been inspired largely by the different approach Iceland took on the financial crisis. On 23rd April, the former Prime-Minister Geir Haarde was put on trial, and although he has been found guilty of only one minor charge and got off scot-free the simple fact that he got put in the dock in the first place trial sets a po-

tentially ground-breaking precedent.

He was accused of negligence in regulating the private banking expansion, whose paper value before the crash had ballooned to 10 times the GDP of the entire country. The wave of protests that have swept the country since 2008 led the previous government to resign and a new left wing coalition to be elected in 2009. Since then the banks have been nationalized and a new constitution has been written which protects Iceland's sovereignty over the power of international finance and virtual money.

Iceland's standing up to EU, UK and Netherlands has been remarkable. The main issue regards the aggressive overseas expansion of Iceland's banks through the Icesave savings accounts offering a staggering rate of 6% in UK and 5% in the Netherlands. By the time the credit crunch was over - the country owed a staggering 4 billion euros.

There were a couple of attempts to reach a consensus of payback on a lower interest rate

BRIGHTON PUNK PICNIC PRESENTS...
A SQUATTERS' NETWORK OF BRIGHTON BENEFIT

CROP CIRCLES
QUALITY ITALIAN FASTCORE

LEFT IN RUNS
ITALIAN RUN/FAST/SLOW HAWKCORE PUNK

SIST STATE
WEST COUNTRY ANARCHOPUNK

BHF
AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PUNK

DOORS 8PM
£3/4 DONATION

Brighton will host an international squatters' convergence from 17th-20th May. For more info see network23.org/snob

TUESDAY 15TH MAY
FOR VENUE CALL 07870309161 ON THE DAY

CRAP PROSECUTION OF THE WEEK

For being a hunt sab...

On Wednesday 2nd May two Brighton hunt sabs had the cases against them thrown out of Redhill Court. Both had been charged with aggravated trespass following crap arrests during a meet of the Old Surrey & Burston Hunt on 3rd December 2011.

The judge ruled that for one defendant the prosecution hadn't even put forward any evidence of trespass, nor that there were any actions which could be interpreted as aggravating the non-existent trespass.

The other sab was left with the farcical situation of the prosecution (realising at half time that they had no chance of a guilty verdict) offering no further evidence after the judge had ruled there was a case to answer. As the prosecutor didn't have the authority to officially discontinue, the case had to carry on. Cue much head-scratching all round as a solution to 'avoid any embarrassment' was sought. In the end the defendant had to briefly take the stand, with even the judge almost feeding him lines, before being found not guilty.

Throughout the trial it was Surrey Police who received the most scrutiny and criticism from the judge and the investigating officer was probably the person most relieved not to have to endure the defence case.

- however the public rejected them outright by popular referendum. Despite fierce international pressure and bullying, the population of Iceland made it clear that they hadn't profited from the original transactions and they weren't going to take the rap when the deal turned sour.

Iceland legitimised and cleared the path for what has been shouted in the streets of all Europe. Financial speculation and reckless borrowing by international banking triggered the current crisis, hence the debt is odious and illegitimate to become a public debt. Knowledge gives power and the process of how the debt was incurred needs to be scrutinized and audited rather than glossed over by the ruling elites and the bankers.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

Copyright
Published in Brighton since 1994

HELLENIC DISUNITY

In Athens last Thursday (3rd) the offices of DI.SI (neoliberal right-wing party), New Democracy (the main right-wing party) and the nationalist Cypriot Student organisation (associated with the Neo-Nazi Golden Dawn group) were on the fiery end of arson attacks from an anonymous group. The firestarters stated that the attacks were for all those that had been fighting in the streets for the past two and a half years. The far-right parties were targeted as Greek elections were round the corner.

The general election was held on Sunday (6th), a year earlier than they were supposed to under the four year tradition. The Greek financial and political crisis has led to a desperate attempt to adjust the situation of constant chaos that is Greece. Protest and strikes have become a daily occurrence since the death of Alexis Grigoropoulos in December 2008 and following that the series of austerity packages passed by the Greek Government since 2010 under EU rule and against the wishes of the Greek populace. This fact was made clear after two-thirds of voters backed parties opposed to the EU/IMF deal. Reaffirming the possibility of a Greek default and exit from the euro-zone. Germany's iron lady, Angela Merkel, however has made it crystal clear that Greece's reforms must go on.

A new balance was achieved in the Greek Parliament, the pro-bailout parties, PASOK and New Democracy, no longer have a majority in the Parliament, and a political split over the bailout is preventing a coalition government forming. On Wednesday (9th) the hard leftist Alexis Tsipiras of Syriza, admitted failure in his role to negotiate with the other parties. Consensus was impossible due to his radical position on nationalising banks, refusing the bailout and cancel austerity measures, and put a moratorium on the Greek debt. In Mr Tsipiras words, "soon they will tell us to abolish democracy in return for new loans." The new balance will probably bring further political disaster as well as resistance to the policies of the EU and the IMF.

New Democracy's figures dropped from 33.5% to 19%, whilst PASOK went from 43% to a measly 13%. Syriza (radical left coalition) came in second with 16.8%. An unfortunate entry was that of die-hard Nationalists Golden Dawn, hitting almost 7%. New Democracy leader, Antonis Samaras attempted to form a coalition government but to no avail. PASOK leader Evangelos Venizelos hinted at a broad coalition government of pro-European parties, "A coalition government of the old two-party system would not have sufficient domestic and international credibility if it would gather a slim majority."

In Greece's battle between a state of anarchy and a police state, last Friday (4th) the Greek ministry of health with a little bit of help from their friends KEELPNO (the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) spent 3 days cleansing the streets of female sex workers. Brothels have been raided across Athens, and the sex workers inside examined and arrested. The operation saw 16 sex workers publicly identified as HIV positive, with their details and photographs published on police websites and mainstream media. All 16 have been charged in an Athens court with serious bodily harm, intent to cause serious bodily harm and violation of the prostitution law, which are criminal offences.

WOOD YOU BELIEVE IT

The EDL's much-vaunted 'homecoming' to Luton last weekend was, in the end, a damp squib. Only around 800 leaguers (estimates vary between 600 and 1,000) actually bothered to turn up as opposed to around 3,000 last year. This marks the end of a year of declining attendance at demos and much infighting for the EDL. Luton is feted as their hometown - 'Where it all began' and the poor attendance doesn't bode well for Tommy's little soldiers.

This demo was also supposed to be the launch pad for Tommy Robinson's (aka Stephen Yaxley-Lennon) political career - unelected as ever, he's ascended to the dizzying heights of the deputy leadership of the British Freedom Party (currently polling even lower than the Lib Dems). In the event the BFP were kicked out of the hotel before a word was spoken and forced to hold their press conference on Twitter. Not a good start even by the bungling standards of the UK far right.

Opposing them was a crowd of around 1,000 organised by the UAF under the banner 'We are Luton'. This feisty demo marched around the suburbs, tried to break out into Bury Park (the town's Asian area) but ultimately ended up in a park miles from the EDLs rally.

The real story of the day was the massive police mobilisation - Bedfordshire cops spent £1.2 million policing the two crowds, who got barely a glimpse of each other. Small groups in town were stopped, searched, identified and then marched in the direction of their respective kettles.

What next for the English Defence League? 16th of June will see them kettled in a car-park in Dewsbury for another national demo and at some point in July they're gonna try and march through Bristol - something some locals are said to be "really looking forward to".

BONEHEAD REVISITED

Meanwhile as the main body enters its decline - the EDLs splinter groups are starting to try and get into scraps with anyone they can find on the left. Two SWP paper sellers were attacked by a mob in Lewisham on 28th April - one pensioner on the stall suffered a broken cheekbone. Five idiots from the local NF/Infidels turned up to a public sector workers' picket line in Bootle today (Thurs 10th) in attempt to intimidate strikers.

For continual anti-fascist updates:
<http://antifascistnetwork.wordpress.com/>

MASSIVE SNOB

Our very own Brighton is hosting the International Squatters Convergence from 17th-19th May (and probably beyond). With the imminent criminalisation of squatting in England and Wales, squatters are coming from all over Europe to plot and party against the ban, right on doorstep of the Tory MP who pushed the ban through (Mike Weatherly). Cooked up by SNOB(aha)- the Squatters Network of Brighton (and Hove actually), there'll be a veritable smorgasbord of workshops, film screenings, partying and vegan food. Come one come all - see if you can make it through to the Jubilee celebrations..!

For updates see: www.network23.org/snob
Email: convergencebrighton@riseup.net

JUSTICE FOR KELLY THOMAS

On Monday 7th at Orange County Court, California footage of 37 year old homeless man Kelly Thomas being beaten to death was shown at the preliminary hearing of two of the officers responsible. Though the footage has been known about for some time since Kelly's murder last July, it has finally entered the public domain. His family had been fighting to release the video, but it was held back until as late as possible - no doubt largely because of the damning picture it paints of the officers' actions.

Police initially attempted to arrest him following reports of a man 'looking in car windows', officer Manuel Ramos approached Kelly (who suffered from schizophrenia and was sat on the ground at the time) and threatened to start punching him if he didn't cooperate. While Kelly was understandably argumentative, it was not until officer Ramos shoved him that he stood up at which point Ramos and his colleague began a prolonged attack on Kelly striking him repeatedly with batons.

More cops arrive on the scene over the course of the assault, with each one getting stuck in themselves. Kelly was repeatedly hit, kicked and tasered as he lay on the ground pleading for them to stop. Eventually he is left handcuffed and unconscious when the police stopped to chat about who had the most grazes on their knuckles. Paramedics arrived on the scene but the Filth insisted on their minor cuts and bruises being seen to first. Kelly was left in a coma and died 5 days later.

Judge Walter Schwarm ruled that two of the officers (Ramos & Cpl Jay Cicinelli - the cop who tasered him) stand trial for second-degree murder and manslaughter.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

...and finally...

We're not too fussy about musical taste here: everything from Bananarama to Beirut graces the turntables here at SchNEWS Towers but here's a genre we felt deserved wider exposure - ambient fash-hop.

Now fascism has always been proof that the devil definitely doesn't have all the best tunes, but in recent years at least white supremacist music has followed the well-beaten path of Oi Punk and it's offshoots - but not this time.

The daring genre mash-up occurred during the election campaign for the Scottish National Front - of course it has to be heard to experience it's full majesty but if you can imagine one of Tricky's earlier efforts revived via the medium of a Bontempi organ and the solo vocals of a disgruntled Glaswegian Nazi you wouldn't be far wrong. Really, it has to be heard to be believed.

So far it's accumulated 3000 visits on YouTube, roughly ten times the number of votes the NF received in the electoral contest. Sadly the genius behind this avant-garde leap has remained anonymous but we can't help wondering what's next - Balkanized Gypsy Swing perhaps, Reich & Roll or Drum & Race anyone?

Free graphics book to the best suggestion!

Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all neo-Nazi rapping politicians, don't give up the day job... on second thoughts, just give up. Honest!

Subscribe!

Get SchNEWS free every week by email in pdf or text file - visit our site, or send us stamps and we'll post it to you. Copy and distribute! Keep SchNEWS free with donations (via website or cheques payable to Justice?). Posted free to all prisoners.

SchNEWS, c/o Community Base, 113 Queens Rd, Brighton, BN1 3XG - (01273) 685913 - mail@schnews.org.uk - www.schnews.org.uk - find us on Facebook & Twitter (whatever they are)