



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER ARBEIT MACHT FREI...

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Friday 8th June 2012

Free/Donation

Issue 818



SchLadbrokes

- Greece to crash out early - 1/3
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SERFS UP

AS WORKFARE CHAINSTORE GANG IS MOBILISED TO PAY HOMAGE TO OUR MONARCH.

By now the glad tidings that eighty of her majesty's most loyal subjects were happy to celebrate 60 years of her reign by kipping under a bridge before a joyful thirteen hour shift of telling union-jack-sporting buffoons the way to the big river in the middle of London without being paid has been splashed all over the papers. But it's just the tip of the iceberg.

Unemployed folk from Bristol, Bath and Plymouth were forced into the unpaid work by agency Tomorrow's People – yet another private company gorging itself on the welfare budget by claiming to provide a route into paid work. They were bussed into London by Close Protection UK Ltd in the early hours of Sunday morning and told the only accommodation available was to doss down under London Bridge. Fifty of them were paid an apprentice wage of £2.80/hr for the fourteen hour shift that followed, the others were told the whole thing was 'work experience' for potential roles during the Olympics. An 'apprenticeship' in directing people to the toilets – only in Cameron's Britain.

Now, this bunch of chancers have unwittingly shone a light into the murky world of Workfare, where big business gets a labour force without the hassle of having to pay them. Workfare isn't a single program, according to the Solidarity Federation in their excellent pamphlet on the subject. *"Workfare is a term used to describe a range of schemes in which people are forced to work without wages in order to receive their benefits. After recent controversies the government has sought to obscure the nature of its workfare policies"*

Close Protection UK are of course now being singled out as bad apples, with questions about their contract to supply fire marshals for the Olympics. A government spokeswoman said: *"This is a one-off ... This is an isolated incident. The company has apologised."* – well they would wouldn't they?

However SchNEWS is positive that the whole barrel is positively stinking. We spoke to others pushed into crowd control for the Jubilee by the dole office. One told us *"I was told to apply for this job under the usual sanction of potentially losing my benefits even though at that time I'd only been signing on for a week"* This was a paid position but the job, with Vespasian security, was advertised at £6/hr, (below the minimum wage). The accommodation was a campsite in Essex and stewards were expected to supply their own tents and sleeping gear. Our interviewee worked three days, the first shift was 4am until 7pm, a

ball-busting 15 hours, followed swiftly by 11am to 12pm then for a finale 6am to 6pm. *"The worst thing was the fact that when travel time to the camp site was factored in we only got two hours sleep on the second night"*.

Of course the Jubilee was a one off occasion (although all the same stuff is going to happen on a grander scale at the Olympics) but Workfare is simply the new way to do business. It's got bugger all to do with creating jobs – every time a company gets someone to work for free or below minimum wage they're not likely employ someone with a regular contract and all the tedious employees rights that go with it. Free staff also mean cutbacks on overtime, especially hard for those relying on extra hours to make ends meet.

The workfare agenda is all about breaking the lowest sectors of society to the will of the highest – forcing us in a time of austerity into competition for the scraps thrown from the table. In effect it as a massive public subsidy to big business and a weapon against those who want better pay and conditions. It 's also set to be rolled out across the unemployed population to an unprecedented extent.

The fightback is gathering pace though and the jubilee shenanigans have underlined the point. While the campaign against workfare continues to go from strength to strength, the government's workfare policy continues to flounder. A recent conference – 'How do we break workfare?' was organised by Brighton Benefits Campaign. Ideas and information were shared and ways forward planned, including a week of action from 7-14 July, a counter conference during the Welfare to Work convention (10-11 July), and a national boycott of Holland & Barrett – enthusiastic participants in the workfare schemes.

According to them *"The message is clear. Those of us who oppose workfare in all its forms are winning. There has never been a better time for you, your workplace and your union branch to get involved and say no to workfare. After all, we know where we are going. Come with us. We are going to win. Boycott Exploitation. Boycott Workfare."*

* <http://www.boycottworkfare.org/>

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

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For sticking it to the man...

On Tuesday evening (29th May) a couple of our local squatters were walking past the Level, when one stuck a small Squatters' Network sticker on an already heavily decorated lamp-post. Had our hero checked over his shoulder first he'd have noticed that the long arm of the law was only just behind him. A chase ensued with the stickerer managing to valiantly disappear into the night, while his female accomplice hid behind a wall.

Unfortunately the coppers were surprisingly determined and found her after a thorough search of the area. In the excitement she'd forgotten about a small amount of weed in her pocket, earning her a night in the cells and a caution, as well as the loss of a large stack of stickers.

TEL-AVIV LA DIFFERENCE

On 23 May, the Hatikva neighborhood in Tel-Aviv was set alight by racist rioting and violence towards the Sudanese refugee population. The protest – around 1000 people – was opposed to Sudanese migration and called for the immediate expulsion of around 60,000 illegal African immigrants in Israel.

The mob destroyed several storefront windows, trash cans were set alight, passersby were bullied, pushed around and even beaten up. Around 20 people were arrested for assault and vandalism.

The aggro was instigated by the outright racist propaganda shouted by speakers, including government officials, referring to the African population as "the cancer in our body" and calling for the "expulsion of the infiltrators".

Ilan Lior, Haaretz writer, was present at the protest and these are his words: *"On Wednesday, everyone with black skin was labelled an enemy. These Knesset members are largely responsible for turning the words into acts. They cannot shake off that responsibility. The harsh violence against passersby that happened to have black skin is a direct result of their wild incitements."*

Racist violence also took place last April with cocktails being thrown into refugee homes, businesses and one kindergarten. Most Sudanese in Israel are seeking refuge from the ongoing military conflicts in their country. However, to acquire legal refugee status is almost impossible due to Israel's definition of Sudan as a 'hostile state'. Not only does the government feed this idea of refugees as hostile but it also treats the political and social problem in the old and moldy Zionist racist thought, i.e Land of Israel for Jewish people. Days before the riot, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the "60,000 infiltrators are liable to become 600,000 and lead to the eradication of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state." What kind of democracy he was referring to is unknown. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Eli Yishai defined the situation as the "crumbling of the Zionist dream" – a dream that's often been chased in ways more like a nightmare for those on the receiving end.

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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CURIOSITY KILLED THE CATT

87 year old perennial protestor John Catt wants his personal details off the national extremism database, maintaining that his inclusion on the database breaches his human rights and is unlawful. He's spent years peacefully protesting over the Vietnam war, nuclear weapons, Iraq, racism in the police force, poll tax, increasing tuition fees and more recently Brighton based arms factory EDO/ITT.

On Wednesday (30th) during his judicial review, Lord Justice Gross and Mr Justice Irwin rejected John Catt's attempt to get his details deleted. This is despite the fact that in judicial terms he is of good character and has never been convicted of any crime. The crude decision rules that his right to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights is not being violated it also means that all photographic and written evidence can be kept on record against his will.

The result from this case is an important

benchmark of the treatment of protesters by police and the judiciary system in general. "This judgement raises matters of constitutional importance and could impact upon anyone engaging in peaceful protest," said his lawyer Shamik Dutta of Bhatt Murphy solicitors. In effect it gives the system carte blanche to monitor, record and store information of anyone more openly and freely than they did before.

The judge's decision was justified by John's participation in Smash EDO protests. Lord Gross said- "Although many people at Smash EDO protests do not commit criminal offences, disorder and criminality has been a feature of a number of the protests. On one occasion more than £300,000 damage was caused." Lord Gross failed to mention that the issue of the £300,000 damage was deliberated in Lewes Crown Court in 2010 and seven people known as the Decommissioners were in fact acquitted of criminal damage charges. The damage was found to not be a criminal offence in light of the fact the damage was done to prevent greater war crimes

committed by the Israeli army during operation Cast Lead.

Catt began legal proceedings after discovering his details were held on the database. This was only after repeated requests to the Data Protection Agency. In some instances the data record such trivia him taking out his sketch pad and drawing the scene at demonstrations, hardly the acts of public enemy number one then!

This court judgement legitimises the surveillance of anyone who participates in protests. The NPOIU (National Public Order Intelligence Unit) is a UK police intelligence unit, set up in 1999 to monitor thousands of protesters. Police claim that the unit only records the movements of hardcore activists labelled as domestic extremists "who commit crimes to further their political aims". NPOIU has monitored John Catt at more than 55 demonstrations and not brought a case to court. The case ensued after the veto from ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) to delete data pertaining to John Catt.

CASUALS OUTSMARTED

"You asked for it" - "you sowed the wind, now you'll reap the whirlwind" , "no women and kids this time" "We are coming back to Brighton IN NUMBERS and you dirty lefty child abusing cunts will be dealt with" - These were just a handful of the online threats made by EDL supporters in the wake of the humiliation of EDL splinter group March for England (see SchNEWS 812) on April 22nd.

The EDL's football hooligan division, Casuals United, had been boasting on their blog that they would be returning to Brighton in numbers and strength to take revenge on local people. Six weeks previously, hundreds of locals stood side by side against right wing racists who had tried, and failed, to parade around the city under the banner of 'March for England'.

Weirdly, Casuals United named 2nd June the day for their action, but decided to keep the details quiet. They were obviously caught between the stools of either keeping the whole thing completely offline and having tiny numbers or advertising it and having to deal with police and anti-fascists. In the end they plumped for calling the whole thing a 'social', as if coming to Brighton, the South Coast's biggest tourist town, and buying a pint while in disguise was an achievement of some sort.

Brighton anti-fascists decided against an extensive counter-mobilisation on the grounds that the Casuals weren't going to pull the numbers and a big call out would simply be crying wolf on their behalf.

Nonetheless on the Saturday around a hundred anti-fascist activists assembled in Brighton's main shopping area, Churchill Square. This was to support the Brighton Uncut Great Brighton Street Party and the regular Palestine Solidarity campaign stall. They anticipated the arrival of some kind of flash mob as the fash gathered in Hove and around Palace Pier. (Well, most of them - two were nicked at Hove train station for cocaine possession). However all we saw were EDL spotters, at least two using their wives as cover. Police numbers were huge so the spotters were just politely encouraged to fuck off.

BANGERS & FASH

By 3pm the stalls and street party were winding down - co-incidentally this was exactly as we received reports that the fash had stopped skulking in pubs and in an astounding display of

both Dutch and Colombian courage had sallied out of the pubs into Kemptown to throw bangers around and make homophobic remarks. It was presumably at this point that well-known local EDLer Stephen 'Sugar Plum Fairy' Sands got nicked for letting off fireworks - something we all no doubt enjoyed when we were fourteen but possibly a little immature at 44.

In response anti-fascists set off for an impromptu march down North Street, towards Kemptown behind a large 'NO FASCISM' banner. After dealing with a police roadblock and attempted kettle most of the anti-fascist crowd made it down to the Old Steine where the first face-to-face confrontations with the Casuals occurred. Mostly due to the numbers of cops these were confined to slanging matches but there was at least one exchange of blows. There were skirmishes along Old Steine and in Pool Valley bus depot. Anti-fascists were arrested and four were held for public order offences and one (ridiculously) for assault of a police officer.

The whole time this was happening more local people joined the mobile protests. Brighton Anti-fascists distributed a leaflet to explain their actions: "Fascism grows if we let it. We are here to challenge the racism, Islamophobia and fascism of the EDL, Casuals United and the March for England. This has no place in our city or anywhere else."

By 4pm police rounded up the majority of the Casuals, (around 35 of them) and marched them to the station where they were forcibly placed on a train and dispersed out of town. They were harangued by anti-fascists the whole way. A few more were arrested at this point for 'racist chanting'. By the end of the day the fash had taken thirteen arrests meaning that even if we take their inflated estimate of a turn-out 100 at face value then one in seven of them were nicked. The spread of towns they came from means that this really was an attempt at a national mobilisation... oh dear.

In an effort to save face Casuals United have said that the vast majority of their supporters stayed hidden and undercover - moving around in small groups. Unfortunately for them, travelling to the City-by the Sea with all their racist and homophobic baggage meant that they did, in the end, reveal their true colours.

*see brightonantifascists.wordpress.com

YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE

Demonstrators gathered outside Brighton and Hove Town Hall on Wednesday (6th). Later that evening they held a Mass Sleep Out to raise awareness about the problem of homelessness and inform people about the AHS (Autonomous Homeless Shelter). The decision about the sleep out came after Brighton's squatted AHS got served with eviction papers for a court hearing.

Around 25 people arrived at 4pm, most planning to spend the night until the following morning when the council workers arrive at work. The sleep out began early so the action could be visible as they finished work. A soup kitchen was provided, serving up a hearty bean stew, home-made sour dough bread and cake for all participants. People planning to attend were encouraged to bring sleeping bags, blankets, roll mats and other relevant material. As people started turning up, council security staff came out and warned everyone not to cross the invisible line in front of the council building entrance, otherwise everyone would be moved on. Throughout the day and night many people approached the congregation to offer their support and words of encouragement.

The action effectively went off without a hitch. Unfortunately the court hearing on Thursday (7th) resulted in a fail for the AHS. They've lost the building behind London Road; Brighton magistrates' court handed a possession order over to the building's owner. The exact date they have to vacate the premises is not known yet but they will have at most a matter of weeks to find an alternative. One AHS activist said, "The current government has committed to the criminalisation of squatting - projects such as this one show that it is a vital tool for groups and individuals, especially in the face of an economic downturn, rising homelessness and cuts to key services." Brighton & Hove has one of the highest rates for homelessness in the UK, especially given the high property prices and low average income. A spokesperson for the AHS said they would be appealing the decision.

The shelter has helped support 35 people in the last few months and is currently home to 16 people that otherwise would be sleeping rough. The AHS manifested because of a need to deal with the city's increasing homelessness problem and the council's disregard on the matter. An example of the council's attitude was the closure of St. Patrick's night shelter on the 31st January with no replacement being provided.

FOSSIL FOOLS

If politicians in Europe, and indeed the world, felt the need to clarify their complete and utter disregard for our environment and atmosphere then they should consider the past month a success. Almost 20 years ago to the day since world leaders met in Rio for the first Earth Summit, and made baseless, hollow promises to do something about climate change, the roller-coaster is heading towards the inferno faster than ever. What ever small gains have been made are being fast undone as conversation turns to growing our way out of recession by any means possible.

Going undetected in the corporate media, interim talks were held in Bonn in the past few weeks to thrash out details ahead of the next UN Climate Summit in Doha this November. Many of those involved left disappointed at the slow pace of progress and were concerned that the tentative steps made in Durban are being unpicked. No matter the result, politicians across the world are acting as though they couldn't care less.

In 2008 Friends of the Earth boasted how it had helped orchestrate the Climate Change Act, a bill committing the UK government to cutting CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. As the first piece of legislation to legally bind a state to such drastic reductions it appeared to be a major breakthrough. Unfortunately for Friends of the Earth, they overlooked one fatal flaw – legislation doesn't mean jack, and history shows governments simply amend and re-legislate to overcome such hurdles. The ConDem coalition is no different.

At the beginning of May the government published it's draft energy bill, which no doubt made the fossil fuel industry salivate. Firstly, the bill sets a limit of 450 grams of CO2 for every kilowatt-hour of electricity – effectively giving the green-light to gas as modern gas stations burn under 400 grams of CO2 per kilowatt-hour. Secondly, even though burning coal far surpasses even this modest limit, the industry has been handed a massive loop-hole. Under the bill, any new coal plant forming part of the carbon capture and storage (CCS) programme will be exempt from emissions standards. There is not even a passing mention that a single gram of CO2 actually needs to be captured from the plant in question.

In keeping with the government's track record on employing scientists to advise on policy and then completely ignoring it – the case of David Nutt and drugs comes to mind – a 2010 report demonstrating how Britain can cut CO2 emissions by 60% in 20 years has been consigned to the dustbin of history (or perhaps they would have recycled it). Another example of the huge amount of waste perpetuated by the centralised state. The reports authors also stated that we should be producing around 50 grams of CO2 per kilowatt-hour of energy to truly help the planet.

The European Union went one better, buckling to intense lobbying from the fossil fuel industry and rebranding gas as a 'green, low-carbon source of power'. This now means a large slice of the €80bn ear-marked for the research and development of renewables can be diverted to subsidising the development of gas power provision. Coincidentally, the news came as the International Energy Agency warned that support for unconventional gas sources such as shale could end government support for renewables.

In Brazil, which will host the Rio+20 climate summit in June, president Dilma Rousseff is mulling over a new Forest Code. If enacted this legislation would undo years of hard work pro-

tecting the Amazon rainforest, opening up 190 million acres of new frontier to loggers and agriculture. Putting 70% of the Brazil's river basin's at risk, and further destroying the lung that provides the earth with one fifth of our oxygen, is obviously a hard decision to make. Perhaps the 500 activists, NGO campaigners and politicians flying to Brazil for the talks can help Rousseff, even if they cannot see the irony in catching a plane to discuss how to save the planet.

So, it seems the fate of the planet is in the hands of a bunch of incompetent fools. Let's hope they can make amends at the next UN climate summit in Qatar, a country built on oil that burns shit-loads of energy to keep a vast nexus of hotels, golf courses and leisure complexes cool and well watered in the middle of the Arabian desert. Such an obvious choice for a meeting to discuss how we need to cut down on fossil fuel use and over-consumption.

MINER THREAT

Around 8,000 Spanish miners took to the streets, and blocked them, in chaotic style this week. The actions are in protest against government plans to cut subsidies to the coal industry by 60%. While SchNEWS doesn't normally endorse fossil fuel subsidies, this is more about militant anti-austerity action than it is about the climate – the measures will completely devastate the sector in a country with an unemployment rate already hitting 25% overall, and 50% of young people.

In the latest chapter of Spanish civil unrest, the official indefinite strike involving 40 mines began on 23rd May, with ten miners staging an underground protest. By Monday (4th), coinciding with road transport strikes, rioting spread across the capital of Madrid and the region of Asturias.

Sixteen major roads and motorways were blockaded with one burning tire block causing a five-mile jam for over two hours. On another A-road, a truckload of wood was overturned on the asphalt.

Clashes with the riot police resulted in the chucking of rocks and homemade rockets, while elsewhere there were sit-in protests at mines and outside the government offices. Other 'unidentified people' pulled the wiring out of the CCTV at a tunnel on Huerna highway. After the inevitable running battles with the cops, just six people were arrested for public disorder offences.

The Civil Guard reported the seizure of large amounts of 'highly dangerous' materials including handmade rocket launchers, improvised slingshots, 15kg of rusty tips, ball bearings of various sizes and cans of gasoline. Government forces promised to come down with the full force of the law on protesters – but didn't succeed in putting them off.

True to their roots – miners are traditionally one of the most militant workers groups in Spain – the strikers show no signs of tiring. As the week progressed so did the roadblocks and closures. On one A-road, when road users began using an alternative route protesters hastily felled a tree across it. On Wednesday (6th), 500 miners cut off the main access point to the port of Gijon before marching to protest at the Albono thermal power plant. 60 roads were blocked with the guerilla-style tactics which prompted the Asturias government office to begin organizing emergency supply convoys into the area.

Unions have called for a strike in all activity of the coalfields of Castile, Leon, Asturias and Aragon commencing on the 18th June.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

REACTA VATED

Protests worldwide last February offered the right pressure to delay the full implementation of the Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (aka ACTA) but the war is far from over. While the American counterpart is fighting the new CISPA law, here the ACTA is less than 30 votes away to be passed in the EU Parliament.

New demos are being planned worldwide for 9 June. Eastern Europe is expected to have massive protests as in previous February, also France, Germany, Denmark amongst others are organizing demos.

In UK demonstrations are being planned for London, Birmingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Glasgow and Liverpool and more cities are expected to join in. Here the protest will fight not only ACTA but also the Digital Economy Act that was passed in the last days of the Labour government. This Act is legally forcing Internet Service Providers such as Virgin, BT and Talk Talk to block access to websites that facilitate copyright infringement such as Pirate Bay. In addition users that are found to be illegally downloading copyrighted material will be included in a blacklist, which in the future might mean they will be cut off from any Internet services.

For an explanation of ACTA see SchNEWS. No matter if this law is right or wrong, regarding author rights, it is being done without any participation of the civil society, it will limit our freedom and access to information, and is an attack to one's privacy.

Stay informed on : <http://june9.org.uk/>

OCCUPY THE OCCUPATION

Last Saturday saw the opening of a new squatted space in London called 'Palestine Place', A place for workshops, discussion, and action in support of Palestine.

Their statement reads: *"In the first two weeks of June one of central London's lost and abandoned buildings will be reclaimed and transformed into a radical centre for discussion, action, and education around the issue of Palestine. Palestine Place will be a squatted hub of activity from the 2nd-17th June running everything from film screenings, lectures, workshops and trainings to cultural, musical and culinary events."*

The building, on 24 Gray's Inn Road, in Holborn, is a 5-storey old office block (and currently is pretty hard to miss, with a 3-storey Palestinian flag/banner hanging on the outside). After suffering some minor attempt at eviction on Friday night by the old bill, things were off in full swing by Saturday, with organisers estimating around 100-150 people passed through the space during the day.

SchNEWS went down to check out the space on Sunday, which saw a workshop from Brighton locals SmashEDO, as well as a live link-up with Khader Ahnan (one of the first hunger strikers) from Jenin.

Lots more events are happening at the space until the 17th June and encompass all different groups and individuals. Check out their website with detailed day-by-day listings of all the events, and make it down there.

It's time to put Palestine back on the map!

<http://palestineplace.wordpress.com/>
Facebook – Palestine Place
Twitter – @PalestinePlace
Tel – 07448613383
palestineplace@riseup.net

DANGEROUS LIAISONS

Monday was the day that Brightonians had been told to fear, as anti-militarists Smash EDO planned a march through the town centre. "Smash EDO threat to Queen's jubilee" howled the local rag, whilst Tory Councillors led by Cllr Janio prepared motions pre-emptively condemning the march (not to mention the entire campaign).

In the end the Bank Holiday Monday saw a decent turnout of peaceniks demonstrating against the EDO factory and US/UK/Israeli preparations for a war on Iran. The howling mobs that planned to reign terror on the good folk of Brighton and spoil everyone's state-sanctioned fun must have all been away that day, as the demo passed off without skirmishes or arrests.

Not that there wasn't plenty of provocation from the cops though. Sussex Plod's Inspector Bartlett had promised "new tactics" for the jubilee weekend. As seen on Saturday's shenanigans (see Bangers and Fash) these tactics amounted to the same plods with new orange fluros (with the words "Liaison" written on them, trying to infiltrate the crowd and gather intelligence on activists. Luckily Fitwatchers with umbrellas and banners were able to surround these irritating cops like white blood cells stopping unpleasant viruses from taking hold of a host. These Liaison cops didn't get much of a look in.

On the day SchNEWS counted around 200 protesters as the demo marched from Barclays Bank (the high streets' biggest arms trade investor) to Hove Town Hall (last known dwelling place of the ancient evil Cthulu, as he prepares to arise in blood from his eternal slumber).

One anti-war activist interviewed by SchNEWS said *"A war against Iran would be crazy, but the problem is, our leaders are crazy. Not even 10 years after the start of the Iraq War the same liars are peddling the same snake oil of fake WMD programmes, non-existent nukes and fabricated intelligence to start another war. War with Iran would be catastrophic – first and foremost for Iran's civilians, but also for us too. Only arms dealers and grave diggers would welcome the Iran War."*

UKBA: RUDE AWAKENING

Protesters from Unity and No Borders gave the UKBA a taste of their own medicine on Tuesday (29th) with an unwanted early morning visit at Glasgow's Brand Street reporting centre. Three people blockaded the gates of the centre by locking on to each other through concrete tubing while supporters looked on.

Two dawn raids at the homes of local families have been conducted by the UKBA in Glasgow in the last month – a practice so inhumane they had previously refrained from doing it after public pressure. The families have subsequently been kept in detention. After beginning at 5.30am, the soon-after arrival of several UKBA Enforcement Teams - who conduct the raids - left the protesters fairly certain they'd directly prevented a raid that very morning.

The demonstrators also pointed out the ongoing detention of children as a reason for the 5-hour long action, which resulted in all the blockaders being nicked. They were then released on normal bail conditions the next day charged with breach of the peace, and are due to appear in court on August 6th.

Previous blockades of the offices have resulted in the premises being closed for 11 hours.

see: <http://unitycentreglasgow.org>

IF WE STAY THERE WILL BE STUBBLE

400 anti-GM protesters marched towards the Herts GM wheat trial on Sunday (27th) in what they'd publicised as an act of mass decontamination. They were, however, "sadly" stopped by police from getting into the field to do any crop-trashing. The mass march was spearheaded by Take the Flour Back and included European activist equivalents like France's les Faucheurs Volontaires.

Flagrant criminal damage or no, there's plenty to protest about. The wheat being trialled by Rothamsted agricultural research establishment incorporates two chemically synthesised genes and is designed to put off aphids by emitting pheromones. The two genes that will pull off this wizardry are apparently a) *"similar to that found in peppermint"* and more bizarrely b) have *"most similarity to [one] from a cow"*. This is the first synthetic copy of an animal gene to be used in such a way and as such represents a very wild stab in the dark. Open air trials carry massive risks of cross contamination and hybridization.

The trial itself is being funded by the government's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, to the tune of £1.28m of public money – they've said they're determined to "complete the field trial successfully". Should the project come to fruition, the beneficiaries won't be the public. The only people set to siphon profits of the project are going to be whichever big corporation is able to throw enough money at the wheat to force it into the market.

The trial is the next chapter of the "second push" going on in the UK towards GM cultivation along with two trials of GM potatoes, and is backed by the government which is the most pro-GM yet. The environment minister Caroline Spelman founded and directed a biotech lobbying firm Spelman, Cormack & Associates until 2010, when the press noticed and suggested there may be a slight conflict of interests. She relinquished her directorship and sold her shares... to her husband. Still, she must have plenty of experience in denying inconvenient facts. Like how the wheat contains a 'anti-biotic-resistant marker gene' that could transfer into our environment and lead to an increase in superbugs like MRSA. Or that farmers of non-GM plants could face increased aphid attacks and therefore require more pesticides, or see their crops become hybridized by GM pollen and be forced to stick a 'GM' label on it.

One week before, *"significant random damage"* was achieved by a lone ranger who didn't wait for the public protest. He was arrested, charged with criminal damage and bailed until July 13th.

On Wednesday 30th May the Rothamsted researchers filed an injunction to stop protesters gaining access to the wheat, after securing a temporary injunction ahead of the action on Sunday.

Rothamsted and Lawes spokesperson Stephen James claimed the steps was necessary because any intervention would mean *"the credibility and reputation of science in the UK would be damaged"*. More honestly, another spokesperson Rothamsted's head of Chemical Ecology Professor John Pickett has previously said of the trial's importance *"It could be that we generate very good intellectual property for commercial development"*.

FOLLY TUNNELS

Grow Heathrow, possibly the country's longest running and most productive community garden project, is facing eviction and will be in court on the 18th and 19th of June after two and a half years of growing.

The land owners are hoping they'll get to kick the squatters off – despite not having any plans for the area which was wasteland covered in 30 tonnes of rubbish before it flourished as a community project.

Grow Heathrow is an off-grid project with three huge greenhouses to grow vegetables, regular workshops and acts as a community hub, which initially sprung up in protest at the proposed third runway at Heathrow. It continued when the runway was ditched, luckily – in the last month the plans have hit the news again.

It's been said that along with the aviation industry's ongoing campaign for R3, the idea also has the backing of Tory peers and Osborne (surprise surprise) who've been hassling Cameron to put the idea back on the table in aid of the 'economy'.

Grow Heathrow are urging people to support them at 9.30 am outside of Central London County Court on the 18th and 19th.

See www.transitionheathrow.com

...and finally...

A Casual attitude to the truth...

For those disappointed by the end of this year's season of Game of Thrones there's always the mystifying fantasy world of Suzy from Casuals United.

Their fantastic account of the weekend started with spotting *"loads of UAF"* on Friday night up at the train station.

Actually there was no demo so we're guessing that some of the idiots just ran into the crowd heading up to the Fatboy Slim effort at the football stadium and jumped to conclusions.

In the morning they came across *"some unwashed anarchist scum on the beach in sleeping bags"*...erm do you mean homeless people? So much for the Soldiers off the Streets campaign.

Later, despite *"not seeing a Commie all day"* the Casuals apparently beat loads of us up.

"Ten people were arrested during these scuffles, mostly ours as several Anarchists were knocked out. A lot of ours then went to the police station to make sure those arrested were ok."

In boring mundane reality no-one from either side was 'knocked-out'. Even more hilariously not a single EDL supporter went to Hollingbury police station where their arrestees were being held (as Milton Keynes EDL member Darell Hobson found when he was released).

In the last analysis Suzy is still defiantly pretending that there were hordes of undercover Casuals in town but rather gives herself away with the last sentence *"I know some people had genuine reasons not to turn up, but some people said they were going, didnt say they werent and didnt turn up. They should be ashamed and next time they say anything it will be treated as the shit it is."* Temper, temper dear.

The fascists present in Brighton on 2nd June will of course know that all this is BS of the highest order and will perhaps begin to lose faith in their organisations and then hopefully, their politics.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers there's no way back from the Union Jack. Honest!

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