



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER INCREASINGLY LESS THAN...

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STEALING A MARCH?

FAR-RIGHT MARCH IN BRIGHTON TO BE MET WITH COUNTER-PROTEST

Oh Christ... not again. About as welcome as the arrival of Jimmy Saville at an orphanage, it's time for the outbreak of political venereal disease that is the March for England – set to tarnish the streets of Brighton again on April 21st. Following last year's diverse, determined and ultimately effective opposition to the march, Brighton has become an emblematic issue on the far-right. They received a shock when a town they considered to be populated by communist homosexual freaks wasn't the walkover they expected. The usual blood-curdling threats have been issued but nothing can conceal the panic on the far-right that Brighton will once again mount a successful defence against racism and homophobia.

The March for England (MfE), confusingly the name of their organisation as well as their main event of the year, is a predecessor of the English Defence League and very much part of the counter-jihadist extreme right. Their focus is on a sense of English rather than British identity and opposition to Islam. In public they claim not to be racist but a trawl through the Facebook and Twitter feeds of their followers soon turns up terms of racist abuse and digging a little deeper uncovers the wonderful world of outright white supremacy (check out EDL News for a quick dip in the sewer if you must.). Their trade-marked chant of "You're not English any more" is directed at anyone who

disagrees with the narrow definition of what it means to be 'English'.

Although the annual march in Brighton is the main public event organised by the group, their banners can be found at many other far-right protests across the country. Following the slow-motion collapse of the EDL over the last year MfE's organisers have tried to distance themselves from the League, but their membership overlaps significantly with all the little splinter groups that have sprung up after the demise of Tommy's little troopers. Dave Smeeton, the Portsmouth based organiser of the march, has been doing the rounds of any far-right group that will have him and appealing for unity on the right. For a full rundown anti-fascist coalition Stop the March for England have provided a fact-file. Organisations claiming that they'll be making the trip to Brighton include an alphabet spaghetti of the far-right SEA, NWFF, SIOE, NWI etc etc. How many of these groups are the same ten men under a variety of pseudonyms remains to be seen.

Certainly MfE view a successful march in Brighton as an essential first step in rebuilding the far-right - making effective opposition all the more important.

MESSAGE OF HATE

MfE have been coming to Brighton on the St George's Day weekend for the last six years. At first they were given (in true Brighton style) the benefit of the doubt – a flag draped parade to celebrate the death of a dragon might not be everyone's thing but whatever floats your boat, right? However MfE took the lack of opposition as a victory and showed their true colours by chanting racist and homophobic abuse. Since then the opposition has grown year on year.

Last year saw over a thousand counter-demonstrators out on the streets, and despite a massive operation by Sussex Police the march route was cut short as the road was blocked and barricaded. The fash were surrounded in their own pen and jeered out of town. For a full write-up FASH, BANG, WALLOP and for an excellent film of the day see This is not England this is Brighton.

Taking note, Sussex police have made the decision to move the march to the more easily policed sea front road. This alone is a victory for anti-fascists. The plan is to bring them in on buses from an as yet undisclosed train station to the march start point at Palace Pier, march them from there to Middle Street

OPPOSE THE MARCH FOR ENGLAND

SUNDAY 21st APRIL BRIGHTON

stopmfe.wordpress.com

twitter.com/stopmfe

[stopmfe\(at\)ymail.com](mailto:stopmfe(at)ymail.com)

FOR FULL MFE FACTFILE CHECK stopmfe.wordpress.com

NO MFE NO EDL NO FASCISM NO RACISM

and back, and allow them to have a rally before putting them on buses for the return journey. The march is scheduled to begin at 12 noon but anti-fascist coalition Stop the March for England are urging supporters to gather in the vicinity of Palace Pier from 11 a.m to the line the route and "drown out the message of hate". (See map below for route)

A word from our sponsors: "The real victory of the last year was a whole town saying 'NO'. This had a knock on effect across the country and put Brighton on the anti-fascist map. The racists are desperate to make up ground so we urge everyone to stand together and give them a real Brighton welcome. Stay alert and be ready to move - see you on the streets."

To get updates in the run-up and on the day @stopmfe on Twitter #stopmfe and StopMfe website. (Fact-File on the March for England at <http://stopmfe.wordpress.com/mfe-fact-file>)

CASUAL INDIFFERENCE

As a minor footnote nine or so MfE types turned up to counter-protest the Unite Against Fascism meeting on Thursday night. Autonomous anti-fascists gathered to greet them. In the event thanks to the cops having everyone under heavy manners it amounted to what one anti-fascist told SchNEWS was "a supervised conversation with the fash". Anti-fascists stood in the MfE demo, which had a celebrity guest appearance from Jeff "Casuals United" Marsh who is apparently down in Brighton to clear out Wetherspoons larder. In the event the MfE couldn't deviate from the script and were still bellowing at the assembled UAF (who had a rooftop vantage point thanks to their meeting being on the fifth floor) to "come down here if you're so hard" despite the fact that anti-fascists were mingling with them.

After forty minutes and two half hearted choruses of "St George in my heart, keep me English" they retreated to Yates where a proudly scruffy rentamob shouted at them through the windows in a fine example of a counter-counter demo. A brief bit of argy-bargy later and the assembled boneheads were loaded into a cop van to be driven to Brighton station and dispersed for their own safety.

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being Daniel McGowan...

Not content with keeping ELF activist Daniel McGowan locked up for 7 years for arson, the cops in the States had to have one more stab at the animal rights campaigner – this time for writing a blog post on the Huffington Post website at the beginning of the month. He wrote about his time in the experimental new Communications Management Unit, that some folk lovingly call "Little Guantanamo".

He was re-released on Friday 5th after his lawyers mentioned that his rights were being infringed. He was, however, forced to sign a document which states "writing articles, appearing in any type of television or media outlets, news reports and/or documentaries without prior BOP approval is strictly prohibited." If he breaks this amicable agreement he will be sent back to the jail. Hail the land of the free.



...AND, IN FACT, WE'VE DRAWN THE LINE BELOW ON A HANDY CUT OUT 'N THROW AWAY MAP OF THE ROUTE...



Brighton Anti-Fascists LEGAL ADVICE

STOP & SEARCH

The police have a wide range of powers to conduct searches
You do not have to give your name and address or answer ANY questions when stopped. You DO NOT have to comply with any filming or photography

ARREST

If you get nicked Stay calm. Tell someone so you can be located later at the police station. You have the right to know why you are being arrested, so ask!

AT THE POLICE STATION

For minor offences (e.g breach of the peace) you only have the right to free legal advice from the CDS Direct switchboard - WHO ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED

For more serious offences you have the right to consult with a solicitor of your choice. We recommend Kelly's. You have the right to have someone informed of your arrest. You have the right to remain silent, there is NO requirement to talk to the police. We strongly advise you to answer 'NO COMMENT' to all police questions.

KELLY'S SOLICITORS 01273 674 898

We will have arrest support waiting outside the police station to collect you when you are released. If your friends have been nicked call Brighton AntiFascist legal support on **07506 781 770**

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

THIS DEMONSTRATION WILL ONLY BE AS EFFECTIVE AS THE PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN IT.

WHY STICK TOGETHER?

By their very nature the far-right are cowardly bullies, don't give them the opportunity to gang up on you in numbers. Stay with your friends and keep an eye out for each other during the demonstration and afterwards

FILMING

If you brought a camera please be careful about what you film and what you do with the footage - police have used Youtube videos as evidence against activists. Be aware who is filming you and protect your identity.

Don't be offended if people ask you stop filming.

brightonantifascists.wordpress.com

07870 306 788

FULL DISCLOSURE?

COMBE HAVEN UPDATE - THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES... IN LONDON.

Combe Haven defenders are nothing if not persistent: Their latest escapades have seen them camping not in trees but being a permanent, annoying presence outside the Department for Transport HQ in the search for the Truth about the link road.

Back at the beginning of March, anti road campaigners went to the Department for Transport (DfT) with an ultimatum written on a slice of one of the 400 year old oaks felled in January. 'Unless the Department for Transport's redacted recommendations regarding the Bexhill Hastings Link Road are released by the 5th April we, the people, will peacefully release this information ourselves.'

So on Monday the 8th April, Combe Haven Defenders and friends turned up looking for the complete versions of letters about the Department's recommendations on whether the Bexhill Hastings link road (BHLR) should receive government funding. They were, not surprisingly, greeted by locked doors and uncompromising security guards.

A freedom of information request had previously produced two letters (see them at <http://operationdisclosure.wordpress.com/key-documents>) from a DfT civil servant to the Undersecretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker. The letters weigh up the pros and cons of the link road and conclude the Bexhill road is considered 'medium to low' value for money, depending on how you view the council's well-massaged figures. The problem is that the crucial sections detailing the actual recommendations were blacked out.

The Department for Transport's own guidelines say projects will only be funded if the DfT thinks they offer 'high' or 'very high' value for money. So you would normally expect the DfT to recommend not funding this road, as it is 'medium to low value', except they have just released £57million for the BHLR. However, in a bizarre interview the leader of the council, Peter Jones, who has been the figurehead pushing the road, claimed even he had not seen anything of these docu-

ments either. The road is due to cost about £100million altogether, the remaining part being funded by East Sussex Council taxpayers. Oddly enough, the amount being spent on the road matches the cut in public services locally. An anonymous source inside the DfT says that the Treasury are very keen to push the BHLR through as a test case for the other 190 road building schemes in the pipeline. This and other road building projects seem to be influenced more by the profits of landowners and construction companies than by concerns for democracy or the environment.

The document searchers of 'Operation Disclosure' were not easily deterred. They stayed all day, and returned on Tuesday, queuing up to take turns at trying to get into the building to find the documents. A total of 101 requests to go in were clocked up over the 2 days. Staff and visitors going in and out were encouraged to leak the documents as well. On Monday, one woman was allowed just inside to give a letter to a receptionist, who never returned with the promised reply. Emily Johns, an artist from St Leonards, was arrested when the security guards found her a little too persistent at asking to be let in. She was arrested by a whopper of a copper, the tallest in Britain, who's 7ft 2in.

The Undersecretary for Transport, Norman Baker, tried to sneak past unnoticed but was instead accosted by the document searchers. When they challenged him he claimed it was standard procedure not to release what civil servants recommend to their ministers. Whilst that is a recognised policy for some situations, it does just seem plain crazy here: the taxpayers paying for both the recommendations and the road should surely be allowed to see the documents about how their money is spent. Unless, of course, there is something to hide. Norman suddenly remembered a terribly urgent something to get to when asked about his own opinion on the road, and scuttled off past his security goons on the door.

Talking of security goons, some of the protestors were a little disturbed to find the men guarding the door to the DfT were some of the very same security goons as had been pushing people around during direct action against the chainsaws in the valley. The goons in question were quite cagey about who actually employs them to do what, claiming they were not employed by Shergroup, the company in charge of security for the road building, nor by the DfT. Some more problems with accountability here, perhaps?

Holly, one of the protestors, told Schnews 'This road is poor value for money by the standards used in the Department for Transport but when you take into account the true, intrinsic value of the habitats destroyed and the damage from climate chaos as carbon emissions continue, then none of the proposed new roads schemes are really worthwhile. We have too much to lose if we continue to let big business and 'convenience' dictate the future of our countryside'

PARTY & PROTEST

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

MINOR DING DONG AS WITCH DIES

It may well have been one of the most long- and eagerly-awaited street parties ever. As Maggie managed to awkwardly die on a weekday, party goers saved their Special Brew for yesterday, when several thousand people gathered in Trafalgar Square for a bit of a knees-up.

"To be honest, it was pretty much exactly what you'd expect," says our intrepid beer-swilling correspondent.

The square was all quiet through the afternoon, before "exploding into noise" as the sun went down and revellers arrived in their hundreds, bursting into rousing renditions of 'Maggie, maggie, maggie, dead, dead, dead!'. Attempts to start off a 'Cameron, Cameron, Cameron, die, die, die!' second verse unfortunately fell a bit flat.

Despite journos circling to ask anyone and everyone whether they thought they were being 'disrespectful', the ambience was cheerful and celebratory: "I wouldn't miss this for the world" got thrown around. There were a couple of impressive stage dives off the National Gallery, and a sound system or two, although at least one got confiscated by the cops before it could be put to use. An effigy of Thatcher got an outing, but was quickly torn apart.

There was a hefty police presence and (fittingly?) a large contingent of private security. The police took a hands-off approach, wearing their helmets on their belts. "They couldn't have coped with a bloody riot anyway, there were so many people there is would've been really difficult for the police to control it," reported one partier, adding "It just doesn't suit their agenda at the moment." The couple of attempts at arrest were met with "a feisty response of shoving and badly aimed bottles".

A few fascists turned up to no great effect: "There were certainly a few hovering around including Joel Titus - former EDL roof division leader. He was walking through the crowd taking photos and when he was challenged he told us we've got it all wrong about Maggie before beating a hasty retreat to a group of coppers who he stood behind, leaving his mate on his own threatening to 'slash [us] up'. He was fairly robustly shoved on his way."

Earlier in the day, UK Uncut and DPAC (Disabled People Against Cuts) activists targeted the mansions of Ian Duncan Smith and Lord Freud, the Tory peer and former investment banker who has spearheaded most of the welfare cuts including the bedroom tax. The lively protests showed that Thatcher's death hasn't completely overshadowed the havoc currently being wreaked by her disciples.

...and finally...



Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, the newsletter's not for turning. Honest.

STOP THE G8
ONE COMMON STRUGGLE.
CARNIVAL AGAINST CAPITALISM.
SKILL SHARE WEEKEND
18TH & 19TH MAY
TRAINING/SKILL SHARE FOR ANTI G8 AND ANTI-CAPITALIST ACTION,
DEALING WITH PUBLIC ORDER SITUATIONS,
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS,
SQUATTING, COMPUTER SECURITY,
CLIMBING, AND MORE..
SUNDAY 19TH MAY FUNDRAISER
BENEFIT ROAST OPEN 2-6PM
COWLEY CLUB, 12 LONDON RD
WWW.NETWORK23.ORG/STOPG8

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