



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER BACKS TO THE WALL...

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NUCLEAR REACT-SHUN

EDF-OWNED NUCLEAR REACTORS AT HINKLEY POINT AND SIZEWELL TARGETED (AGAIN).

So Osborne's upcoming disaster of an energy bill may have been hitting the headlines all week, but blockades of nuke facilities – Hinkley Point, near Bridgewater, and at Sizewell in Suffolk – have been a little overlooked. Here's the lowdown on the current state of play in terms of UK nuclear expansion and how some ne'er-do-wells have been acting out against evil energy behemoths, EDF.

The action kicked off on Friday 23rd at Hinkley B power station with four activists using concrete tubes to arm-lock a road block. Nifty timing, aimed at employees shift changeover, meant workers were prevented from entering or leaving causing a mammoth tailback. And there they remained for over four hours. Eventually a protester removal team arrived from Bristol and put the protesters on trolleys and roll them tubes and all to the side of the road. The concrete held out for another 40 minutes before the cops were able to disengage the blockaders and inevitably nick 'em. They will all be in Taunton Magistrates Court on 19 December if you feel like supporting.

Renewed anger at the Hinkley plant has sprung up like a uranium leak due to new evidence that the reactors are faulty. Over the last few months Hinkley B power station has been shut down for checks and repairs. It is believed that they have found cracks to the core. The subsequent shut down was costly for EDF: a large number of contractors and nuclear experts were sent home on full pay.

As with previous anti-Hinkley actions, the demonstrators acted to show their resistance to the proposed new nuclear power station and to highlight the fact that EDF have stated they would like to extend the lifetime of Hinkley B, which is due to be shut down permanently in 2016. This would mean the power station carrying on manufacturing nuclear waste well past its sell-by date: profit over safety, and likely to be regretted.

On Monday 26th November an almost identical action took place in Suffolk at the proposed new site for Sizewell C. Again four activists blocked the road and had to be cut out by the specialist police team. This time

three of the activists were released under caution and one has been charged on suspicion (huh?) of obstructing the highways. EDF announced on the 20th November that they proposed to build a Sizewell C at Leiston, the same site as reactor B.

A public consultation will take place over the coming months although this is probably just a formality: EDF have already disclosed financial sweeteners for the local communities to justify and compensate for their plans. The bribes include future road building and P.F.I. for the education and training of the local youth. This is identical to those offered to West Somerset Council, who greedily accepted them viewing the new build as National policy and therefore inevitable. They rushed forward permission to allow preparatory work on the Hinkley Point site, thus allowing the devastation of the land. Ancient Oak woodland has been destroyed and miles of hedgerows ripped

up, decimating the habitats of birds, insects and small mammals.

This is just the beginning of the destruction, as the big players in the construction industry scramble to get a slice of this highly toxic pie. Already Balfour Beatty has secured a £30 million subsidy to build three new jetties at Combewich on the River Parot, so that heavy machinery can be transported there - displacing the local residents who moor their boats there. Kier Construction has landed the contract to carry out the major earth works.

To give you an idea of the scale of this project, which will take 10 years to complete, it will involve enough steel reinforcements to build up to 9 HMS aircraft carriers and five London Eyes. Each nuclear island will be as big as St Paul's Cathedral and enough concrete will be used that it could fill Twickenham Rugby Stadium to the brim. To move all of this EDF have gained permission for up to 750 H.G.V movements every 18 hours, although this will likely average out at around 500 truck movements a day, delivering a total of 5 million tonnes of aggregate to the site.

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BROCK HARD

BADGERS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S SNIPER SIGHTS AGAIN

Despite the amazing success of the counter-mobilisation that saw this year's planned badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire cancelled in October DEFRA are already looking for new cull zones.

At the time DEFRA claimed that a last minute upward revision of the actual number of badgers in the killing zones made the cull impossible to push on with. But in reality public pressure, backed up with scientific evidence and the willingness of hundreds to take to the fields to prevent a wildlife massacre won the day.

Tory-boy Owen Paterson, blood-sports enthusiast, and head of DEFRA has announced that he is determined to press ahead with a cull next summer. Now the National Farmers Union are looking for areas to volunteer themselves.

The problem they have is that 70% of farmers have to sign up and pay for the cull in any given area – something they signally failed to do in either of the two areas selected this year. Following campaigns by

animal rights activists farmers who supported the cull were reluctant to have their details made public. Although DEFRA claimed that participating farmer's details would be kept secret a steady stream of leaks kept appearing on sites such as www.badger-killers.com further undermining confidence in the cull. One shooting estate in Gloucestershire whose involvement in the cull became public saw a pitch invasion of over a hundred hunt sabs on a potentially profitable Sunday.

SchNEWS spoke to one Brighton based pro-badger masked militant who said "Realistically the cull has to be in South Wales or the West Country because that's where the majority of the dairy herds are. They might think that by shifting the pilot zones they're going to be able to push this through but we'll be there"

* For more on getting involved in fighting the badger cull www.badger-killers.co.uk

INFORMATION FOR ACTION Copyleft Published in Brighton since 1994

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

NUCLEAR REACT-SHUN

Somerset locals are horrified at the prospect of this level of heavy traffic rumbling through their villages.

As local papers inform the residents of Chilwell Street in Glastonbury that all these vehicles are heading their way, the council has been quick to respond. They say that all the aggregate will arrive via Junction 23 and 24 on the M5. EDF will then build a new bypass around Cannington, a village near Hinkley. Not that this is a good thing: they have Compulsory Purchase rights and have already bought up half of the land and properties in the area to house their workforce. Other ways to reduce the impact on the transport network is the construction of two 'park and ride' facilities. At these services as there will be an expected 508 bus journeys a day bringing the rest of the workforce in and out of Hinkley.

In an attempt to quell any local opposition EDF negotiators have promised to compensate Somerset by contributing to future infrastructure projects, promising a 60 million package covering not just transport, but 'community impact issues', skills and training, housing, leisure, and community safety (...the police). No wonder the skint council's sucking up big time.

There were many opportunities for the planning department of Somerset Council to stop this insane project ever getting started; the first being the no-brainer of the planning application and the impact

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on the community of noise and other factors, and their so-called 'enjoyment of the land'. Critics say comparing the handling of this issue with the use of these excuses to evict Dale Farm travellers last year just shows the extent to which environmental policies are malleable to politicians' political whims (and outright prejudices).

With a life expectancy of just fifty years, the project also scores a big fat 'F' in terms of sustainability – with the only sustainable aspect being that stubborn nuke waste.

One anti-Hinkley activist told SchNEWS: "It is surprising that the government does not seem concerned about where the waste will be disposed of or how. At present the Government policy is that waste will be temporarily stored at the site only for 160 years by which point the Office for Nuclear Regulation hope to have located a national geological disposal site, to transfer it to... Try opening a cafe in any small town without a viable plan as to where your waste is going and find yourself shut down, big business once again shows that it doesn't have to bother with factors that effect us mere mortals, even when it comes down to something as important as toxic as radioactive waste... But I guess when one is manufacturing the material necessary to make weapons of mass destruction and the by product happens to be electricity, anything goes."

* See <http://stophinkley.org/>

ICH BIN ANTI-FA

On 24th November over 5000 Anti-fascists participated in the 20th annual "Silvio Meier demo" in Berlin under the slogan "To remember is to fight". Every year anti-fascists commemorate death of Berlin squatter Silvio Meier, who was stabbed to death on 21st November 1992 by Nazis at Samariterstrasse tube station after confronting them about racist symbols on their jackets.

Activists came from all over Germany - and further afield - to attend. The focus this year was on the murders by NSU (a Nazi underground group, active 'til recently and implicated in several murders of immigrants and bomb attacks) and also far-right strongholds in Berlin's district of Lichtenberg. There, on Lückstraße 58, is a shop that serves as a base of "NW Berlin" (National Resistance).

The main demo was moved from Fredrichshain district towards Lichtenberg. Some masked up - despite it being criminal offence in Germany - and many lit fireworks and flares to emphasise, as an organiser put it, the "militant nature of the demo".

En route, solidarity banners dropped from roofs, windows and balconies and fireworks exploded from surrounding buildings. At Villa Felix, the house where Silvio lived, large commemorative banners were unfurled with yet more fireworks (looks like Germans really like fire). Speeches were made about state complicity in Nazi murders, and the connection between NSU and the German secret police. It is apparently well known that the German secret police knew about existence of the NSU whilst they kept committing murders and organising bomb attacks.

** FULL EXTENDED VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE IS ONLINE **

...and finally...

With global climate chaos, war in the Middle East and economic collapse being just too boring to hog the front pages every day the press have to find juicier titbits to dangle in front of their slaving public. MP's expenses was a good laugh for over a year, but was easily trumped by the phone hacking scandal, horse riding innuendo and all.

But now folks it's time for all out Paedogeddon as it turns out that everyone we ever watched on Telly in the 70s and 80s was a nonce. Jimmy Savile got the ball rolling of course but a host of stars of the era are now 'helping police with their enquiries'. It seems everyone older SchNEWSers grew up watching and listening to was a kiddy-fiddling wrong-o. Some of those children's TV catchphrases will be coming back to haunt us. Twitter is abuzz daily with new wild (as yet at least) unsubstantiated rumours every day. Why don't you deny it Zippy? Won't talk eh?

Anyone who was anyone on the box while it was still 'the box' is no doubt sweating nervously in their Buckinghamshire mansion waiting for the crunch of squad car tyres on the gravel drive. No doubt many had their fingers hovering over the Max Clifford speed dial number. But wait ... now that Max himself languishes at the constabulary's leisure who ya gonna call?

This is the man who knows it all – who, when and where all the celeb's metaphorical (or indeed literal?) bodies are buried – who's gonna be left standing if the godfather of PR spills the beans?

SchNEWS has been left in a state of shock by the very idea that powerful people in positions of trust and authority could abuse their status for their own sick gratification. However, we can't help a bit of gleeful Schadenfreude as the cosy media palace starts crumbling around their ears. At this rate they'll have to take UK Gold off the air...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, not everything that starts nonce upon a time ends up being a fairytale. Honest!

COURTING WITH APARTHEID

Feel like you deserve a say on what yer council tax is spent on? Well not in Hackney you don't. Hackney resident Caroline Day was prevented from speaking to Hackney Council about French service company, and Israeli apartheid profiteers, Veolia. She was unaware she was being gagged 'til she turned up at the Town Hall this Wednesday – the decision to silence her having apparently been taken in secret by councillors.

Caroline had been scheduled to speak out about the company during a procurement process in which Veolia was tendering for council contracts. The company has been the subject of several Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaigns, that have seen it looked over for multi-million pound public sector contracts for waste disposal, because of its involvement in the Jerusalem Light Rail project which is linking Israeli settlements in the West Bank and carving up Palestinian territory.

According to her version of events on Occupy News Network "I was sat ready to give my speech inside the Council chamber, at this very late stage, an unprecedented cross-party procedural motion was tabled by Conservative Cllr. Linda Kelly of Haifa Twinning and seconded by Labour Mayor Jules Pipe. Mayor Pipe gave a speech, which I have since heard is aberrant in the case of seconders of procedural motions, claiming that my deputation should not be heard at council."

SchNEWS decided a bit of digging was in order. What we turned up was the determination of a particularly vicious Zionist group of lawyers who've got pro-Palestine campaigners in their sights...

The council denied that it had been swayed by outside meddling, and that the secret motion required to block the speech was passed because "Elected members felt that to receive the deputation could give the incorrect appearance that they were open to lobbying". Until the truth came out in a Jewish Chronicle blog: it turns out that the sudden change of heart was "thanks to the great work" of lobbying group UK Lawyers for Israel (UK-LFI). Doh! They also previously lobbied Hackney

Council to prevent Beit Sourik Hackney Friendship Association, a group twinning Palestinian and UK youngsters, from using council premises.

But hold on a minute, who are these bastards? UKLFI are a single-issue legal pressure group whose aims are to justify Israeli actions through their own creative interpretations of international law (example: they claim settlements are 'lawful'), and apparently, to push for criminal charges against a whole host of Palestine solidarity activists and groups through equally creative interpretations of UK law.

Since their inception in 2011, they've been busy. UKLFI have been instrumental for pushing for criminal charges to be made against BDS campaigners, including the activists who disrupted an Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra concert in London in September last year. Their plans were stymied when the supposedly aggrieved party, the Royal Albert Hall, refused to play along with their propaganda bullshit by pressing charges.

They also filed a report with SOCA (the Serious and Organised Crime Agency) to stop the Co-operative bank from providing facilities to Viva Palestina, the group which has sent aid convoys by boat to Gaza. They argued that giving them a bank account meant channelling funds to Hamas for terrorist purposes.

Oh, and they've been lobbying for the re-activation of the EDO Decommissioners case at the Court of Appeal. For those SchNEWS readers whose memory stretches back that far - the case involved a group of activists who entered and destroyed materials in EDOs Brighton factory whilst the company continued to sell Israel arms during Operation Cast Lead. They were all found not guilty (in a rare victory for militant direct action) on the basis of acting to prevent war crimes.

Whether the recent attempts to charge pro-Palestine campaigners for 'racially aggravated' crimes is part of UKLFI dark sorcery, we don't know for sure – but if not, they're bound to jump on it like some sort of deluded fascists' trampoline.

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