



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER EVER EFFERVESCENT...

# SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Tuesday 26th February 2013

Free/Donation

Issue 838

## ECO-MANIACS SPARKLE

AS PRO-ISRAEL COUNTER-PROTESTERS AT BRIGHTON'S SODA STREAM STORE FROTH AT MOUTH...

Wow! It's really kicking off in Brighton, or at least it is in the world of the Jewish Chronicle. According to the JC's headlines "Protests turn nasty outside Israeli EcoStream", Brighton is "rocked by hate slogans" and the JC's editorial talks of "Mob-rule by the sea" with calls to action from around the country against "a racist mob".

However a casual glance at the regular tweets from Sussex Police's recently formed Police Liaison team paints a slightly different picture. Week after week tweets such as "'Text book' peaceful protests today..." and "Looking forward to peaceful protest and good communication (as usual)!" SchNEWS isn't usually in the habit of agreeing with police accounts of demos, but, compared to the pro-Israel establishment's capacity for spouting utter nonsense the cops appear to be the voice of impartial reasonableness.

Since September a campaign against the recently opened EcoStream shop has been picketing and regularly leafleting outside the shop every Saturday by PSC and BDS activists. The shop is owned by Sodastream which manufactures its products in the illegal Mishor Adumim settlement in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank.

From the very start there have been counter protests from a rag-tag group composed of Christian Zionists and some right-wing members of the Jewish community led by a certain Simon Cobbs. Considering that for ten years the Palestine Solidarity Campaign were largely unchallenged in Brighton at their weekly stall (except for the occasional lone nutcase) the pro-fizz group have mobilised some impressive numbers although usually fewer than the regular anti-shop picket. But their tactics have always been to play the "good protesters" and rather clumsily trying to portray the picketers as "anti-Semitic bad protesters". Because Sussex Police are desperately trying to prove the neutrality of their Police Liaison Officers this is proving slightly more difficult for them to pull off than it might have done a few years back.

It seems that as well as running the shop at a loss - there are rarely any customers in there throughout the week - the Sodastream company has spared no expense in jetting people out to their factory in the illegal West Bank settlement to show the world just how misunderstood they are. They sent the Brighton Argus's own Business hack John Keenan out to see for himself and he returned to write a gushing article praising the factory in return for his nice little "jolly". Hove MP and anti-squatting crusader Mike Weatherley has also visited at Sodastream's expense. It seems that some criminal occupations are OK for our Mikey! Brighton MP Caroline Lucas was also invited but declined for a number of reasons including full possession of the facts and a certain amount of integrity. A number of Christian Zionist Counter protesters have also been on this all expenses paid trip but for some reason when Corporate Watch asked to visit the factory at their own

expense they refused. Funny that.

Desperate for attention at any cost unemployed controversialist Julie Burchill has started to turn up on the Zionist side. She arrives wearing very dark shades even in the pouring rain and enthusiastically waving the Israeli flag (no doubt quietly humming the Israeli National Anthem to herself since it's her very favourite tune according to her recent "Desert Island Discs" appearance). Mercifully she keeps fairly quiet except to exchange the odd word with her even odder co-protesters. Quite how she gets on with the rather angry transgender Zionist Israeli who occasionally turns up is as yet unknown.

Although the Police are presenting a façade of neutral policing and there have been a few examples where this has in fact been demonstrated there is definitely a bias towards the Zionist group. Three pro-Palestinians have been assaulted by the Zionists in recent months and although each case happened in front of the cops no one has been charged.

## STRIKE A POSEIDON: SEA SHEPHERD UPDATE

On Wednesday 20th Feb, the whaling ship Nisshin Maru collided with four Sea Shepherd ships in the space of one hour whilst loitering in the Southern Ocean, an all out desperate initiative to take the Sea Shepherds out of action. However their plan failed - no injuries were sustained on either side.

It all happened during a refuelling mission for the whaler's mother-ship, the Nisshin Maru. The blubbing fools had ordered the Sea Shepherd boats to leave the area; the message must have got lost in translation and chaos ensued. In a TV interview, Sea Shepard's Master and Commander Paul Watson said: "We were in a position to block the refuelling of the Nisshin Maru because it is illegal to transfer heavy fuel in the sanctuary. The Nisshin Maru then rammed into the Sam Simon once, the Steve Irwin twice and then they hit their own tanker four times crushing their own life boat. They continued to move in with even more aggression as they turned to the Bob Barker which resulted in it being seriously damaged."

There are 22 days to go until the whaling season ends. This means a likely victory for the whale warriors as the Japanese fleet have now suspended their killing with Japan's institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) stating publicly that it will stop work for the time being as it is too difficult to refuel (!). A few other reasons spring to mind.

Peter Hammarstedt, captain for the Bob Barker told a TV crew that it was the most dangerous confrontation he has ever experienced. "The Nisshin Maru collided with my vessel several times and I think we were about 15 to 20 seconds away from being rolled over completely," he said. Sea Shepherd director and former Greens leader Bob Brown says the confrontation is the worst in the Southern Ocean in three years.

During the confrontations there were reports of Japanese coastguards throwing concussion gre-



Any comment from random passers-by that could be remotely interpreted as anti-Semitic results in immediate arrest and a court appearance Monday morning. The same doesn't appear to be the case for anti-Arab remarks. For some reason more than one random passer-by has decided to throw a Nazi salute (it's never entirely clear at who) and then spent their Saturday afternoon in a way they hadn't planned.

These salutes are often aimed at the anti-shop BDS/PSC group since they are regularly accused of being Nazis by the Zionists who even have a leaflet saying as much. Of course once charged and fined the JC waste no opportunity to describe them, whoever they are as BDS/PSC activists and link them with the protests against the shop.

The founder member and spokesperson for the newly formed "Sussex Friends of Israel" Simon Cobbs has recently openly been forming connections with the Jewish Defence League. The JDL are a nasty bunch of people...

So if one day you read in the JC that Martial Law has been declared in Brighton you can probably assume it hasn't.

nades on the marine activists. Japan's fisheries have vehemently denied these slanderous allegations, conceding that they may have rammed "a boat or two" belonging to Sea Shepherd. Evidence gathered by the Sea Shepherd crew tells a different story though. One would think that citizens of the country that gave the world the Sony Corporation would understand a thing or two about evidence on film.

These acts can be nothing other than desperation - the whalers are losing millions of dollars and worldwide public support. Sea Shepherd are also taking court action against ICR (a government-subsidized front for commercial whaling), filing an application with the US Supreme Court against ICR in retaliation to a slightly dodgy injunction that was handed down in December by the US court of appeal.

And of course let's not forget that Admiral-General Captain Paul Watson was honoured with an Original Nation passport in a ceremony in Melbourne on January 19th. As things stand he is still not allowed to step onto US soil. This came about partly due to the injunction and Interpol arrest orders the eco-warrior had managed to accumulate for allegedly endangering a fishing vessel crew in 2002. He countered successfully by resigning as head honcho of the Sea Shepherd Society which then meant a US court could not really touch him. He resigned as 'Captain' and remained on board the Steve Irwin vessel to document the campaign but probably did not participate in any other way, honest guv.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has filed 2 petitions on the White House site - see <http://wh.gov/Vnbu> and <http://wh.gov/VnRf>. The petitions are trying to counter the two active Interpol notices after Paul Watson. Sea Shepherd are convinced Costa Rica and Japan are playing the puppet masters who are pulling the strings of this politically motivated request. Get involved! Save Paul Watson! For the oceans!.

## CHAIN LINKS: SUCCESS FOR ANTI-FA IN DRESDEN

10,000 anti-fascists blocked a Neo-Nazi march in Dresden last week by forming a human chain. Previous years have seen major clashes as neo-Nazis and anti-fascists have kicked off on the anniversary of the Dresden air raid.

February 13th marked 68 years since the fire-bombing of Dresden that resulted in more than 22,000 deaths in 1945 after 3,900 tonnes of explosives were dropped by Allied bombers. Neo-Nazis have regularly attempted to use the occasion to march through the centre of the city.

A bit of history to put this event into context: Neo-Nazis started to participate in the commemoration ceremony in front of the "Frauenkirche" (a church that was left in ruins for a long time to remember WWII) in 1998. The citizens participating in the commemoration that year did not oppose them. Then, in 2000, for the first time Nazis held a 'funeral march' in the inner city as their 'remembrance' of the victims of the Dresden bombing. In the years that followed, their numbers grew steadily.

By 2006 the numbers of the Nazis on the march had reached over six thousand and it was the largest Nazi gathering in Europe in the 21st century. In 2009 the Antifa tried to mobilise against them on a large scale and organised a big demo, but could not prevent them from marching that time.

Then the tide turned. The Antifa held an action conference in preparation for 2010 in order to include a wider range of groups and organisations in joining mass direct actions against the marches. As a reaction to this, there was a wave of repression in the beginning of 2010; police, of course, firmly on the side of the right. They raided the offices of several groups involved and seized posters and propaganda tools; the mobilising web page was forced to shut down (but then swiftly re-opened on a different site - internet for dummies).

## ANTI-CAMERA CREW

Civil liberties activists in Germany and elsewhere are taking a novel, and militant, approach to CCTV culture. A new game dubbed 'Camover' is taking the country's cities and the internet by storm. The premise? Get a crew, a catchy name, then mask up and de-commission street cameras in whatever inventively destructive fashion you like, from axes to lassoes.

Bizarrely, considering the general anti-camera focus of the hi-jinks, the trashings are being filmed and shared on the net - where they are compared and scored. Points are given for each camera smashed and for the originality of the method, leading commentators to claim a new era of militancy where reality-gaming meets activism.

The game originated in Berlin, where anti-CCTV feeling has long been brewing in radical circles. Attempts at more standard protests, including a small march and film showings, made little impact, so a black-block took to the streets one night to take more shady direct action. Now participants are getting in on the game from Finland, Greece and the US.

As one Camover blog put it, "In the supermarket, in the university, at work, in the tram or in ATMs - we hate them all. We are not interested in feeling 'safe' and we don't want them to stop crime."

And from the Finnish: "During the last weeks we have blinded several cameras around the capital of Finland. CCTV-cameras are important part of social control against people. It's about power and control, and not about peoples values and rights. It's about turning us into slaves and fearing authorities. But we can defend ourselves against the state and against corporations and take away Big Brother's sight."

\* See this vid to get the idea: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GCsd2TJKJQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GCsd2TJKJQ).

When February came around, the stage was set for 6,000 Nazis, 7,000 cops and 12,000 anti-fascists ready for combat with blockades and other militant actions. Police tried to prevent this from happening and used water cannons, in ice cold weather, for that sadistic touch the boys in blue are renowned for. A human chain was again formed but couldn't prevent the march in the face of police facilitation.

However, the large mobilisation led to a questioning of the commonly accepted wisdom that the city of Dresden was just an innocent victim of the conflict and hosted no infrastructure of the Nazis. This led to the mayor of Dresden, Helma Orosz, for the first time to admit in her annual speech at the 'Heidefriedhof' that the Germans started the war and that the bombing of Dresden had to be understood in this light.

In 2011 the Nazis turned up on two days. Firstly on the 13th Feb they were able to march 2,000-strong for a while, until their way got blocked, but on their second attempt on the 19th Feb, the 3,000 could not march at all because of the blockades anti-fascists had created.

And so, in 2012, the Nazis cancelled their official march. Some bigoted eager beavers turned up anyway but couldn't march because of the blockades. For the first time antifascists organised a walk through the city to spots where there had been Nazis active during WWII, to lead the remembrance away from solely commemorating the victims to acknowledging that Dresden was also guilty and hosted perpetrators at that time.

SchNEWS spoke to Leni, a German anti-fascist "So as things stand at the moment the march of the Nazis has been turned from their biggest annual European event into a symbol of their defeat through at the hands of antifascists. This has been achieved by a combination of mass direct action and militant actions ... [and] turning the official discourse about the Dresden bombing..." Ja!

## THE LAW IS A GAS

Energy giant EDF have taken out civil proceedings against a group of activists who scaled chimneys at their West Burton plant last October. The company is demanding £5 million in damages, despite admitting in court that there's very little chance of getting any substantial amount of money back.

Sixteen campaigners occupied two chimneys at the West Burton power plant for a week - stopping nearly 20,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The activists - 21 in total - pleaded guilty to aggravated trespass at Mansfield Magistrates. They will be sentenced in two groups at later dates.

Aneka Kelly, one of the **No Dash for Gas** defendants said: "This un-civil action by EDF is not about money - they know we don't have this kind of cash. EDF just want to make sure that anyone who tries to stand up and challenge their profiteering price hikes, shady government lobbying and climate-trashing power plants is quickly silenced by the threat of legal action."

SchNEWS spoke to Ewa, one of those fighting the case "This attack on us is unprecedented in its scale. £5 million is barely a day's profits for EDF but this case could bankrupt us and force some of us to lose our homes. It's not about the money for them - it's about deterrence - and that's the main issue; what EDF are doing by driving for gas-fired power stations is destructive to the environment and has no democratic mandate"

Although court papers were served on the activists in January (some by the carefully partial police) there is as yet no date set for the civil trial. Obviously they're gearing up for a legal fight, but as Ewa said, "We don't want this to become self-referential, we don't want people to get wrapped up in defending 21 individuals when they could be out there fighting the dash for gas"

## SHOOTS OF RESISTANCE

Following the eviction of three camps last month, the fight to save Combe Haven valley from road development on the outskirts of Bexhill, Sussex, is intensifying again with the establishment of 'Camp Ivy'. Already tree houses, benders and tents have gone up to house anti-road protesters who just won't go down without a fight. Like they say, it aint over 'til it's over...

The camp is another pain in the arse for East Sussex County Council, who claim protest camps have already cost them over £700,000; security £150,377, High Court Enforcement Officers £408,993.11 and protest eviction squad £213,112.32. Ker-chiing!

The new camp has already been busy, with more disruption and obstruction as activists block contractors attempts to work, getting in the way of heavy machinery, bulldozers and chainsaws. One activist on the ground comments "All that's needed is for people to walk a nearby footpath or bridleway, meaning contractors down tools whilst security escort you along the path. This can be repeated, over and over and over..."

The camp is called for a Weekend of Action on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th February, encouraging people to attend to visit, camp and take action against the works. A camp spokesperson insisted the weekend was just the beginning, with actions expected to continue through out next week and into the summer; so it's not too late to get involved - but it's suggested you go prepared with sleeping kit, warm clothes, tents, food and water.

Contractors are running out of time. They have only until Friday 1st March to remove all hedges and trees - after that works will be prohibited from the beginning of nesting season. Activists are adamant the deadline will be missed. If actions can halt works until this time, the road building schedule will be pushed back even further, raising the costs yet again and obstructing the road.

The camp is proudly boasting NO MUD, so sweep the dust of your tent and down to the Combe Haven for a spot of spring camping and rambling.

\* Camp tel no. 07706 065623. Planning a visit? Directions here: <http://combehavendefenders.wordpress.com/2013/02/20/camp-ivy-pops-up/>

## ...and finally...

How could we let the week pass without honourable mention of dumbo arisotocrat Robert Oliphant (dumbo - geddit!?) Maxtone-Graham.

The upper class twit of the year was up in front of Perth Sherriff court on Feb 21st having been given a large block of dope by a friend. He then phoned the police to er, complain about the poor quality of the stuff. Talk about toking the piss. Despite the cops best efforts to ignore him, he persisted until they were forced to nick him in what even his own solicitor called "an own goal". Naturally it wasn't an "own goal" as anyone who scores higher than 'O Cripes' in a posh test is handled completely differently under UK law. He was fined £360.

There are more hilarious details at the only national newspaper we subscribe to - the Daily Mail. (We love it for the sensible political rhetoric, measured house price analyses and for perv-ing over underage celebrity children!)

\* [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2282238/What-dope-Aristocrat-ends-court-complaining-inferior-quality-cannabis-POLICE.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2282238/What-dope-Aristocrat-ends-court-complaining-inferior-quality-cannabis-POLICE.html)

## Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all readers, don't touch a drop of fizzy pop - stop and take a pop at the fizzy pop shop. 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)