



“I’m devastated. The opening of the road was the most awful day of my life, but the protests at Newbury stopped the Salisbury bypass being built and made government cut its roadbuilding plans” **Janet, a local resident**

The Newbury Bypass finally opened in secret at 1.15 am on Monday.

The nine mile road initially priced at £74 million, had soared in cost as some £24 million was spent on security guards and £2.6 million on policing, as the site became the scene of this countries biggest ever campaign of direct action against a road scheme. The authorities reacted with ‘Operation Prospect’ using the full force of the Criminal Justice Act to stop the protests with over a thousand arrests and strict bail conditions banning people from the site and effectively stopping them protesting.

Even on the day of the opening no expense was spared. Two people who had gone for a picnic at the old Rickety Bridge site, suddenly found themselves surrounded by 6 cop vans, 2 cars, 2 motorcyclists a video surveillance team with a helicopter buzzing overhead to see what was going on!

As for the cost to environment; how do you count the cost of devesation to nature reserves, sensitise eco-systems, archaeological sites and water meadows. *“Instead of wonky lanes, gnarled trees and rickety bridges over streams and canel, the surrounding landscape has been engineered into smooth, anywhere-ville embankments, concrete structures and giant culverts.”*

And this is just the beginning. Liberal Democrat MP and Bypass apologist David Rendell promised once the road was built, there would be no infill development - *so what’s all this then?*

Stax Properties have put in a planning application to build a warehouse distribution point on a green site. **Vodafone** want to build a new HQ on 42 acres and are threatening to pull out of the town if they don’t get their way. They’ve refused a move to the old cruise missile base at Greenham Common because it is not presitigious enough and fears of security because of the womens peace camp still at the base (basically a caravan with a couple of women living there) And at **Trenchwood** there are plans to build a new village with 1,800 houses on 352 acres. And this is just the beginning.

So despite claims from the Highways Agency that the road will cut journey times through Newbury by two minutes off-peak and 15 minutes during rush hours, if these applications get the green light, it will be back to square one for the towns transport problem.

One ex Newbury protestor who went to see the new road told SchNEWS. *“The tree I was in during the evicition was still there, next to the road at the old Sea View Camp. It was the only thing that lifed my spirits. The landscape has changed beyond recognition. I feel gutted, it really has happened”*

£100 million for nine miles of road - what could have been done with that money to alleviate Newburys traffic problem? 70 % of Newbury’s traffic is local so wouldn’t the money be better spent on a package of local traffic reduction measures. What about improving public transport, cycle routes, schol buses, car-share schemes all of which Independant transport consultants showed could solve the towns traffic problems far better and more cost-effectively than a bypass.

* To co-incide with the opening activists occupied the Brighton offices of **Mott Mcdonald’s**, the scumbag civil engineers who designed Newbury Bypass and contracted the companies responsible for the roads construction. Other projects include building power stations in Indonesia, Iraqi civilian airstrips, Sellafield and Dungeness, as well as the road through Twyford Down. Over twenty activists strolled passed security and the receptionist (who cried ‘I should have guessed this was going to happen today’) and barricaded themselves into the finance office by re-arranging the furniture. After sending the staff home, and rummaging through the files, the computers’ hard-drives mysteriously “malfunctioned”. There were no arrests. Nice-One! The road may be complete, but the campaign ‘aint!.

Third Battle of Newbury ‘End of the Road Reunion’ Sunday 10th January 1999. PO Box 5642, Newbury, Berks RG14 5WG Phone 07000 785201 www.gn.apc.org/newbury

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For dressing up as a pumpkin.

Matthew Behrens was with seven other people from Toronto Action for Social Change (TASC) leafleting outside the Loblaws grocery store in Ontario, Canada, when he briefly stepped onto the companies property to say hello to the child of a friend. He had returned to the pavement when the cops pounced and charged him with trespassing, held him for 24 hours and only released him on \$500 surety bail.

The pumpkin protester now joins a growing list of characters arrested outside Loblaws, including Santa Clause and two elves, the Easter Bunny, three Bunny helpers, Robin Hood and Honest Shawn, all of whom face trials in the next three months. A school teacher also faces trial after being nicked for objecting to being video-taped by Loblaws security while taking a leaflet.

Loblaws is being targeted by TASC because it donates to a Conservative government who’ve been busy cutting welfare payments and introducing workfare. Loblaws also have food banks at their stores, and ask people to donate food (bought at its stores of course). This goes to the people who’ve been cut off welfare! Impressive logic. Oh and Loblaws also owes over \$56 million in deferred, unpaid taxes - bloody scroungers.

Wierd things are happening again along the proposed site of the **Birmingham Northern Relief** road. For the past three weeks coach loads of police have come down to the site as part of their training to talk ‘informally’ to the protesters. Staffordshire Police this training programme is based on the fundamental principle that the role of the police is an impartial one....it provides an opportunity for officers to hear first hand from environmental protewttors why they are occupying the site, what their intentions are and how they will react when they come into contact with the cops during the eviciton. Think its wierd? Not as wierd as those on site find it. One told SchNEWS “We are the ones now lecturing the police. We have become advisors to our own eviciton. Its all rather strange.” Or just one big police evidence gatherers exercise.

Avon Ring Road.

Site clearance is due to start at any time now on Bristol’s answer to the M25, and could last for three months. The largest Local Authority road scheme in the country, the latest section will ironically be built on top of a kilometre of Sustrans premier cycleway - the Bristol and Bath Railway Path. People are needed NOW to stop the work and set up camps. Ring Kebele Cafe 0117 9399469

"You don't get rich by working, but out of other people's work. I should know". **Alec Reed Chairman Reed International** (the 360th richest prison in the country)

Claimant groups are targeting Reed Employment, one of the UK's biggest recruitment agencies, where you do all the work and they take half the wages. Great. New Labour have developed a 'special' relationship with Reed not of course influenced by the company bunging £100,00 their way before the general election. Reed, are one of the companies involved in the 'New Deal' for under 25's in Hackney and City area of London and have been busy forcing claimants into jobs at rates as low as £3 an hour..

Some Employment Service staff regard this as the thin end of the wedge to eventual privatisation, and a meeting has been called by **Brighton Claimants Action Group** 'Privatisation of the Benefit Service - The Dangers' Tuesday 24th November Kennedy Palace Hotel, Marine Parade 6pm

To find out about the campaign against Reed send an SAE to **Haringley Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London N8 0HW. Tel 0181 374 5027

No nukes in my backyard Thank you

Local residents have won the first stage of the battle to stop Omega Pacific storing intermediate nuclear waste at a site in Trecwn, Pembrokeshire. Omega originally purchased the site in 1997 pledging to build a Jet engine refurbishment plant which they said would have provided 300-500 jobs. However they announced in October that they had been approached by the Atomic Energy Authority to store the waste in 58 secret tunnels. Understandably locals feel they were misled and showed their outrage last weekend when 500 marched to the site with the women in traditional Welsh costume, to protest against the plans. Yvonne Fox who is employed to promote tourism in the area said if nuclear comes here "You may as well put a sign up saying Pembrokeshire closed". Few people are going to come and spend a pleasant fortnight on the banks of a nuclear waste dump. On the back of the promise of jobs Omega are essentially killing the thing that keeps Pembrokeshire's economic head above water. Protesters tied ribbons on the perimeter fence., their message to Omega "You aint seen nothing yet." Due to the mass local outrage Atomic Energy have pulled out but Omega say they aren't scrapping their plans they're just looking for different nuclear waste. Director Lawson Stebbings confidently reassured locals that the waste would become inert after about 60 years, a little worrying when experts tend to consider that would take thousands of years to occur. All this goes against the promise Welsh councils made in 1982 when they signed an agreement declaring Wales a 'nuclear free zone' promising no dumping, no nuclear weapons storage and no new nuclear plants. This is disaster waiting to happen, the waste will be transported to Trecwn from delightful places such as Sellafield by boats

* The £3 billion **Jubilee Line Extension** in London is being hit by a spate of sabotage attacks and wildcat strikes. The line has to open in time to carry 60 per cent of the 12 million visitors expected to the Millennium Dome, but it is already 18 months behind schedule.

**And for all of you who love writing us a letter on those very rare occasions we misspept words, the website address is right, we've got a new one so all the pissed bastards at fests can remember it .

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Don't forget the next Rebel Alliance meeting, November 25th 7pm upstairs at the Hobbogoblin Pub, London Rd.

'sHell on earth', is a new hard hitting video highlighting the abuse of the Ogoni by Shell oil and the Nigerian military, the executions, and the wave of direct action protest from around the world ! Available for £13.95 (inc.p+p) from **Undercurrents**, 16b Cherwell St., Oxfrpd, OX4 1BG Tel 01865 203662 www.undercurrents.org *** The hostility of some locals to asylum seekers in Dover, whipped up by xenophobic editorials in the Dover Express, has led to brick and bottle attacks on the homes of asylum seekers and threats to families. Now the **bigots** have organised a meeting on Tues 24th Nov in the Kings Hall, London Road opp the Beaconsfield Garag. A counter-demonstration is being planned www.canterbury.u-net.com/Dover.*** "Mexican state terror, **Zapitista** and working-class resistance - a discussion about Mexican history and the prospects for socialist struggle" organised by Workers Liberty 7.30pm Wednesday 25 November Lucas Arms Pub, 245 Gray's Inn Road (near to Kings Cross) *** Friday 4th December at the Tower Theatre, Pelham Street, Brighton - Comedians **Rob Newman**, Alan Parker, Simon Munnelly. Benefit (with free tea of course) for the **Anarchist Teapot** and others. Tickets £7/£5 available from Brighton Peace Centre, Gardner St *** **Mass trespass** on a council farm which permits hunting but forbids public access. Wear hunting pink, bring dogs & hunting horns! meet at Brighton Station, 10am on Sunday 22nd November. Tally ho! *** Date change - not our fault honest. **Brazil Network** workshop at the Hobbogoblin pub, Brighton is now on 23rd Nov. at 8pm. Details 0171281 2226 *** **Workers Aid for Kosova** are taking a truck of supplies out to the refugees struggling to live what is often in sub-zero temperatures, please give them some dosh, you could save some ones life 0161232 9801 *** Usual call to arms for SchNEWS envelope stuffers in the Brighton area. Mail-out crew needed each and every Friday. Noon onwards. Ring office for directions.

In 1988, Sussex police marksmen shot and killed a fugitive monkey from Shamrock farm. Shamrock (GB) Ltd imports what they call captive-breed monkeys (not caught in the wild) from the Philippines, China and Mauritius and is the largest monkeys for vivisection holding centre in Europe. Monkeys are used in psychological and physical experiments. In some tests they are severely brain damaged so scientists can study the effect on memory and learning. In deprivation studies, babies are taken away from their mothers and denied all comfort so the effects of such neglect can be studied. They are also routinely used in medical, "traditional" warfare and chemical warfare tests.

National Demonstration, Sunday Noon 29th Nov, meet at Upper Horton Farm, A2307 Small Dole, Sussex (transport available) contact Save The Shamrock Monkeys PO Box 3090 Brighton BN1 3QU or phone 01273 298781

* The deadly Ebola virus, that literally eats the entire body has already been found in a laboratory monkey near Washington DC. Remote from human civilizations lie lethal highly infectious viruses. As the rainforests are destroyed, previously unknown deadly viruses come into contact with humanity.

"Experts admit that it is becoming increasingly likely that the (Ebola) virus could follow in the wake of AIDS and find its way rapidly from Africa to the rest of the world." **Daily Telegraph, May 11.**

Ebola kills with devastating power, a gruesome assault on the body's organs and body tissue, reducing them to "digested slime". every opening of the body bleeds. Ears, eyes, even pores, The Ebola monkey in Washington was from the Philippines.

As SchNEWS went to press a Home Office delegation will be meeting with four representatives of animal liberation front prisoner Barry Horne, who is on his 44 day of hunger strike. The father of two, who is serving an 18 year jail sentence for animal rights activities has said the strike will not end without a firm commitment from the government to end vivisection by January 2002. This is the third hunger strike Barry has undertaken over Labours broken election promises on animal rights. His health is now rapidly deteriorating; he has lost 25 of his body weight, and is beginning to experience problems with concentration and eye-sight. In general he is physically very weak and consultants have told him that even if he ends the strike now he will only have a 70% chance of a full recovery. **Animals Betrayed Coalition**, PO Box 21339, London WC1X 0NJ. Tel: 0181 208 3289

*The Government this week announced that animals will no longer be used for testing cosmetics after firms agreed to surrender their licenses voluntarily. The ban will spare the suffering of just 1,300 animals a year and campaigners are now switching the spotlight on to the use of animals for testing in medical and veterinary research. Cosmetics wise the next battle is to *stop companies shifting their operations abroad*-it's estimated that around 30,000 tests are performed on animals throughout the E.U. A recent action in Sweden led to 35000 e-mails being sent and crashing the computer system, whilst in Britain prisoners across the country have been on a forty-eight hour weekend hunger strike in solidarity with Barry.

Read 'Science on Trial: The Hidden Cost of Animal Experiments' (Awareness Publishing) available from Animal Aid 01732 364546

* **Furriers** Calman Links, is getting its fur coated knickers in a right royal twist after its client list - containing names, addresses and phone numbers of every one of its customers-was leaked to Fur Free London. The leak comes before a Week of Acton against the Fur Trade (16-21st November) where fur farms and shops all over Britain will be the target of protests. This is timed to coincide with the annual gassing of mink on the UK's dozen fur farms.

Mrs Betty Ford (not the famous alcoholic) said "I think these animal rights activists should all be shot. Fur is the most becoming thing a woman can wear, but at the moment you cannot wear it because public opinion is so strongly against it."

* Fur Free London, BM Box 2248, London, WC1N 3XX 0171 278 3068

...and finally...

Tony Blair's employment revolution took a bizarre turn in the North East last week. Reeling from a post gig knees-up in Darlington, aggro-pop group Flannel decided to take out their comedowns on scabs at Magnet Kitchens, who replaced the 300 skilled workers sacked by management three years ago. "I wouldn't have a Magnet kitchen fitted in my own shithouse," explained bassist Bloke to customers, as they invaded the showroom in drag and serenaded people with Spanish love songs. Jumping on a display bed, Fat Stan and Cosmo cried "We were gonna have a bit of nookie on this but we don't think the workmanship's up to it!" Police eventually bundled them out, but a local boycott has ensured there's only about two customers a fortnight. The previous day, the band blagged a gig at Sunderland's New Deal Employment Revolution Showcase, where they were hoping to play their anti-work song *Hold It Down*. On arriving however, they found a few displays and a crowd of 30 people, so they quickly set up a SchNEWS stall and distributed anti-casualisation leaflets from the Simon Jones Memorial campaign. Two middle aged suits from the local enterprise services came by saying "Aye, we fooking agree with you! Thatcherism totally fucked this part of the country up!" and proceeded to play Black Sabbath songs on the band's equipment. *Watch out for the Surreal New Deal for musicians in April. Sex and drugs and the dole?*

disclaimer

fuck it, it's our birthday, we don't need a...