



SchNEWS

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Friday 16th December 2011

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Issue 801

Dale Farm: Where Are They Now?

AS SchNEWS TRACKS DOWN SOME OF THE EVICTION SURVIVORS

It made global headlines but after an extremely expensive, violent and destructive eviction what's happened to the travellers at Dale Farm?

Although a few families have moved and are staying with relatives to escape the stress of the eviction and the emotional turmoil of seeing their homes gone and their land destroyed, most of the families have returned to Dale Farm. While the neat row of caravans lining the entrance of the farm, causes many of the travellers to reminisce of days gone by when they would park in lay-bys and on the traditional droves and, yes, life appears to be returning to normal, the kids are at school, trailers are being cleaned, meals being cooked all to background buzz of generators. On land adjacent to the evicted area which is also a legal traveller site, and was not affected by the action, many of the occupants there have taken in their neighbours.

Except that previously these families had their own small plots of land spread over the six acre area which now resembles war torn Beirut. The scale of destruction is hideous. Where there were once roads there are now deep furrows - most of the plots have been excavated down to the water table. Mounds of earth and rubble (bunding) 6-10ft high surround the perimeter of the farm and enclose each plot preventing any attempt at access and, just in case any residents feel able to overcome these barriers, an injunction is in place to prevent the placing of caravans on these plots. Not only this, but an access road that was supposed to be left for the remaining five plots has been dug up and turned over with a deep furrow running down the middle, leaving only a perilously thin walkway for the residents to use.

Every 48 hours, council officials visit to check that the paperwork relating to the injunction is still there pinned to the fence. Each day the local community support officers visit. The residents would of course prefer they didn't, but fear the repercussions

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For being 'stupid and gay'...

A fifteen year old has won £4,000 in compensation this week after being arrested back in June 2010.

The schoolboy was taking photographs at a public military parade during Armed Forces Day when the bully boy cops had a playground flashback and decided to pick on an easy target.

Initially officers pulled rank on the boy saying he was 'invading the privacy' of the soldiers (who were coyly marching down the high street in full dress uniform, led by a brass band and in front of a crowd of hundreds of people), then when challenged came up with 'anti-social behaviour'. When the plucky lad continued to protest his innocence, the inspector lost his rag and justified the action by saying: "You were being silly, you were running around being stupid and gay".

if they prevent the cops from accessing their land.

As well as coping with the loss of their land, the residents face a continual hate campaign from the local rag. The racist *Echo* has been trying to dig the dirt up on the families, even sending reporters over to Ireland to try and locate any land or property that the travellers and their extended families may own.

On top of this, disgruntled local residents unhappy that the travellers are still there have continued their persecution against the families in a continued attempt to encourage them to leave.

Basildon Council proudly announced that the eviction bill had cost £4million less than expected, but the police have still to finalise their costs - one source claimed that the officers' accommodation bill alone was £5,000 a night. Costs will soon creep up. A further £1.8million has been set aside for further court action challenges and enforcement action on the neighbouring legal site.

Obviously Tony Ball is not happy that many of the families moved 200m next door, staying with either their relatives or on empty plots. He has continually made threats that these plots will also face eviction if they do not ask the displaced families to leave.

Rumours are rife with the *Daily Fail* reporting that the residents have been warned that each family must pay £80,000 towards the eviction cost. It's

AS THE IRAQ WAR FINALLY ENDS OBAMA & BUSH TAKE A MOMENT TO CELEBRATE...



obvious that the council can't wait to get their hands on the land that was once Dale Farm, with a source stating that the land will probably become a council asset possibly being turned into allotments. How long have they been planning this outcome..?

This is one of the real issues that got lost in the media hype surrounding Dale Farm; land and our rights to own it, work it and live off of it. Land is a crucial issue, as are planning procedures. Land is power and when we are lucky enough to get hold of some we need to protect it otherwise the authorities will do all they can to take it back again.

To support the Dale Farm crew and other travellers, get in touch with the Traveller Solidarity Network: travellersolidarity@riseup.net. The TSN are holding a meeting for networking and action planning on Sunday 18th December at 10am in London - see <http://london.indymedia.org/events/11238> for details.

There is also a phone blockade of Constant and Co on Monday 19th December at 11am for an hour. As many people as possible need to repeatedly call in to try and block their phone lines as a solidarity action for the residents of Dale Farm and those arrestees who are required to make bail on this date. Call phone lines 01234 340091 or 01908 374374 or fax lines 01234 301299 or 01908 370073. Emails: bedford@constantandcompany.co.uk or bletchley@constantandcompany.co.uk.

CasaPound Runs Riot In Foreign Market

On Tuesday 13th December, two Senegalese market traders - Samb Modou and Diop Mor - were shot dead and three more were injured when Italian fascist accountant Gianluca Casseri decided to vent his racism in the most brutal way possible.

He drove to the market in Dalmazia Square in Florence and got out the car to shoot three of the traders - two of whom died. He then drove a couple of miles to San Lorenzo market where he once again opened fire and wounded another two Senegalese men. Fortunately, Gianluca Casseri, a member of CasaPound, then turned the gun on himself as police approached him.

Spontaneous demonstrations broke out in the city with Senegalese traders marching through the streets, angry at both the shootings and more widespread racism that has been directed at African migrants. Signs expressing residents' opposition to the shootings are now commonplace in Florence. On Wednesday night, Italian anti-fascists attempt an assault on CasaPound's HQ in Rome, but hundreds of riot cops managed to shield the building from justice.

CasaPound is an Italian fascist group, founded in 2003. They are effectively a movement based around the 'teachings' of ZetaZeroAlfa (ZZA) - an Italian punk band. While it would be worrying if large numbers of people started following the ramblings of most brewed-up punks, it is particularly worrying when their vision of the future is that of a third position, neo-fascist,

racially pure utopia influenced by the likes of Benito Mussolini and Ezra Pound (the fascist poet CasaPound are named after). They have officially disassociated the actions of Gianluca and said they don't support violence - though this is far from the first violent incident that has been linked to the group.

CasaPound's has built much of its strength from a counter-cultural scene formed around music, anti-capitalism and social projects. They have set up a number of squatted social centres known as ONC's (Occupazioni Non Conformi) as well as occupying buildings in protest at the removal of services and providing services of their own to the local community. They have used these (alongside gigs and a conscious effort to mimic the fashions, imagery and slogans of the anti-authoritarian left) to help increase its membership and influence. The driving force behind all this is Gianluca Iannone - a long-term far right activist, leader of CasaPound, and bearded frontman of ZZA.

Disaffected youth, who in the past may have turned towards leftwing politics, are instead become willing footsoldiers for a new, dangerous form of fascism. While the shootings in Florence may be at the extreme end of this, it has brought the rise of groups like CasaPound to the attention of mainstream media, but while the column inches will dry up fairly quickly, the threat from the far right will not disappear so easily.

* For on CasaPound check <http://libcom.org/library/casa-pound-new-radical-right-italy>

POWER TO THE PEOPLE'S CAFE

At The People's Cafe in Edinburgh, the fight continues to liberate the collective space previously known as The Forest Cafe on Bristo Place. The Forest Cafe was a volunteer run space – but had a paid management. The new regime is a genuine collective. The occupation has successfully kept the doors open without any major complaints from surrounding businesses or passing policemen. Occupiers are wasting no time in connecting shower facilities, sorting out the leccy and fitting fire alarms with the help and advice of the Fire Brigade. A free shop allows Christmas consumers to wander in and help themselves.

However, amidst these seasonal good tidings, a petition has been lodged by the owners PricewaterhouseCooper (PWC) to remove the illegal dwellers before Christmas is out. One member of the occupation is to represent The People's Cafe at His proposals are to invest in the space as a community project as opposed to previous offers of turning the listed building into 'flats with added business space'. Profit previously obscured any possible vision of a collective organization at the cafe as allegations of bankruptcy and corruption are doing the rounds among the disheartened artists and musicians that once loyally frequented the venue.

The old Forest Cafe management don't want anything to do with the occupation and are still currently looking for a new premises in which they can continue their 'collective' arts project.

So, any chance the courts listen to the occupation's proposal for a facility that embraces 'the people's interest'? The cafe's legal representative told SchNEWS: "we are interested in a centre for community projects – not workshops and not for entertainment." The emphasis was on providing a space for the less privileged communities on the outskirts of Edinburgh and bringing these communities along with the inner cities, together.

While it's great that people are fighting to maintain control of local social spaces, we doubt that appealing to the court's better nature will work in itself. Numbers inside are the best defence against eviction, so for the latest info and how to get involved see peoplescafe.noflag.org.uk

A LOAD OF PONY

Thursday 15th marked the two month anniversary of the Occupy London movement, and not to be outdone by their American counterparts (see SchNEWS 797) the UK's own called for a day of action.

A crowd gathered at the occupation site at St Paul's at 10.30am with a festively appropriate pantomime horse. After listening to speeches on the current financial crisis and possible bottom-up solutions, the demo went on a 15 minute 'cancer' targeting Lloyds branches in particular, as a symbol for the 'call to greed' that the movement aims to tackle through its actions. The panto horse and its followers occupied Lloyds' main offices for a short while and then toured other branches. Lloyds' CEO who saw in the 41% taxpayer bailout of the bank has returned to his post after standing aside for six weeks due to 'extreme fatigue and sleep deprivation' and the Co-operative Group has won the bid to take the 632 Lloyds and Cheltenham and Gloucester branches the bailed out institution was ordered to sell.

The horse-led protest returned to the Occupy site in time for speeches by Rev. Jesse Jackson and others who spoke to the assembled crowd of around 350 supporters about the global occupy movement. A roving 'street party' ensued with the demonstrators heading to The Carlton Club, the 'spiritual home' of the Conservative party – an exclusive members only club for the lizards in blue.

*See www.occupylondon.org.uk

OCCU-BYE BRIGHTON

Nearly two months after it began, Occupy Brighton has bowed out following a gale that blew most of the camp down. Cold and rain had whittled down the camp to a handful of the most hardcore, and when the gale blew in there just weren't enough hands on deck to hold down the tents, and so the occupiers made the decision to call it a day. As well as being an experiment in direct democracy and decision making by consensus, Occupy Brighton had become a favourite hangout for Brighton's homeless community, who appreciated having somewhere to hang out somewhere where they weren't going to get moved on. The combination of high minded idealism and special brew was never an easy mix, and, post gale, many of the original organisers felt that the camp had lived out its natural lifespan. This didn't go down well with some the Occupy residents, who responded by er, trying to burn the site down. Luckily SchNEWS' trusty marquee, which has seen every war since the First World War and every protest camp since Newbury (honest!) escaped with only a minor singeing.

PUNK'S NO PICNIC

Heads shaved, shoved into lorries and transported to a police compound for a ten day boot-camp just for going to a gig. Who says punk's dead?

You might live in an area where the shop assistants at B&Q sport mohicans and traffic wardens have their nipples pierced (well we do anyway) but there are still a few cultural backwaters where pink dreadlocks and a Crass T-Shirt are enough to provoke a backlash from the moral majority.

One such place is the province of Banda Aceh – a semi-autonomous region of Indonesia. Banda Aceh is the only part of the country that has attempted to impose full Sharia law. Homosexuals have been attacked by the authorities and women forced to cover up. Now it seems it's the turn of punk rock.

The gig took place last Saturday and punks had travelled across the country to attend. The event was broken up and 64 punks, both men and women were detained. They were forcibly shaved and forced into a lake for 'spiritual cleansing'. "We're not torturing anyone," the police chief said. "We're not violating human rights. We're just trying to put them back on the right moral path."

This raid was just the latest crackdown on Aceh punks. Deputy mayor Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamaal says she doesn't mind getting her hands dirty in her crusade against the punks of Banda Aceh, proudly telling of how she has supervised police raids at cafes and city parks in recent months saying "Their morals are wrong. Men and women gather together, and that is against Islamic Shariah ...They had marijuana and alcohol and everything at that concert."

Punks from outside Aceh are likely to be held for ten days then released, those from the area and therefore in the full jurisdiction of the authorities may be held for much longer. None have been charged with any crime.

Solidarity demo outside the Indonesian Embassy on 20th December 11.am 'til 6 pm.

Or if you just want to let the embassy know what you think 02074997661

PARTY & PROTEST

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

TIS THE SEASON TO BE EVICTED

Yes it's Christmas again and apparently the season of good will to all, unless you are a Traveller. Instead of celebrating the winter solstice and preparing for the Christmas festivities like the rest of the nation, travellers are preparing to up sticks and find somewhere else to put their homes, only days before xmas.

Once again Brighton Traveller Liaison team have also chosen to evict their local travellers. The current site in Sheepcote Valley houses over 60 live-in vehicles and is a nice mix of travellers from all groups, traditional and new, transient and orbital all co-existing with the local settled population and the many dog walkers that also use the area.

Obviously this unsanctioned use of the land (again) could not be tolerated, especially so soon after the last injunction against travellers dwelling on this land ran out and the court handed the council back possession last week.

The Council not wanting to appear Scrooge-like have stated that travellers are being evicted for their own benefit. Apparently the land is quite toxic and may pose a danger to their health if they remain. Warning of the risks from a whole host of deadly gases and a "worrying amount of lead" one wonders whatever possessed the council to build a kids' BMX track on this old landfill site.

Bailiffs are booked for Monday 19th December. The council are not taking any chances and have covered the whole of the valley in paperwork. Eviction notices have been delivered requesting that everyone leaves before the said date making the bailiffs' lives much easier. Where all these travellers and their homes are going to end up on the night before solstice is anyone's guess.

Why not nip down to your local traveller eviction and give the bailiffs your own personal Christmas greeting and with a little local support, the merry band of travellers might feel confident enough just to remain where they are.

TAR-RA FOR NOW

Tar sands activists in Canada are celebrating a victory this week as the controversial (and snappily titled) Northern Gateway Tar Sands Pipeline Approval Process was delayed until at least the end of 2013.

The pipeline plans that are currently under review would transport crude oil from Alberta's tar sands oil fields, through British Columbia to waiting tankers ready to cross the Pacific to Asia. First Nation groups have pledged to stop any pipeline construction on their land through mass civil disobedience. And public feeling seems to be with them, nearly a quarter of a million protest emails have been sent to the Northern Gateway review panel.

*See www.climateark.org

...and finally...

Advertisers, those bottom feeding, scum sucking disgraces to humanity, are forever co-opting radical and subversive movements into capitalism's thrall. Hip-hop, punk, graffiti all started as rebellious street movements but have been twisted into vehicles to sell shite to the masses. Take Banksy – once a criminal fugitive for his hobby of painting satirical stencils on the sides of buildings, now sells his pieces for thousands a pop, one of which is on display at one of the Art Series hotels in Melbourne. But the devil-spawn that run Art Series' marketing have gone one further, and have co-opted shoplifting as a sales gimmick. The chain is inviting guests to steal the piece. If they get caught it just gets returned, but if they successfully pilfer it then they get to keep it. Wonder if they'd be quite so understanding if somebody went and graphed the side of one of their hotels...

Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all readers, now that the Iraq war is 'over' there will be peace in the Middle East. Honest.

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