

DEATH KNEEL FOR THE EDL?

ENGLISH DEFENCE LEAGUE OUTNUMBERED AND OUTSMARTED IN E17

Brighton hinted at it, Bristol seemed to continue the pattern but today's misguided outing to the London borough of Walthamstow showed the extent to which the English Defence League is now in a steep downward spiral.

This was intended to be a re-run of Tower Hamlets – a mission into darkest Muslamic country to liberate a corner of England. In the event around only two hundred fash made the trip down – to be confronted by a multi-racial crowd of over two thousand.

After getting pissed up and fighting amongst themselves at King's Cross station the EDL gathered at Blackhorse Rd tube station. They were then marched in a mobile kettle along Forest Rd, the initial stage of their intended route to the Town Hall. The UAF were behind police lines occupying half of Forest Rd. Autonomous anti-fascists waited just down from the cross-roads. The EDL approached at a snail's pace entirely surrounded by cops.

As soon as the hapless leaguers came in sight the Anti-Fascist Network's banner was unfurled – triggering scuffles with the police and a couple of arrests. The cops soon realised that if a handful of anti-fascists were going to cause that much bother then getting the EDL past the UAF demo was going to be more trouble than it was worth. The answer was to divert the EDL down the side-streets and try to smuggle them to their rally point.

SMASH GAZEBO

Meanwhile, realising that the EDL march had been blocked anti-fascists started breaking away in small groups getting round police lines to the rally point. Soon hundreds had gathered in front of a gazebo decorated with England flags and staffed by the EDL's top boys. Unfortunately for them their minions were being held up by police a few streets away leaving leaders Tommy Robinson and Kev Carroll to have a rally/garden party behind police lines that barely got into double figures. The leaders attempted to string a few words together over their P.A. system, but were completely drowned out by anti-fascists. After they were bombarded with missiles and with the baying crowd threatening to break the police lines, the EDL's police liaison officers told them to leave the area. Rumours that Kev and Tommy later indulged in a bit of sulky mutual recrimination and even handbags at dawn have so far been confined to the socialist press.

Eventually the fash were herded to the relative safety of a side street where police allowed them 15 minutes of unplugged whining before slowly marching them back. The EDL were remarkably silent for this once vocal organisation and at time's it felt, appropriately enough, like a funeral cortège. Locals came out to disrupt the sombre mood and give them some abuse to send them on

their way. One anti-fascist told SchNEWS "They recruited no-one, didn't seem to have a point to their demo and basically looked like tuggish idiots. They're not even frightening anymore".

DON'T STAY ANOTHER DAY

Having been thoroughly humiliated by anti-fascists most EDL were probably looking forward to getting home, unfortunately for them though their day didn't end there. The MET seemed to decide to kick 'em while they're down and proceeded to kettle them for a few hours before finally nicking them all to 'prevent a breach of the peace'. They were then apparently bused into the centre of London and released minus their coaches which plod had already sent packing.

Unsurprisingly many of the EDLers took their frustrations out on each other, with numerous arrests for fighting amongst themselves, including EDL steward and March for England regular Dave Bolton getting a kicking. The infighting

A FIGHT ON THE TILES

ROOFTOP PROTEST AS FIRST BRIGHTON SQUAT BUSTED UNDER WEATHERLEY'S NEW LAW

With the new squatting laws (see SchNEWS 825) now in force, the first shot across the bows from Brighton Plod came this week when they waded into a London Road squat that had previously been empty for a year.

Although the mixed-use commercial/residential building has been squatted for a month, the cops arrived on Monday having been called in by private security firm Veritas. The goons had failed on two previous attempts to illegally evict the occupants so – since the offence of squatting in a residential building came into force on 1st September – they turned to the 'professionals' to do the job for them.

The first cops arrived around midday and the squatters explained that, since last week, no one was 'living' in the residential parts of the building and therefore no one was committing an offence. Unfortunately the police didn't buy this explanation and eventually called in backup to smash down the door. While a jeering crowd of about 40 squatters, supporters and bemused passers-by watched, the police spent nearly ten minutes attacking the front door with a battering ram.

When they eventually made it in they still had to get past a barricaded staircase to reach the first floor, where they discovered three squatters had squirrelled themselves away in the loft – gluing their hands together in the process. A telescopic ladder, a specialist lock-on team and a couple of hours later, and the three resisters were carried out to one of the eight waiting cop vans. Meanwhile

Wake up! Wake up! It's yer...

SchNEWS
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moved online in the aftermath, with members declaring they won't go on another demo (so much for 'No Surrender!') and openly calling for a change of leadership. The more loyal members have directed their anger at the police for not forcing the march through, which is pretty pathetic for an organisation that claims to 'go where we want, when we want'. Many of the same EDL members who threatened to arrive tooled up and hoping for it to 'kick off' are now moaning on Facebook about the lack of police protection when it did – be careful what you wish for.

HITTING ON THE FENCE

Another lucky escape from jail for Smash EDO campaigners as serial occupant of the dock at Brighton magistrates Chris Osmond was found 'not guilty' of criminal damage to the fence of EDO MBM yesterday (Wednesday 5th)

The case related to one of the regular noise demos outside the EDO weapons factory nearly two years ago on 20th December 2010. Chris was initially arrested on the strength of a video of him idly tapping the fence with a piece of chalk while chin-wagging with another activist. Cops even seized rocks from the verge as evidence.

Over the intervening two years the case has been dismissed and resurrected more than once. It was of course PC Sean McDonald who can be seen at his oily best in this Guardian video who decided to serve the summons on Chris. Hilariously the judge specifically pointed out that one reason for the 'not guilty' verdict was that McDonald's evidence was 'inconsistent with his statement'.

Weirdly EDO ITTs managing director Paul Hills was present throughout the last part of the trial. His presence was perhaps explained by a prosecution plan to gain a restraining order against Chris, a plan that had to be scrapped with

the inconvenient verdict. One eyewitness told SchNEWS 'Once the verdict was announced Paul Hills virtually ran out of the court'.

*For more on resisting the arms trade in Brighton www.smashedo.org.uk

BROUGHT TO BOOK

A North London library closed by council cuts has been re-opened... by squatters. Closed by Barnet council back in April after an eighteen month wrangle Friern Barnet library will open its doors again on Saturday (8th) between 11 and 3. Since the library closed local campaigners have been staging 'pop up' libraries on the village green outside.

SchNEWS spoke to long term local campaigner Rosie Canning - "I don't see them as squatters I see them as library occupants. We're willing to work with Barnet Council to re-open the library. Unfortunately we think that the reason they want to close this and another library in North Finchley is so that both buildings can be sold to developers. The alternative they are offering us is temporary library in the Arts Depot building a mile and a half away.

"The important thing to realise is that this is a purpose built library and an important building for the community. There is huge community

support we had thousands who signed the petition to keep it open. The library is a hub and is integrated with local schools that are within walking distance."

Council officials have offered the squatters alternative accommodation in the nearby Friary Park House, prompting one to remark "It's a shame more squatting disputes can't be resolved like this, instead of trying to bang us all up"

*For more on saving the library: sites.google.com/site/savefriernbarnetlibrary

CRAP ARREST OF THE WEEK

For racial abusing himself...

An Oxford man was racially abused by two men whilst out driving with his six year old son. Unwilling to let it lie, he confronted the two racists and demanded that they clarify what they'd said. Being racist scumfucks, they obliged and called him a Paki again, adding "Get the bat out of the car". He then called the police, just as two Thames Valley Plod cycled past. He explained he'd been racially abused and threatened by the two.

One copper, clearly keener than he is bright, spoke to our hero - "I can arrest you for using the P word" - grabbed his arm aggressively and pulled him away. He asked asked the police to search the men's car for the bat that they had had threatened to attack him with. Luckily, before the police could follow their stupid threat with an even stupider nicking, several members of his family arrived on the scene as the police let the two men drive off.

He plans to make an official complaint. SchNEWS recommends suing the fuckers.

COMING APART AT THE SEAMS

FRACTIVISTS OPPOSE EXTREME ENERGY IN THE WEST COUNTRY

It's West Country extreme action time! Unfortunately not shotgunning jugs of scrumpy while listening to the Wurzels though. Soon Somerset may be infamous for an even more dangerous activity. Yep, that's right - The West Country is about to get fracked.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. On Tuesday 4th Sept three people from Bristol Rising Tide, who occupied a Cuadrilla Resources drilling rig at Banks, Lancashire for 13 hours, in December last year, were on trial in Preston magistrates Court accused of aggravated trespass.

Unfortunately for Cuadrilla, it came out in the trial the company had exceeded the 3 months that they were allowed for drilling operations at the time of the occupation. Not only that, they had failed to meet a key condition to safeguard bird life from the adjacent Ribble Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest. This may mean Cuadrilla are in a breach of the Town and Country Planning Act and the Wildlife and Countryside Act. As Cuadrilla's actions weren't lawful, the defendants were found innocent - handing a major coup to the climate activists.

One activist, who faced a separate charge for failing to leave when ordered to do so by police, was found guilty and fined £250 and ordered to pay £750 costs. One of the acquitted activists said, "It's great to go free but the threat that fracking poses to communities and the environment has not gone away. It is very likely that Cuadrilla will be fracking at sites in Lancashire in the near future. Do we trust a company that is prepared to flout its planning permission to handle a very dangerous technology like fracking?"

COAL IT A DAY

In July three people from Brighton and Liverpool also stood trial on similar charges for a previous rig occupation in November last year. A blockade of Cuadrilla's drilling rig in June

(while it was undergoing maintenance in a contractors yard in Chesterfield) did not result in any arrests. All this is to try to stop Cuadrilla from coating the Lancashire countryside and potentially other parts of the UK in fracking wells, access road and pipelines, threaten. Cuadrilla's plans call for 400-800 wells in Lancashire in coming years. Cuadrilla is busy installing seismic monitoring equipment around the Banks site in preparation to frack the well and is likely to start drilling a fourth well, at its Anna's Road site, soon.

Another set of frackers, UK Methane Ltd, are about to submit a planning application to drill a Coal Bed Methane well in the Somerset countryside close to the River Avon between Keynsham and Bristol. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is another form of unconventional gas, very similar in most respects to shale gas. The gas is trapped in coal seams rather than shale rock, but in every other respect is the same short sighted planet rapery you'd expect from Earth's enemies.

In other extreme energy news the campaign to stop the brazenly hypocritically named "Clean Coal Ltd" from setting fire to a billion tons of coal underneath Swansea Bay is starting to gain momentum. Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) is an even more insane process than CBM that involves setting fire to coal seams underground and piping the resulting gases to the surface. It is highly experimental and has usually resulted in severe contamination of groundwater with carcinogenic benzene when it has been tested in the Australian outback and other remote locations. 18 licences for UCG in the UK have been issued so far including for right next to major cities like Edinburgh, Newcastle, Liverpool, London and Swansea. As more Swansea residents discover that they may well be the first in the firing line, the campaign called Fracked Swansea has gaining support by the day.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

...and finally...

You know things are bad when you turn round in a demonstration and the revolting hooded up hoodlum next to you is a policeman. On Thursday (6th) thousands of Greek police, fire-fighters and coast guards took to the streets of central Athens to rally against another round of imminent wage cuts.

The uniformed protesters carried banners inscribed with "Mercy, stop the cuts" and "We can't take it anymore". They weren't allowed to protest peacefully however, as another faction of police (who clearly hadn't got the memo) blocked their way. Fighting broke out between rioting police and the riot police, the best of the blue-on-blue action came as police were prevented from leaving a depot in Athens and travelling to Thessaloniki to prepare for the upcoming weekend's demonstrations.

The Nea Demokratia (New Democracy) party which leads the three headed beast coalition government had, during its pre-election campaign, vowed not to reduce the payrolls of policemen, firefighters, coast guard officers, academics and judges. Oops.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers we can't be fracked anymore. Honest!

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