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IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

SAVE THE HARLAN BEAGLES CAMPAIGN DEMONSTRATES IN BRIGHTON

Vivisection might not be at the forefront of activism these days, but that doesn't mean any fewer animals are being squirted, prodded, injected, creamed, caged or otherwise tortured - or that some humans aren't still kickin' up a fuss about it.

Save the Harlan Beagles campaign held a demonstration on Saturday (9th) in Brighton. The campaign targets Harlan Laboratories, a set-up sinister to the core: Harlan is one of the world's leading suppliers of animals to labs for the purpose of animal testing. The UK branch has a diversity of inmates including marmosets, beagles, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice, gerbils, and hamsters. Also available are hybrid, mutant, and transgenic animals. A quick google brings forth the crazy world of lab-animal mutants - Harlan's online catalogue has more modified mice ('research models') than you can shake a stick at. Take the poor wee sod that is the 'athymic nude' - these bald fellas were 'derived from a nucleus colony from the National Institutes of Health' and is referred to as an 'immunodeficient model'. Sounds like a recipe for a long, healthy and happy life.

Harlan's brochure proudly boasts it supplies more stocks and strains of lab

animals than any other commercial supplier in the world. The company has been quoted as saying it provides humane care to the 'research models'. Yet (not so surprisingly) investigations have found that, apart from the animal testing itself, the welfare of its death row prisoners translates to 20 luxurious minutes out of their cage per week and brutal manhandling techniques. An ex-employee of Harlan told mainstream media during an interview the unwritten company policy was to separate dogs "by kicking and punching them".

In Brighton, the 500-600 protesters gathered to demand the end of the use of beagles in vivisection in particular. Protesters began



to assemble at 12 noon by Victoria Fountain, at the Old Steine Gardens, listening to speeches. A silent march began at 1.30pm, with the mourners marching through the streets of Brighton behind a coffin, accompanied by a dozen or so community liaison officers and team of motorbike cops. After a loop around the city centre the march came to an end at about 4pm. Protesters had travelled down from different parts of the UK as well as some mourners from across the channel, with 100 envoys from Belgium, Italy and France. Non-human participants included about 30 dogs, mostly beagles. The message was simple: 'CLOSE DOWN HARLAN', and stop testing on dogs.

The usefulness of testing on animals has been scientifically debunked time and time again. On the beagle front, bad-ass vet and animal rights activist Andre Menache has written an article which, in essence,

Continued Over...

SUMMIT TO LOOK FORWARD TO RESISTANCE BEING PLANNED IN LONDON, DUBLIN AND FERMANAGH AS G8 BASH(ING) DRAWS NEARER

The powers-that-be (*them again!*) must have been so chuffed with themselves when they came up with their cunning game plan for this year's G8 summit, hosted by the UK government.

By holding it near Enniskillen, in County Fermanagh, in the north of Ireland, they thought they would kill two birds with one stone - shrugging off those pesky protesters expected on the mainland and showing off to the world how they had got the six counties nicely pacified and under control.

But things haven't exactly gone to plan. First there was the rioting by Union Flag-loving parts of the population, which made many locals wonder if taking on another security headache was the wisest course of action they could have come up with.

Then there were the reported threats to the summit from dissident republican groups who, unlike us unwashed anti-capitalist hordes over here, tend to be armed.

And now there has been a flurry of excitement in the run-up to the summit in which it appears that there will now be three centres of protest across an eight-day period and spanning two different states. Hardly the easy ride the G8 were hoping for!

An Alternative Dublin G8 group is getting organised, indignant that "with the arrogance that only an imperialist power could be capable of, the British government has decided to hold the summit in one of its colonies".

Protests are also being organised for the remote rural venue on June 17 and 18. But even if you can't make it across the water, before that

there's a big anti-G8 week of action lined up in London in the run-up to the summit, from June 10 to June 14, around the J11 Carnival Against Capitalism in central London on Tuesday June 11.

Says the Stop G8 network: "The corporations, banks, hedge funds, and billionaires looting our world have names and addresses. They are in the glass towers of the City, and behind unmarked doors in Mayfair and Knightsbridge. London is the money-laundering den of dictators, the playground of the super-rich. But London is our city too. A city of hope, resistance, and struggle.

"Capitalism is killing us. Unemployment, cuts, and the rise of fascism in the "West". Poverty, colonialism, brutal exploitation in the "Third World". War and famine for profit. Private prisons, police checks, CCTV to keep us scared and controlled. Life robbed of meaning and beauty, our dreams and our dignity for sale.

"Don't ignore. Don't wait. For our friends and loved ones, for our communities, for our planet, for everything they're trying to take from us. The time is now. Let's come together, and fight. One common struggle."

Anyone who wants a piece of the action can get along to the next national planning meeting, being held in London on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday April 6 and 7 (venue tba, see network23.org/stopg8).

Unusually, the meeting on the Saturday is being aimed specifically at people who hate meetings! The call is going out for "artists, musicians, fly-posters, fundraisers, trouble makers, social media geeks, promoters, kitchen crew, rabble rousers and more" to get down there and get ready to do their thang.

CRAP CAUTION OF THE WEEK

For a step too far...

As reported to SchNEWS by the victim in question: "I was leaving Camden underworld after The Filaments gig [note for the un-hip: a not as yet over-popular beat-combo] and was entering the Underground station. There was a guy on the escalator in front of me lying down on his front in a superman-esque position, arm outstretched.

"I went to walk around him and, not wanting to tread on his hand, tried to step over it. I slipped slightly and landed on my arse on the step in front of him just before the bottom. As I tried to get up my jacket became caught in the mechanism of the escalator. At this point the met police ran over, and, rather than hit the stop button, PC1381 decided it was a good idea to 'kick me free' and only then stop the escalator. By this point superman had escaped into the night. Even when I explained what had happened I was told I was receiving a caution for misuse of escalators. Official outcome: "Words of advice" as the police said. The cops also told me it was easier to caution me, as I was trapped, rather than for them to catch the superman character." Pure laziness or lack of kryptonite? We'll never know.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE ...CONTINUED

asks readers to consider "Why on earth are Beagle dogs being used to see what pharmaceutical drugs do to people?". Menache points out that it's like using a parrot to test drugs for horses – so why does it continue?

As it stands pharmaceutical drugs have to be tested on rodents (normally rats) and also non-rodents (usually beagles) before trials begin on the species the drugs are actually meant for. And as Menache writes, 'science has moved forward by 65 years since those early laws were written, but the laws have not yet caught up with the science'. Animal testing is not only cruel, unnecessary and evil but also unreliable - hence pretty pointless. There are alternatives such as human cell studies which even to a layman sound more sensible.

There is an injunction in place to stop demonstrations at Harlan Laboratories, which in the UK are in Blackthorn, Hillcrest, Shardlow and Wyton. Save the Harlan Beagles campaign will not be holding any demonstrations at these sites in the immediate future, due to the injunction, and on their website has requested supporters to refrain from breaching this injunction in any way.

But that doesn't mean they're sitting back quietly. One demonstrator at the demo told us, 'There was quite a good turnout. We need to raise awareness in the public about what is happening in Harlan – the beagles are bred for torture and death.' On the future of the campaign, they said the plan was to 'target the shareholders'. Watch this space...

You can sign a petition, check their website, facebook and twitter to keep updated.

* **World Day for Lab Animals** in on 27th April in Oxford. Save the Harlan Beagles campaign will have a stall there along with other animal rights campaigns.

READY, SETT, GO

Squatting and fighting the badger cull - two subjects close to SchNEWS's collective heart - come together at last for the "Squat the Cull" call-out. Here's what they had to say:

"Squat the cull is a collective of squatters, travellers and animal rights activists united to help fight the badger cull. The proposed badger cull is both cruel and unnecessary. In response to this, members of the animal rights community will be helping travellers and squatters secure land squats and sites in the two badger cull zones (Somerset and Gloucestershire.) We will also be looking at Dorset as the government has put this forward as a possible back-up cull zone.

SOOOOO as many of you will know it is now, sadly, a criminal offence to squat a residential building in this country. The key word to remember is 'residential' - anything is fair game. People who squat non-residential buildings - such as barns, pubs, offices, warehouses, churches etc - are not breaking the law and owners of these properties will have to use civil law in order to get the squatters out. It is also possible to squat land by taking and securing it with fencing and setting up a camp. Or have a convoy which will stop off in different areas in the cull zones to highlight what will be happening there, and hopefully shame farmers into pulling out. We are looking at sourcing equipment for broadcasting, reporting, streaming etc live from our travels in order to show the world what is happening, and how the police and locals treat us. There is a lot of work to be done but we have loads of ideas and a lot of support already. We have already been out scouting in the cull zones and found a few nice looking sites but don't want to go in to too much detail about that just yet! Watch this space, tell your friends and get ready to get it on – we are!"

* www.facebook.com/squat.the.cull

<http://badgercullsquatters.wordpress.com>

WHITE TRASH

On Saturday (9th) Swansea told the National Front to crawl back under whatever rock they rolled out of when they showed up for their white pride rally.

Around 300-400 demonstrators gathered by the National Waterfront Museum in the city centre to counter the rather pathetic turnout of around 60 extreme right wrong'uns (still 60 more than there should be). The antis were put into a pen which was mainly occupied by a UAF presence and autonomous local residents. There were a few black block groups patrolling the streets, all soon kettled by the cops and placed into the allocated play pen. Anti-fa from Cardiff, Bristol and from further afield showed up in solidarity with the pretty shitty city.

The nazis managed a kettle demo but were not allowed to march. The far-right pen was just a hundred yards across from the UAF one which, as usual, enabled the two sides to hurl abuse at each-other in an anything but debonair manner. No arrests were made, however some antifa were detained for possessing a possibly lethal flag.

The fascists only managed to last an hour before they were deposited back to their buses and driven out of town. There had been much boasting about the white pride storm front that was going to descend on Swansea; in the end they managed to fill just one and a third coaches, despite rumours of maybe larger support showing up from the North West Infidels, England's Golden Dawn, Casuals United plus other righties. Cymru coaches provided transport for the fascists, but according to one local resident who'd researched the matter, "The police booked the coaches without telling the bus company who they were for." Another resident wasn't quite as forgiving though, "Cymru coaches should change their name to cunt coaches. Even if they didn't know they should of refused the work once they knew what it was. Make 'em walk, they deserve to be ridiculed and abused every step of the way I say."

Another protester summed up the day as a definite success, "Swansea did itself proud" but was however disappointed with the Blood & Honour concert after the demo in the Valley Commandos biker club located in Abercynon. "What the fuck? I saw images posted online and the bikers club was filled with swastikas and Nazi salutes. They hanged an effigy of a gollywog and there was someone dressed in a KKK outfit. This is 2013 for fuck's sake! I wish we'd stopped the gig. The NF claimed it as a victory as we didn't know where it was taking place until after it happened, which I suppose at least goes to show what a shit day they had at the demo if that's all they can claim." More fascists attended the gig than the demonstration (buck,buck,,,,, buck,,, buckAHHHH).

The gig and the 'demo' were both organised with the help of David and Bryan Powell. The Powell brothers are almost identical Hitler-worshipping twins and hail from Morriston, Swansea. They reached infamy after the 17th of October 2009, during a Welsh Defence League demo in Swansea after Sieg Heiling themselves into the public eye. The WDL since met its demise after its members were exposed as full blown Nazis rather than your common or garden variety fascists the league alludes to. The collapse of the WDL paved the way for the formation of the South Wales NF group. SWNF is mainly made up of the Powell family and some other local lads (Chris Lewis, Luke Phippen, Steven White, Ken Davies, Wayne Baldwin and former BNP candidate Sion Owens). Just in case you were wondering. * To keep updated on future happenings check out Welsh Antifa's website.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS advises all readers, experient on politicians not beagles. Honest!

WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Last week (14th) a grand total of five cyclists were found guilty of cycling "north of the river Thames". SchNEWS readers will no doubt remember the Met Police's authoritarian sideshow to the Olympic opening ceremony in July 2012, where 182 people on or near the monthly Critical Mass bike ride were kettled, and arrested and denied basic human rights.

Seven months later, and just nine of those arrested that night were actually taken to court. The trial began on the 25th of February, and was originally scheduled for 5 days. However, due to the prosecution bringing in unscheduled witnesses half way through, the trial was extended.

The most interesting evidence to emerge during the case was that of Chief Inspector Sonia Davis, head of the "not the F.I.T team, honest guv" Met Police Liaison Officer (PLO) unit, as she was called as a prosecution witness.

She informed the court that plain clothed PLOs had been at previous Masses to "identify organisers" (despite Critical Mass having no organisers) and that "at least" eight plain clothed PLO were present on the night itself. Exactly how PLOs are supposed to 'liaise' with a crowd that can't identify them was just one of the many perplexing questions left unanswered. In September, Chief Insp. Davis trawled through photographs of those arrested to identify who she had spoken to on the night. Those who had "engaged" with PLOs were at a greater risk of prosecution and conviction than those who had not. For protesters this is probably the single most important fact to come out of the trial: If you talk to police liaison officers you stand a higher chance of being

prosecuted and convicted than if you do not.

PLOs have stated publicly that their job is not to collect intelligence, yet they admitted to attending previous Critical Masses to gather 'information' - obviously a totally different thing altogether. The Network for Police Monitoring (Netpol) have an analysis of Insp. Davis' testimony and the role of Police Liaison Officers here.

The case boiled down to the old chestnut of whether or not the defendants were aware of the police conditions imposed on the march. To inform over 500 cyclists not to go north of the Thames the cops took along their usual crap megaphone and some PLOs were handing out leaflets with the S12 conditions on. Being arrested with these conditions on them was one reason some of the cyclists were prosecuted. (SchHint: never take anything from a pig.)

The trial continued in the wearily familiar way: complete with police collaboration, contamination of prosecution evidence, long delays and "missing" police officers. During the trial, two defendants were acquitted because their knowledge of Section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act could not be proven and one had his charges dropped. By the end the critical few had just got fatter.

When the prosecution had no more lies left up their sleeves, the judge decided to drop another defendant's charges. The judge came back the next day to inform the six that five of them were guilty and were being sentenced to conditional discharges and costs. They are likely to appeal the verdict. For the 97% of those arrested that night who were found not to commit any offence, the end of this trial means civil actions and litigation against the Met can begin. KER-CHING!! Freewheeling all the way...

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