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# SchNEWS

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Friday 14th June 2013

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Issue 845

## PIG-ADILLY CIRCUS

STOP G8 CARNIVAL AGAINST CAPITALISM MEETS HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE IN CENTRAL LONDON

One banner seen at the anti-G8 mobilisation, the "Carnival Against Capitalism", in central London read "If I had a giant robot I would smash capitalism". Alas, there was no giant robot, and capitalism remained unsmashed.

The assembled masses of anti-capitalistas that converged on London were part of a pre-emptive strike against the Group of 8 previously most powerful countries. Ten or fifteen years ago the G8 were the voice of global hegemony. In the heady days of anti-summit mobilisation such as Genoa in 2001 it seemed as if a genuine coalition between the movements of the global south and radical elements was the only thing that stood between these men and ultimate power.

These days the world is a lot more complicated and power a lot more diffused. Emerging powers China, India, Brazil aren't in the G8 and probably wouldn't want to join if invited. Capitalism despite its glaring contradictions is the dominant global ideology but at least these days it looks like it's not all being run out of one room.

Nevertheless, around 500 people rocked up to London to target the global elite and dens of the feral rich. The anti G8 action had been executed in the time-honoured way - a convergence space was squatted, banners painted and reinforced, and a map of central London had been prepared with 100 key corporate targets highlighted, which were then distributed across Europe's activist scene. Days before two meeting points had been announced - Oxford Circus and Piccadilly. Unfortunately, on the day, police numbers and police preparation were greater than the crowd's.

It was a far cry from the anti-globalisation protests of the past. The UK's anti-globalisation movement's high watermark was the original "Carnival Against Capital" on June 18th 1999, where some ten thousand people danced, rioted and shut the Square Mile down for the day. J18 was such a disaster from a police perspective that it was the last time the City of London Police were given responsibility for a large scale London protest. Since then huge amounts cash and anti-protest resources thrown in the Met's direction to make sure that That Sort Of Thing Never Happens Again. This, plus the lower than ever tolerance of protest by the state post 9-11, has meant have

meant that large-scale London mobilisations have become an ever tougher challenge for protesters.

When the G8 last came to the U.K in 2005 and was hosted at the Scottish golf resort of Gleneagles tens of thousands marched with the 'Make Poverty History' crowd and thousands took part in direct action against the summit itself. Four years later when the G20 came to London in 2009 several thousand protested, but, a few broken bank windows aside, on the day the initiative was all with the State. This time round, with the fading relevance of the G8 (and the fact that the main show isn't in London) the outing opposing the G8 was shadow of its former self.

The police presence was so overwhelming that for the most part the cops didn't feel the need to even get their batons out; mostly it was a herding operation to make sure that the crowds didn't disrupt the traffic for too long. The day ended with a meet-up at the same place it had started, at Picadilly Circus for a boogie to the DIY sounds systems gathered there. Two passers-by were heard commenting on spectacle of high-vis jacketed police and black clad anarchists assembled by the Eros statue. When asked what was going on her companion responded "I think it's a protest".

### CONVERGENCE SPACE BATTLE

If the police didn't feel the need for massive violence on the streets, the same was hardly true of the eviction of the StopG8 convergence space. Contrary to what a lot of people think, the police usually get violent when they lose control, not when they're in control. And the heroic, "European style" resistance to the eviction seemed to prove this.

The police bust of the squatted StopG8 convergence centre was, in the words of one seasoned squat eviction resister "the craziest eviction I have seen on the UK mainland, even heavier than Dale Farm". It probably didn't make too much difference that the building was a former police station.

Police arrived just before 11am. At 10.45 they stormed the place, supposedly on the grounds that they wanted to do a search before letting people back in. Yeah right. Definitely not an excuse of beat up and nick



### CAT ARREST OF THE WEEK

Called to deal with a case of 8 week-old stray kittens nesting in a woodpile in someone's backyard, Officer Barry Accorti of the North Ridgeville police Ohio, unholstered his gun, and blazing away, wasted the entire litter in front of the homeowner's kids.

Officer Accorti told one witness "the shelters were full and that these cats would be going to kitty heaven". North Ridgeville Police Department Chief Mike Freeman backed his subordinates actions to the hilt saying that his subordinate's actions "were appropriate". Now, obviously all cops are bastards but some a clearly utter c\*nts into the bargain.

as many activists as possible.

During their forced entry police used tazers and crowbars. At least one person was tazered, however the police mainly preferred to use the tazer's lazer targetters to paint dots on protesters - scaring the shit out of them. The guy on the roof, 'saved' by police according to media reports, was beaten down from the rooftop and then beaten some more on the ground.

The two buses that had been conveniently provided by London Transport seemed to be mostly empty of arrestees once they finally reversed out of the square helped along by some pretty brutal TSG support although there were many arrests elsewhere.

It wasn't all the police power though, the eviction was resisted ferociously, helped by the strong europunk presence in the building. Word is that, amongst the items hurled at the police as they tried to storm the building were whole ceramic toilets. Eventually sheer force of police numbers pushed the squatters back until eventually the building fell to the police. Quite a few were nicked during the eviction, several more were nicked for refusing the give the police details under Section 60.

Next week the G8 summit begins in Northern Ireland (or "Ireland" as we like to call it). Whilst the elite meet in a five star hotel surrounded by the very best state repression that money can buy, protests are planned in Belfast, Enniskillen and Dublin. Indymedia Ireland has more details <http://www.indymedia.ie/>

For the latest updates on the Stop G8 mobilisations visit <https://network23.org/stopg8/>

### PARTY & PROTEST

For events listings updated weekly see [www.schnews.org.uk/pap](http://www.schnews.org.uk/pap)

**INFORMATION FOR ACTION**

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## NOW UCG IT

### EXTREME ENERGY COMPANIES PLAN TO TURN THE UK INTO A MASSIVE UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION SITE

Just when we were all getting to grips with fracking, another mind-blowingly stupid and dangerous form of extreme energy extraction gains momentum. And it's no distant threat: licences have been sold for some time, 21 so far just off the coast in places like Swansea Bay, and now companies are boasting to investors that production is imminent. Watch out, Wales, Northumberland and Warwickshire among others.

#### BURN, BABY, BURN – CO2 INFERNO!

It's underground coal gasification, or UCG (see SchNEWS 803). The process is designed to exploit un-minable coal, of which the UK has an abundant supply, running into billions of tonnes. It involves the same drilling technology as fracking, but as coal can't float up pipes like natural gas can, it – and this is the hellfire inferno-esque insanity bit – is partially burned in fires far below the earth's surface below water tables. The carbon monoxide / hydrogen mix that's produced is then processed in power plants on the surface.

A report into the environmental devastation that UCG could cause if production went full-scale claimed: "If an additional 4 trillion tonnes were extracted without the use of carbon capture or other mitigation technologies atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels could quadruple--resulting in a global mean temperature increase of between 5 and 10 degrees Celsius." Shit.

As with fracking and coal bed methane (CBM), the drilling also comes with the serious risk of subsidence and rock fractures, and leaks of contaminants into water sources. We have a pretty clear idea of the devastation caused by these extreme energy extraction techniques; UCG however, has had a patchy history of explosions, pollution and aborted tests.

If the UCG's pitch to UK investors is to be believed the UK is set to become an industrial scale testing ground. Testing in the Australian outback resulted in severe contamination of water sources with benzene. Word in the industry is that, unlike the shaky predictions for successful shale gas fracking in the long-term, UCG is being taken seriously by government and industry as a Peak Oil 'Plan B'.

#### UP THE CLUFF

The companies involved include Cluff Coal Ltd and Five-Quarter. Cluff are in the midst of a PR blitz as they claim they're about to buy another four licences on top of the two they currently hold. One of which is, unprecedentedly, on-shore in the Warwickshire countryside. Five-Quarter own licences from Newcastle up the coast of Northumberland – the threat is that the North Sea will see some UCG action this summer, with government grants to do it.

Previous tests suggest that if done at all UCG should be kept away from inhabited areas, and should be sited where no groundwater can be contaminated. In the rush for gas, these pesky nanny-state safety precautions have been pushed aside. According to SchNEWS' scientific research department, the effects on the climate would be 'apocalyptic' were UCG ever to go ahead. Groups resisting the attack in Wales include Fracked Swansea. Watch this space for updates.

## THAT'S ANOTHER FINE MESS

Hot on the heels of the wildcat strike in May (see SchNEWS) GMB staff at Cityclean were recently balloted and despite the spin and the sweeteners, 95.6% of them voted for industrial action and will strike again from Friday 14th June.

In 2009 the government came after public sector pensions. November of that year saw Citylean Refuse, Recycling and Street sweepers and some CityParks and gardens workers strike alongside students, teachers, nhs staff and even some police and others in the biggest strike action Brighton and Hove had ever seen. All aspects of council waste service workers' pay should have been sorted then, but now four years later the government in their penny pinching wisdom are coming for allowances, all in the name of equality.

The city's binmen will be the hardest hit with the new allowance regime. To make the pill (of losing out up to £4000 from their annual salary) taste less bitter, Cityclean staff have been offered a £6000 payout. Only two minor drawbacks-- workers have to work on for at least a year or pay it all back, and workers accepting the pay off lose all rights except personal injury claims and pensions for the whole of the rest of their council careers. While council bosses sitting high and dry up Kings House rake in £100,000+ salaries, with whopping allowances on top of that.

Head of council's ruling Green body Jason Kitcat and council's chief executive Penny Thompson and other council representatives have stuck their oars in spouting their version to local media in recent weeks, whereas grassroots waste service workers have stayed silent (bound by their contractual confidentiality clause aka 'gagging order'). Caroline Lucas (Green M.P.) said in May the poorest paid workers should not be pitted against other poor paid workers and the cuts should come from those that can afford them. Sadly not all Greens are singing from the same song sheet.

There are things that can be done to help the worker's Friday(14th). Go to the council/ Cityclean's website, and see how much of your council tax (up by 1.7%) goes towards your waste services, and if you've been receiving a reduced service since May 8th (and no service at all from June 14th) knock an appropriate amount off your council tax, and tell your mates to do likewise. If you went to a self service restaurant you wouldn't tip the waiter for not waiting on you!

For those wanting to show support there will be a march and rally through the city on Saturday (15th) from Hollingdean Cityclean depot, Upper Hollingdean Road to Kings House, Grand Avenue in Hove starting at 12 noon, assembly time is at 11:30.

The fight continues...

## RIP CLEMENT MERIC

On Wednesday 5th June french antifascist Clément Méric was murdered by a gang of far right skinheads.

Clément, who had been active in Action Antifasciste Paris-Banlieue, and friends were leaving a shopping centre near the train station Gare Saint-Lazare when they were apparently ambushed by members of Jeune Nationaliste Révolutionnaire (JNR - Nationalist Revolutionary Youth). In the resulting street brawl 18 year old Clément received a number of blows with knuckledusters to the head and died on the pavement.

The attack comes amid rising tensions between left and right in France, with the extreme right using the cover of mass opposition to gay marriage\* to become more active on the streets. Marine Le Pen and the Front Nationale have distanced themselves from the attack, though their politics of hatred and fear no doubt fuel the actions of the various rightwing street gangs.

Thousands came out on the streets across France following Clément's death including over 6,000 antifascists marching through Paris on Thursday chanting "never forget, never forgive". Police have arrested 4 members of the JNR in connection with the murder.

\* Last month saw one of the few acts of fascist violence SchNEWS can condone when far right 'historian' Dominique Venner shot himself in protest at the new legislation. If only others would follow his lead.

#### ...and finally...

What to make of BNP Fuhrer Nick Griffin's recent visit to Syria? The rights for whites campaigner seems an unlikely peacemaker and Syria has plenty of sectarian religious and racial divides without the need for importing them.

Perhaps it was the chance to rub shoulders with a real dictator but Nasty Nick's excuse for the holiday in Damascus is that the Woolwich stabbing and the Syrian civil war are part of the same struggle against Islamic extremism. Unfortunately he wound up praising Assad's allies in the civil war Hezbollah (arabic: hizb-allah, the party of God), who might not quite out there at the Taliban end of the jihadist spectrum but have a Koran and an AK-47 emblazoned on their flag.

Of course Hezbollah have a track record of thumbing their nose at the Zionist entity, that Nick Griffin used to say was the fount of all evil, a matter in which he was in agreement with Al-Qaeda.

But we're probably reading too much into it all. Given the BNP's failure both as a street movement and as legitimate party (130 members for their national demo, lol) Griffin is probably just doing it for the attention and the suntan

Who knows, he may yet pop up on celebrity big brother, or maybe celebrity wife swap, perhaps teamed up with Nadine Dorris, Louise Mensch and George Galloway. Come to think of it, could we crowdfund to put all of them on live TV under artillery bombardment somewhere near Aleppo?

#### Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers summit is not right!

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