



WAKE UP!! IT'S YER WEATHERLEY FORECAST

SchNEWS

www.schnews.org.uk

Monday 04th November 2013

Free/Donation

Issue 851

JEMMY BUGGER!

Brighton squatter acquitted on appeal in important judgement.

Crowbars to the ready as the last of the three Brighton squatters arrested within days of Weatherley's Law being enacted was acquitted today at Hove Crown Court.

Dirk Duputell, squatter, transvestite and international playboy, was convicted of the offence of unlawfully occupying a residential premises back in May. His two co-defendants were acquitted but the case against Dirk was upheld as a police officer claimed that Dirk had told him he was 'living' at the premises.

He's had to wait until now but it didn't take long for his defence solicitor to tear the cop's evidence to shreds. At the time that Dirk made his 'confession' he was not under caution, the statement was not recorded and his alleged statement was not put to him under questioning. The case was thrown out of court.

The judge went on to make some important remarks that may very well blow a hole below the waterline of Weatherley's law. Under that law it is a crime to be 'living' in the premises. The judge ruled out 'circumstantial evidence' of someone living in a squat and suggested that the police should either provide forensic evidence (fuck knows what the DNA profile of yer average squatter's duvet is gonna look like) or ask the neighbours if specific squatters resided in the building (was it the one

with the nose ring or the one with a green mohawk and a three legged dog?). He suggested that letters addressed to individuals at the premises would count as proof, all of which sounds like a bit of a ball-ache for the Babylon so SchNEWS predict a return to (in Brighton at least) the pre-Weatherley private evictions.

SchNEWS spoke to one of Dirk's co-defendants who said, "This whole case was about a dodgy bailiff company pretending that we were squatting in a residential premises to get a free eviction courtesy of the taxpayer. The building was still obviously a commercial one – the flats hadn't been converted"

Of course Dirk's the lucky one – although the total number of convictions under the act is unknown, at least one person has been jailed for three months for the crime of seeking shelter in an empty building and the police have used the powers to regularly conduct evictions the legality of which never get examined in court.

Squatter's Legal Network had this advice "If you're arrested then always go 'No Comment' – certainly you might have to talk to the cops at the beginning of the eviction but be careful – avoid any hint that you're living there"

For more on squatting in Brighton and Hove <https://network23.org/snob/>

WEATHERLEY'S FLAW

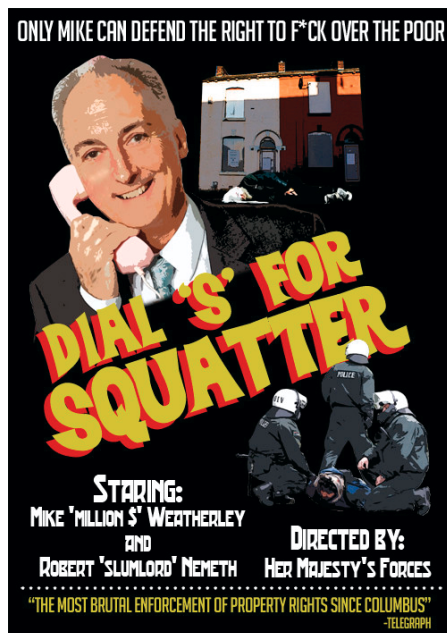
It's not been the best week for Hove MP Mike "Squat Buster" Weatherley and his team and their crusade against squatters, the homeless and leftie scum of Brighton.

Only yesterday the last of three Brighton Squatters arrested days after his law was introduced was finally acquitted on appeal with "no case to answer".

He also was to give evidence in the case against Alex Cline who he accuses of causing him to fear for his life when Weatherley, his entourage of staff and his girlfriend (who we believe gives Mike her attention free of charge) turned up at Sussex Uni to hold a debate about his vile

squatting law almost exactly a year ago. It seems the CPS are attempting to have it both ways by suggesting not only that Alex in particular started the "situation" by calling Weatherley a coward but that he was also guilty of "joint enterprise". So why weren't the many other known activists picked up? Smells of desperation to SchNEWS.

After much legal tedium our Mikey finally turned up to give evidence. Determined to prove his lack of cowardice he slipped in and out of the court room via the Judge's door and from the start looked very uncomfortable and shiftily even during examination by his own side. Once delivered into the hands of the defence lawyer he slipped into full



sleaze-ball mode. It was suggested that he had a "vested interest in portraying squatters in a negative light" - something Weatherley unconvincingly denied.

One of two moments of the day was when asked "did the defendant move towards you?" Weatherley would not answer preferring to repeat how scared he was. He had to be asked the question repeatedly (around 6 times) and finally the defence lawyer said "I know you're a politician but you're not answering my question". Despite the amusement of the court still he would not answer. Finally the Judge asked him and Weatherley, realising he was not in Parliament now, quickly said "no".

Another classic and very amusing moment was when asked how he knew it was a rock that had hit him he said that surely everyone had been hit by a rock sometime in their life. Well no Mikey but it might well be an experience shared by certain annoying Tory Boys.

In essence Weatherley's story with all of its many OTT flourishes was that he was in genuine fear of his life and the safety of his staff.

Following his evidence most of the press disappeared and an intern then gave evidence. Bizarrely she repeatedly described the demeanour of the crowd as "gleeful" totally undermining Weatherley's life threatening version of events. She also explained how they had all been asked to look out for Alex in particular and they all had his photograph - something the Judge seemed to take a particular interest in for obvious reasons.

The case continues 11th and 12th November at Brighton Magistrates' Court.

PARTY & PROTEST

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

INFORMATION FOR ACTION

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ANONYMOUS REVELATIONS

Remember, remember!

The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder treason and plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!
Guy Fawkes and his companions
Did the scheme contrive,
To blow the King and Parliament
All up alive.

Well it's never too late my friend. November 5th is just around the corner and let's hope for a day of defiance as anon activity will hopefully spread across the globe with over 400 planned events. A map is available for people to check the locations. For all you Londoners meet up is at 6pm.

The peoples assembly have been creating their very own twitter trend called #BurnAusterity, follow that to find out where anti Austerity events will be taking place around the UK.

Recently, new fledglings of Anonymous have been spurring up to cause havoc across the internet and hacking has become a daily thing. Currently, Clownsec has thought to have the most activity due to it's comical pranking of government websites. L0V3Sec is launching a campaign of hugs in order to spread some joy into the movement and it's clear that all these new wings have sprung up to give multiple methods for Anonymouses new claimant of war against the state. One of the most recent attacks has been on the NSA (National Security Agency), the US intelligence gathering organisation via the Direct Denial Of Service (a common tool used by inexperienced hackers).

SchNEWS interviewed an organiser of the worldwide "Million Mask March" campaign with the alias of Garisenshi. "Well, when we started the campaign in early July no one seemed interested. Then by October when the Syrian Electronic army started hacking other websites to advertise the event, people just started popping out of nowhere. A lot of newfags asking for hacking tips and help.. which have been followed by trolls and it has spurred into arguments. So yeah, it's been hard. Keeping everyone from arguing has been hard enough nevermind actually getting everyone to the locations with lift support, getting the equipment we need and keeping security tight!"

The rumours of occupying parliaments across the world turned into actual plans, as well as marching bands being booked for the event to get protestors ready to rock. Main events will be used for grassroots co-operatives to advertise their new internet based corporation using illegal broadband. One of the most popular of these is The Pirate Network, a co-operative free broadband service that is spanning around the country. They also have plans to make an independent TV service called Pirate TV which will be unveiled at the Pirate stall on Trafalgar Square.

As well as Anonymous and The People's Assembly, Black Bloc movements are also planning road block events around London. Samba kits and banners have been travelling all around the country in caravans and black hoodie full busses.

It should be a blast.

WORTH THE HASSL?

21&23 Park Street, aka "Britain's most expensive council house" has been occupied in protest at Southwark council's attempted sell off. The occupation, which began on the 28th of October, is still going strong, and the occupiers are keen for people to check it out.

Although squatters got their foot in the door first the buildings were auctioned off that afternoon for a whopping £3 million. The council claim that they can build twenty houses with the loot from the sale. The problem is- nobody believes them. There's a good chance that they won't build anything at all, and if anything does get built, it won't be in central London. The sale is part of a clear strategy to push the poor out of the city centre to make way for the international billions heading to London to take advantage of UK Plc's tax haven status.

Since 2010 Southwark council have either demolished or sold off 857 homes. During the same period they've managed to build a staggering 26! Sarah Morris, a local housing campaigner involved in the occupation said:

"We have occupied this building to stop yet more council housing being sold off to private developers. Southwark council has a waiting list with 25,000 people in need of quality, secure, and truly affordable housing that this building once was. In the face of such housing need in the borough, London, and the whole of the UK this sale of council housing is madness. The attempted sale of this building is a part of the social cleansing that is happening across London where local working class residents are being forced out so that wealthier people can buy it up. We hope that by taking direct action, we can stop the sale of these homes so that they remain a public good rather than another empty building owned by a property speculator".

The occupation is a multi-pronged affair – a successful collaboration between housing activists, squatters and concerned locals. One told SchNEWS "It's great, people working together, skillsharing and building a network."

As well as highlighting the lack of accommodation in London for those on normal incomes the occupation is a challenge to anti-squatting laws, particularly section 114 of Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act aka Weatherley's law that made it a criminal offence to squat in residential premises. If you're gonna get technical this is an occupation of a residential building in protest of housing policy not a squat. Potentially this creates a loophole for the occupation of residential buildings.

Remarkably the Met were persuaded by this argument (and a certain amount of international media interest!) When the police turned up they were persuaded that there was nothing criminal going on- people there were occupying the house as part of a political protest, they weren't planning to live there.

Police briefly flirted with the idea of nicking people for aggravated trespass, but the occupiers were quick to point out the many holes in the police's argument. Oddly enough the police thanked them for educating them on this point of law.

The next step is for Southwark council to have to argue their position in court.

The occupiers are requesting visits and donations of food.

Map - large building with "Take Courage" emblazoned on it.

<http://housingactionsouthwarkandlambeth.wordpress.com/>

<http://en.squat.net/>

EDO MAKES THE BLOOD RUN COLD

You could almost hear the howls of EDO ITT's victims as they rose from the dead on Halloween to haunt those responsible for their killings. Grim Reapers and Abu Ghraib victims joined nearly 20 Smash EDO protesters at 4pm in a noise demo outside Brighton's arms factory, EDO MBM. Chants such as "blood on your hands, shame on you" were shouted as EDO workers exited the arms factory, whilst the demonstrators reminded EDO of the many countries where they are complicit in war crimes. Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Palestine, Pakistan and Yemen are on their bloody list. Just after the demo ended, news came in of yet another attack on Gaza by Israel.

Smash EDO were in court twice last week. One person was found guilty for the most crap arrest of last year's Summer Of Resistance: tapping a cowbell on a noise demo. They got a £1,000 fine for the heinous crime. Two others were found guilty of criminal damage after they locked and glued themselves to the gates of EDO on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq invasion earlier this year. SchNEWS spoke to someone involved with the campaign, "Ironic how a little bit of glue on a gate is a criminal offence, whilst the company which makes parts for F16s and Paveway bombs doesn't get questioned about its criminal activities".

"Every bomb that is dropped, every bullet that is fired in the name of this war of terror, has to be made somewhere. And wherever that is, it can be resisted." There are weekly noise demonstrations outside the factory which is located on Home Farm Business Park, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 9HU, on Wednesdays between 4 and 6pm. Go and raise hell!

...and finally...

Failbook Fascists Plan To Siege Cable Street

Following the implosion of the EDL, there's a new, old far right group in town. The New British Union of Fascists are a hilarious mock-up of Mosleyite mannequins. In fact they love nothing better than dressing up in a blackshirt and a Sam Browne belt and pushing Britain forward into the brave new world of the 1940s.

In a tip of the hat to Oswald's finest hour the New British Union are planning a march on Cable St. No date or time has yet been arranged but you can rest assured that there will be no shortage of anti-fascists willing to don flat caps, tweed waistcoats and half bricks to give their re-enactment a truly authentic touch

Unfortunately the white heat of 1930s technology proved no match for 21st Century cyber-hackers. The names, locations, emails and contact numbers of all their "leaders" have been distributed over the internet. Their Facebook page has also been mercilessly hacked down.

Disclaimer

SchNEWS warns all readers, that there are worse things to be scared of than zombies, vampires, werewolves and witches

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