The Housing Bill is Class War

Who Would Have Expected It? The past few weeks have seen a variety of illegal eviction attempts. Security surrounds Peckham Rye squat as builders attempted to smudgehammer their way in. Squatters turned up to support and resist as anarchists in hi-vis attempted to prevent entry to the building. The pigs of course were f**k all help but we don't need doors when we have windows. A homophobic security guard was doused in his own tea, the door was taken and some bumsball tried (to much laughter) to con the squatters out with 200 quid. However early in the morning security broke in through the roof and evicted the occupiers - then set about trashing the building and putting all the windows out.

Another illegal eviction was attempted at a London Bridge squat where some hero from the chicken shop below attempted to fight his way through the door with a broomstick. The guy (who would only be referred to as ‘the manager’) and his broomstick were ejected from the doorway and Column Squat last on ALL LANDLORDS (and their dumbass Isleys) ARE BASTARDS!

Where the Fuck Was Billy Bragg

The Hope and Anchor squatters resisted eviction as 30 to 40 of their mates woke up early to hang out on the streets and on the roof. Suff suff were scared off by the crowd as they danced to the Inner Va. There was class support from locals too, including the promise to “get Billy Bragg down”. It just proves we can win the fight, if we have our mates (and Squat’s Rights and Rock’s Backpages)

Farewell You Kunts

Kuntish Town went out in style with a stick eviction party complete with a huge rig, loads of bands and a flaming shopping trolley. The pigs showed up two days too late to remind the hungover squatters they should go back in time and not be so notary. Big up to Kuntish town for showing us the way – more punk gigs in squat backyards.

Squat the Housing Bill

After two community marches and the attack on the Policy Exchange building by unknown persons, the build up to the Housing Bill demo on the 13th March is well under way. Radical Housing Network and different squating crews have called for an occupied social centre in the run up to the demo. Look out for and get involved in the eviction resistance, practical squating and anti-gentrification workshops and events.

We’ll Squat Your Fucking Digger Too

Fracking company igas has pulled out of two sites in Burton’s Lane, Upton and Selsdon Lane, Mitcham. Squatters and locals fought the fracking company for 20 months from a land squat on the Upton site which resulted in a recent eviction battle with cops and high court bailiffs. With tunnels, crazy high level structures and look-out to various objects including a digger, the eviction cost them over 300 grand. Frack off you bastards!

No Time to Forget 144

As fat cat landlords across the city leave tens of thousands of residential properties empty, 22,000 homes have been unhabited for longer than 6 months and more than a third (6,561) have been unoccupied for over 2 years. London Borough Councils (LBCs) have made little effort to ensure the housing stock is maintained or that people are securely housed. Even ‘left-leaning’ councils, such as Camden, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth, have played their hand and locked up squatters: we must fight back against them and Section 144. For more information on challenging the criminalisation of squattting, go to squatsacampaign.org

Berlin: Days after dozens of luxury cars were torched by masked individuals (and less than a month after the police raid on Rigaer Straße housing project), on February 7th radicals in Berlin warned that they will cause “a million Euros of property damage” for every future police raid on squats or housing projects.

Hambach Forest: The conflict between radicals and the RWE mining company continues to heat up. Squatters have barricaded roads, tree-spared and attacked RWE security patrols, radio-masts and pumping stations. So much so local pigs have dubbed the area “outlaw territory”. Despite increasing activity on the margins of the forest, the latest cop car to venture too deep was torched – as was the car that came to rescue it.

Prague: The Autonomous Social Centre Klinka was successfully defended after an attack by fascists from the Block Against Islam March on February 6th. Neo-Nazis threw stones and flares at the squat, setting the Klinka cafe on fire. One squatter was injured before the thugs were repelled.

Athens: Similarly in Athens the ZeaMi squat was attacked by two (presumably fascist) “unknown persons”. Motostvo were thrown at the squat but the attackers were fended off without any serious injuries.

Amsterdam: Squatters and tenants in Kolenkik are fighting against the gentrification of the district and the eviction of tenants there. Described as one of the ‘40 problem neighbourhoods’ by the Dutch housing minister in 2009, squatted homes, banner drops and joint action with tenants’ groups are fast proving that the Kolenkik is problematic – for property developers and politicians.

Zagreb: The RedKlakosalos squat celebrated its fifth birthday early this February. RedKlakosalos has put on between 200 to 300 public readings and film screenings. The group celebrates every month in the squat as a unique space for creativity.
Katherine Hibbert  
Guardian company exec and journalist  

From failed writer to squat to property guardian, we present company executive Katherine Hibbert. She shunned it as a squatter for a year, only to write up her experiences into her book “Free”, not mentioning this to her squat mates or to comrades at ASIL where she volunteered. After the lukewarm reception of the book, she used inside info gained from her time as a squatter to set up an anti-squat guardian company with an added workfare twist; you don’t just pay rent to stay in empty buildings at her company Dot Dot Dot, you also have to volunteer at least 16 hours a month for a charity to keep your housing. Let her and her company know what we think of scales: katherineh, 020 8005 5427, The View Tube, The Greenway, Marshgate Lane, London E15 2PJ.

Jonathan Chatfield  
Fat cat bailiff

Bailiff firm the Burlington Group and its director Jonathan Chatfield are a bunch of cunts. Jonathan’s Burlington Group proudly boasts about winning the Debt Collection Award in 2014 on their website.

Some of Jonathan’s comments after evicting a squat: “We are just glad that our experienced squat team were on hand to assist” or “Burlington Group’s enforcement officers are specialists when it comes to evicting squatters from buildings so the removal went smoothly.” Give them a call and tell them how you appreciate their services: 0330 900 8000.

On the 22nd January 2001, Hackney residents squatted a council-owned nursery on Atherden Road in protest of its closure the previous year. The new autonomous social centre ran services the nursery had provided, as well as your standard social centre fare of circus skills and bike repairs.

Hackney Council (obviously embarrassed by the squatters providing important services free of charge) took them to court on the 3rd of March. Recent years have seen similar situations of closed public services, notably the squatted Euston Library. Here’s to many more squats like this to come! With the rate the state is cutting we have plenty of options!

SQUATTERSCOPES

ARIES An unpredictable Uranus may cause problems, so watch out for that out of date sushi slip.

GEMINI Make an effort to counter lethargy as you are susceptible to a serious case of squat rot this month.

LEO Beware of strangers trying to integrate themselves into the squat. They will either be useless or a cop.

LIBRA With Mercury in retrograde there’s nothing you can do but go back to bed till it’s not in retrograde.

The rest of you – fuck off till next time!

LET’S NOT LEAVE IT TO THE TROTS! Killing the housing bill is essential for us all. The bill includes the end of secure council tenancies, destruction of traveller sites and extimation of right to buy to association tenants. This is the end of social housing and an all out assault on the poor. The ruling rich bastards have forced more and more of us into precarious housing; tenants and squatters are being evicted to make way for more luxury developments. It’s the same bailiffs bashing down our doors. We are the unmentionables that the politicians hate and cannot be victims of their social cleansing any longer. From day to day community organising to the targeting of politicians or businesses that profit from our insecurity, there’s a host of tactics we can use. One thing’s for sure: we’ve got to give them war.

Events

1st and 2nd Tuesdays  
Practical Squatting evenings  
7pm, LABIC, Whitechapel

2nd and 3rd Tuesdays  
Practical Squatting evenings  
7pm 50/50 Infoshop

29th February  
West London Housing Conference  
7pm, Riding Town Hall  
Barking Unite Community

1st March  
Early Aviions of the Fenmish Library, Hoxton and Castle

3rd March  
Sisters United Fundraiser  
7pm, DIY Space for London

5th March  
Class War Victorion Pub Grotto  
1pm, Portobello Rd, till late

5th March  
SHOT and Bladzides  
7pm, Veg Bar, Brixton

5th March  
 glasses magazine 5th birthday  
7pm, DIY Space for London

10th March  
Housing Action Southwark and Lambeth Meeting  
Papa's Cafe, Brixton

14th March  
Surround Yar’s Wood!  
Yar’s Wood Detention Centre

15th March  
Living Wage Now! Demo  
5pm, Oxford St, Topshop

15th March  
Kill the Housing Bill Demo  
12pm, Lincoln’s Inn Fields

18th March  
Discharge, SHOT and Bleep  
Tottenham Chances

1st April  
Gentrification: Joke’s on Us  
Benefit for ASIL, SHA and others  
10pm, 07621385034

13th April  
The Rent Trap Talk  
7pm, Houseman Bookshop

29th-30th April  
Love Sex, Hate System Benefit  
Inn, Dooms, Cream and The Mob  
Boston Music Room

1st May  
FUCK Parade  
6pm, One Commercial Street

Events and news to  
squatterslap@riseup.net