



WESTCOUNTRY MUTINEER

Of the Southwest's
Free, (or 30p)
(Almost) Monthly
Newsletter.
Donations Are
Appreciated.
November 2012

"Painful, but necessary" Ed Miliband

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * Marching in the streets!
- * Fascists getting beats!
- * Not paying for seats!
- * Fence-scaling feats!
- * Turning up the heat!
- * Bad-mouthing the cheats!
- * Revolting teachers!
- * Theory features!
- * T.B.-spreading creatures!
- * Fighting on the beaches?



Up And Atom

IT'S A BAD time to be in the nuke biz. Remember that global recession that we're apparently out of? Well, the con-alition government's nuclear plans (for an extra 10 power stations by 2025) are currently showing the cracks, as three catchy-named nuclear engineering companies from both France and China – Areva, China National Nuclear Power Corporation and China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group – have pulled out of buying Horizon Nuclear Power (planning reactors in Wylfa and Oldbury), due to economic doubts. Iberdrola, Spanish owners of Scottish Power (with designs on Sellafield), are also having second thoughts.

Frenchies E.D.F. are also in financial straits, but that's not all their problems, as anti-nuclear campaigners have recently finished

their 'Reclaim Hinkley' weekend action camp. Hinkley Point in Bridgwater is to house two untried-and-tested brand nuke reactors, as well as a storage facility to hold radioactive waste for at least 160 years, assuming some other authority agrees to later take it off their hands. The camp lasted from 5th to 8th of October, and was set up on occupied land nearby, complete with catering, wooden H.Q., solar panels and between 70 and 120 eco-warriors at any time.

After the obligatory day of talks and action training, proceedings ended with a bang on the Monday, as they led a colourful march – complete with toxic yellow barrels rolled through the streets – to the power station's gates and did a 'die-in' blockade. And then it was all on E.D.F.'s proposed Hinkley C site for

a jolly mass trespass, where 50-plus surrounded the five mile perimeter, dodged G4S goons, hung massive banners, sang, waved placards, and lobbed 577 seedbombs (the number of days since the Fukushima Dai-chi disaster in Japan). While all that song and dance went on, 30 managed to scale or breach the 8' high barbed wire-topped fence, and planted wildflowers; six were arrested, and one got a suspected broken arm for their troubles.

South West Against Nuclear say that the £60bn earmarked for 'new nuclear' needs instead to be diverted to energy reduction and renewables development, for a cleaner, greener future. Maybe the government will listen?

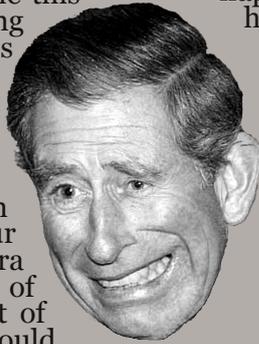


Duchy Diary

"HELLO AGAIN DEAR Mountaineers

Her Royal Mumsie visited me this week with some truly shocking news. She has found out this month that housing benefits are going to change. At first I was panic-stricken, as the Dave and Gideon have proposed to remove benefits from those of us with "unused" bedrooms in our home. I mean, I have extra houses with hundreds of bedrooms! With the amount of cuts to my benefits, that would mean my trips abroad would be significantly reduced and, bugger the carbon footprint, if one can't sun in the Seychelles and ski in the Sierra Nevada at least twice a year, one simply couldn't carry out one's duties - one is only bloody human. I got so het up that I spilled my Bollinger Blanc de Nois Vieilles Vignes Francaises 1997 all down my third favourite Savile shirting. Ah well, plenty more of both. My foul mood was only assuaged by Camilla, bless her, who cantered over, gave me a stiff one and pointed out that it was only the poor and undeserving that the benefit changes will affect!

Well, I can tell you my relief was palpable! Anyhow I think it is fair enough that under 16's should share a room, my boys had to share a castle, it really made them close and well-adjusted - not at all the reptile-



eyed, attachment disordered, powder-nosing delinquents the gutter press so love to portray. As for foster kids, they should just be happy to have a roof over their heads, so not allowing them a room is Ding Dong by me. Anyway, I watched 'Oliver', and some of those needy kids are simply wretched. As it's just the plebs getting their benefits cut, it's even possible that some of the savings will get kicked up to yours truly, then I can get Balmoral newly carpeted. And what a spiffy idea of Dave's putting in that doodad about siblings having to share rooms to make room for lodgers! A three-bed house for a family of six is highly sufficient; there is such a thing as bunk beds - apparently. And disabled adults should just appreciate that they are still alive, and haven't been culled by the fam, they really don't need the extra room: we always throw ours in the cellar and have down with it! Sensible policies and all that. Anyhow I am really looking forward to April's changes, and as it gives you a chance to stand up and take a hit for good old Blighty, I bet you can't wait either, eh? Lucky little buggers.

Anyway, as I was saying..."

H.R.H. Prince Charles

Away-Day Blues, Booze And Bruises For E.D.L.

THE LAST COUPLE of months has been a great time for anti-fascists, mainly due to the comic demise of the Stella-soaked storm-troopers of the English Defence League (E.D.L.). For those not in the know, the E.D.L. claim to be a force of proud 'patriots' opposed to 'muslimic' extremism. Scratch just underneath the surface however, and it becomes obvious that the group is riddled with hardcore fascists and racists, and made up of footie hooligans who need a new excuse to kick off now that Old Bill keep an eye on them at football. For the past three years, they've turned up uninvited in numerous towns and cities, smashing up Asian businesses, assaulting Sikhs mistaken for Muslims and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Recently however, things have gone downhill for them, with humiliating defeats and ever dwindling numbers at demos in Brighton, Bristol and elsewhere. Then, enter Walthamstow, where less than 200 meagre Ee-ee-diots were outnumbered 16-1 by angry locals, who blocked their march route, occupied their stage, pelted them from first floor windows and forced a full-on retreat. Being a sucker for punishment, and having taken one

too many blows to the head, leader Tommy Robinson immediately announced a re-match in Walthamstow, due to take place on Oct 27th... later banned by the cops. Despite online bragging that they would turn up anyway, the E.D.L. pulled a no-show, while over 1,000 anti-fascists held a victory party in Walthamstow, not a single bigot in sight. Meanwhile in Westminster, 70 demoralised E.D.L. members held a static 'mass national demo' outside a Wetherspoons. In an attempt to shove a bit of white spirit up the noses of the addled rabble, big man Tommy tried to smuggle himself and 50 'loyal' organisers into a mosque in the back of a removal van. The plan unravelled when at least three of the chosen few grassed - two to the police, one to Unite Against Fascism! - the result being a mass arrest of Topsy Tommy and co, 'tooled-up' and wearing balaclavas, miles from any mosque (but near a pub!).

While in the nick, plod discovered that Tommy had travelled to America on a false passport (the real one being confiscated for footie hooliganism). Taken alongside his previous convictions for fraud, tax avoidance and assault, Tommy is now stuck in the big-house, dining on halal prison food, waiting for an extradition to America in January.

Off The Buses

ANYONE WHO'S EVER got on a bus or train in the southwest, even once, will have learned at least one important fact. First Great Western are rip-off merchants. With fares on a constant sky-rocket, no noticeable improvements to (often late, patchy and overcrowded) services, and directors' pay also on a steady, yet undeserved upward slant, it's no wonder most passengers view First Group as the gangsters and capitalist con-artists that they are. But all the overcharging of customers must translate into more money for the workers, right? Wrong. First have recently slapped their bus workers in Devon and Cornwall with a new pay 'offer' which removes pay during the time workers spend getting from bus to bus, sabotages sick pay and pension schemes and bans 'visual checks' in which drivers check the condition of their bus mid-shift. The workers and the R.M.T. union flat out rejected the offer, with 85% voting for strike action until a respectable offer is tabled.

Making the link between mistreatment of workers and shoddy services, R.M.T. head honcho Bob Crow said "Bus service workers in the southwest will be taking action as the companies attempt to ramp up profits at the expense of the staff as well as the travelling public". Too right Bob! And as the strikes get underway, it would be great to see words being turned into action, with staff and service users standing together against the racketeers before of First Great Western run our public transport all the way into the ground. Better yet would be if the strikers emulated their fellow drivers in Barcelona, who, during a recent strike, parked their buses across depot entrances, main roads and other choice locations, slashed the tyres and walked off with the keys!

Mind you, this may come as a relief, as, after going bankrupt and being booted out by his wife, without access to his kids, Tommy has been living with his uncle, and fellow E.D.L. 'top boy' Kev Courtney in a caravan behind a Sainsbury's in Luton!

The decline of the 'League has already given rise to literally a dozen tiny splinter-groupsicles who are, for the moment, too weak to do anything but bicker over who gets to play fuhrer. While they may have one or two mini-demos left in them, their downfall is evidence that, besides their own brain-cell deficit, opposition on the streets (as well as taking the time to counter and defeat their arguments) can and does work, when it comes to giving racists the literal and ideological kicking they so richly deserve.

Hardest Hit Hit Back

THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER saw over 30 disabled people and supporters march in Bristol, to draw attention to the massive impact the cuts are having on disabled people and their carers. This is especially clear in Bristol, where the Lib-Dem-led council has forced through policies shutting down eight care homes across the city, despite mass opposition from service users, workers and anyone who gives a shit about the most vulnerable in our society. To highlight the massive impact of these cuts, a report by the Children's Society and Disability Rights U.K. claims 230,000 severely disabled people are set to get between £28 and £58 less in benefits every week, while 100,000 children stand to lose up to £28 a week, and up to 116,000 disabled people who work will be at risk of losing £40. Event organisers estimate that government cuts will directly hit more than 500,000 disabled people across the country.

After the march, tempers flared

when local Lib-Dem scumbag, mayoral candidate and avid backer of care home closures Jon Rogers tried to address the crowd. Not wanting to listen to someone who has campaigned tirelessly to rob them of their facilities, the crowd responded with heckling, booing and even lobbing a few objects, including a lit cigarette, at Rogers – the least he deserved in our humble opinion. Speaking after the event, one of the demonstrators explained their actions, describing how Rogers “[doesn't have] much of a place at a demonstration like this. He has closed operations for eight care homes in Bristol.” Quite right. Even if the care homes may be set to close, there is still more to fight for. In the meantime, the least we can do is give back a little bit of the discomfort and humiliation that politicians force on us – especially the most vulnerable of us – by making sure they can't speak in public without having to dodge awkward questions, awkward heckles and as many flaming objects as we can throw!



A Lotta Squatter Books

ONE OF THE first of our services the Tories lined up for destruction was libraries. To your average Tory, too rich to need a public library, it was easy to spread the 'no-one uses libraries anymore' lie. However, those less well-off know that libraries play a massive part in the lives of the community, young and old. It is a place where those of us without private school educations can develop and nurture a love of reading. But all over the country, resistance has been seemingly futile, and dozens of libraries have been closed. However, at least one community is showing us all how to hit back and keep hitting the books. In 2011, Barnet Council took the unpopular decision to close the Friern Barnet library; immediately, a campaign group was set up, protesting outside and inside council sessions and spreading the word. When the library closure went ahead anyway, (with pro-closure councillor Judith Beckman admitting “I don't know where the library is”), locals refused to give up, mounting round the clock pickets of the library. And when council vans turned up to remove the books, locals used a

phone tree call-out and soon dozens of people were blocking the entrance, keeping the books where they belong. Since then, the group has been deadlocked in negotiations with Barnet Council, who are offering a replacement 'library' in a small room miles from the original building. Locals refused, and so the stand-off continued.

That is until a small group of squatters entered the library, immediately re-opening it with a collection of donated books, and were welcomed with open arms. Today, the library remains open four days a week, staffed by local volunteers, and is as well used as before the shut down. The library squatters, and the residents of Barnet, have set an example for us all. The government has never been interested in the average person and has been quite happy to rob us of the things we want and need, hiding behind banner of 'deficit reduction'. Protesting has a time and a place, but like the residents of Barnet, if we want to win back our public services, we need to stop asking nicely and rip our libraries, schools, hospitals and workplaces back from the hands of sell-out politicians and run them by ourselves, for ourselves.

Piratical Hi-Jinks And Hi-Jacks In Dartmouth

HERE AT THE Mutineer, we take pride in the westcountry's long history of smuggling, brigandry and piracy, so, we thought we'd take the time to salute Dartmouth resident Alison Whelan for upholding these fine traditions. After a weekend long bender, including copious amount of lambrini and hallucinogenic deadly nightshade, Alison decided to relight the dormant tradition of

southwesterly piracy. Commandeering a 45ft. vessel, Captain Whelan steered out of the harbour, smashing into dozens of boats, including a £70,000 luxury yacht, all the while screaming “I'm Jack Sparrow!” Police on the scene described the harbour as “like a giant pinball machine” as she attempted to make it to the high seas. As authorities approached, Whelan was heard taunting police by saying “what are you going to do now?” and “I believe this is out of

Upcoming Events
London Road Food Co-op : Wednesdays, 5-7p.m., @ the Riverside Youth Centre, York Place, London Road, Bath, BA16AE; tel 07837 78471
'Ground Control: Fear and happiness in the twenty-first-century city' talk : Tuesday 6th November, 6p.m., Spike Island, 133 Cumberland Road, Bristol, BS1 6UX
Abahlali base Mjondolo talk & film : Tuesday 6th November, 8p.m., Cube cinema, Bristol; www.permanentculturenow.com ; £3/£4 entry
Emporium Film Club – 'In This World' & 'Robert Newman's History of Oil Live': Thursday 8th November, 7p.m., the Emporium, 37 Stokes Croft, Bristol
The famous Bath FreeShop : Saturday 10th November, 12-3p.m., outside the Pump Rooms (opposite Holland & Barrett), Stall Street, Bath
'Kicking Back in Austerity Britain' tour gig : Friday 16th November, 7p.m., Hamworthy Liberal Hall, Poole; feat. Cosmo and Ms. Something-else; £5/£3; www.cosmoguitar.net
Workfare Day of Action : Saturday 17th November, national; www.boycottworkfare.org
'Independence Day' talks & workshops : Saturday 17th November, 10.30-4p.m., Wesley Chapel, Frome; www.independenceday2012.co.uk
national N.U.S. student demo against fees: Wednesday 21st November, assemble 11a.m., Temple Place, London
'Everything you ever wanted to know about Anarchism...' discussion : Saturday 24th November, 3-6p.m., Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath; e-mail bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk
'Resistance in the Age of Austerity' talk & film : Monday 3rd December, 8p.m., Cube cinema, Bristol; www.permanentculturenow.com ; £3/£4 entry

Follow us on Twitter -
@mutineer_press



your jurisdiction”. She was wrong. Later, when interviewed, Whelan's first words to police were “I would have made it to St. Tropez if you hadn't stopped me!” This unrepentant pirate is now doing a short stretch behind bars, and, while her water-borne protest can in no way be counted as progressive, we would still like to take off our tricorne hats in salute to a woman who has reminded us that the west's tradition of drunken, criminal piracy is not quite dead.

A Case Of Black And White

UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN living in a sett for the last few months, you've probably heard that the government plan to undertake a badger cull in order to stop badgers giving cows T.B. Of course, no-one wants to kill badgers, but the government and the National Farmers Union claim that this is necessary; except that no one else seems to think so. Going back a few years, over 10,000 badgers were killed by scientists in order to see if culling them reduces T.B. in cattle, only to conclude that it will make "no meaningful contribution" to controlling the disease. Several studies suggest that cattle movement is the most significant cause, and that this needs to be controlled much more than badgers. Now, these very scientists, as well as conservation and animal welfare groups such as the R.S.P.B. and R.S.P.C.A., the likes of David Attenborough and Bill Oddie, a large proportion of the public, and top of all of this, a majority of M.P.s in the House of Commons, are opposed to the cull and support alternatives such as vaccination and biosecurity measures.

Privatise This!

THE TORY LEADER of Cornwall council has been booted out of office amidst another privatisation row. Councillors accused Alec Robertson of showing 'disdain for democracy' as he tried to push ahead with the sell-off of Cornish libraries, care homes, job centres and advice centres – despite his nutty proposals being shot down by his own council! Despite the widespread opposition to his plans, designed to shave 20% off the council budget, Robertson and a small clique of fellow Tories attempted to smuggle the plans through behind the council majority's backs. After getting caught blue-handed in the middle of chatting up B.T., (eager themselves to operate Cornwall's libraries and other services), Robertson was ousted in a raucous council session

So, why are they trying to kill the badgers? The decision appears to be an entirely political one, as the Tories depend upon the votes of farming communities who do not want to admit that that they've made mistakes with cattle movement, and the increasingly low genetic pool of cattle, poor conditions and lack of biosecurity has led to an increase in susceptibility and the spread of the disease. In the words of John Bourne, the scientist who led the previous trial of badger culling: "I think the most interesting observation was made to me by a senior politician who said, 'fine John, we accept your science, but we have to offer the farmers a carrot. And the only carrot we can possibly give them is culling badgers'".

Anti-cull activists are therefore on the case, with pickets of supermarkets selling milk sourced from the cull zones (Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda) in Bristol and Bath throughout last month. Far be it from us to give shopping advice, but if you're not lactose-intolerant or one of those funny vegans, you might consider heading to Co-op, Waitrose or Marks's for your milk.

which saw one councillor removed by security! Independent councillor Graham Walker summed up the situation, saying "I no longer have confidence in a leader who chooses to put party politics and ideology before the clear decision... of the people of Cornwall". Get used to it mate, that's Tories for you.

While Cornwall's rejection of the politics of public service sell-offs is a good news story, it's worth reminding ourselves that privatisation has never worked in our favour. Wherever public services are flogged to the highest bidder, standards drop, prices soar and working conditions plummet. The Tory wetdream of private companies running all our services should be the rest of ours' nightmare and needs to be resisted wherever it rears its head.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Here at The Westcountry Mutineer, it's not all about cider and muck-flinging. There are a few important principles that guide the paper – we see society as being divided into two basic classes, workers and bosses.

We believe that the luxury and wealth of the bosses is only gained through the exploitation of the workers, and that workers should be entitled to the full value of what they produce. Politicians of whatever party only serve to protect the interests of their mates in big business.

We believe that the ordinary people should, and have the ability to, abolish oppressive institutions such as government and capitalism and run society on its own, without the interference of bosses, politicians or any other self-appointed 'leaders'. We struggle for a world in which communities are run by the residents, and workplaces run by the workers – a world without exploitation or class systems in which resources are produced and shared equally and responsibly, not hoarded by a greedy few. Sound good to you?

If yes, then baby, you're an anarchist!

Indeed, we take our hats off to Brian May and his more clandestine friends, a combination of whose e-petitions, lobbying, 'gentle pressure', late night sett-monitoring and prank phone calls led to not only a tough day in the office or two for new environment minister Owen Paterson, but also to M.P.s voting to delay the cull until next June!

But don't pack up your waterproofs, maps and torches just yet – if the cull does still go ahead next year, there is plenty work to be done. Country estates (such as Forthampton Estate) and some farms are still signed up to the cull, and many badger setts have already been baited for culling, and activists are making note of these to go out and interrupt the shooting when the time comes. And campaigners are also targeting coffee shops like Starbucks and Nero, who deal with pro-cull dairies: if you would like speak to them, their details are below:

Starbucks U.K. and Ireland Media Inquiries

tel: + 44 20 8834 5164

e-mail: ukpressoffice@starbucks.com

Caffe Nero

<http://www.caffenero.com/contact>

GROUPS AND CONTACTS

Anarchist Federation (U.K.): e-mail
info@afed.org.uk

Bath Animal Action: e-mail
bathanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk

Bath Anti-Cuts Alliance: e-mail
bathagainstcuts@yahoo.co.uk

Bath People's Assembly: e-mail
info@bathpeoplesassembly.org

Black And Red Federation/B.A.R.F.: e-mail
bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Anarchist Federation: e-mail
bristol@afed.org.uk

Bristol Animal Rights Collective: e-mail
barc@hotmail.co.uk

Bristol And District Anti-Cuts Alliance: e-mail
admin@bristolanticutsalliance.org.uk

Bristol I.W.W.: e-mail
bristoliw@riseup.net

Bristol Solidarity Federation: e-mail
bristolsolfed@gmail.com

Frack Free Somerset: e-mail
info@frackfreesomerset.org

Hunt Saboteurs Association: e-mail
contact@huntsabs.org.uk

Portsmouth Anarchists: e-mail
portsmouth.anarchists@googlemail.com

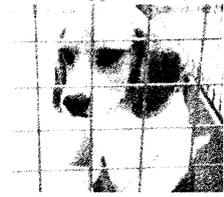
Swindon Anarchists: e-mail
swindonanarchists@riseup.net

Wessex Solidarity: e-mail
wessexsolidarity@gmail.com

There are dozens of anti-cuts groups around the west, so get in touch to find your local group. And if you would like your group included, drop us an e-mail at mutineerpress@riseup.net.



Meets on the 2nd Monday of every month
8.00-9.00pm at The Bell public house, Walcot Street, Bath



Come along to discuss what YOU can do to help bring
an end to animal cruelty

t: 07837 784715. e: bathanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk
Bath Animal Action is a non-violent action group

Blue-Blooded Sex Pest Strikes In Swindon

FROM CORNISH TORIES caught with their fingers in the public purse, we now turn to Swindon, where Councillor Nick Martin has been slapped on the wrist for having his clammy fingers all over the public servants. Well known in the town for being one of the nastier characters amongst the local Tory clique (and believe us, there's plenty to choose from), Martin is now in hot water over his wandering hands. At a recent social function, Martin – Deputy Mayor and Conservative councillor – was found guilty of inappropriate conduct for rubbing the hair and head of council officer

Helen Miah. The married father was also found guilty of passing borderline-pervy comments about Ms. Miah's haircut. Miah, who described herself as "freaked out" by the incident also told how the Martin ran his hands over her back, commenting "I've been dying to do that all night," while his wife sat only a few metres away. It has since emerged that Ms. Miah had complained previously about the dirty deputy when she saw him touching female council employees inappropriately in 2008. Despite a clear pattern of alleged dirty behaviour, Martin has been let off gently: being forced to attend sensitivity training and write letters of apology. However, thanks to Helen Miah standing up for herself, Martin will at least be placed under heightened public pressure to behave, not to mention the fact that his long-held ambition of stepping into the mayor's bejewelled boots will now be in tatters.

Free Fun For All The Family!

ON 20TH OCTOBER 200,000 people filled the streets of London from Lambeth to Hyde Park, in protest against austerity. There were people from diverse social and racial backgrounds, babies and great grannies, black and white, poor and slightly less poor (rumour has it the rich of London were huddled in Blitz-style terror behind the reinforced shutters of the Ritz), all having a laugh, a sing-song, a good chat and a shout in the sun. There were nurses, physiotherapists, train and bus drivers, teachers, pensioners, students, anarchists, socialists, communists, and people with disabilities: all with one thing in common, being fucked over by the government and wanting their voices heard! Most knew marching alone wouldn't be enough, and there was a definite mood to take things further, but what better way to boost your own morale than meeting others who want things to change?

The highlights of the day came at the end of the march, as a couple of thousand malcontents took action against companies involved in tax-dodging and the government's Workfare/slave labour scheme. Targets included a posh Hilton hotel, stormed and occupied just like McDonalds, Starbucks and Boots.

Wheelchair-users and pensioners blocked the road at Marble Arch in protest at cuts to services and benefits, and reports are still rolling in of small-scale occupations and shutdowns all over London. In a telling moment, thousands of trade unionists booed Ed 'I'm just like you in my £1.4 million mansion' Miliband at Hyde Park as he tried to convince the crowd that red cuts hurt less than blue ones. Despite the great atmosphere, numbers were way down on the 500,000 strong anti-cuts demo last March. Why? Because the T.U.C. have sold us the occasional demo as an alternative to actions that really could stop the cuts, such as mass strikes, occupations and direct action. While angry workers made the most of the day to network amongst themselves, for the T.U.C. leadership, it was nothing more than a 're-elect Labour' stunt and a pacifier to the thousands desperate to get properly stuck into the Tory scum. It is now the job of ordinary people to keep fighting, with or without the T.U.C.: a one-day strike and the odd protest is not a recipe for success and if the union leadership can't deliver the action we need to be taking, it's time to start doing it for ourselves, in our communities and in our workplaces. You never know, we could even be talking revolution.

HELP RAKE THE MUCK!

Have you sniffed out a local scandal, got a bit of juicy news, or just need to publicise an event or demo?

Contributions/anonymous tip-offs (no more than 350 words) to mutineerpress@riseup.net. E-mail that same address for a lengthy and boring 'Guide for Contributors'. Alternatively, if you fancy distributing the Mutineer in your area, drop us an e-mail, giving us your address, and letting us know how many copies you think you can shift each month and we'll get them sent out to you, along with any stickers/posters/incendiary devices we have hanging around.

Another Brick In The Wall

ALL OF US can think back to those confusing, exciting, and emotional teenage years and think "wow, I really do wish we had more exams! I loved the stress and the competitiveness of them, they really made those years!" Well, don't worry, the coalition government are here to save the day again with the introduction of the 'EBac'. Not only will everything count on this one exam, after two years of study (I really hope you're not ill that day kids, or hung over!), but you will also have the fantastic opportunity to be forced to stay in school another two years to finish them. That means more time with the parents, annoying siblings and no cash! So,

no more coursework (I wonder what will happen to the more fun subjects of arts and tech?), or multiple attempts to bring your grades up, but also only those smart-arse kids with rich parents and smaller families are much more likely to do better (more space and time at home to focus on work and practice), and those who are poor are going to be lucky to reach 18 with any skills or qualifications. We all know how useful science, maths and English is to our lives, unlike carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, building, childcare and growing your own food. You can really get a good job to support yourself with knowing what Macbeth was about or what is $5x + 3y = 10x + 15y$. But no worries, with

the rise in apprenticeships at places like Costa Coffee and slave labour.... whoops I mean 'the Work Programme'.... at Tesco stacking shelves, you will be well sorted. It is not like you could afford university fees at £9,000 a year anyway. You know what might be better idea? Skip school, go learn something useful off your own back and start trading your skills with your mates. It will be more fun, interesting, and gives you some cash. 'Education' is for losers anyway.



Theory Corner: On The Receiving End

In the first of a three-part series on heightened 'security' culture, we look at the increase in oppressive policing, surveillance and militarization of society, explore the state's reasons for this and begin to suggest ways to fight back.

NOW MORESO THAN ever, those of us who don't fit in with the aims of the state are under attack. As the economic situation worsens and people fight back, these attacks carried out by the state and their supporters will grow, and take various forms. Young people, the unemployed, trades unionists, travellers, the sick and disabled, migrants, and protesters (amongst others) are demonised in the media and calls are made for them to be controlled.

There is an unprecedented attack on benefits claimants – through cuts, sanctions and the use of ATOS to penalise the disabled. Workfare is

used as a form of slave labour, obliging the unemployed to work for free. In terms of surveillance, Britain now has more C.C.T.V. cameras per head than any other country and the authorities are calling for tighter controls on our phone calls and e-mails.

Through the so-called 'justice' system last year, poor rioters were tried straight away and handed top-heavy sentences by special courts, while the rich and powerful get away with crimes like tax evasion scott free. Even the high profile friends of the David Cameron charged with corruption and phone hacking are yet to see proper trial. The right to protest is being eroded. This year the courts have ruled it legal to kettle demonstrators and to arrest and hold people before they commit any offence, like those arrested during last year's royal wedding.

Ian Tomlinson is the most well-known of those who have died at the hands of the police, but 15 people have died in/following police

leave at 3p.m. and should have their pay docked for doing so – a sick joke for anyone who knows how deep into the evening an average teacher's work runs. Clamouring to one-up his partner in crime, OFSTED boss and well-known scrote Sir Michael Wilshaw recently opened a speech to senior leaders with the line "If anyone says to you that 'staff morale is at an all-time low' you will know you are doing something right." Wow! With bosses like these, who can blame the teachers for striking back?

In some schools, headteachers, scared of losing their iron grip over staff, have attempted to ban the action. In at least one school in Wiltshire, staff standing together have already beaten back this attack, and in another, staff in a religious school are preparing to escalate a campaign against their boss who has banned the action on the grounds that it doesn't fit with their religious ethos (we'd argue that religion and freedom have never had much in common anyway)! Teachers at the school will be going loud with their campaign soon, so we'll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you are a

parent or pupil, you can support your teachers simply by telling them know that you appreciate what they do. Letting them know you think Gove is a bastard, or offering to deck him will also be guaranteed to raise morale amongst your local educators!

most people in this country will not know is that after all the suffering, the miners won a complete victory, securing the 22% pay increase they had been striking for. In what seems to be corporate news policy, they are willing to show us stories of workers getting bravely beaten or being 'unreasonable' and violent themselves, but find it impossible to tell the public when ordinary working people organise themselves and win: it would set a bad example. But the good news does not stop at the miners' victory. Following their example, protests and strikes have erupted across the country, with everyone from

custody between 2011 and 2012. Also, remember that no police officer has been successfully prosecuted for a death in this country since the 1960's. Events like the Olympics and the Jubilee are used in two ways by the state: to both increase security (military, police or private security) firms erasure of rights, and to get the public used to seeing soldiers on the streets. What was once rare in the security field now becomes the norm. People who complain, or refuse to comply, are branded as 'subversive' or, worse, 'unpatriotic', and requires control.

So what can we do about the increased militarisation of the forces against us?

Firstly, we need to publicise what is happening. Secondly, we need to join with others on what unites us, not what divides us. Through organisations like anti-cuts campaigns, we can increase our numbers and build up our strength. Thirdly, we must not be intimidated by the authorities: some leftwing groups now ask for the permission to demonstrate, which just leads to more restrictions on our right to protest. We need to remember that the streets are ours, not theirs.

Hey, Teacher, Make Those Bosses Groan!

TEACHERS ACROSS THE southwest joined colleagues across the country, last month, starting an indefinite campaign of industrial action against excessive stress and workload. The action, designed not to affect pupils, will involve teachers refusing excessive observations (which teachers in some schools in the west face daily), refusing to hand in their planning to be marked by senior leaders (yes, this happens) and dozens of similar boycotts. The average teacher's day begins at 7.45a.m., and ends around 6p.m., and the long holidays mostly get consumed with marking and planning. This is something teachers have been willing to put up with for years, but with headteachers increasingly treating staff like naughty children – upping already heavy levels of scrutiny as well as expecting a rainforest-depleting ream of paperwork on a daily basis – teachers felt action was the only option. Their decision to fight back has been made easier by education secretary Michael 'Pob' Gove claiming that teachers frequently

Mine, All Mine

OVER THE LAST couple of months, the news has been full of bloody stories from the mining communities of South Africa. We first of all heard of the tragic deaths of over 30 striking miners gunned down by cops, whose government bosses then tried to use Apartheid-era laws to place legal blame on the miners themselves. After that, the focus soon shifted to stories of 'extremism' from striking workers, threatening both bosses and scab workers (like they don't deserve it) and holding the economy to ransom. Then the news went dead. What

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE OR DONATE?
To subscribe, send us your home or e-mail address. We like to keep it free but any donations are appreciated; please make cheques out to 'BAA' and sent to Westcountry Mutineer, 14 Robertson Road, Bristol, BS5 6JY. Also, feel free to put on benefit gigs/paper sales to help top up our near empty coffers!

teachers to gold miners taking action to better their lives. Since Apartheid ended, wealth in South Africa has still been controlled by the same elite, now with a smattering of added colour, and the workers, overwhelmingly black, still find themselves in dire, increasing poverty. The victory of the miners, though won at a bloody cost, has sent shockwaves through the working class, which is now gearing up for a fight which could see some of the great wealth of their country ripped away from the rich few and taken back by those who work, sweat and die to create it. More to follow.

Wigged-Up Stitch-Up

A BRISTOLIAN MAN has been found guilty of multiple accounts of assaulting an officer during last July's anti-E.D.L. demo in Bristol, simply because the judge disagreed with his politics – allegedly; the demo itself saw hundreds of police protecting 300 racists from thousands of locals and anti-fascists, making multiple arrests. Despite the hearing taking place in a magistrates court, a district judge sat in. His first move was to declare testimony from two people invalid solely, due to their membership in the Anarchist Federation – an above-ground, legal, membership-based organisation. From there, the trial became even more farcical, with the judge ignoring gaping holes in the contradictory statements of two cops. At one point, the 'assaulted' officer admitted that he couldn't be sure the accused was even responsible for the 'assault'. The same officer then alleged that he 'punched his hat off', despite pictures featured in Vice magazine

Unfair Universal Credit Crunch

ARE YOU READY for yet another change to your benefits? More money is being taken from our pockets and being wasted in overhauling the benefit system. It seems all very confusing but it basically boils down to less money for the vulnerable, disabled, unemployed and elderly and more in the back pockets of the rich. You will also need a computer and the internet, two costly commodities for your home, which these categories are unlikely to be able to afford or be able to use (15 million people do not have a computer in the U.K., 8,000 of which have never used the internet!). It will mean more job losses for those who work for the benefit system, and cuts to pay and pensions. And for those of you who find it difficult to manage money, have bills coming out all over the

The Tadpoles Of Toady Hall

NORTH SWINDON RESIDENTS have been left furious at their council's decision to push ahead with the building of nearly 1,700 new homes on greenfield land. Despite worries that the new Tadpole Farm development will bulldoze yet more of the town's green spaces and create a serious flooding hazard, Crest Nicholson (who have a long history of building on flood plains, and recently tried to concrete over 150 allotments in Bath) and an assortment of Tory Councillors have pushed the project through. The decision comes despite the new South Swindon Wichelstowe development laying more or less empty, with no signs of filling up. Add this to the fact that, as of the

clearly showing the officer wearing his hat throughout the proceedings. But duty solicitors failed to submit the photographs, anyway. Throughout the hearing, the judge was more keen to criticise the lifestyle and political philosophy of the defendant than to consider evidence which pointed towards 'not guilty'. After finding the anarchist guilty, the judge won't rule out

**BRISTOL AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE
NEEDS YOU!**



**CHALLENGING the Military-Industrial complex in all
its FORMS**
Get involved, and find out more at
www.bristolagainstarmstrade.wordpress.com

month or do not have the time to sort it all out due to kids etc., your benefits will be coming to you in one lump sum! For most this will mean bouncing in and out of your overdraft, paying more money to the banks for the pleasure. You will now not be able to work up to 16 hours a week and claim J.S.A., and anything you work will be deducted from your benefits, so you will end up losing a lot more and having to work for it. The new scheme will be put into action between 2013 and 2017, but we in the southwest will be hit first, starting with the pilot study in Bath and surroundings. So get ready with your complaint letters, e-mails and phone calls to council and local M.P.s. Go to the benefits office and council house, make a big fuss and egg on the staff to complain to their bosses too! And anything else you may think of to show your anger and stress; it's time to nip this in the bud now.

last count, there were 2,518 empty residential properties falling into disrepair around Swindon (with a further 5,000 throughout Wiltshire), and the case for new build starts to fall apart. Local politicians and construction companies will always play the 'creating new jobs' card when defending their plans, but this argument has never added up. With regulations on the quality of new buildings at an all-time low, planning regulations governing green land more meaningless than ever, and provisions for building 'affordable' housing practically non-existent, new builds represent a license for construction companies to print money, while foisting cowboy constructed, overpriced housing on the rest of us.

prison. Even if prison is averted, he'll still be left with £600 to pay in fees, not including any fines. If you'd like to show (financial) support, drop us an email, and we'll let you know what you can do to help stick two fingers up at a legal system that has always defended the interests of the powerful, judicial process be damned.

Independents Day

WITH DEBATE RAGING about the future of the high street, the increasing dominance of the big four supermarkets and the nature of our villages, towns and cities, this is a perfect time to discuss such big issues. In Frome, there are plans to redevelop the town, which sparked the founding of 'Keep Frome Local', a group pledged to resist a giant town centre supermarket. After a busy year and a half, they are bringing people together to share their experiences of campaigning and navigating the bullshit brown waters of local planning. What kind of places do we want to live and work in? Is there an alternative to so-called 'big box' retailing? For one day of workshops, discussions and more, 'Independence Day' will take place on Saturday November 17th, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wesley Chapel, in Frome town centre. To encourage as many local participants as possible, they are offering travel subsidies and subsidised tickets; e-mail info@tescopoly.org. On another note, whilst we welcome resistance to Tesco and multinational corporate monoliths, the root of the problem is the capitalist system itself; swapping out big capitalism for smiley small-scale capitalism is only the tip of the iceberg.

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BOSSES



WWW.AFED.ORG.UK
JOIN@AFED.ORG.UK

If local councillors and housing companies really cared about Swindon, and job creation, they would be far more willing to invest in sprucing up the town's empties and offering them as social housing to ease an already overflowing council-house waiting list of over 13,000. The development at Tadpole farm is nothing more than big business exploring more ways to rake in massive profits at our expense, all with the eager help of their Tory toadies.

They Don't Give ATOS, But We Do

ON THURSDAY 6th September 20 concerned locals from Bath and Bristol met up outside ATOS offices at Flowers Hill in Bristol, to show their disgust at the I.T. company's sick treatment of those who are sick and disabled. The protest came amid a wave of action which saw disabled and anti-cuts activists taking to the streets in dozens of towns and cities across the U.K., highlighting the hypocrisy of ATOS' sponsorship of the Paralympics. In London, in an action planned to coincide with the Paralympic closing ceremony, hundreds of disabled people protested outside ATOS H.Q. and occupied the D.W.P., where out-of-control cops broke the arm of a disabled protester. Even the Paralympic Team G.B. joined the protest, hiding their ATOS-sponsored badges throughout the opening ceremony! As mentioned in our previous issue, ATOS are being

No Justice, No Piece

ACTIVISTS ACROSS THE southwest picketed Domino's stores back in mid-September to show solidarity with striking pizza delivery workers in Australia. Pickets from Bristol to the South Coast were well received by the public, who were shocked to learn that greedy Domino's bosses are slashing pay for Aussie delivery drivers by 19%, adding up to a whole lot of lost dough, all with the collaboration of their boss-friendly union. In disgust, the workers set up their own union, affiliated to the anarchist International Workers Association and have since been striking, taking direct action and calling for solidarity actions all over

Checky Chappies

IN YET MORE positive public transport-related news, a new campaign in the northeast has been setting a great example of how to deal with over-priced, profit-driven public transport. With fare prices shooting up and up, increasing numbers have been finding travel on the Tyne and Wear metro system an increasing financial burden. Enter 'Checky Watch', a leaderless movement dedicated to providing commuters with up-to-date information on the whereabouts of ticket inspectors ("checkies") to help the hard-up people keep their quids. The campaign, started by 21 year-old Ben Heywood from Jarrow, attracted 10,000 Facebook followers in its first week and now has its own website, featuring intel on checky movements, and is organising public protests against the increasing cost of fares. From the start, the campaign has made it clear that the aim of the action is not to dodge paying for public transport indefinitely, but to pressure transport companies into charging affordable fares. A Checky Watch organiser said "This is not pushing to make Metros free, it's trying to get the prices down. One person can't

handed tax payers' money to kick people off incapacity benefits. Their tests include whether someone can stand for one minute, or lift their hand above their head, and no medical notes from the claimants' G.P.s are considered. The offices in Bristol, where claimants are forced to have these assessments, is a 20 minute bus ride from the centre, in a commercial estate without disabled access: apparently the company's idea of testing vulnerable people before they even arrive.

On the day, protesters handed out leaflets to passing drivers and pedestrians, to a good response. One passerby told how their partner was booted off benefits despite her crippling arthritis, meaning that some days she couldn't even get out of bed! However, she managed to get them reinstated after a harrowing five month battle, suffering loss of money and increased stress from the uncertainty of her case. The protesters made contact with several

the world. Bristol Domino's workers, initially concerned about the demo, soon became more supportive when they learned that it was all to support their antipodean mates. Management on the other hand flew off the handle, angrily berating protesters and going to the top(ping) by bringing in a regional manager to the Bristol demo (brilliant news, as now the high-ups know what people think of their thin-crust pay and conditions). Meanwhile, solidarity protests cropped up in other parts of the U.K., as well as France, Germany, (home of the pizza) Italy and (home of the bastardised pizza) America. With every solidarity action reported to be boosting the morale of the Aussie drivers, it can

make a difference, but 5,000-odd can." And how have the metro bosses responded? Obviously not by taking the demands of commuters seriously, but by announcing plans to spend hundreds of thousands on expensive barriers and security checks!

Even though their demands have not yet been met, Checky Watch is a great example of how ordinary people, organising together, can fight back and win improvements in our daily living conditions when we stop begging for scraps off the table and take matters into our own hands.

Before signing off though, The Mutineer would like to remind it's readers that, while fare dodging (especially against rip-off merchants) is both big and clever, the checkies themselves are getting ripped off by the same company that rips off its commuters, with attacks on wages and working conditions. The bosses can deal with the odd fare dodger and even the occasional strike, but checkies and Checky Watchers uniting would be enough to make any fare-hiking, wage-slashing capitalist quake in their loafers.

claimants themselves being forced through this ordeal, who the campaigners will be able to help through a new action group being set up: Community Action Network. The group is designed to help those who are not only being kicked off their benefits, but are also being kicked out of their homes, schools and day centres, or otherwise shafted by the cuts. As well as undertaking legal casework, C.A.N. will employ direct action - intervening to prevent bailiffs, ATOS and other assorted scum making our lives more miserable. The group is made up of current and former Citizens Advice Bureau staff, alongside radical social workers, teachers, debt advisors, solicitors, claimants, carers and others. If you feel that you are being treated unfairly and would like help or advice, or would like to help please e-mail: thecommunityactionnetwork@gmail.co.uk.

only be a matter of time before the Domino's bosses get stuffed (crust) and the workers get a fair slice of the pizza-pie. Messages of solidarity and info about how to get stuck in can be left at www.facebook.com/GeneralTransportWorkersAssociation



Life On The Edge

...THE EDGE FUND, that is! Fed up of having to choose between funding your revolutionary agit-prop at the printshop, or one more pint at the bar? Tired of sitting through the bullshit of yet another cheapskate trying to blag their way past the door at your benefit gig? Well, fear no longer! If your grassroots group is campaigning for social, economic or environmental justice and/or systemic change, or faces injustice itself, then you need The Edge! Grants of under £5,000 are available for U.K.-based groups now; simply e-mail a page describing who your group is, what you do, your group's annual income and how you plan to combat the existing economic/political system(s) to: edgefund@riseup.net, or contact 07767 126915, before 1st December (The Edge Fund is not to be confused with the guitarist from U2, but if you ask nicely/mug him roughly, he may well be good for it, too).

www.edgefund.org.uk