

Taunton Vegan Fayre Attracts Hundreds of Visitors



Only a year after the first innovation of Taunton Vegans (originally set up after the success of a Vegan Food Fayre in 2010) the group managed to bring festivity, open-minds and positive awareness to their hometown, by hosting their own Vegan Fayre this spring. On the 14th May, members of the community were invited to a day of live music, entertainment, and of course delicious vegan food, at North Street Church Hall. Greeted by a friendly cow and enthusiastic leafletters, the fayre attracted the attention of the public towards an alternative, cruelty-free lifestyle; stalls such as Bristol Animal Rights Collective (BARC) and Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) provided information regarding animal welfare, and impressive cooking demos from VIVA! had everybody watering at the mouth. Anonymous Promotions brought us unplugged acoustic acts: Some Sort of Threat and Taunton's Jake Van Perlo, also with spontaneous poetry performances from Old Hat Promotions' Noah Spits. A great day was had by those who attended and those who organised, with a greater sense of communion being achieved.

Cut Cameron Festival: Punk & Politics Festival Receives Police Attention



On January 29th a punk all dayer was organised by Anonymous & Old Hat Promotions featuring; 21 bands, 11 stalls, 2

stages, an acoustic act, poet, and lots of radical literature. The day was a great success, with approximately 200 people attending and a great atmosphere for fans of punk and politics. The event benefited 'Anarchists Against The Cuts' (an initiative from Anti Cuts Action Bristol and affiliates), with headliners including Firepit Collective, Spanner, Dead Subverts, Virus and Anarcho Folko.

However in the lead up to the event, organisers were forced to have a Police liason and received regular calls from the local plod. Even the venue was visited and the land lady warned off allowing the gig to happen, being told it was a protest rather than a concert and another cop referring to it as a "mini Glastonbury"!

Organisers were warned to stop using a poster that showed a smashed window, a banner saying "cut Cameron" had to be taken down and the event received no less than six visits from Cops and PCSOs during the evening. The cops had been briefed to gather information and take literature.

Full report from Anarchists Against The Cuts can be read here: <http://bristol.indymedia.org/article/703222>

Anti-cuts banner drops by anarchists, weekly Vodafone protests and Students marching



Throughout February and March anti-cuts protests took place in Taunton town centre, namely against Vodafone. Following a joint call-out from UK Uncut and Anti Cuts Action Bristol for action on Sunday 30th January, weekly demonstrations begun the day after Cut Cameron Festival. Helping to put pressure on corporate tax dodgers, the streets were leafleted and sometimes chalked. Alongside Taunton & West Somerset Trades Union Council members in March, activists also protested plans to cut various public services.

Additionally Richard Huish College students, in coordination with the college, marched against the decision to scrap Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in February, supported by musician Billy Bragg.



Defend Squatting: Taunton Two Solidarity



On 20/04/2011 two South-West activists were unjustly arrested and charged for re-squatting a derelict building in the town of Taunton, Somerset; with the intentions to promote squatting as an alternative lifestyle and provide a centre in which social groups and communities can use.

It has been on the agenda to get a Social Centre up and running in Taunton for a while now, being a potential base for Taunton activist collective groups, and even more importantly being open to those of which squatting is a necessity.

The police broke into the secured building using angle grinders, and even arrested one of the activists on the street, acting as a legal observer. The activists were charged with the intent to cause criminal damage, burglary and abstracting electricity. The lack of evidence to support these charges further incriminates the police for unnecessary use of force and intimidation to evict the squatters from their rightful home.

The case has an indirect impact on the South-West Anarcho-Punk scene, with a member of Anonymous Promotions coming under attack. This could be a potential threat on the non-profit organisation and even the increasing Anarcho-Punk movement itself.

Case Update: 12/05/11

On Thursday 12th May, the two defendants both pleaded not guilty and no plea to charges of 'abstracting electricity without authority' and 'burglary - with intent to cause criminal damage' at the Magistrates Court in Taunton, Somerset.

The case was then adjourned for the Crown Court on July 7th, however there is a good chance it won't get there due to lack of evidence; most of which has been made up or wrongly assumed.

The solidarity intends to raise awareness about the current Squatting scene in Taunton, and will hopefully gain even more support than has already been shown.

Now is the time to resist!

Mount Street Nursery Squatted

On our travels we noticed an interesting derelict council building, The Mount Nursery on Mount Street, with what initially looked like a planning application. Upon closer inspection it turned out to be a possession order from the courts. We are pleased to see other squatters in Taunton, or so it seems, from as recent as February 2011.

If you were involved and want to get in touch with us then see below. Greetings from the anarcho-squatters!

Since this article was posted, Taunton squatters have made connections with people involved, furthermore hearing of a disturbing campaign by a local councillor to evict the squat.

Who are we? What do we do?

We are a non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian activist collective. We formed in 2011 due to interest in anti-cuts protests, the increasingly popular Vegan group and a thriving anarcho-punk scene. We are a collective of anarchists, students, vegans, liberals and other dissidents.

Website: www.tauntonac.wordpress.com
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Upcoming dates - not many, sorry!

08/06: Taunton Vegans Monthly Meeting @ Mambos
07/07: Taunton Squat Case Solidarity @ Magistrates
13/07: Taunton Vegans Monthly Meeting @ Mambos
17/09: JJ (Active Slaughter) Benefit (TBC) @ Blake Arms

Bristol Anarchist Bookfair 2011



So we finally did our first stall. We weren't that well organised, but after benefit gigs Wednesday & Thursday night in aid of the event, we got up there and set up at least.

We had some general vegan propaganda which seemed to draw most people in (the rest was next to Kebele's kitchen with the BARC lot), banner and leaflets on the Taunton Two, gig posters from Anonymous Promotions, as well as cds (that mostly sold out) and leaflets from Old Hat Promotions / Records.

A fun day was had by all, with highlights for most of us being the scrumptious vegan food and the Squattastic Bristol talk; discussing upcoming changes in law, the impact it has on Bristol squatters and action to take for the future. Below are snippets from Taunton Squatters:

"The meeting, titled 'Squattastic Bristol' was an open discussion with both squatters and non-squatters concerned of recent events in Bristol, Brighton, London and elsewhere. Packed into a small room, every point raised in the meeting was respected, and many ideas were put forward. The meeting raised many questions for us all to think about now and in the future [...] Expanding the network seems a likely plan of action however, especially towards Somerset, with rumours of activity in Glastonbury and future plans for Taunton and Bridgwater. Additional benefits to these rural areas would be the likely support from current and ex-travellers, such as in Taunton, where a phone-tree is being created between squatters, supporters, and the local travelling community."