



1831

Issue 03 July/August
2011

Free/Donation

*We would hack
phones but we ran
out of credit...*

ANOTHER BLOW FOR BRITAIN'S MOST VULNERABLE

As cuts start to kick in, the government continues to inform us that they will have little effect on front line services and that the most vulnerable in society will be protected. However out in the real world it is fast becoming obvious that the opposite is true.

Cuts and changes to the legal aid system made by the Con-Dems sent Refugee & Migrant Justice into administration last year. This month the Immigration Advisory Service has followed suit. Caroline Beatty, manager of Bristol Refugee Rights has said *"It would be a devastating blow if the service cannot continue. Without representation, the asylum process is reduced to a mockery of justice"*. The current situation leaves 1000s of people, including victims of torture and persecution, with almost no chance of a fair legal hearing. In effect, without swift and meaningful action there will be many people who end up destitute or are forced to face repression and even death at the hands of some of the world's worst regimes.

While many people will be unaffected by this particular blow to the rights of people in this country, it is a crack in an already fragile legal system. Who will be next to lose the right to representation? History has taught us that when states start targeting the most vulnerable (such as migrants or the disabled) all of us can end up in the firing line. What will you say you did when they came for the refugees?

*For more information contact Bristol Refugee Rights:
bristolrefugeerights.com or No Borders
www.network23.org/bristolnoborders*

500,000 IN STRIKE ACTION

On June 30th over half a million public sector workers went out on strike, and they joined 1000s of others to hold protests up and down the country. However the exact reasons for the strike, and its possible impact are clouded with misinformation.

In Bristol 100s picketed outside schools, colleges and public sector offices. 5000 people marched through the centre, those in the unions being joined by supporters, students, activists and a feeder march of around 60 benefit claimants. It's clear from the banners, chants, and speeches that this dispute goes far further than savage cuts to pensions that the mainstream media has focused on.

A Con-Dem spokesman would later be questioned on TV's Newsnight, according to the government's own report into pensions they will actually cost less over the coming years with only minor changes. There is no financial necessity to switch drastically cut peoples pensions, or to increase their contributions and effectively cut their wages. Whilst the Conservative representative attempted to avoid the question, another was asked; isn't this really just about making public services easier to privatise?

Ask any union member on the day and they'd tell you the answer is a resounding "yes". The Con-Dems like Labour before them seem intent on privatising as much as possible, and it never ends well for anyone except the big businesses who take over – just look at the price and reliability of the train service!

This is why the strikes gained such wide support – it's not about the individual's livelihood's, it's about the government attacking the living conditions and services of all of us, and the next step in our fight back against them.

www.bristolanticcutsalliance.org.uk/
www.anticutsaction.wordpress.com

BURN THE WITCH

IS THIS THE END FOR CORRUPT MEDIA?

Former CEOs and Editors arrested, police cover ups and high ranking officers quitting, government investigations, a former Prime Minister alleging criminality & corruption, the current Prime Minister's future on a knife edge, a possible 5000 phones hacked, hackers shutting down websites and stealing passwords, laptops dumped in bins & now an unexplained death of a whistle-blower.

You couldn't make this stuff up and for once News Corp. doesn't have to, as it's happening to them.

Newspaper editors, MPs and senior police officers up and down the country must be shitting themselves, are we supposed to believe News International is the only bad apple in this loathsome bunch? As we go to press we have received reports that hackers have been redirecting traffic from the Sun's website to a (sadly) fake article about Murdoch's suicide.

If hacking in to the voice mail messages of murdered teenager Milly Dowler is not beyond these people, nothing is.

At this point we would like to categorically deny any rumours that dough faced, lie spouting, scum bag disgrace to humanity Rupert Murdoch has made a multi-million dollar bid for 1831.

We should stress we never do deals with such spectres of evil and their henchmen & women like Rebekah Brooks & Andy Coulson who grow rich from distorting facts, invading people's privacy, fabricating evidence and ruining people's lives. We can not however, speak for any rival Bristol news sheets who would likely benefit from the step up in journalistic standards.

Libel suits on postcards to the usual address please.



KICK IN THE DiCANIO

Things seem to be going from bad to worse for South West rivals Swindon Town. As if getting dumped out of League One, finishing dead last and having most of their players, manager and chairman flee (or get booted off) the sinking ship wasn't enough, the board have made the controversial decision to appoint outspoken fascist and notorious wanker Paulo DiCano as the club manager.

Amongst his long list of dodgy outbursts, DiCano hit the headlines for repeatedly celebrating goals by giving the fascist salute while playing for notoriously right wing Italian club Lazio – stunts which have earned him tens of thousands of Euros in fines and suspensions.

DiCano has showed no remorse for his actions, repeatedly making feeble excuses about his nationalist outbursts being nothing more than pride in his 'heritage and people'. In addition to this, DiCano sports a tattoo paying homage to his hero Mussolini, who, in a recent autobiography he describes as a 'basically ethical man' (it would be interesting to hear him explain how ethnic cleansing, chemical warfare against civilian populations and ruthless suppression of political dissent constitute ethical).

DiCano's outspoken views are not only disgusting, but they will also undoubtedly provide a morale boost to the flagging far right in Swindon, who will see his appointment and his unrepentant advocacy of fascism as excuse enough to bring racism and facsism back to the terraces. While keen to keep resistance firmly rooted in the community, local anti-facists are already organising against DiCano and at least one sponsor has already pulled out of the club in protest at DiCano's appointment.

As I sign off, I can't help but wonder what the three Swindon players who died fighting fascism in WW2, Alan 'Foxy' Fowler, Bill Imrie and Jim Olney would have made of the appointment of an open fascist to their club. Back in their day, they didn't play for fascists, they shot them!

THE MARTYRS OF TOLPUDDLE 1834-2011

In 1834 six men from the village of Tolpuddle in Dorset were arrested and deported to Australia. Their heinous crime? Swearing an illegal oath.

They had attempted to form the forerunner of the trade union movement to protest against their meagre pay, and the state did not hesitate to stamp out this dissent.

The trade union movement has labelled these men "martyrs" and their story is still remembered to this day with the annual Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, this year running from July 15th-17th where they wheel out Tony Benn (no he's still not dead yet) and Billy "I still mean it I promise" Bragg among others.

The story is all the unions could have wanted, complete with peaceful demonstrations and petitions to help secure the release of the "martyrs" within five years.

It also helps history conveniently sweep under the carpet the wave of rioting, arson and sabotage that swept southern England from 1831 (it's that year again) to 1832 as agricultural labourers fought back against capital, mechanisation and greed in what was known as the "Swing uprising", resulting in 19 executions and hundreds of deportations. The unions don't seem to rave about these ones though, strange!

In an unfortunate and ironic but quite comedic twist of fate an Australian unionist and choir singer on arrival in the UK to sing at the Tolpuddle festival was deported by the UK Border Agency as she "did not have a Performer's Visa", regardless of the fact she was here on holiday and just so happened to be singing, free of charge, for a few minutes when in the country.

I sing without a licence all the time, send me to Australia...please?

SAVE THE FREE SHOP!

The Free Shop on Bristol's Stokes Croft has been open for two years, and it has been vital to the local community as it recycles people's unwanted items such as clothes, toys, furniture and much more. But this resource is now set to close forever.

Anyone is able to go into the shop to browse and take away what they want for no money whatsoever. The Free Shop is run by volunteers, who sort through, clean and repair items. The massive turnover of items shows the shocking extent of people's consumerism in this country, and how these unwanted items can be given to those in society who have little. Centres for homeless people even recommend going to the Free Shop for items their users may require.

The property is a squatted building that was originally a shell, but is now squatted and, through hard work by the squatters, has been re-vamped into a shop and living space for people who are homeless. Because of the amount of money that has been pumped into Stokes Croft in the recent years and due to the refurbishment put into the property by the people who work there, the owners have decided to put the building up for auction.

The Hong Kong-based company own two other properties in Stokes Croft, which they have left in disrepair to try and gain profit. They have been offered £150,000 for the Free Shop property from those people who run the 'Shop to keep it open, and to turn it into a co-operative such as the successful Canteen just down the road. The property is actually valued at -£300,000, so this is a good deal!

There has already been two attempts to evict the building. The first saw 50 people gathering outside the property at 10.30am, with live music and sound systems. The day went peacefully with a

party atmosphere, and saw off the bailiffs without a dispute. The second time bailiffs smashed their way in at 6am, kicking people out of bed and trapping a rescued kitten in the building. Supporters still managed to get down in time for the cops to get aggressive, pushing them into the road and then arresting someone for obstruction of the highway.

The building was then re-squatted later that day and remains open to the public via a rope and bucket system. The Free Shop is still threatened with eviction and faces a national eviction team, from Monday the 18th July. Please show your support by popping along and browsing items, or by chatting to those who are still running it.



BRISTOL ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Bristol Anarchist Federation is a branch of the Anarchist Federation. It is an organisation of class struggle anarchists which aims to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. For more information, to join, come to our meetings or if you would like to write an article, visit our website bristolaf.wordpress.com or contact us bristol@afed.org.uk

