

Diary Dates

If you are unsure about attending any of the events listed below, why not get in touch?

OCTOBER

23 - No Borders Wales Film Night Feedback from local activists who took part in the recent UK No Borders camp & with films from "Virtual Migrants". 7pm at the PAD Social Centre

27 - Anarchist Bookfair - Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Road, London, E1. 10am-7pm www.anarchistbookfair.org.uk (at 5pm there'll be a workshop on anarchist newsletters by our editorial collective)

NOVEMBER

1 - South Wales anarchist forum - monthly gathering of local anarchist groups. 8pm at the Glamorgan Staff Club, Westgate Street Cardiff

(opposite gate 3 of millennium stadium).

2 - No Borders International Day of Action - against the proposed detention centre near Gatwick.

3 - "Bash the Rich!" march on David Cameron's house in Notting Hill, London. londonclasswar.org

3 - GAGGED! benefit gig - No Choice, KilnAboy, Gunrack? & Giving Chase 8pm Le Pub, Caxton Place, Newport, £3

13 - GAGGED! benefit gig - AntiMaster Give Up All Hope, Jesus Bruiser, & Threat Manifesto 8pm, Le Pub, Caxton Place, Newport, £3

16 - GAGGED! benefit gig - Rejected, Plinth, Gunrack? & Drop Dead Darling 8pm, Le Pub, Caxton Place, Newport, £3.

Got any news or an event you want us to cover? send details to news@gaggedanarchist.tk

An audio version of GAGGED! is available, check out www.gaggedanarchist.tk, where you can also read all the back issues & subscribe online. 5,000 copies of each issue are distributed - can you help? If you are interested in getting involved, contact info@gaggedanarchist.tk

PEOPLES AUTONOMOUS DESTINATION

a physical space in Cardiff for groups & individuals who cannot or will not work within the constraints of governmental or corporate control.



FOOD CO-OP EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 5PM.
MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7PM.
VEGAN-FRY-UP EVERY SUNDAY FROM 12NOON.
& LOTS MORE, CALL BY 6 SEE NOTICE BOARD

118 Clifton Street, Cardiff CF24 1LW • www.thepad.org.uk

SOUTH WALES ANARCHISTS

A network of collectives who are against all forms of exploitation & bigotry. We are concerned with taking direct action against capitalism & government. We spread information & build resistance to create a world based on justice & freedom. We organise autonomously without authority or hierarchy, so that everybody involved can have an equal say. www.southwalesanarchists.org

CARDIFF ANARCHIST NETWORK (CAN) Meetings on Mondays 8pm, at the PAD. Contact cardiffanarchists@riseup.net or myspace.com/cardiffanarchists.

GWENT ANARCHISTS Meetings on every other Monday 8.30pm at the Murenger, High Street, Newport. Contact gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk or myspace.com/gwentanarchists

PEMBROKESHIRE ANARCHISTS Contact pembrokeshireanarchists@riseup.net or myspace.com/pembrokeshireanarchists

RHONDDA CYN TAF ANARCHISTS Contact rctanarchists@riseup.net.

For international news like the sort you find in GAGGED! check out: schnews.org.uk indymedia.org.uk libcom.org anarkismo.net infoshop.org

CAMPAIGN GROUPS

CARDIFF RISING TIDE is a grassroots group committed to taking action & building a movement against climate change. cardiff@risingtide.org.uk www.risingtide.org.uk

NO BORDERS WALES organises on migration issues & acts to break down boundaries that divide us. Meet at the PAD Thursdays 7pm. noborderswales@riseup.net noborderswales.org.uk

CARDIFF READING ANTI-CAPITALISM is a study/reading group exploring revolutionary vision & strategy. Meet 7pm every other Tuesday of the month at PAD. myspace.com/cardiffanticapitalism

DESTRUCTION OF TARA

ANTI-MOTORWAY PROTESTS IN IRELAND

THATCHER BROWN-NOSED

LABOUR, TORY - SAME OLD STORY!

TOTAL SHUT-DOWN!

FUNDERS OF BURMESE JUNTA TARGETED



L.N.G. KILLS!!!

ONE WORKER DEAD AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

PAEDOPHILE COP WALKS FREE

ONE LAW FOR THEM, ANOTHER FOR EVERYONE ELSE

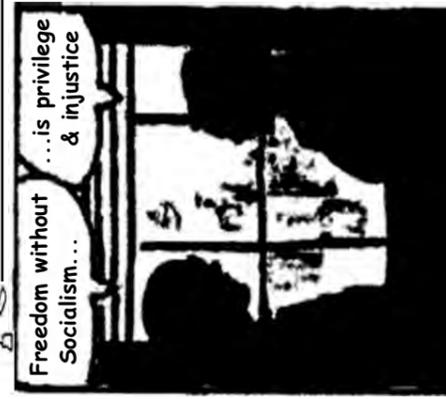
CAPITOL CITY TRANSPORT HELL

Cardiff Buses face privatisation

A SOUTH WALES ANARCHIST NEWSLETTER ★ SOUTHWALESANARCHISTS.ORG

GAGGED!

#20 ★ OCTOBER 2007 ★ WWW.GAGGEDANARCHIST.TK ★ FREE



NO BORDER CAMP

SOUTH WALES ANARCHISTS ON TOUR

OFFENDING THE COPS

CARDIFF ACTIVIST NICKED FOR SWEARING

GAGGED! BENEFIT GIGS

WE GO PUNK ROCK CRAZY THIS NOVEMBER

THE FIGHT AGAINST DETENTION & DEPORTATIONS

Between the 19-24th September over 300 people gathered near Balcombe, East Sussex, for the first UK No Border Camp, which formed part of a wider campaign against the building of a new detention prison at Gatwick airport. The centre will be the biggest in the UK, able to hold 426 people & if built will increase the capacity in the UK to nearly 3,000. Those imprisoned in these inhumane places are held without trial, their only crime being to have come in search of a new life, to escape persecution, poverty & war. A variety of actions took place during the camp. Demonstrations outside integral parts of the UK's racist immigration system, the Border & Immigration Agencies Lunar House & Electric House in Croydon. Lunar House is one of two places in the UK (the other is in Liverpool), where asylum seekers must go to claim asylum. Many people have their claims rejected at this point & are held in short-term prison-like facilities before being immediately deported. Electric House is a reporting centre where asylum seekers have to sign in while their applications are processed. Many are arrested, detained & deported when signing & failure to sign can often lead to deportation. Electric house is also where local snatch squads, who break into houses in dawn raids, are based. Virgin Holidays Crawley office was also paid a surprise visit on Friday by around 10 activists. Virgin makes money by deporting refugees, particularly flying refugees back

to Nigeria. The activists occupied the foyer & a number of them managed to get upstairs to the office, where they leafleted & informed staff about Virgin's activities. Later in the day activists from No Borders Wales blockaded the front entrance to the offices of Group 4-Securicor. As employees tried to sneak out through the back entrance they were asked to justify their company's racist profiteering from detaining asylum seekers at Dungavel detention prison in Scotland, & the key role that Group 4 plays in deporting people. There have been numerous allegations that during the deportation process Group 4 staff have racially & physically abused those being deported. Group 4 also makes huge profits from tagging prisoners & young offenders as well as running 6 detention prisons in the Netherlands, & interrogation facilities & over 100 prisons in the US. On Saturday around 500 people marching from Crawley Town Centre, to Tinsley House, an already existing detention prison in the grounds of Gatwick airport, in order to show their solidarity with those imprisoned inside. The camp provided a space to share information, hold workshops, & discuss how to best oppose growing border controls across the world & work towards a world without states, a world where everyone will be able to freely participate in life on an equal footing. Check out: noborders.org.uk

JACKIE & NASEEM'S STORY

On Sunday 9th September, asylum seeker Jackie Aber & her son Naseem were seized by Immigration Officers & taken from their home in Swansea to Yarlwood detention prison. Jackie was tortured & raped by the Ugandan army. She escaped an army prison, entered the UK & claimed asylum. Although accepted by the Immigration Appellate Authority as a 'believable witness', the Home Office refused her asylum claim stating that she would not be in danger of persecution if she was returned to a different part of Uganda. Finding new evidence that she was personally at high risk of arrest, illegal detention, torture & death, if she & her son were deported, Jackie lodged a fresh claim. Those that detained her informed Jackie that her claim had been rejected in December 2006. Jackie had received no notification of this. Jackie & Naseem were due to be deported on 13th September but their legal team obtained a stay of the removal while mother & son were on their way to the airport. They were then taken back to Yarlwood, released on the morning of the 14th & then taken back to Swansea in time for Naseem to celebrate his 10th birthday on the 16th.

HOME OFFICE PICKETED

During the past month activists from No Borders Wales have taken part in two pickets of Welsh regional office of the Border & Immigration Agency (part of the Home Office) at General Buildings, 31-33 Newport Road, Cardiff. Asylum seekers are forced to attend the building to sign (on an arbitrary basis), while they await a decision on whether they face deportation. Banners reading 'no more racist prisons' & 'no more deportations' were held & leaflets were handed out. No Borders Wales intends to picket this building regularly in order to draw attention to what goes on inside.

TOTAL SHUTDOWN

October 8th was the international day of action against French oil company Total. People opposing Total's role in Burma's oppressive regime marched through Cardiff to the Total Garage on Cathedral Road. Around 40 people showed up, bringing business to a standstill. Drivers honked 'for a free Burma' as they passed by. Total is the biggest foreign corporate investor in the undemocratic military dictatorship. Funding the brutal dictators since 1992, Total has provided 30% of their export revenue - an estimated \$450 million. Total has helped to fund 70,000 child soldiers; one of the largest armies in South East Asia; the rape of women & children as a weapon of war; censorship (Burma has 1,350 political prisoners)...the list is numerous! Total have also got blood on their hands from the creation of a 63km pipeline, forcing up to 1,000,000 people from their homes, & relying on slave labour. A follow up protest took place on October 13th & 20th, with plans for further protests in future.



3 BENEFIT GIGS FOR GAGGED!

GAGGED! costs money to produce; shelling out for paper, ink, envelopes & stamps keeps local anarchists purses empty. We are committed to distributing GAGGED! for free, existing purely on donations, so massive thanks go to the people organising these benefit gigs for us. All three gigs will take place this November at Le Pub, Caxton Place, Newport. Please come along!

On Saturday 3rd it's anarcho punks NO CHOICE (nochoice.org), activist folk punk from KILNABOY (kilnaboy.co.uk), melodic hardcore from GUNRACK? (myspace.com/gunrackmusic) plus GIVING CHASE from Philadelphia (givingchase.com) for only £3. On Tuesday 13th we've got Mexican D-Beat from ANTIMASTER (myspace.com/antimaster), dark brooding crust from Italy/Portugal via London in GIVE UP ALL HOPE (giveupallhope.org), Bristol anarcho-punks JESUS BRUISER (jesusbruiser.co.uk) & Valleys hardcore kids THREAT MANIFESTO (myspace.com/threatmanifesto) all for £5. On Friday 16th we've got Newport punx REJECTED (myspace.com/yourapersonnotanumber), Newbridge punx PLINTH (myspace.com/plinththeband), Cardiff punx GUNRACK? (myspace.com/gunrackmusic) & grungey new band DROP DEAD DARLIN (myspace.com/wearedropdeaddarlin), all for £4.

PICKET LINES

Up to 130,000 Royal Mail staff took part in two 48hour strikes on Thursday 4/5th & Monday 8/9th October after talks between the Communication Workers Union (CWU) & Royal Mail broke down without agreement. Rolling strikes took place on a weekly basis & wildcat (unofficial) actions sprang up all around the country. Workers are angry at Royal Mails 'modernisation' plans, which will see massive job losses of around 40,000 workers, worse pay, pensions, & working conditions, as well as a hugely inferior service provided to customers. Despite 5 weeks of negotiations, Royal Mail has not taken on board the union's message that, in order for the business to succeed, Royal Mail need to invest in their workforce.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Around 300 workers at the South Hook site of the LNG pipeline staged a wildcat strike on 21st September in support of co-worker Omar Mohammad who was racially abused by 2 other workers. The labourers working for subcontractor Shaws UK downed tools & marched on the offices of overseers Chicago Bridge & Iron Company to show their anger at what they saw as a lack of action from bosses. Omar Mohammad had made a formal complaint & spent 9 days trying to get the various companies overseeing construction to listen to him but to no avail. Following the strike the 2 racists have been suspended on full pay pending inquiries.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A string of job cuts have been announced by a number of companies across Wales. Steel firm Carrington Wire Limited (CWL) is to close its Cardiff factory in December after 20 years resulting in 120 job losses. 184 jobs will be cut when the old Freedman's cigar factory owned by Japan Tobacco closes in 2009. Job cuts are also likely as multinational corporation Unilever announced a massive restructuring of its operations, considering contracting out work at its Flintshire IT offices, & job cuts at its Pot Noodle factory in Crumlin, although it is yet to indicate how many of the 220 employees would be affected. Although Unilever's sales continue to grow, it announced in August that it was going to cut around 20,000 jobs (approx 11% of its workforce), in order to "further increase competitiveness & drive growth".

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The House of Lords has ruled workers will be unable to claim compensation for having their lungs damaged by asbestos. Law Lords ruled in the case of Rothwell v Chemical Insulation & Co that people with pleural plaques (scarring of lung tissue) could not claim compensation because it was technically not a disease. Thousands of workers exposed to asbestos will now suffer without justice. Yet again the aristocrats & the capitalists have teamed up to protect their own wealth & privilege.

LABOUR OR TORY - SAME OLD STORY

New PM Gordon Brown's attempt to capture the votes of Tories by inviting old hag Maggie Thatcher to Downing Street comes as no surprise. In real terms the only difference between the Tory & Labour Party was a bit of PR gloss. Inequality has increased under "New" Labour with the rich getting richer & the poor getting poorer. A child born to a labourer is six times more likely to suffer extreme poverty by the age of 30 than one born to a lawyer.

Boardroom pay went up 37% last year with the average annual wage for a chief executive is £2.8 million. City bonuses have risen by an average of 30% to a record £14 billion. Up from £10.9 billion in 2006. The 35,000 who work in the City of London have managed to accumulate over £43 billion in savings. Profits are booming whilst we are told to tighten our belts & accept below inflation pay "rises" (cuts) so the economy won't suffer! Unless we work together as a class to get rid of these corporate parasites we will always have to live in a world of poverty & inequality. These figures show that capitalism only works for those at the top. Sir Richard Cohen one of Britain's richest men & founder of private equity group Apax warned recently that the gap between rich & poor could lead to riots.

DEATH DEALING DISRUPTED

The bi-annual Defence Systems exhibition International (DSEi) arms fair at London's Excel centre was once again subject to widespread protests this September.

A very expensive security operation failed to stop protesters getting yards from the east entrance & loading bays & disrupting proceedings. The grey-suited rotund figure in charge of security panicked when he saw around 16 black clad figures breach the outer cordon & fell flat on his arse, his clipboard & papers flying around him. Only the intervention of the police Tactical Support Group (TSG) prevented activists entering the building. One of the police was heard to comment, "What happened to the security? They were crap!"

Arms company & military delegates had to run the gauntlet of protesters hurling abuse as they were held there by police awaiting prisoner transport for about 40 minutes. Delegates cars could not get access to the car park backed up in a queue stretching half a mile. A march, rally, & critical mass also took place, whilst protesters managed to get a sound system & tank(!) outside the main entrance. Two people were arrested after pouring fake blood over the venue.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS AT TARA HILL

Two South Wales Anarchists recently visited the Tara valley just outside Dublin where a massive tolled motorway (M3) being constructed. 1km from the summit of Tara hill a floodlit 53 acre motorway interchange (the largest in Europe) is proposed. The planned route threatens at least 41 archeological sites. Carved stone coffins, subterranean circular stone chambers with interconnecting passages, semi spherical red clay bowls containing human remains & spiral ritual burial sites with a central cremation pit are just a few of the historically significant findings that have either been dug up or used as hardcore for the road.

There are two resistance camps: an information & peace camp just below the summit of Tara hill where a vigil fire has been burning since 21st June 06, & a direct action camp at nearby Rath Lugh. At Rath Lugh people have taken to the trees as the National Roads Authority have moved the Compulsory Purchase Order fence several times into the woods, cutting more trees each time.

During our stay, the Gabhra River was diverted under the motorway in large cement pipes. This river lies near a newly discovered wooden henge, older than Stonehenge, at Lismullen. Strict guidelines for archeological practice have been blatantly flouted from the start of construction, prompting archaeologists involved to walk out in disgust.

The Irish government has allocated €280billion for the construction of sixteen motorways. Within budget alternative routes to the M3 have been presented but dismissed. The government's friends megacorporation Haliburton are subcontractors on the M3 job & might be upset if they don't get their cut. The main construction company Ferrovial, grew from the profits of Spanish dictator Franco's genocidal dictatorship.

The EU have told the Irish Government to stop work as it is illegal, & archaeologists are under extreme time pressure to finish gathering data. Diggers have been hard at work, their progress slowed by the daily actions of protesters, jumping on top of diggers & lying on roads in front of trucks.

The protesters invite all to visit a varied, dedicated group of inspiring individuals who are risking arrest daily to save their heritage. Supplies & support are needed now as the seasons change & winter approaches. Check out www.savetara.com



MERTHYR'S MONSTER MINE

Flying in the face of the Welsh Assembly Government's 'commitment' to sustainable development & reducing carbon emissions, work has recently begun at Ffos-y-Fan, near Merthyr Tydfil, on a 1,000 acre, 600ft deep opencast mine. Concerns that the edge of what will be the largest opencast mine in the UK will run just 36 meters from homes have been dismissed by authorities, who have collaborated with the mining company to force the plans through. No other opencast scheme in recent times comes anywhere near this close to people's homes. In Scotland planning regulations require a buffer zone of at least 500m

The mining company Miller Argent hopes to extract 10,800,000 tonnes of coal. This will take 17 years of digging & infilling, with machines working from 7am-11pm & explosives used to loosen the 123,000,000 cubic meters of rock needed to be removed. As has happened elsewhere the huge amounts of groundwater pumped out will gradually turn the surrounding area into arid non-fertile land. Also, the massive amount of smoke & dust generated won't do anything to improve the health of the people of Merthyr, which out of 432 local authorities in the UK is 429th in the life-expectancy table.

The coal excavated will be use to fuel both existing & future coal-fired power stations. Once again our government & the corporations they serve (between 2000-4 the UK government gave Britain's coal producers £210.5m in subsidies, the majority of which went into opencast) are investing in power generation that will have a massive impact on our fragile environment. We need to be reducing the amount of energy we consume & create more localised, de-centralised & renewable forms of power not increasing our use of carbon intensive dirty energy like coal.

LNG PIPELINE KILLS FIRST VICTIM

A worker died at the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal maintenance platform, alongside a jetty at Milford Haven port, when it collapsed on 6th October. Seven others were rescued & one man is "stable" in hospital. The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has launched an investigation.

According to the governments own sources an explosion along Wales' LNG pipeline could see people, homes & schools caught up in a massive fireball. Any potential explosion "may be sufficiently large to cause injuries to individuals out of doors in the vicinity of the pipeline. The gas release could continue for some time - tens of minutes - & in some cases it may be a number of hours before the gas leak is isolated & the hazard removed." Documents, which were sent to local councils along the pipe's route appear to have been ignored or disregarded by planners & politicians. This is shocking given that they warn any pipeline puncture may "give rise to a thermal radiation hazard to individuals in the vicinity of the pipeline if the gas subsequently ignites" - which is health & safety speak for "an explosion will burn people to a crisp!".

On 15th October, over 25 protests took place across the UK in a day of action against the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), the world's self-described 'Oil & Gas Bank' a major funder of the L.N.G. pipeline as well as the aviation industry. In Cardiff the High street branch was blockaded for 3 hours after activists caused disruption inside. Hundreds of leaflets were handed out & banners displayed. The process was repeated afterwards at RBS' sister bank Natwest. Check out: fightthepipe.co.uk

CARDIFF TRANSPORT JUST GETS WORSE

Cardiff residents face a transport double whammy this autumn with the increased parking charges in the city centre & council plans to privatise Cardiff Buses.

A day's parking in the city centre will now cost double what it did before (£5), some environmentalists applaud this as a step towards a greener transport policy, arguing people should be discouraged from using their cars & that higher parking fees do that. But that's a load of tosh - this is nothing more than money-making. There are no indications that cash from the scheme will be ploughed back into making our city any greener. We agree that everyone should be driving less - we all have to change our energy consumption to combat climate change & congestion. But high charges for parking mean that poorer people can't afford it, while the 4x4-driving middle classes can still absorb the cost & park their gas-guzzlers where they like.

This would be easier to swallow if there was massive investment in public transport so people had a proper alternative. Nothing could be further from the council's mind! They've just announced a 40% sell-off of Cardiff Bus, which is one of the few publicly owned bus companies left in the UK. A sell-off will lead to the same problems that always accompany bus privatisation: worse pay & conditions for drivers, higher ticket prices & the scrapping of services. Public transport should be public - putting it in the hands of fat-cats means only profit will matter, leading to a poorer service.



COPWATCH

TASE' ME BABY ONE MORE TIME

Welsh cops have fired an electronic Taser stun gun for the first time during a pub brawl in North Wales. Police first used the chemical weapon CS Spray on three men & then moved on to the taser.

When Tasers are fired, two metal barbs connected to the weapon by a thin wire pierce the skin before the charge is delivered. Tasers have been linked to more than 220 deaths in the US since 2001.

North Wales Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom's blog featured a video of him being a target of a Taser, which delivers a 50,000-volt shock. Other cops have insisted the weapons are safe & many have said they wouldn't mind being fried. Please form an orderly queue.

WELSH DRUG COPS NICKED

2 South Wales Police officers have been arrested for drugs offenses following a raid in Swansea. The unnamed officers have been suspended from duty pending further investigation, & no further details have been released by the force.

YOU ARE THE WEAKEST LINK...

A Welsh cop 'famous' for appearing on TV's 'The Weakest Link' has been found guilty on 18 charges of owning child porn. Sergeant Mark Bretherick, from Welshpool escaped jail due to technical loophole & didn't even get sacked by Dyfed Powys Police (though he has now resigned). He has received a 3 year supervision order & put on the sex offenders register for 5 years. Yet another cop gets away with a heinous crime without doing time.

On The Weakest Link, Bretherick told Anne Robinson that he relaxes by dressing up in Saxon or Viking costumes for mock battles as part of a historical re-enactment group. He added he would love to see her running around a battlefield in a maiden's outfit.

COP WANKERS PART III

A Cardiff activist was arrested in Crawley on October 22nd for muttering 'wankers' near a couple of cops. Saying rude words to friends isn't often an excuse for arrest but as the cops were in town for the No Borders protest they thought they'd harass anyone who might have an opinion! The activist was held for seven hours, charged with Section 5 of the Public Order Act (for being offensive in public), banned from the whole of Sussex & now faces a 3 day trial in March.

PRISONER DEATH

A 53-year-old male inmate of Prescoed prison has been found dead. Neither Gwent Police nor representatives of the prison were willing to confirm anything about the case. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to guess that this is another in a long line of suicides in overcrowded jails.