

## HAVE THEY GOT NEWS FOR YOU?

Earlier this month, the mongrel newshounds at The Argus downed notebooks, keyboards and phone taps in the third of a series of strikes to hit what is left of Brighton's rag.

The first two day strikes took place in November and December in response to cut-backs and a three year pay-freeze. The Argus newsroom was already doing a passable impression of a ghost town after the loss of over 100 staff under editor Michael Beard.

Then it got even quieter over Christmas with the sacking of the entire subs desk. The work will now be outsourced to a desolate faraway land where the desperate workers slave away for long hours on a pittance: Southampton.

The move has been portrayed as a necessary measure in times of financial crisis by The Argus' sinister owners Newsquest/Gannet, a US owned company that lords it over 17 dailies and over 200 weeklies across the UK. The crisis has so far seen Newsquest post a £71 million profit in 2009 and the salary of chief exec Paul Davidson rocket up from £501,000 in 2008 to £609,000 in 2009.

Never ones for letting truth get in the way, not a word of the story has appeared in The Argus itself. The only mention of the strikes were by a 'community correspondent' (one step above the green ink brigade) and, weirdly, a reposted Brighton and Hove News article hidden away in the comments section of a story about parking.

Not content with having the whole thing hushed up in their own 'news' paper, 'News'quest also declined to comment when contacted by B&H News.

The move has single-handedly wiped out what appeared to be the most extremist wing of The Anus: the subs that come up with headlines. Lest we forget, they were responsible for some seriously vicious and misleading crackers targeting campaigns such as Smash EDO (Anyone remember 'SHAMEFUL'?).

Likewise, we struggle to mourn the passing of sub-editors who can churn out 'The Face of Hate' and 'The Face of Evil' in the same week. Nevertheless, it has to go down as one more blow against the already piss-poor local news industry. What happened to the idea of a local newspaper serving a local community?

## BURGER OFF!

**That all-pervasive smell of sausages and burgers in Churchill Square has drawn the ire of local animal rights groups.**

Every Tuesday there's an anti-meat stall and leafleting session between 11.30am and 2pm. Recently the burger van staff (no, not that twat David van Day, his career nosedived when he left his burger van and went to Channel Five) were spotted giving people free burgers if they ate them next to the animal rights stall.

Obviously all the hormonal red meat went to the staff's heads as they gave a very unhealthy looking geezer a poster to hold up saying "eat more meat - it's good for you." Given that the bloke was obese and a week away from a coronary this didn't really work in their favour.

Meanwhile the 18-month campaign against Beyond Retro, a pretentious 'vintage' shop in Vine St continues. Sussex Action For Animals oppose their sales of fur clothing made in the past five years with some of it shipped in from China. There are weekly demos at 12-2pm each Sunday outside the shop.



**Below Zero is Brighton's anarchist response to the homeless crisis - without the red tape and religious bias that sometimes accompanies soup kitchens and the like.**

The aim is to provide help to the homeless in severe weather conditions: in the winter, hot soup and dry warm clothing can mean the difference between life and death for those living on the street.

At this stage the group is looking for donations of warm clothes and accessories (that means gloves and hats, not hair braids and earrings) and loads of flasks for hot soup runs. Eventually there'll be regular city drive-arounds distributing emergency help.

## WRONG RIBBON STROP



**It must be stressful being the Tory Council leader. So it's understandable that Mary Mears might lose her rag sometimes - especially when important matters of office go askew.**

Imagine Mary's disgust when, having been invited to open the flyover at the new Albion stadium, she found that she was expected to cut a green ribbon. Green?! Anything but green!

Indeed, the fruit & veg magnate threw something of a hissy fit when she discovered the exact hue of the symbolic sacrificial cord. That night a fuming email was sent out to council minions demanding to know how such a thing could happen.

"This isn't a blooming flower show!" she probably said. "It's a motorway built on Downland for godsake! A green ribbon! Really?"

It's so pathetic we're beginning to see how her support for the Big Society and St George's Day march fits in.

Mears is related to the brothers Vic and Henry Mears of the current Lapland fiasco court case but nothing to do with Mears the council building contractors - well that's what she says anyway.

## TITNORE REVISITED

**So you thought it was all over: Camp Titnore 1, Developers 0. Not so fast. Looks like the ref has given the devs some extra time to try again.**

Developers Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon Homes and Heron have turned up like the proverbial bad penny with revised plans.

The plans' unveiling at the end of January wasn't publicised (surprise, surprise), but these aren't nearly as bad as the first lot, in that the historic four-year campaign to save the trees has won out. There's no access off Titnore Lane through the woods and the housing estate is confined to the agricultural land.

On the down side though, we're still talking about 1,000+ homes on a greenfield site prone to flooding and close enough to Titnore Woods - one of the last remaining ancient woodlands on the Sussex coastal plain - to do serious damage to the fragile ecosystems.

We like the key benefits section of the plans on the developers' brand spanking new website: "A design sympathetic to the site's setting near to the South Down National Park and location adjacent to existing properties."

Ok, so taking a punt, is that gonna mean wood builds with seedum roofs? No, we didn't think so either - it'll be the usual four square Taylor Wimpey luxury bollocks.

And as for the 'wildlife corridors running through the site' - who in the right mind believes a 1,000 home development with attached infrastructure is going to play host to badgers and bats?

The website ([www.westdurringtonconsortium.co.uk](http://www.westdurringtonconsortium.co.uk)) does have a comment box - so do let them know what you think.

The next stage is for the plans to go before Worthing Council planning committee who unanimously threw out the £3bn scheme last Spring having taken on board flood risks and the fact that Worthing has more than enough brownfield sites.

Go get involved go here: [www.protectourwoodland.co.uk](http://www.protectourwoodland.co.uk).

## What Is Rough Music?

Rough Music has been played for centuries as the downtrodden's discordant wail against oppression. Civil War Roundheads played merry hell with the bones of deposed aristocrats and we aim to resurrect this tradition with a vengeance!!!

Boss pissed you off? Dodgy dealings at the council? Are you Simon Fanshawe's P.A?

Perhaps you've got a story for Rough Music...

[roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk)  
Rough Music c/o PO Box 74,  
Brighton BN1 4XQ

Please donate - we're totally skint and running off the goodwill of readers

Brighton's trouble makin' dirt diggin' monthly...

# ROUGH MUSIC

Issue 25

Free/Donation

[www.roughmusic.org](http://www.roughmusic.org)

Feb/Mar 2011

## UNDERCOVER COP

**BRIGHTON'S VERY OWN PIG IN A BLANKET**



Following the recent exposure of two undercover policemen working in northern activist communities, Brighton was starting to feel a little left out. What's up? Are we just not 'avin it large enough down here? But there's no need to despair, we had at least one undercover here.



Marco Jacobs was in Brighton from 2005-06, claiming to be lorry driver. He infiltrated the SMASH EDO campaign and the organisation against 2005's G8 summit in Scotland, Dissent, sitting in on many meetings and even taking minutes! This was during the time that EDO MBM, on the advice of Sussex Police, was trying to get an injunction to ban demonstrations outside the factory of death.

Marco departed for Cardiff in mid-2006, but not before a number of cases against SMASH EDO campaigners were dropped. Interestingly those cases were dropped because the prosecution were denied the right to keep certain secret evidence out of the trials. Did that evidence concern Mark Jacobs? We'll probably never know.

One of Sussex cops' moans about the EDO campaign, and their main justification for over-zealous and expensive policing has been the lack of knowledge of what SMASH EDO are up to.

"Why oh why," they plead, "won't you co-operate with us and tell us the route of your march, Mr Beckett?" before going for a centre-page sob story in the Anus to publicise the fact that their lack of foreknowledge has forced them to spend a million quid on controlling the protests.

Now that the fact they had a man on the inside for at least eighteen months has become public, that's all starting to sound a little hollow.

There's one winner in all this - PC Jacob's fondness for strong European lager no doubt helped the Cowley Club pay off a substantial part of their mortgage.

We'll leave the last words to SMASH EDO's seemingly unflustered press spokesman, Andrew Beckett: "We weren't surprised Marco turned out to be a cop. It's no surprise that the police try to infiltrate our movements and they'll continue to do so.

"It's not pleasant to find out that someone you thought of, at one point, as a friend is actually an undercover cop - but he did not, as far as we know, disrupt actions in Brighton and our movements will not be deterred by Marco or people like him."

## LOCAL NEWSLETTER HIT BY SINISTER CYBER SABOTAGE

**Rough Music is under attack! For five years RM has been on the streets of Brighton, fearlessly spitting in the eye of the powerful, kicking the corrupt in the knackers and pummeling the kidneys of profiteers. Well, apparently out efforts have not gone unnoticed.**

It started with an innocent looking email dropping into the RM inbox from Nominet - regulatory overlords of the '.org.uk' domain. Apparently not convinced that Mr Rough Music was a real person, Nominet demanded personal details and proof of identification.

Unfortunately, as RM is a single collective consciousness squeezed into the vacant minds of reanimated victims of capitalism, we have no government sanctioned ID. And so we had to let the domain name roughmusic.org.uk slip into oblivion.

But it didn't end there. As RM was getting comfy in its nice, shiny new domain name ([www.roughmusic.org](http://www.roughmusic.org)) the plot thickened with the arrival of another email, this time from Tucows, overseers of our new domain, again questioning the legitimacy of our registration. The ghoulishly named (but thoroughly decent chap) Paul Karcas was also kind enough to forward the correspondence that led to this action. Step forward Mr Tomas J Stehlik.

Speaking on behalf of an anonymous client or clients, our pal Tomas railed against the 'illegal' group behind this crudely-made A4 newsletter and demanded information on how to break through the RM privacy shield and get his mits on some personal details.

In return Tommy J received an email informing him that our details were closely guarded by Tucows Whois privacy protection. This didn't sit too well with our Tommy. "I would like to ask you to read my previous email as it seems that you didn't read it," he bitched, adding bizarrely, "if it poses a problem, please, escalate the ticket to the management."

Tommy J wasn't happy. "I am not sure on what principles does your company work [sic]," he moaned. Principles of free speech perhaps, Tomas?

After a spot of email tennis, we felt it was time to have a personal word with Mr Tomas J Stehlik. After following the trail to Tommy's business website, Stehlik IT Services, the RM Legal Wizard and Media Fixer rang up for a friendly chinwag. He was informed that "the majority" of RM articles were causing offence and the vendetta would continue to be pursued while we used abusive language like 'wanker'.

"You would not use such language about your children even if they committed some not very nice things," said Tommy, who has clearly never witnessed a Christmas at the RM household.

Tommy went on to admit that his client(s)' fiendish plan was either to wait for a name to stick its head above the parapet so they could take legal action or else hound RM from domain name to domain name in the hope of knocking it down the google rankings. The dastards! Remaining steadfast in his refusal to name and shame his client(s), Tommy instead offered to act as a 'neutral' intermediary and forward our communiqués to our shadowy foes.

At this point the Rough Music war council was convened. Do we open channels of communication with whichever ego-maniac moneybags scum was trying to bring us down, or launch a full blown counter attack and strike a blow for free speech? Rough Music is not one to back away from a brawl. They can take our domain name, but they'll never take our freedom to call a wanker a bleedin' wanker!

See page 2 for a round-up of the likely suspects.

**COPYLEFT - ROUGHIN' IT UP ON THE STREETS OF BRIGHTON**

## WHO HAS IT IN FOR ROUGH MUSIC?

We've had a pop at a number of local wankers over the years. Now one of them is trying to shut us down. Who's yer money on?



### Mike Holland

A property profiteer who uses his ill-gotten gains to fund his vision of 'Brighton PLC', Holland is legendarily narcissistic, even purchasing his own news rag to buff an ego so large it has its own gravitational pull. Just the sort of arrogant wanker who would take issue with a little friendly *RM* criticism. Once more for the record, you're a wanker, Mike.



### Simon Fanshawe

An eternal fountain of verbal diarrhoea, Simon Fanshawe's relentless drive to rebrand Brighton as a twat's paradise marked him out as a dribbling wanker to *RM* years ago. Did our friendly suggestion that he be banged up in a nuthouse or thrown off West Pier mark us out as a dangerous adversary to him?



### Tony Mernagh

The public mouthpiece of Brighton PLC, gobby wanker Tony Mernagh heads the Brighton and Hove Business Forum, a position he uses to pimp out the city to yuppie tossers. Has it in for anything that challenges his shiny, plastic, business-friendly brochure image of the City By The Sea™; binmen on strike, anti-militarist campaigners... scurrilous newsletters?



### Steve Harmer-Strange

A buy-to-let parasite who leeches money out of Brighton residents while spouting guff about "community" spirit, this lord-of-many-manors wanker is also a Tory-Scum councillor. Is he using his murky freemason contacts to pursue a vendetta against *RM* after we likened him to the unfortunate spawn of an accountant and undertaker?



### Sean McDonald

Over the years, slimy Sean has progressed from jovial lard-bucket trying to worm his way into protesters' good books, to unhinged lard-barrel whose unflinching grin betrays a seriously sick mind. However, we suspect his style of revenge would be more likely to involve *RM* waking up bound and gagged in some psychotic carnival of horrors replete with cackling clowns wielding chainsaws.



### Paul Hills

Bloody handed EDO chief Paul Hills was the last to appear in Wanker's Corner following his sweaty court appearance at the decommissioners trial. While the po-faced wanker is widely regarded as petty and vindictive, can a man who gets called a murdering bastard at least once a week really be so thin skinned?



### The Illuminati

IT'S THE FUCKING LIZARDS!!! THEY'RE COMING FOR US ALL!!! ARRGGHH!!!

## ALL ABOARD THE BIKE TRAIN

Following the inquest into the death of student cyclist Jo Walters, cyclists from Brighton's Bike Train have been agitating for a proper cycle track all the way from the Level to the university.

The 28 year old newly-qualified teacher died after veering off a narrow two-way cycle lane into the path of an oncoming van. She was trying to avoid a cyclist coming the other way. Had the stretch of cycle path been a metre wider she might have lived.

The Bike Train leaves the Level at 8.30 and 9.30 on weekday mornings. There's a sound system to wake yers up and gets to Sussex Uni at 9 and 10 with stops at Brighton Uni along the route. It returns from Sussex Uni at 5.45 arriving at the Level at 6.15.

The idea is a safety-in-numbers approach to cycling. The 'train' takes over a lane of traffic and makes it easier for more people, and those less confident on their bikes, to commute along Lewes Road by pedal-power - reducing traffic-related air pollution and CO2 emissions in the process.

## OILS WELL THAT ENDS WELL?

When did West Sussex suddenly become west Texas? Answer: this month with oil discovered in Markwells Wood, near Chichester.

Northern Petroleum plans to drill to 1,380m (4,528ft) and believes it could yield between 35-61 million barrels of oil.

This retrograde move is already having an impact with vegetation and a hectare of woodland cut back to make way for the 120ft exploratory drill, the height of seven double-deckers – buses not chocolate bars.

And what with the noise and pollution, not to say anything about this being a friggin National Park...

The original application to search for oil was nodding-donkeyed through in 2008 by a right bunch of JRthur ranks at Southfork, sorry... West Sussex County Council planning committee.

MD and chief tosser at NP Derek Musgrove said: "The Markwells Wood-1 well has to date presented us with encouraging results. Success at Markwells Wood, helped by current oil prices, should enhance the value of the other undeveloped discoveries and exploration prospects held under licence by Northern in the UK."

So as long as NP shareholders get their pay-dirt Deggsy let's not worry about the cost of extraction to the environment or the fact that oil is a dirty finite resource on the way out.

## IMAGINE ANOTHER GARDEN

Cortis Avenue is just another run of the mill run-down residential Worthing street. Except at the top end near Carnegie Road there's a community garden!

Described by The Cortis Avenue Wildlife Project as Worthing's first and only publicly-accessible wildlife garden, it's a pleasant space tucked between three rows of houses.

*RM* turned up just in time for tea and biscuits at the first of 2011's regular monthly work days. Hundreds of trees from the Woodland Trust have been donated and work has begun planting and clearing the site.

Hille, one of the volunteers, told us that the owners Worthing Homes (in charge of the council's housing stock) have no interest in building on the site as access is too narrow and any widening would involve demolishing the end of a terrace. So the land is pretty much theirs.

Mmmmm. Lewes Road Community Gardeners might have something to say about that - but while it lasts hey...

Workdays are second Sat of the month from 10am to 3pm. You can get to the garden through a gate at the north-east end of Cortis Avenue, Broadwater.

## Rough Music Gig List

### Sat Feb 5

Counter demo against EDL in Luton

### Sat Feb 5

Hunt Sab Benefit: Kilnaboy, Liberty, Primeval Soup

Cowley Club 8pm £4

### Sun Feb 6

Seedy Sunday: Seed swaps, films, stalls and talks

Hove Town Hall £2 10am-4.30pm

### Sun Feb 6

Rebel Alliance Meeting: Forum for grassroots direct action groups

Cowley Club 6pm

### Sat/Sun Feb 12-13

Radical Routes Gathering: See www.radicalroutes.org.uk for details

Cowley Club

### Weds Feb 16

The War You Don't See: John Pilger film about war and the media

Cowley Club 8pm

### Sat/Sun Feb 19-20

Brighton Zinefest: Workshops, live music and zines galore

Cowley Club & Hanover Centre

### Sun Feb 20

SchNEWS Benefit Gig: Blyth Power, The Astronauts, Pog

Hector's House 8pm

### Fri Feb 25

Critical Mass: Cycle round Brighton and reclaim the roads

The Level 6-8pm

### Thurs March 10

Land and Freedom: Ken Loach film about communism and anti-fascism

during the Spanish Civil War

Duke of Yorks £6/5 6.30pm

### Sat March 19

VegestUK Brighton: See www.brighton.vegfest.co.uk for details

The Hove Centre 11am-7pm

### Sat March 26

March for the Alternative (TUC organised anti-cuts)

Meet at Embankment at 11am, then march to Hyde Park

## KEMPTOWN'S SUPERMARKET SWEEP

According to UK travel website totaltravel.yahoo.com, Brighton's Kemptown is 'one of the alternative hearts of the city ... where even a trip to the local supermarket can seem like a trip to the circus'.

Looking at the current state of St James' Street, the supermarket circus has reached farcical proportions with a soon-to-be grand total of four big-name homogenised fat mongers now littering the once diverse high street.

Taj Mahal Foods, the last beacon of 'alternative' food retail (i.e. stuff that doesn't have an ingredients list as long as your arm full of unpronounceable additives) recently closed down amid the shady dealings of the three Khan brothers, who until March last year owned the company along with property business Awan International Ltd.

After Awan International defaulted on a £300,000 loan, both of the Khans' businesses went into administration and first on the chopping block was the only place where Kemptown's vegans, exotic food enthusiasts and people who simply didn't want to eat pasta and white bread every day could actually buy some grub.

Left amongst the sex shops and knock-off DVD vendors are Co-op (who have six other stores less than a mile away), Tesco (two other stores within a mile), and Morrison's. If that wasn't enough for you to get yer fill of tasteless, mass-produced pap, Sainsbury's (three other stores within a mile) have put in a planning application for the now empty Taj unit.

Not to be steamrollered with cheesestrings and microwaveable pizzas just yet, Kemptown's residents have started a campaign against the proposed Sainsbury's. A Facebook group 300 members strong, a blog and an e-petition have been set up.

Meanwhile the Brighton MPs and councillors that are passionate about local cultural identity (read: cynical bastards with a savvy eye for opportunities to drum up votes) have got in on the act with Green Pavilion MP Caroline Lucas, LibDem Council candidate Rebecca Taylor and Kemptown Tory MP Simon Kirby already in tow.

Letters to the Argus have been sent and street petition drives are being organised, so if you want to get involved find the Facebook group 'No More Supermarkets in Kemptown'; check out the blog, www.kemptown.wordpress.com.

## FOX NEWS

Brighton Hunt Sabs kicked of the cubbing season with visits to all the local hunts.

Cubbing is when the hunt introduce new hounds to the pack and teach them to kill foxes. Digging out foxes with the use of terriers is a regular occurrence and young hounds follow the lead of their elders and soon get the taste for blood.

Since the ban was introduced in 2005 cubbing has been illegal yet is allowed to carry on regardless under the name 'autumn hunting'.

Over the winter months the South Downs were found hunting several foxes and even deer. A rare trip to the Old Surrey and Burstow saw a very surprised bunch of hunt supporters and bumpkins day ruined as their day out was spoiled by anti-hunt presence.

In late January a 'hit' was called by North East London and sixty activists descended on the Suffolk countryside. Sabs prevented dig-outs and despite the hunt carrying on until dusk nothing was killed.

However, just the week before monitors caught the Crawley and Horsham hunt on video making a kill and despite the police being called and plenty of press coverage no one has been charged with illegal hunting. One huntsman even blew for a kill on his horn yet was excused by the hunt and authorities as getting 'a little over excited'.

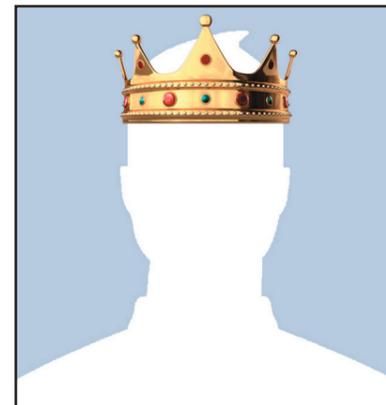
The resurgence in anti-hunt activity is growing but the need for numbers is still essential. Hunts simply cannot deal with several land rovers full of sabs so if defending local wildlife appeals to you contact the Brighton Group on 07906894171. On every hunt that Brighton Hunt Sabs have attended this season not one animal has been killed.

\*Sab benefit gig at The Cowley Club on 5th February with Kilnaboy, Liberty and Primeval Soup. Bands start at 8 all for £4.

## WANKERS CORNER

A regular column featuring our favourite Brightonians

Of course, it had to be... The public face of the campaign to gag Rough Music, the renowned opponent of free speech, the Mary Whitehouse-esque prude, the cheeky Czech himself... Mr Tomas J Stehlik. But when he's not trying to shut down radical newsletters, what does Tomas J Stehlik do with himself?



Tomas Stehlik: We don't know what he looks like, but he probably looks like a wanker.

Tommy J is the number one man in what appears to be a one man business, Stehlik IT services. And what do Stehlik IT services do? Well, apparently they "Take the SH out of IT" (yes, really). The eight strong list of satisfied customers includes The Equine School of Shiatzu (yes, really) - "Arguably the best school of shiatzu for horses in the United Kingdom".

Just 'arguably' Tomas? C'mon, we bet it's the best.

As a fan of transparency, Tomas does have his own facebook page, although he must have accidentally set his privacy settings rather high as it reveals precious little information – Just a smiling picture of the chubby Czech cherub and... wait... what's this under your 'activities and interests' Tomas? 'Fotky nahých krásných 18 a 19...Exkluzivní fotky' and a snap of two nubile young blonde girls climbing on top of each other? To the google translator...

Yes, about the only thing Tomas is willing to share with the world is the fact that he likes a facebook page called 'Pictures of beautiful naked 18, 19.. Exclusive photos'.

Tomas, you've not been engaging in the filthy habit of onanism have you? You are not perhaps a w-word, are you? I'm afraid it appears so. Tomas J Stehlik, you are a massive, massive wanker, and your children probably are too.

(In the interests of accuracy and not publishing 'false' material, we should point out it is possible Tomas is not Czech but Slovak, but the two languages are very similar.)

## LEVEL PLAYING FIELD?

Do we want a new improved skate park to be moved onto the northside of the Level? Now you might expect your ollie-bustini, 360-lovin *RM*, ever keen to show our street cred, to be broadly supportive of the rollin', tokin' yoof - but we AIN'T.

The Level has been a central green space and political meeting point for donkey's and we wouldn't want to see it any different. By all means work on the current skate park and improve the caff and play area as much as you like – just keep to the south side.

After all, we have precious little open space in central Brighton as it is – let's not lose a chunk of this sort-of-historic public park.

The council seem hung up on 'improving' everything - London Road, The Open Market and now this. It's like they're more keen to fix stuff that ain't actually that broke than deal with the things people are really peeved about.

The Level's makeover will require a cool £1.7m of lottery dosh and if it gets the go-ahead the work will be completed by the summer of 2013. A decision is due in Jan of next year.

If you're the petition sort go to Friends of the Level website (www.friendsofthelevel.info) and if not you can always lay down in the road with the brew crew.

**ROUGH MUSIC'S NEW WEB ADDRESS: [www.roughmusic.org](http://www.roughmusic.org)**