

Hereford Heckler



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Hereford Solidarity League at the Shire Hall lobby

BARCLAYS: BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS

Brighton's Smash EDO campaign (of the 'On the verge' film fame) has called for autonomous protests against Barclays Bank to force them to stop providing 'market maker' services for the arms company EDO/ITT Corporation.

Companies like EDO/ITT do not work in isolation but require banks and institutional investors to provide a service, for a tidy profit, for the buying and selling of shares to enable the stability of the company's market position.

Essentially Barclays acts as a middle man for EDO/ITT. Barclays are the largest UK investor in the global arms trade. Since the call-out, a variety of protests against Barclays have taken place across the country including Brighton, Hastings, Cambridge, Wrexham and Truro.

EDO/ITT manufactures missiles components that indiscriminately kill civilians, in wars waged by leaders for strategic land, oil and on religious grounds. If you don't like companies profiting from human suffering there is something you can do: stop investment, convince Barclays to stop supporting the arms trade. If you have money in Barclays consider moving it to a different bank with an ethically guided policy and tell them why you've done so.

Smash EDO continues their weekly noise demos. A 'Remember Gaza' demo will also take place in Brighton on 18th January 2010.

Visit www.smashedo.org.uk for more info.

COUNCIL . 1 IOC 0

For the superstitious, Friday 13th is a day known for its unluckiness. And so opponents of the Edgar Street Grid project did their best to make Friday 13th November a very unlucky day for the council.

Hereford Solidarity League members and supporters marched on the Shire Hall displaying banners and joining up with the hundreds of It's Our City supporters there to lobby the council.

A petition signed by almost 10,000 signatures in just ten weeks in opposition to the ESG was handed over to Cllr John Stone. Inside the meeting a motion had also been put forward to suspend the project.

But luck was never going to be enough. In the face of such strong opposition, the ruling Tory group voted down the motion by a huge majority. It became clear that Herefordshire Council—for now—are intend on carrying on with their development.

Like the council, we too believe that



Hereford needs developing, but not in the way that they are proposing. We don't need more empty shops, we need to support our existing local and independent retailers. The council obviously believe that our lives are less fulfilled without large shopping centres, but we don't need them. What Hereford needs is more housing, more community-controlled projects. We need a new library, better sports, media and arts facilities—somewhere we are proud to call home!

Hereford is a creative, vibrant and unique place. We have one of the best art colleges

in the Midlands, a technical college that turns out hundreds of useful engineers, nurses and social workers every year.

Think of your favourite towns and cities to visit: Hay-on-Wye for its unique secondhand bookshops, Ludlow for its food and history, and even Birmingham for something different. Hereford is one of those last remaining market cities where homegrown products like food and drink, arts and crafts can still trade on an independent level. Creating a shopping complex and splitting the city in two will destroy Hereford's character and atmosphere. Local pubs, shops, restaurants will close under the enormous competition that will arise from moving the beautifully developed city centre—that now revolves around the Black & White House across—to the cattle market, further north of the river.

So it may be one-nil to the council, but this fight is far from over. We will not stand by and see our city ruined. See you for the second leg.



HELEN HECKLER

■ All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth ... oh, and a couple of brains for two Hereford lads as well please.

Ross Murdoch and Daniel Sisson, both of Richmond Street, Hereford, were asked to leave the Jalsagor restaurant after bothering other diners and kicking staff. The pair later returned to **threaten waiters with a broken glass bottle and meat cleaver whilst hurling racist abuse**. They were later convicted in court. What scumbags!

It's only a skin colour and an accent boys, we've all got to be born somewhere. Now lie still and we can fit these brains inside your head. You'll just feel a little intelligence, it's nothing to worry about.

■ More crime, but this time I'm gonna turn a blind eye. In fact, I think I might go and get some photos for my scrapbook. **Plucky little vandals have been spraying anti-cop graffiti round Ross-on-Wye**. But why? The police are always so fair and tolerant, never heavy handed, obnoxious or violent. I mean, you only have to look to Copenhagen to find a model police force that would never even dream of arresting 968 people just for attending a rally! That would be madness! A complete breakdown of democracy! Don't forget kids, all coppers are basically nice people ;)

■ Still in Ross, the **BNP fundraiser at the Chase Hotel went far from swimmingly** due to a powerful show of defiance by local people demonstrating outside. Of course, like the smell of manure, Jesse Norman was never far away, as he checked in to show his hatred for fascism ... for about five minutes before leaving as soon as the cameras did. Still, he needed to get home and have an early night I suppose. After all, it sure is tiring jumping on all those bandwagons.

Kisses under the mistletoe,

Helen xx

“The old boys’ club”

Friday 13th November

After attending the It's Our City lobby, Hereford Solidarity League went to the following council meeting that was due to discuss the suspension of the ESG project.

The meeting was just for show; it is obvious that many of these decisions are essentially made behind closed doors.

Many of the councillors were stuffy businessmen and women or wealthy landowners whose lives showed little resemblance to that of most Herefordians. With one or two exceptions, they appeared to be representing the views of their political party instead of their constituents. What we witnessed was anything but democracy in action.

Questions for specific cabinet members came from fellow councillors and members of the public. They were seen to with impressive skill: “I’m sorry, I’ll have to get back to you on that one;” “It appears I don’t

have those figures on me at this time.” So when the motion was put forward to suspend the ESG development it was of little surprise the ruling Tory group would completely ignore the 10,000 names on the petition and vote overwhelmingly to carry on with the project as though there were no objections whatsoever.

Herefordshire’s councillors operate more like an old boys’ club than any democratic institution. They certainly have no interest in representing the views of their constituents. But we don’t think the answer is to vote them out and replace them with new blood. This problem needs more than just a changing of the guard. What we need is an entirely different system that allows no one person a position of power but gives all the people of Herefordshire an equal say in decision-making.

Herefordshire Council is a waste of space—it’s time the councillors were kicked out.

WHAT NEXT AFTER THE CLIMATE CARNIVALS?

November saw the last of the climate action carnivals taking place in Hereford. These carnivals—and other national actions—have again pushed climate change to the forefront of many people’s minds, and we feel that the organisers should be praised for that. Protests such as Climate Camp, Plane Stupid and the climate change carnivals have created greater awareness of the issues, but have they offered any real solutions?

The green movement is dominated by wealthy middle class people. The solutions offered by the movement seek to solve environmental issues while still preserving the privileges that many of these people enjoy. Lobbying politicians, voting Green, telling people not to fly or shutting power stations. None of this tackles the real cause of climate change.

As anarchists we see capitalism as the biggest problem standing in the way of building a sustainable society. The capitalist system of mass production, mass consumerism and unlimited economic growth will always put profits before the environment. Many environmentalists want to work within the current system and push for laws to combat climate change, but this means working with an authoritarian state that increasingly interferes in our lives. These laws would be unlikely to achieve a great deal as the state doesn’t want us to change. It certainly doesn’t want us to stop being good consumers who perpetually buy new cars, shop at supermarkets and keep voting for things to stay the same. It is naive to believe that top-down state control will combat climate change.

The goal of stopping climate change is vitally important, but so is radically changing society and we believe that you cannot do one without the other. But we also believe the only



way to accomplish this is through working with the whole community, by inspiration, example and education. By organising together within our workplaces and our communities, environmentalists and anti-capitalists, can make real lasting change to both our society and our environment. The recent involvement of Climate Campers in the Vestas* dispute is an example of this.

With the inevitable disappointment of the upcoming Copenhagen climate change summit there is hope for closer ties between the green and anti-capitalist movements. Maybe this could go some way to opening up these campaigns to society as a whole.

See savevestas.wordpress.com for more information.

LOCALS TURN OUT TO OPPOSE BNP

ANTI-FASCIST DEMONSTRATORS rallied on Ross-on-Wye's Chase Hotel in October to protest against their hosting of the annual BNP 'Trafalgar Club' dinner.

Many of the party's top brass—including leader Nick Griffin—were in attendance at their elite fundraising event.

Up to 100 local people turned out, with only 48 hours notice, to show their disapproval.

The hotel had earlier denied that the BNP were there, claiming they had no bookings all weekend. This turned out to be an out-right lie.

Upon arrival it was clear that the police were taking the protests very seriously, drafting in officers from Welsh constabularies. It has to be asked, how much did this cost the tax payer to protect these fascists? Private security hired by the hotel also stood guard at the entrance.

The protest was lively. When BNP members started to arrive protesters attempted to block their way, although the combined effort of the police and security present meant that this could not be pulled off. Minor scuffles broke out and deputy leader, Simon Darby, had his car pelted with eggs.

Two women repeatedly entered the hotel grounds in an attempt to complain to the hotel manager, before being ejected by BNP security who threatened to set their dogs on them.

Although these actions did not stop the event from taking place, they have shown that the racist politics of the BNP will not be tolerated in Herefordshire.



Recently the BNP have attempted to portray themselves as victims and use 'freedom of speech' as a shield against any opposition they face. This façade is as hollow as Nick Griffin's head. The truth is that if the BNP had their way 'freedom of speech' would cease to exist for many millions of people in this country.

The BNP like to portray themselves as the party of the white working class, but their true colours are shown in the 'Trafalgar Club'. It is a clear example of the elitism and of the class division that lies at the heart of the party—the ones that can afford it attend black-tie dinners in plush hotels, fill the party coffers and get a chance to spend an evening with the party leadership, most of whom live in large country houses, miles away from the people that they claim to represent.*

The BNP have a history of anti-working class policy, from calling for the army to be brought out in the Miners' Strike of 1984/85,

to calling for the revoke of the firefighters right to strike in 2003. In some areas of the country where they are in local government they have consistently voted for public service cuts, and they have been less than crystal clear on expenses claims. In short, they are the same as the rest of the parties in Westminster—a money grabbing, anti-working class party.

*Like Nick Griffin, who lives on a large farm in mid-Wales, whilst 'representing' his constituents in north-west England in the European parliament.

New on Heckler TV 'FIGHTING TALK'



Angelic Upstarts frontman Mensi presents a documentary on Anti-Fascist Action, who were active during the 80s and 90s confronting the National Front and BNP.

First-hand accounts are given of the fight against fascism, and why it must be stopped and not simply ignored. A must see.

Visit youtube.com/HecklerTV

TASTE OF RAJ BUSTED Free movement for all

UK Border Agency staff raided a Hereford restaurant in November, arresting six workers for failing to have official papers.

The Taste of Raj restaurant on St Owen Street were found to be employing workers without the required stamp in their passports—working 'illegally'—all of whom now face deportation to Bangladesh. We feel this raises some important questions.

Why is it illegal to leave your own country to work as a waiter in Hereford? Yet it is OK for Primark and Tesco to pay Bangladeshi garment workers as little as 14p an hour to work an 18-hour day? We are happy to allow cheap goods into this country but people coming here to find a better life are called 'illegal immigrants'.

We believe it's not immigration that's wrong, it's the immigration laws. Immigration is a subject that politicians of all parties and the media use to cover up the cracks in the system we live under. But every person affected by these laws is an individual, and we feel every individual should have the right to choose exactly where they live and work.

No Borders is an international network of groups that advocates the free movement and equality of people. They "struggle in solidarity with migrants to work towards a world without borders, capitalism or the state", and in light of what's happened to the six Taste of Raj workers, we fully support No Borders and there work.

In a world that has free movement of goods and money, surely people should also be afforded that same right.

Visit www.noborders.org.uk



VILLAGERS BATTLE TO SAVE PUB

Little Birch campaigners were recently threatened with prosecution from Herefordshire Council for having protest signs in their own garden!

Planning staff said the signs contravened advertising laws and the residents would have to pay a fee of £95 per sign before proper consent could be given.

The villagers are campaigning against the closure of their local pub, The Castle Inn, which closed doors in October.

Save the Castle Campaign chair, Elaine Godding, said that they wished to protect the pub which had been at the heart of the community for almost 200 years. A 500-signature petition has previously been handed

to Little Birch Parish Council, and public meetings have been held with local councillors with representatives from the Campaign for Real Ale in attendance. A meeting updating residents on the situation is due to be held at a later date.

We at Heckler HQ give the SCC campaigners our full support; pubs are a vital part of community life that are increasingly under threat, especially in rural areas. Post offices and village schools are being closed, and small shops are being put out of business by big supermarkets, often with detrimental effects on the communities that they once served. It is important that we protect these community pubs before they all disappear. Support your local!



A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

On Boxing Day 1920 a football match took place at Goodison Park, Liverpool in front of 53,000 people, with another 10,000 locked out of the ground. What makes this fixture so special is that it was played between Dick, Kerr Ladies and St Helens Ladies and still stands as a record attendance for a women's football match in England.

So, you may ask, what happened to the popularity of women's football in England?

We have to go back to before this momentous game to find the route of what happened. Women had always participated in the 'mob style' village games that preceded what we now know as football. When the game became more organised and controlled during the 19th century there was an effort to exclude women, but it wasn't long before women only games were played, the first in Britain was officially during 1895.

Women's football increased in popularity during the first decade of the 1900s, in part due to the Suffragette movement. During World War One, with most of the male players off at the front, many women's charity matches took place. The success of the game continued to grow and in 1919 the most successful team, Dick, Kerr Ladies played the first international against a French side, losing 2-0. The peak of the women's game came a year later with that local derby at Goodison. The attendance that day was much higher than for most men's games at the time. And that is where everything went wrong. The all male Football



Hereford Pegasus Ladies

Association was not prepared to have the popularity of the women's game threaten the profits from the men's professional league.

On the 5th December 1921, in a shameful act of sexism, the FA banned women's football from all FA clubs, effectively all grounds in the country. One of the official reasons was "football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". The ban lasted for 50 years, eventually being lifted in 1973.

Thankfully the last 30 years has seen a resurgence of the women's game, but the game in England has a lot of catching up to do. The popularity in the US and China was clear to see when 90,185 people attended the final of the women's world cup in 1999.

We have in Hereford two West Midlands Premier Division teams in Pegasus Ladies and Hereford Phoenix. So go and support them and help to right a wrong that was dealt on a sport that used to be one of the most popular in the country.

This article heavily referenced Anarchist Football (Soccer) Manual by AAP Collective (2006)

FOOTBALL CLUB JOINS FIGHT TO SAVE JOBS

Football fans have long felt disconnected from the clubs they support. Inflated wages, multi-million pound transfers and celebrity lifestyles have all added to the growing sense of them and us.

One professional football club is going some way to challenge this. With the impending closure of the giant Corus steelworks in Teesside, and the loss of 1,700 jobs, Middlesbrough FC have joined the campaign to 'save our steel'.

Before the match against Cardiff City on the 13th December, Community union members and families marched around the pitch, supported by players wearing campaign t-shirts. A representative for the club said "the closure would rip the heart out of the Teesside community".

Tata, the multinational firm that owns the steel works, saw their profits rise by 114% last year to \$2.47 billion!

Source www.freedompress.org.uk

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with the latest news.

HEREFORD'S RADICAL HISTORY

We'd like to hear from anyone who has experience or memories of radical movements in Herefordshire. Were you involved with a local socialist, communist or anarchist group? Did you take part in a memorable strike, protest or march? Did your trade union hold a lot of power and influence or did you help achieve improvements for its members?

Were you involved with a miners' support group or did you help organise opposition to the poll tax?

If you have a story, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with us by emailing kay.bulstreet@hotmail.co.uk

CHELTENHAM TOWN MANAGER HAS NO BRAIN

As Hereford United fans we are all aware that Cheltenham Town struggle to grasp the concept of football, but the reasons why are now becoming clear.

Back in October Cheltenham manager Martin Allen was suspended by the club—and has since resigned—over allegations that he racially abused a bouncer outside the Thirteen Degrees nightclub.

After being refused entry he aimed a barrage of "you black bastard" at bouncer Garry Saintil. Inevitably the 'we're not institutionally racist' police decided not to press charges. But scientists are said to be



intrigued to find out how this bigot has been able to impersonate a football club manager while clearly having no brain.