



## CAPITALISM...YOU ARE THE WEAKEST LINK...



Why should we pay  
for their mess?

# GOODBYE!

**AS WE GO TO PRESS** the government has announced the take over of Bradford & Bingley, only months after the nationalisation of Northern Rock.

On the continent banks are dropping like flies. Meanwhile, HBOS has been taken over by Lloyds TSB, Wachovia by Citigroup, Lehman Brothers have gone bust, whilst the US government bails out AIG and nationalises mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Capitalism is in crisis.

### WHAT ABOUT US?

Whilst governments around the world are handing out our tax money to these profit hungry bankers, the rest of us are struggling on, suffering the fallout of this financial crisis. As a result ordinary working class people here in Herefordshire and elsewhere are losing their jobs; W & J Scaffolding is

the latest of many firms across the county who have announced redundancies.

Meanwhile the number of people at risk of losing their homes to repossession in the county has risen by a staggering 37%.

Energy bills are going through the roof and some sources are saying that inflation has risen by 11% this year. So where's the free handouts for the rest of us who really need them?!

### CAPITALISM—THE ENEMY

Some commentators are saying these problems are down to a free market that has been allowed to get out of control. The solution, apparently, is regulation. But we think it's the economy as a whole that's the problem not just how it's managed.

Capitalism is the dominant economic system that allows private businesses to operate for profit, not need, and determines

what goods are produced and at what price. In times of health the profits roll in making the rich richer, whilst for the rest of us, well ... nothing changes for us. But in times of crisis it will always be the working class that gets hit the hardest. Take this: Cash strapped HSBC have announced that they are sacking 1,100 workers worldwide, with half the cuts coming from back room staff in the UK (note: no pay cuts for the top bosses). And why? They only made \$10.2 billion profit in six months this year! Poor them, maybe we should organise a whip-round.

### FIGHTING BACK

With British Gas and other energy companies raising prices by as much as 35%, the government could've given free

*continued on page 2*



## HELEN HECKLER

■ What do you do when your train's running late? Well, in Argentina they burn it to the ground.

**Furious commuters in Buenos Aires set fire to their train** in early September in protest at the delayed service. In nearby Castelar passengers also threw stones at the ticket office and blocked the rails. They said the delays had cost them a day's work. Wow! In Britain, if we're feeling really annoyed we might pluck up the courage to have a cross word with the train manager. So that's why nothing's changed; we're obviously not doing it right.

■ Readers: watch out for cops in cars! Figures released recently show that **West Mercia Police crash their cars an average of eight times a week!** Clearly this is what happens when police training amounts to little more than a 'crash course'. Of course, this is no joking matter, which is why we've set up a fund to pay for driving lessons for all officers. If you would like to contribute please get in touch on [pigscantdrive@ihatethemanyway.com](mailto:pigscantdrive@ihatethemanyway.com). Thank you.

■ An apology: A number of our readers have told us that they were horrified at our suggestion that **Margaret Thatcher's ashes should be scattered in the nation's urinals**. None were less upset than a Ms Hill who was deeply offended by this sexist idea. Why should only men have the chance to give the Iron Lady a golden send-off? Women want to say good riddance goodbye too. However, we in the Hereford Solidarity League take all complaints very seriously, which is why we have entered into talks with Maggie's funeral directors to secure 50% of her ashes for distribution over the nation's dance floors. Come on girlfriends, get those dancing feet on!

Lots of love to you all

Helen xxx

## POOL ACTIVISTS OUT ON THE STREET!

### Never trust a (wannabe) politician

Herefordshire Council took time out of its busy schedule of making cuts left, right and centre in September to praise two county-based swimmers who gained medals at this year's Paralympics.

Sascha Kindred and Nyree Lewis took gold and silver medals respectively at the Beijing games, with Kindred setting a new world record in the 100m breaststroke.

Councillor Adrian Blackshaw reeled off some fake words of congratulations for the obligatory press release that are too insincere to take seriously here. "... made Herefordshire proud ... shows the county has some world class sporting facilities ... blah blah blah ..."

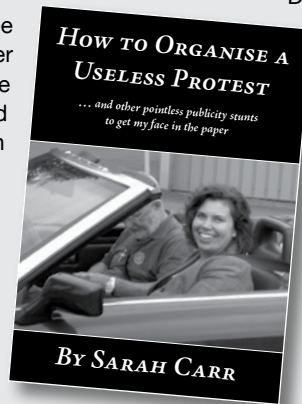
Hypocritical Blackshaw was one of the councillors present at the cabinet meeting in July that made the decision to close the LEA pool. What a cheek!

Meanwhile, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Sarah Carr has been doing a good job of hijacking the campaign against the pool closure for her own ends.

During the school holidays Carr lead a hopeless protest outside the empty pool; which itself is down a cul-de-sac well out of public view. But at least she got her photo in the paper!

■ Beneath all of this Heckler cynicism we believe that the people of Herefordshire can force the council to reopen the LEA pool, but a lot more action will need to be taken to do this. Thousands of us need to get out on the streets and march like we did in February to oppose the school closures.

Council meetings could be disrupted and picketed regularly. Cabinet members can be contacted; give them grief. But sitting back and letting wannabe politicians do it for us is a sure-fire way to losing every time.



## WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR THEIR MESS?

*continued from front page*

fuel to pensioners and people on benefits. But they probably couldn't afford to after effectively giving one-time private bank Northern Rock £91 billion of taxpayers money!

They could've taken over all the small businesses that have gone under saving hundreds of thousands of jobs for ordinary people. But why bother when they could nationalise Bradford & Bingley, making sure that those filthy bankers earning obscene amounts from gambling our money stay safe in their cushy little jobs.

But we don't expect the government to work on our behalf. As anarchists we know that if we want something doing we have to do it ourselves.

This means organising to stop the repossession of homes: if you're expecting the bailiffs, get some legal advice, but more importantly, get friends and neighbours together to see them off.

If redundancies are being made, occupy your workplace and get rid of the boss; that should save a lot of money for a start!

And inflation shouldn't be a problem with 'Greek shopping'. Angry shoppers in Athens, faced with rising food costs, filled their trolleys before walking out of the supermarket without paying a penny.

But the only real way we can prevent this happening again is by revolution. Capitalism is the basis of all inequality and must be overthrown and replaced by a society that is organised according to human need not profit. It may sound like we're away with the fairies, but really, what's the alternative? Continually living through the booms and busts of an economy that will never benefit us? No thanks.

Revolution is the only hope we have of living in a free and equal society, something that capitalism cannot ever create.

Get credit and debt fact sheets from the Citizens Advice Bureaux website: <http://tinyurl.com/2eh379>

### Bailiffs: the basics

■ If bailiffs arrive at your door you do not have to let them in and they cannot generally force their way in. However, they are allowed into your property without your permission if they can enter without breaking in. This is called 'gaining peaceful entry' and includes getting in through an open window, or a closed but unlocked door, so keep them properly shut.

■ They almost always need a court order to take your goods away.

■ Bailiffs are not allowed to take basic clothing, bedding, furniture or household goods, and any goods they do take will be sold at auction in order to pay off the debt.

■ The rules about bailiffs are complicated, and it is always sensible to get advice from a specialist adviser.

# 200 PROTEST ANIMAL ABUSE

On a wet dreary day back in September, 200 activists gathered in Ledbury to peacefully protest their opposition to Sequani Limited. In the week leading up to the protest West Mercia Police were in the local media desperately trying to contact the 'organisers' of the demonstration.

So who is Sequani Limited, and why were the police unable to speak to anyone associated with the protest?

Previously known as Toxicol Laboratories UK and Quintiles England, Sequani Limited has used the same site in Ledbury for over 20 years. The companies website claims that it is "helping to develop medicines of the future and improve health worldwide". What is not immediately obvious from the glossy corporate website is that Sequani use animals to test various drugs, chemicals and medical devices. Among the animals that the laboratory uses are dogs, rabbits, mice, hamsters, rats and pigs. All these animals suffer a life of imprisonment, suffering and fear.

Unfortunately for these animals, years of misinformation have left many people thinking that testing on animals—vivisection—is the only way to progress medicine. The facts tell a different story. Tens of thousands of people suffered side effects from Thalidomide although it was deemed safe after being tested on animals. More recently the diabetes treatment Rezulin was withdrawn after it was found to cause liver failure in humans; it had also been tested on animals. These are only two of the many examples of drugs that were deemed safe for human consumption after animal testing only to find that they caused terrible side effects.

The alternative non-animal research methods, such as using human tissue or computer simulations, are available and are increasingly being used. The problem is that, under current laws, new drugs must be treated on animals before they are given licences.

Being opposed to vivisection does not mean you have to stop using treatments that were discovered through animal testing. There are many things in our society that came about through exploitation. This country, for example, earned vast sums of money from the slave trade. But we can't change the past, all we can do is change the future.

So why were the cops looking for organisers of the protest? This comes down to the repression handed out to those involved in the campaign and in particular someone called Sean Kirtley. Sean had campaigned tirelessly against animal abuse and was running the Stop Sequani Animal Testing website when his house was raided in 2006. He was charged under the new repressive SOCPA legislation with 'conspiracy to interfere with contractual relationships so as to harm animal research organisation'. In line with the continued erosion of civil liberties in this country Sean's peaceful protesting was deemed illegal and he was jailed for four years—yes, four years! So that is why the cops were unable to contact



West Mercia Police at Ledbury: safest when they're not driving cars

any organisers. The activists no longer have 'leaders' or 'organisers' for the police to prosecute. But the campaign continues.

On the day itself, the 200 activists battled through rain and over zealous policing to get their message across: 'Every six seconds an animal dies'.

[sequani.wordpress.com/](http://sequani.wordpress.com/)

## WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS

Racist scum have graffitied a riverbank wall close to Hereford's Victoria Bridge.

The 'grammatically challenged' halfwits left the message "f\*\*k off home you sticking Poles" over a 10 metre section of wall next to the River Wye. D'oh! Get the spelling right before you start daubing your 'big talk' all over our city, guys.

We're assuming these airheads know their family history inside out and must have the purest of English blood to make statements like this.

Of course, writing about being 'English' is complicated because England has historically been settled by waves of invaders and immigrants at different periods in history: the Beakers, Anglo-Saxons, Danish Vikings, Bretons, Romans and Normans not to mention the Celtic Irish, Welsh and Scots. A quick look

at the history of Hereford will show that the city was not immune from the conquests of these tribes and ethnic groups either.

Back in the 1600s tens of thousands of Jews, Gypsies and French Huguenots also settled in England, followed by Africans, Germans and Russian Jews between 1700–1900.

Hereford received a number of Polish immigrants after the Second World War and now Poles are settling here again, contributing to the local community just like they did in the 1940s.

The one thing we can learn from the history of the 'English' people is that we are all immigrants to this country, even the racist scum who still need lessons in their own language. Hey, I bet even the newly arrived Poles could speak better English than they could!



### ANTI-FASCIST NEWS AND VIEWS

■ Back in August the BNP held their long awaited 'Red, White & Blue' festival in Derbyshire. A committed anti-fascist campaign was organised against the festival months before, and intensified in the weeks leading up to it (see last *Heckler* for more information). On the weekend itself, **many anti-fascists took to the lanes and fields surrounding the farm**. While the police fought to protect the racists using dogs, helicopters, batons and riot shields, the BNP taught children as young as 12 how to use knives, shoot rifles and deal with 'marxist' teachers.

One thing was made clear by anti-fascists and locals alike that weekend: never again!

■ Meanwhile in Germany, far-right politicians from across Europe (including senior BNP members) travelled to Cologne to take part in protests against the building of a mosque in the city. The organisers of the rally against 'Islamification' had hoped for about 1,500 to turn up, but what they didn't expect was no less than **40,000 anti-fascists taking to the streets** to spoil their publicity grabbing event. The main rally was called off after only 45 minutes and the far-right extremists forced to flee, or get trampled under the feet of the baying mob!

■ Another peaceful, countryside weekend was ruined by fascists recently. Eight-hundred neo-Nazi skinheads turned up at a Somerset pub for a memorial 'party' in memory of Ian Stuart Donaldson, one-time lead vocalist of neo-nazi band Skrewdriver, who died 15 years ago. The wannabe nazi stormtroopers were seen (and filmed) staggering around, urinating in neighbours gardens, chanting the 'siege heil' (no doubt with the associated salute) **and flying their flag; the swastika!** All together now; 'Master Race? You're having a laugh!'

For more information visit [www.antifa.org.uk](http://www.antifa.org.uk)

Hereford  
**Heckler**



**NOW ON THE INTERNET!**

**[herefordheckler.wordpress.com](http://herefordheckler.wordpress.com)**

**INCLUDING ALL BACK ISSUES**

# Sport



Much of east London is being cleared for the 2012 Olympics

## BRITAIN'S OLYMPIC SUCKCESS

Wow, what an Olympics that was. Britain's biggest medal haul since 1908 when the games were first held in London. Many people are wondering if we can beat that record in four years when the games come back to London. Other people couldn't give a monkey's, as, unlike the 1908 games that cost £20,000, London 2012 could cost taxpayers £20 Billion.

Of course this is old news but with the rising cost of living even the most fervent flag waving sports fan can't argue that it might be a slight waste of money.

On a national level there are many places where this money could be better spent, such as investing in sport facilities for children. It would take a fraction of this money to keep open the LEA pool in Hereford.

In east London people living around the Olympic site are seeing the destruction of their communities through creeping gentrification of their areas. This is the loss of parks and allotments and the displacement of local

residents in order to build luxury flats. These are communities with a far greater need for affordable housing and green spaces.

So who really benefits from the Olympics? Well there's nothing like a broken world record or gold medal to change the way people view your country. People will forget all about what our government is doing in Iraq just as quickly as they forgot about what the Chinese government is doing in Tibet.

Big business loves the games too. Companies like Adidas paid £50 million to sponsor the Beijing Olympics, but only the fat cats will benefit from this investment as most of their products are made by under paid workers in sweatshops in—you guessed it—China!

So now the dust has settled on the Beijing Olympics, the British media will start building up frenzy towards 2012. It's worth remembering each time we're told by the council and government that money is tight, that there's plenty of cash being blown on a four week sporting event.

## BRITISH SPORT FOR SALE

So Manchester City has become the latest football club to be taken over by super rich investors. The new owners immediately set out their stall by spending £32 million on one player! Of course the majority of Man City fans are over the moon, but when you support a struggling League One side it's hard to get excited by all this.

In sport, as in society as a whole, there is a tiny minority who get richer and richer while the rest of us get left behind.

Football isn't the only sport where this is happening. English cricket is currently going through a capitalist revolution with the national team now available for hire to the highest bidder. Kevin Pietersen and the lads are off to the Caribbean in November to play one game that will net £1 million for each player on the winning team.

It's about time we kicked capitalism out of sport and went back to days when people played for the love of the game and not the love of the chequebook! Dream on!

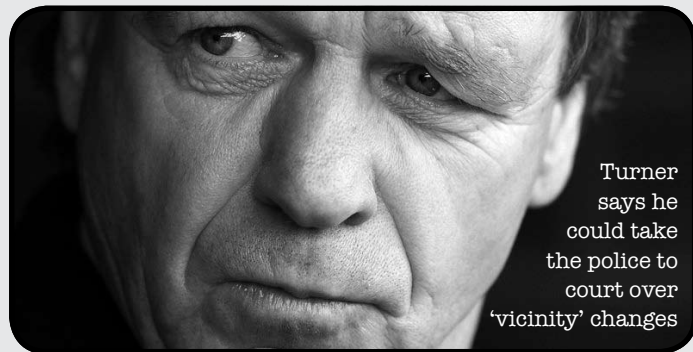
LET'S  
KICK CAPITALISM  
OUT OF  
FOOTBALL

## West Mercia Police 15,000 - Hereford United 0

Hereford United have been handed a bill of £15,000 for policing the Swindon Town game on 5th September. The game was moved to Friday evening by the cops as they were 'policing' the demonstration at Sequani in Ledbury the next day.

Why should the club have to pay for policing outside Edgar Street, especially when Sequani

have been asked to pay nothing for the publicly funded police operation outside their privately owned laboratory? Maybe the reason for the unequal treatment lies in another more recent demonstration at Sequani: Inspector Turner of West Mercia Police was seen stuffing himself with tea and cakes thanks to Sequani's own security guards!



Turner says he could take the police to court over 'vicinity' changes

Hereford Solidarity League works to build a society based on the ideas of **freedom, equality and community**.

**Anti-fascism is an important part of our politics**, but we believe that all politicians, including those of fascist parties like the BNP, maintain a system of inequality, privilege and control that divides communities.

Real change does not happen at the ballot box and can only come about by **independent working class action**; that is, people looking out for each other and organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience on a day to day basis.

Our aim is to increase the **fighting spirit** and self-confidence of working class people to change things for themselves. [kay.bulstreet@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kay.bulstreet@hotmail.co.uk)

