

# POISON PEN

12th  
MAY  
'84

WE FOUGHT THE LAW AND-----  
THE LAW LOST!

In the 17th March issue of Poison Pen there was a brief report of a demonstration which took place at Surrey University, Guildford, on the 15th of March.

The University has a vivisection unit, where they carry out experiments on cats, dogs, rabbits, sheep, guinea pigs and other animals. Their sponsors include the Ministry of Defence and the tobacco industry.

On the 15th of March a van left Hastings, carrying a dozen animal rights protesters. We didn't have a clue where we were going or the nature of the action in which we would be taking part, until we actually arrived in Guildford. We met up with other protesters at the station, who had come from Thanet, Basingstoke and the Guildford area. In all, there were between eighty and a hundred of us, and we set off in our vehicles for the University, situated on the outskirts of the town.

When we arrived, we found the animal unit was about two hundred yards away from a slip-road, off the main road. It was a low building, with a corrugated roof, partially surrounded by a wooden picket-fence, and with another fence about ten feet high enclosing the front of the building. We parked in a car park adjoining the slip-road and, armed with banners and placards, made our way down the grass slope to the animal unit. There were only a few people working at the unit, and some of the demonstrators managed to enter the buildings, taking photos, removing or destroying documents relating to experiments, and even rescuing a dog and a guinea pig. Others climbed onto the roof with their banners and the rest stood around the buildings with placards (not that there was anyone there to see them!!).

After a few minutes the University security arrived, followed a couple of minutes later by the cops. As soon as they turned up, we decided to call it a day: our point had been made and photos of the unit taken. At that point most of us had no idea that any animals had been taken out. We made our way back to the waiting vehicles, but were prevented from leaving by the cops, who had set up a road block. Some people managed to escape on foot, but the rest of us were trapped in a cul-de-sac and after about five minutes of humming and harring, the cops suddenly decided to arrest everyone, which they did, with the exception of one van, whose occupants the police illegally imprisoned without arresting them.

PTO.....



Surrey Uni demo continued.....

So off they dragged us to the cop-shop, where they questioned us all, gave us each a plate of cold baked beans and chips, then finally released everyone without charge, after periods of imprisonment ranging from six and a half to ten hours. We were on bail, to reappear at a later date at the cop-shop, on suspicion of criminal damage and theft (!?!).

On our subsequent visit (six hours there and back on the train just for a ten minute visit) we were summoned to return on 2nd of May to be bound over, this time for a supposed breach of the peace.

So back we all went yet again to grotty Guildford, thoroughly sick and tired of the whole affair. Getting up at half past five for a 9:30 court appearance, plus all the expense and all the hassle was getting a bit much, so some of us decided to accept a binding over, in spite of the fact that we had not behaved in a "noisy, disorderly and turbulent" (whaaatt??) manner, just to get the damned thing over and done with.

However, when we were actually up there in court facing the magistrates, it was a different story. They were calling us up in batches of six or seven, alphabetically, and I and two other Hastings people were in the first batch.

We were asked in turn if we agreed that we had behaved in the manner described above, which each of us truthfully denied. Then the police prosecutor, an evil looking character, proceeded to read out the police's evidence, the usual mish-mash of exaggerations, distortions and outright lies. Well, we couldn't let 'em get away with that, so when we were asked if we agreed to be bound over, we all refused. Each batch of six or seven was then taken before the magistrates, and out of the fifty or so present, only two agreed to be bound over.

Consternation!! The cops had had six weeks in which to prepare their evidence, of which they had none, otherwise they would have laid heavier accusations against us. Blatantly lying, the prosecutor said they had more than twenty witnesses, but could not assemble them all at such short notice (mainly because they didn't exist!). He called for an adjournment, but this was over-ruled.

Just before lunch those under 21 were called together and had their cases dismissed! Apparently if you are under 21 and do not accept a binding over, there's nothing they can do to you, so they were free!

This was a good omen for the rest of us, called to return at 2pm. On returning, the prosecutor, who was so arrogant and cocksure in the morning, by now had visibly wilted, and sheepishly admitted that the police had no evidence to offer against us. Whoopieee!! Cops were heard growling at the back about "justice" and no doubt the member of the University lab staff who was present was well annoyed. Case dismissed! At last justice was seen to be done!! Wheeeee!!!!

It seems this case has set something of a precedent: clearly the police had no real evidence against us individually, and were just expecting us to accept meekly a binding over. Serves 'em right for being so daft as to arrest so many people all in one go. This could be good news for future protests of a similar nature, in that it should make the cops think twice about playing the same game again.

Mind you, I reckon we'd think twice about returning to poxy old Guildford too!

melita.



Dust off yer jesus boots, dig out that jar of last year's mushrooms from the kitchen cabinet.....here it is.....

## FESTIVAL LIST

MAY: Fri 18th-Sun 20th GREEN DESERTS TREE FAIR East Anglia: Thorpe, nr Thetford £2.50.

Sat 19th NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE BILL: demo, march, Speakers Corner to Jubilee Gardens. Contact 01 249 8334.

Sun 27th THE 4th BEDFORDSHIRE SMOKEY BEARS LEGALISE WEED PICNIC: contact Tony Quin, 51 Waterloo Rd., Bedford. 2pm at SHARPENHOE CLAPPERS, 1 mile west of A6 nr Barton-le-Clay, Beds, approx. 4 miles north of Luton.

Mon 28th bank holiday 1pm: the 7th SMOKEY BEARS PICNIC, Speakers Corner. Bring picnic hampers and instruments.

Sat 26th-Sun 27th ST GERMAN'S FOLK FESTIVAL: The Stables, Port Eliot, St Germans, Cornwall. Contact 0503 30816.

Thur 31st Stop the City festival 8am-6pm: City of London.

JUNE: Fri 1st BUSKERS FAIR: Meanwhile Gardens, Great Western Rd, Notting Hill, London.

Sun 3rd-Mon 4th NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST MEAT TRADERS' FAIR. Contact Veg Soc 01 937 7739.

Tues 5th CYCLE RIDE: London. Contact London Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St, WCI.

Wed 6th-Sun 9th REAGAN VISIT ACTION. Contact CND.

STONED HENGE: ALL OF JUNE: STONEHENGE PEOPLE'S FREE FESTIVAL PEAKING AROUND THE SOLSTICE. 200 bands. A303 Wiltshire.

Mon 18th-Tues 19th FESTIVAL OF THE EARTH SPIRITS Gateway Aquarius/Roots, Wintergardens Hall, Malvern. Contact 06845 6929.

Sat 9th-Sun 10th LEAMINGTON FESTIVAL: Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa, Warks.

Fri 22nd-Sun 24th GLASTONBURY CND FESTIVAL: Shepton Mallet, 5 miles from Glastonbury. £13 plus camping.

Sat 23rd BRISTOL MALAGO FESTIVAL. Contact Bristol 640 888.

JULY: Sun 1st-Mon 2nd PORTON DOWN PROTEST: Wiltshire, 5 miles from Stonehenge. Candle-lit vigil & day of action against cruelty to animals at the germ warfare centre.

Tues 3rd-Sun 8th MIND, BODY & SPIRIT: Olympia, London. Contact 159 George St, WIH 5LB.

Fri 6th-Sun 8th NORWICH PEACEFUL GREEN FESTIVAL.

Fri 6th-Sun 8th MONTGOMERY FESTIVAL: Powys, £5.

Sat 7th NUDES AGAINST NUKES: 1pm Hampstead Heath nr South End Green, London. Hampstead British Rail. STAND STONED STARKERS AND LEMMINGS (eh??)

Sun 8th LEGALISE CANNABIS/SENSIMILLA RALLY: Brockwell Park, Brixton, London. More bands needed & help in advertising & stages. Contact Polytantric; address below.

Fri 13th FULL MOON WINDSOR FREE FESTIVAL: Windsor Great Park.

Sat 14th TEWKESBURY MEDIEVAL FAYRE: The Vineyards Field, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Sat 14th-Sun 15th WOMAD FESTIVAL: Bristol.

Fri 20th-Sun 22nd MASTERMIX 84: Longleat Estate, Wilts. Contact Bristol 40513.

Fri 27th-Sun 29th ELEPHANT FAYRE: St Germans, Cornwall. Tickets advance £12 or £15 after 30 June from the Stableyard, Port Eliot. Contact 0503 30816.

AUGUST: Wed 1st onwards CANTLIN STONE FREE FESTIVAL: Clun Forest, between Newtown & Bishops Castle on Shropshire/Powys Border.

Fri 10th-Sun 12th SILVER MOON GATHERING: Cumbria, Hayring Cottages, Nentsberry, Alston.

Thur 9th NAGASAKI DAY; CND regional action 6th-9th.

Fri 10th-Mon 13th FESTIVAL OF THE MOON WOMEN'S FREE FESTIVAL: Avebury, Wilts.

Sun 12th-Sept 1st EDINBURGH FESTIVAL.

Sat 25th-Mon 27th NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL.

SEPTEMBER: 1st-2nd or 8th-9th HOOD FAYRE: Totness, Devon.

All September MAGIC MUSHROOM FREE FESTIVAL: probably Kent.

Thur 27th STOP THE CITY: City of London 8am-6pm. Countrywide week of action at financial centres 24th-29th.

Fri 28th-Sun 30th GREEN DESERTS TREE FAIR: Stoneleigh, nr Coventry.

Contact addresses on next page.....



From previous page.....festival contacts:::::

THE CARNIVAL GROUP c/o Diorama, 14 Peto Place, London NW1: meetings every Wednesday 7pm-8:30 of festival groups & associated projects.

POLYTANTRIC CIRCLE c/o 2a Goldington Crescent, NW1. Enclose SAE.

LEAGLISE CANNABIS CAMPAIGN c/o Release, 1 Elgin Crescent, W9.

PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL CO-OP & FESTIVAL MUSIC APPRECIATION SOCIETY, 116 Haverstock Hill, Belsize Park, NW3; 01 482 1270.

FREEDOM FESTIVALS Box 21, 110 Cheltenham Rd., Bristol.

FESTIVAL WELFARE & FESTIVAL AID 347a Upper St., Islington, NI.

THE MOUND MOTEL A303 Wilts (Lobscombe Corner).

HASTINGS "PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS" FESTIVAL: Bank Holiday, May 28th, Linton Gardens I2-6. Admission 50p unwaged; 70p waged and a lesser amount which I can't remember for brats. Beer provided by the Golden Behind; music; @n@rcho books, papers, whole-foods; arguments with the british-soviet friendship society etc etc.....must be worth it eh?

THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT: The ALF require homes for animals liberated from labs, factory farms etc. They require permanent or temporary homes in order to be able to liberate more animals; obviously if they can't find homes for animals, they won't be able to liberate any more. If anyone wishes to set up a sanctuary, funds may be made available to contribute towards this. If any of our readers is able to help out with this, either get in touch with the ALF direct at Box 190, Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham NG3 4GF, or tell us and we'll get in touch with them.

SUPPORT THE MINERS: It looks like it coul well be a long, hot summer of discontent, and the miners need all the help they can get in their struggle against the government. £15 is being deducted a week from their benefit: clearly an attempt to starve them back to work. The rights & wrongs of wage slavery aside, there is no doubt that mining is a vital industry, and the people who are really stopping people from going to work are the government themselves.

At last Thursday's Trades Council meeting, it was decided to make a positive contribution to the miners' struggle. A collection of food and money is being made, which will go direct to the Kent miners and their families. Here are a few of the things which are needed:

Washing powder	washing up liquid	toilet paper	soap	toothpaste
razor blades	tampons/sanitary towels	rubbish bags	tea	coffee
all kinds of tinned foods	jam	tin foil	sugar	cornflakes & other cereals
baby food	disposable nappies	baby oil	cotton wool	vaseline

any kind of household goods and non-perishable foodstuffs.

Contributions of money are required (cheques payable to the Trades Council Union Support Fund). All these things are being collected at HUCAC, and as soon as they have a reasonable amount, they'll deliver it.

Hastings @'s meet every Monday evening at the Palace Bars, White Rock, at about 9:15. Looks like Monday's meeting might well have to be adjourned at 10 so we can see Expandis at the Crypt.....still plenty of time to plot the overthrow of capitalism anyway.

Don't complain about the size of this issue of P.P. You didn't write anything for it, did you? No. So there. Surely some of you out there in Readerland are partaking in activities which might be of interest to our readers?? Reviews of gigs, books, films anyone?? Well, if you feel stirred out of your apathy for a moment, take advantage of the situation before it goes again and put pen to paper. You can either give us your articles at our Monday meetings, or send them to us c/o Hastings Free Press, 92 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Wot about some libel???

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p.s. next meeting of Hastings Animal Rights 7:30 on Wednesday at the Friends Meeting House, South Terrace. Anyone got any jumble for a forthcoming jumble sale?