



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

# ROUGH MUSIC

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## ASBO-LUTE BOLLOCKS

### IT'S A SNITCH-UP!!!!

**Noisy neighbours? Cars dumped in the street? People drinking during the working day?**

Perhaps next door's hedge is just that bit too high. Phony Tony and his crew have the solution. On 28<sup>th</sup> February the government will unleash yet another anti-social behaviour scheme on their favourite laboratory-by-the-sea; Brighton. **It's Your Call** is the snappy friendly title for what is basically a curtain twitcher's wet dream. Callers will be able to safely complain in the knowledge that local authority busy bodies will soon be on the trail of any miscreants. So why not denounce your neighbours from the comfort of your own home?

If you listened to the hype you'd think the country was drowning in a tide of criminal activity. In fact even according to the governments own survey *British Crime Statistics* the number of people experiencing anti-social behaviour dropped from 21% in 2002 to 18% in 2003 i.e before all this interventionist Anti Social Behaviour Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts Community Safety Teams etc etc. Of the 18% who did experience "high levels of anti-social behaviour" a third were complaining about "teenagers hanging about in the street".

Teenagers hanging around on the street? Isn't that what

kids do? Isn't that in fact what they have to do when their youth centre is closed during half term?

To combat this deadly menace the Community Safety Team of EB4U (East Brighton for You)\* have instituted what one community worker told *Rough Music* is "virtually a form of martial law". In Patcham, Moulescoombe and Whitehawk there now exist "permanent dispersal areas" where youths can be forced off the streets by police at night.

And what the wholesale application of ABCs and ASBOs? ASBOs can have the effect of being an arbitrary collective punishment for an entire family. The whole family can be evicted from their council of housing association home if one member doesn't abide by the terms of their ASBO. Those evicted under such circumstances don't qualify for assistance as they're deemed to have made themselves "voluntarily homeless". Of course if you own your home you can't be evicted.

Families affected by ASBOs often feel that they've been singled out for behaviour no different than that of the majority of their neighbours. They are often not given the chance to challenge the "evidence" against them. The fact that ASBOs have a lower standard of proof than criminal charges and ASBO hearings will accept anonymous "hearsay" evidence means that they're wide open to abuse as a weapon in personal disputes. Not only that but local authorities in this mad set-up have national targets as to how many ASBOs they should hand out. As for ABCs - they have no legal status and we're reliably informed that they're considered a badge of honour by the kids anyway.

### WELCOME TO STAZI-LAND

ASBOs, ABCs and DO-RAY-ME s are nothing but camouflage for a government and a local authority which cares fuck all for the situation of the people on the estates of Brighton but cares only to make the city more and more amenable to big business and rich Londoners by whatever means necessary. Encouraging us to grass on each in a way more familiar in soviet East Germany than east Brighton is just one more step on the way.

\*As in East Brighton for You, now stay out of the rest of town.

## LOSING THE PLOT?

"It's irresponsible - this council says it's green but this just shows their true colours." Granville Wilcock Horsean allotment secretary sounding off about the planned closure of the site. Yep once again Brighton Council is showing just where its allegiances lie: arts groups and corporations we love you, allotment holders fork off.

Horsedean Allotments (next to the Patcham Court Farm site) are 95% in use - that's 35 allotments serving more than 100 members of the local Patcham community. And that's not counting the 25 on the waiting list - so one of the most popular allotment sites in the area and what do B&H Council plan - to concrete it over with a 900 space car park. In fact our neo-Labour controlled council with Ben Kodfish at the helm, plans to demolish five houses into the bargain as well.

Olly Mott, 82, has been growing veg at Horsedean for nigh on 50 years. He told *Rough Music*. "Isn't it government policy to promote the production of good, quality fresh, home grown

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## SPECIAL\* BRANCH

**A Brighton tree surgeon who was arrested near a meeting of international merchant bankers at Wiston Park near Steyning last November has had the charges dropped.**

Despite the fact that he was out walking his dog at local beauty spot Chanctonbury Ring Sussex finest reckoned that due to his "army style" trousers and boots he must be a nasty anarchist protestor. One particularly sharp WPC spotted a pruning saw in the back of his car and declared it to be a machete. Luckily an arrest was made before any unlicensed anti-capitalist topiary could take place.

Having twice tried to caution him for an offence he didn't commit and facing a demand for trial by jury, the Police caved in.

**Good Job they didn't find the chainsaw!**

(\* SPECIAL NEEDS that is).

*Losing The Plot cont.*

food? Far better to eat fresh organic crops than to buy foreign, sometimes-stale food. Tending a plot is not an easy option. I started in 1957 and am grateful I followed my father's example and that my twin sons love the soil. The consultant's exercise into this park and ride was kept secret - it was only when the press heard about it that the public was informed.

"A few days ago, an abject apology was sent out by the Director of the Environment, and an undertaking that these circumstances will not happen again. It beggars belief that it happened in the first place. Park and rides aim to cream off the foreign visitors to out of town car parks. Would it work? Of course not. Does Withdean serve other than local residents?"

Green Party cllrs have joined Olly and co. opposing the scheme saying that the park and ride doesn't reduce congestion, pollution or road use. The simple argument is that once people realise there's a park and ride other drivers say "Oh well it'll be easier to park in town then."

### **Park and ride? Why not fucking walk we say!!!!**

A public meeting is being held on Feb 19 in Patcham (204421 for details). To get involved fighting these possible evictions email: roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk

# STOP

## **THE BEXHILL LINK ROAD!!!!**

**Anti-roads groups in Brighton and beyond are gearing up for another Battle of Hastings. Neo-Labour has agreed to stump up the readies - £45m or thereabouts - to East Sussex County Council for a brand spanking new Bexhill link road. This is basically resurrecting plans for the Hastings Western Bypass which was defeated by campaigners in 2001. (Byers, roads minister at the time, got wind that there was a camp being set up and scarpered.)**

In a recent moot at Adams Farm - one of those likely to be demolished - Hastings Alliance (groups opposed this time round) agreed to step up the campaign. At the end of last year a motley crew from Brighton and Hastings walked the route to see the damage that would be caused. It cuts right through the middle of tranquil and unspoilt Combe Haven Valley, a SSSI and home to redshank, lapwing and snipe.

Noise and pollution will drive them and other wildlife out. As well as the link road, 1,100 houses and an out-of-town business park are planned for Worsham Farm, trashing an ancient woodland in the process. And for what? Contrary to the developers' wet dreams, research shows the road will suck the lifeblood out of nearby town centres, with local businesses shifting from deprived areas like central St Leonards to the new business park. And as far as local traffic goes, congestion will simply transfer from the A259 coastal road to nearby areas already affected by record numbers of road deaths.

If this link road gets built there will be huge pressure for an Eastern Bypass around Hastings, which would cut right through the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and destroy yet more ancient woodlands. Just what we need when car production is at its highest level ever and 25% of global warming is now down to cars.

**The road is planned for 2008 with building set to begin April 2007. Let's beat 'em long before that. To get involved email roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk.**

# Jarvis Cock-Up!

**Neo-Labour came to power riding on the crest of a wave of Britpop and cool Britannia... and carrying on the good work of ogging and privatising public assets even the Tories didn't dare sell off.** Jarvis Cocker may have been a star of Britpop, but the company Jarvis went on to make a mint lapping up contracts in the sell-off frenzy of transport, education, health and other public services.

But not all Jarvis's fingers-in-pies paid off - they are in the middle of legal action for being responsible for the negligent maintenance which caused the Potters Bar rail accident in 2002 - and now they're gonna sell all their assets in Brighton schools after losses of £235 million in 2004.

The ogging-a-dead-horse stock to be of oaded will be schools in Brighton - Dorothy Stringer School, Vardean School, Comart and East Brighton High School - with the lucky buyer an even less well known investment firm called Smith and Company.

## **PFI PILFERING**

Losses in the millions are not what these little rackets are supposed to be about: Billed as a way to relieve the public purse while still building new schools, hospitals, railways etc, **Private Finance Initiatives (PFI)** have been a centre piece of Labour's policies. The idea was that the private sector would build the new facilities, bear the initial costs, and then the government would pay them back over a long period - typically 25 years - and all this would provide a better service and the sums would all add up. And the company involved would also take responsibility if anything went wrong.

Surprise surprise the reality was somewhat different. Local schools found that there was shoddy building work and continual wrangles with Jarvis to get maintenance work done. The list of complaints goes on and on with after-school clubs at the schools being charged for rent, and the lunches put on by Jarvis being expensive and unhealthy. Lesson one: squeeze 'em for every penny!

**PFI** companies have also managed to shunt responsibility onto local authorities: hospitals in Dartford and Norwich went 42% and 44% over budget respectively, but both times the NHS picked up the bill. Rough Music wishes we had someone to pick up our bills after we've paid our fat-cat board bonus cheques!

Anyway, despite dirty tricks like these, Jarvis failed to make our schools and hospitals run like regular businesses and are now massively in the red.

So in steps Smith & Co. to take on these debts. Smith & Co have managed to wangle a discount in the interest payments, although the local council will still have to pay at the original rate. This practice used to be known as usury. Now, a whole section of our economy is based on it.

Do we think that the new owner will be just as loving and attentive as the old one? For the sake of your children's education we hope not!

To find out more about the roaring success of Jarvis in Brighton's schools see SchNEWS issue 424

**Rough Music - speaking up  
for Brighton's street drinkers,  
beggars, buskers, dole-scum,  
jihadists.... AND YOU!!**

# BRICK HIM UP

## Prescott's Planning Madness

Sussex looks set to become one enormous bedroom for London as bumpkin-bashing-fatty-two-Jags-Prescott ratchets up the number of houses to be built in the South East again.

The latest plan is for 600,000 new houses across the whole of the South East over the next 30 years- about 3,500 per year will be in Brighton.

So what, eh? You might well say. People need somewhere to live, don't they? However, what the government hasn't told you is that 400,000 houses are to be pulled down at the same time in the North, with large estates in Newcastle, Hull, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham all set to be demolished.

What's even better is that the demolition work will be subsidised, so the big private firms who do all this dirty work will be making a tidy profit at both ends... guaranteed!

The houses that are to be trashed are often well-built Victorian terraces that are suitable for renovation. Some enterprising sharks have taken to buying up these properties, restoring them and then logging 'em on at a tidy mark-up..

However, Neo-Labour say 'all this has to stop'. Renovations are no use to big business, who want to 'clear fell' areas for profitable projects. Rather than do the work of renewing what's already there, Big Business prefers to smash it all up and start again (usually somewhere different), netting itself a hefty subsidy or a juicy contract in the process. Profits are made quicker this way.

## Obey the Over-SEERA!

All of this is being imposed from above by a body few people have even heard of- SEERA, the South Eastern England Regional Assembly. It is currently in the process of overriding local councils, local MPs and English Heritage.

There's another bunch of quango-crats dealing with development called SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency. Every area plan must fit with their aims, which include the commitment to increasing house building and building cancer-causing incinerators. Much of this is development already rejected by local councils and people.

Both bodies are completely unelected. SEERA was supposed to be a temporary arrangement while an elected assembly was put in place. Now that the elected assembly plans are on hold, SEERA is carrying on these temporary functions as little Hitlers. Social engineering on this scale done by an almost secret body sounds like something he'd dream up.

Power and wealth are accumulating in London and the South East, ruining it for everyone else. Having so much of the economy based in one location increases the need for people to commute and puts strains on local facilities.

What's more, there's a chronic shortage of affordable housing in the South East suited to local needs. The South East Area Plan contains only a vague commitment to affordable housing. Companies involved with "urban regeneration" (such as the Brighton Station site) seem to prefer building large numbers of expensive one and two bedroom apartments plus luxury hotels. 'Affordable housing' quotas drop as the token "consultation process" goes on, and the houses that are built as affordable are pretty expensive anyway.

We'll be doing more on SEERA and SEEDA as we get more info. If you have any dirt on either of these two ugly sisters then drop us a line. If they think that their plans are going to be slipped in quietly, we got some music for you!

Email us here at: roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk

# PAGE 3 SPECIAL!!!

# WANKERS' CORNER

(an occasional feature concerning Brighton's media elite and the sin of Onan (otherwise known as Fanshawe's Five Knuckle Shuf e))



Remember the old local studies library on Church Street? RIP. And guess what? The building will soon reopen- as 'The Media Pool'- a 'Media-Orientated exclusive club' for the whizz kids of the digital age to sip cocktails and snort coke without having to endure the stench of the riffraff.

Anyway, you couldn't make up this poncy nonsense, so here's some quotes we've nicked straight off their website:

"Technology is enabling key players from music, film, broadcast, video & graphics companies to be based in Brighton full time. Therefore, it is surprising that there is no venue for those involved in these extremely complimentary industries to socialise & work more closely together....."

"... Media Pool - a new take on the traditional members club. It's a technology-enabled social hub giving media people not just the opportunity to work in a more intelligent way, but also lending them the environment to relax & play."

"The space caters for fine dining, film previews, cocktail evenings, private meetings, laptop-working & presentations, all within the context of *new millennium lounge culture* (YOU FUCKING WHAT!?)."

"Members can relax, read the papers, eat late brunch & enjoy the fact that their comfort and relaxation is of the highest priority to the staff at the media pool"

The Media Pool will be an exciting & unique mix of personalities & amazing facilities. The Media Pool is a much needed feature on the Brighton scene."

**Rough Music encourages all readers to help mix these arseholes REALLY close together: PARK A CAR BOMB OUTSIDE!!!!**

## **Farmers' Markets**

**Sick of the supermarkets? Want to buy good, fresh, local grub but don't know where to get it?**

Well, yer wait is over- two new farmers' markets have started up, one at each end of town. Farmers' Markets allow producers- who must come from within a 30 mile radius- to sell stuff cheaply, direct to the customer- who can suss *them* out, too!

Hove Farmers' Market, in Ralli Hall, is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month (info: 734021); the Marina Market starts on 19<sup>th</sup> March in Park Place (info: 702800)

# AGGRO ON THE HOME FRONT

## ***The Great Council House Swindle***

Just when you thought it was safe to go out - think again - the council is planning to log your council house from under yer feet. There are 13,000 council homes; that's a lot of people at the mercy of profiteering shysters. Privatisation means hiked rents, less security of tenure and no comeback for tenants. Plus, of course, big kick-backs for those parasites running the show.

Brighton's Defend Council Housing (DCH) is demanding a "fourth option" - direct investment by government in council housing. Resistance is growing, with council tenants up and down the country saying NO when faced with privatisation.

Every NO vote increases the pressure on government to change. Currently there's two options on the table in Brighton: the 'Arms Length Management Organisation' option (ALMO) where the council owns the stock, but privatises the running of it; or the wholesale give-away of homes to housing associations.

Either way they both mean privatisation. Now ain't it funny that the option most tenants want won't even appear on the ballot paper: staying with the council and keeping housing as a community asset. Ben Kodfish - our very own Julius Caesar - got knifed in the back by fellow councillors in a vote of no-confidence on how the whole matter's been handled. Odds on him being around come the Ides of March?

Myths about council housing persist, but the truth is that whatever its shortcomings - caused by continuing lack of investment, and an obsession with individual home ownership, not to mention siphoning off rent income and receipts from sales - council housing is still the cheapest, most democratic way of providing decent, low cost housing on a large scale.

DCH needs help countering the Government's and council's slick propaganda machines (£311,000 spent locally already). Ring Ruth Arundell on 01273 608704 if you can help with leafleting etc.

## **PSY - COPS**

**Rough Music has got wind of a new weapon in the war against those economically inactive bastards who sit around drinking in the sun.** Not content with injunctions, arrests and ASBOs aimed at the "undesirables" who'd rather sup Special Brew near the church rather than fork out thirty quid to sit in a minimalist Japanese restaurant, police are now gonna bring in a few 'mind games'. At a meeting of St Peters' Traders' Association on 25 January, Sergeant Richard 'Dick' Siggs explained a new long-term strategy of 'befriending' street drinkers in order to "get them to change their behaviour once paranoia has set in"

Anybody out there who is feeling a little paranoid about whether they're "desirable" or not could perhaps e-mail Sergeant Siggs [cs295.siggs@sussex.police.uk](mailto:cs295.siggs@sussex.police.uk)

## **DON'T CARE BEARS**

**Carers for those with learning difficulties, working for Brighton Council's in-house agency Care Crew staged a walk out on Valentine's Day after a row about holiday pay and sick leave.** Despite the long tenure of many of 'em - in situations where they're frequently confronted with challenging behaviour - they're still treated like agency temps and offered a derisory 60p an hour in compensation for receiving no annual leave. One of the strikers told *Rough Music* "The council are wasting taxpayers money by paying agencies £15 an hour for carers. If Care Crew was properly funded the council would save thousands because everybody would work for Care Crew and the agencies would be out of business"

By withdrawing their labour the workers have won a consultation with the council on 3 March.

## **UPWARDLY MOBILE**

Goaded on by the likes of TVs "Property Ladder" and a peculiar urge to be near Norman Cook, London's fashionable new-media elite have come swarming out of the Big Smoke like a horde of avaricious, coke sniffing designer-labelled rats. They're crying out for a chic bohemian des-res by the sea and looking to make a quick forty thou' in a couple of years. Having run out of empty factories, wasteground, playing fields and disused grain siloes to convert into luxury flats, our Hoxton- Fin sporting new gentry are looking further afield.

Previously considered to be not so much on the property ladder as at the bottom of a particularly venomous property snake Braypool traveller site has recently begun to acquire something of a cachet. Dodge 50s and clapped out Mercedes you'd have to pay the scrappie to take away are changing hands for big money.

Nathaniel "Naz" Ponsonby-Smythe reckons he's spotted an opening in the market. Free party facilitator, lifestyle therapist and self employed media contextualiser he says of his recently acquired Bedford MK "Its about an exploration of space in its context, I mean its like my house and I can move it around. I operate by stealth and choose my own postcode and the state can just like spaz off man".

## **What is Rough Music?**

**Yes it's an odd title. You're going... what the hell is "rough music"? Who the hell are we and what do we want?**

Rough music is a Sussex tradition dating back centuries. It was a form of punishment for those who had offended their communities; people like profiteering landlords, wife-beaters or kiddie-fiddlers. In the past lovely people like these were a lot harder to prosecute using the law. So people took matters into their own hands. Taking what ever they could to make some noise with them, they would stand outside the miscreant's house and make as much noise as possible. If they were successful the offender was often driven out completely. Although such gatherings were illegal they happened throughout Sussex with the last ones recorded as happening as late as the 1950's.

### ***Now we want to bring back this tradition with a vengeance!!!***

We want to show how the people of Brighton are making plenty of Rough Music of their own. How people are making Rough Music against City Council and big business profiteering feeding frenzies. How they are making Rough Music for those who treat their employees like dirt. How they are making Rough Music for businesses that think that the environment and the quality of people's lives is a secondary consideration to the important task of making mega-profits. From EDO/MBM the bomb makers to Brighton and Hove City Council, from the Shoreham Airport stitch-up to the sneaking encroachment of the supermarkets into every corner of the city; we say, bring on the music!

### **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. Drop us a line at [roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roughmusic@hotmail.co.uk) - Parcel bombs etc to Rough Music c/o Cowley Club, 12 London Rd, Brighton BN1 4JA*

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