



VESTAS WORKERS OCCUPY!

Workers take over Isle of Wight wind turbine factory

THE ACTION OF the Vestas workers taking over their wind turbine factory, to halt its closure and the loss of 600 jobs, shows courage and commitment from those involved. In short, they are leading the way for many other workers faced with a similar threat from their bosses.

The fact that Vestas is also a 'green' industry has additional wider implications. While on the one hand, the Brown government blathers about their commitment to green energy, on the other hand, they remain predictably silent as Vesta Blades closes.

The Danish company claims there is a reduced demand for wind turbines in the UK and reckons shifting to the US will be more profitable. This is in spite of the fact that Vestas have already received £3.5 million from taxpayers in the form of government subsidy (don't expect the government to ask for it back anytime soon) and in spite of the fact that the government is planning to build 7,000 wind turbines over the next few years.

Force

The workers are demanding that the government nationalises Vestas Blades, after all, the



government thought nothing of forking out billions to prevent banks from going under and, comparatively, keeping this factory open, protecting hundreds of jobs and saving a green industry would be a damn sight cheaper than it cost to bail out banks. So far, the government shows no interest in this solution, however, maybe this direct action can force the hands of government and management.

Heavy-handed

The occupation has massive local and increasing national and international support. However, from day one, police on the island have adopted a particularly heavy-handed approach to the workers and their supporters.

The fact that this occupation is a civil rather than a criminal matter has not stopped the police from acting as though the occupiers were criminals. Police tactics include literally besieging those inside, forcibly removing people from the prop-

erty, preventing anyone from providing the workers with food, arresting members of the public suspected of carrying food.

Manipulation

Without doubt, the actions of the police reek of political pressure and manipulation from above, as they are used as a means of repressing the rebellious Vestas workers. To their credit, the workers and their supporters are holding firm.

There have been demonstrations not only on the island but also on the mainland, London included, with messages of support from around the world.

Call out

Meanwhile, the Vestas workers have issued a call out for supporters to make their way down to the Isle of Wight and help them in their struggle. So, if you can make it, grab a tent and get down to the Isle of Wight.

Up to date info at <http://savevestas.wordpress.com>

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

IWW construction workers on the Olympic construction site have produced a damning report on the state of the worksite. The report argues for greater worker control of unions and a militant rank-and-file approach.

For a copy, contact London IWW Construction Workers, c/o Freedom, Angel Alley, 84B Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX or send an email to london@iww.org.uk or download it from our website www.iww.org.uk



Around Our Union...

Cambridge - Due to local interest and growth in the union, the IWW has recently chartered as a General Membership Branch (GMB).

Clydeside - Late July, members braved the rain on Glasgow Green for the third Wobly Annual Picnic.

Health Workers' IU610 - The IWW's Health Worker Industrial Union committee met recently. They plan two conferences: one for dual card members and one as a IU610 hosted women's workshop and training day (dates/venues TBC).

Leicestershire - The local GMB are reorganising and re-activating! Members involved in the education and call centre sectors.

London - The IWW construction workers' branch is active on Olympic sites (see above) and is working with rank and filers from Unite and GMB over recent engineering construction wildcats. The education workers' committee has also been busy with a number of grievances and disciplinaries.

Reading - Aside from organising and agitating in the retail sector, Reading IWW General Membership Branch (GMB) are currently working alongside members from the Unite union and the 'Left of Reading' umbrella group to organise a lo-

cal shop stewards' network.

Tyne & Wear - Following on from their successful debate on Climate, Class & Clean Coal, Tyne & Wear IWW will be organising forthcoming meetings on the miners' return to work and the poll tax. Date 06/03/10; venue TBC.

West Midlands - The branch had a visible presence on the Unite 'March for Jobs' in Birmingham and organised a successful benefit concert with David Rovics and Attila the Stockbroker. The branch also organised a demo in support of the Total oil refinery wildcats. West Mids will be running a 'street presence' training day in September. The branch is also the national hub for IWW merchandise.

IWW-BIROC Branches - the IWW is organised across the country. Scotland: Aberdeen, Clydeside, Dumfries & Galloway, Edinburgh. Northern England: Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Manchester & North West, Sheffield, Tyne & Wear, York. Central England: Leicester, Nottingham, West Midlands. South East England: Cambridge, London, Norwich, Reading. Southern England: Dorset. Wales: Welsh Region. In addition to the British Isles, the IWW currently has sections in Germany, Portugal, USA, Canada, Australia, and has contacts in other countries.

Know Your Rights at Work

Paid Holiday Entitlement

Did you know... you are entitled to a *minimum* of 5.6 weeks paid annual leave per year. That's 28 days for a five day week. If you're part time, that's 5.6 times the number of days in your normal working week. Holiday pay starts building up from your first day of work. So don't accept any fairy stories about needing to have worked for so many months before you get your holiday pay.

Rolled-up Holiday Pay

If management tell you that you don't get holiday pay because it's already 'rolled up' in your regular pay over the year, then they're trying it on. It's now technically unlawful to do this under the terms of the European Working Time Directive. The European Court of Justice has also ruled against this practice but employers are still up to their usual tricks and the practice persists.

A UNION FOR ALL WORKERS

The IWW is an international union that is controlled directly by its members and fights for better conditions for working people.

Whether you work in construction or education, health or retail, or whatever your industry, there's a place for you in the IWW.

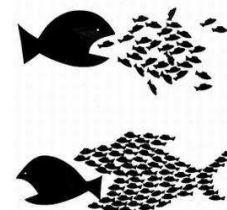
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Solidarity is strength!

Every worker needs a union! Get organised - join the IWW today!