



EARTH FIRST!

ACTION UPDATE

No 16 **30p**
MAY 95 **WHERE SOLD**

No M65

Stanworth Valley (near Blackburn in Lancashire), in the route of the M65, faces eviction from May 1st. As from the 26th of April, Stanworth Village-In-The-Sky consists of an amazing treetop community. Around 60 people share 40 tree houses spread over about twelve acres of ancient woodland. All tree-house are between 60 and 90 feet from the ground and are connected by over 4 km of aerial walkway. Over the last weekend in April there will be a Beltaine Festival, the last chance to enjoy the largest remaining piece of ancient woodland in Lancashire before the bulldozers move in. There will be live music, a sweat lodge, fire juggling, lots of magic and more! The Bailiffs are expected Monday May 1st, for what will probably be the biggest and longest eviction operation in the history of anti-roads direct action. Expect it to run throughout May and beyond! If you have the chance, **get there now!** Contact 0589 376684, 0585 164311, 0161 8617895 There will be a Mass Trespass of the whole route on May 11th, to mark one year of direct action against the M65.

FRESH AIR NOW

Manchester EF! are launching a 2 week campaign of direct actions to make air pollution one of the main issues in the up coming council elections. They are also standing Fresh Air Now candidates! Manchester has one of the worst cases of air pollution in the country, yet the issue is given almost no coverage. The actions will include banner drops, trespasses, a critical mass cycle ride and giving away fresh air in bottles! Contact 0161 2744665 to get involved

MORE QUARRIES = MORE LORRIES = MORE ROADS ...

In the Gwenslais valley near Ammanford in South Wales, McAlpine aim to open a 500 acre quarry. This will destroy the ancient and beautiful Carmel Woods, last resting place of the legendary Owain Llwgoch. It will also destroy Britain's only turlough (ephemeral lake) at Pantlyn; despite both Carmel Woods and Pantlyn having SSSI status. 2/3 of the stone quarried will be used for road building. The device being used to obtain permission for this brutal thuggery and go against the public enquiry's rejection of McAlpine's plans is an Interim Development Order (IDO). These were issued immediately after WW2 in order to "get the country back on its feet". Because IDOs predate wildlife protection legislation these laws are invalid. The successful use of an IDO could set a horrific precedent.

CONTACT: Campaign for the Protection of the Gwenslais Valley, Bryn Llinos, Carmel, Llanelli, Dyfed SA14 7TP

Meanwhile in the Mendips, Somerset (Western Europe's most heavily quarried area) ARC,

STOP PRESS: STANWORTH EVICTED 5TH MAY



Wimpey, ECC and Foster Yeoman produce 10 million tonnes of stone each year at giveaway prices. Much of this stone is used for (surprise!) ROAD BUILDING. The quarry industry aims to expand the destruction and are attempting to use IDOs here. The plans also include the construction of the Bulls Green link road, which they are attempting to disguise as a "quarry lorry bypass". This road will significantly aid the expansion of quarrying in the Mendips. CONTACT: Somer Valley FOE, 10-12 Picton St., Bristol BS6 5QA. Avon Gorge EF! are planning a quarry action in May, 0374 953160.

A snippet of good news is that one of Clay Colliery Company's opencast plans has been rejected by Dyfed County Council. Contact: Wales Against Opencast, 11 Park Av., Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan. Leeds EF! are planning an anti-opencast mining action, near Leeds, in mid May and require other groups to get involved. (0113) 262 9365.

With areas like South Wales, The Mendips, Yorkshire Dales and the Scottish Coast threatened we need to take action NOW to stop today's version of the Coal Barons. Whatever they dig, we can fill in again (preferably with bastards like McAlpine at the bottom!).

M77

Actions are continuing at the Pollok Estate where Wimpey are trying to build the M77. It now seems certain that Wimpey have redesigned the route of the road to avoid the Pollok Free State which is protecting a small beech woodland, having apparently decided that this is easier than attempting another eviction. April saw the occupation of local Wimpey Show homes, a demo outside Wimpey's AGM and the presentation to Glasgow City Council planning department of a

scale model of Pollok Free State! A big action is planned for Climate Action Day on May 14 and a month of almost daily actions is on throughout May. Contact Glasgow EF! 0141 9462700 for details. *Help and support is needed!*

BERLIN

581 environmental activists from all over Europe were in Berlin for the Climate is Right for Change Conference at the beginning of April. There were workshops and actions to coincide with the UN Climate Change conference, attended by top government ministers from around the world. The industrial lobby were out in force to prevent anything being decided, particularly the Global Climate Coalition (ICI, Shell, Exxon etc).

These bastards are fighting FOR the destruction of our planet! Many major actions occurred to highlight the climate change issue, such as traffic blockades with street parties and a critical mass cycle ride (with 100 000 people). People prevented delegates from leaving the building as they hadn't achieved anything, locked on to coaches and actions also occurred inside the conference. One young woman, interrupting the US delegate's press conference, ripped up his paper and said, "I'm 19 years old and your destroying my planet!". The protests were well received by the 3rd World Delegates. If ever there was a display of the inability of governments to listen to public concern rather than big business, this was it. The only public pressure they're going to listen to is the sort that locks itself to their Mercedes!

EARTH FIRST! GATHERING

Well, what can we say ... around a 100 of some of the most beautiful and dedicated people in the Earth First movement gathered near Swindon over Easter weekend to discuss where we're

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going, what we've been up to and how to strengthen radical, grassroots environmentalism. Workshops were held, but most of the discussion was done around camp fires, during football matches or just lying in the sun!

McDonalds kindly provided the site for action training, which resulted in the central McDonald's in Swindon being closed down. Costing McDonald's £5000 and a drive through was also occupied.

A selection of issues were raised at the gathering, far too many to report here. Some of the main ones are discussed below (note, this is a personal opinion of the gathering only).

Leeds EF! suggested creating regional networking groups, but no other groups volunteered to take this on. Regional networking needs to be strengthened although this appears to be occurring naturally to some extent. Sabotage was also discussed. The opinions were diverse, but with the CJA now potentially threatening 3 month jail sentences for peacefully sitting on a digger the appeal of sabotage will obviously increase.

The reality of "no compromise in defence of the earth" was raised as some groups trying to alter local government policy may be involved in some form of compromise. It was felt that Earth First! should include more pro-active activities, meaning setting our own agenda, as well as opposing the states. The land reform movement, Critical Mass and Reclaim the Streets being examples of campaigns asking for positive change. We need space and land to create caring, low impact communities, especially now that many people have glimpsed their potential during long term campaigns. Some felt we should record our own history by marking particular dates, creating photographic documents etc.

Thanks go to the farmer who lent us his land, to those who helped organise it and to "Close to the Edge" for some excellent catering. The next gathering will be late September in Lancashire. Contact Merseyside EF! with offers of help, workshop ideas etc. 0151 794 4167

SOLSBURY HILL

As if it's not enough to carve a dual carriageway through Solsbury Hill and Bathampton watermeadows, Amey now want to dump their waste spoil in 2 old reservoirs on the side of the Hill, so far unaffected by the works. The area is an important habitat and breeding ground for birds. Please do solidarity actions against your local Amey office or work site. Otherwise, phone Amey and tell them what you think: 01225 480770. Solsbury Hill Action Group (SHAG) are also planning a summer gathering on the Hill August 11th - 14th. Actions, camping, music and fun - make it the biggest ever! Contact 0374 953160 Note: This contact number has not been working over April but should now be in order.

LAMB

The Lloyds and Midland Boycott Campaign is continuing its fight to improve banks ethical and environmental lending criteria. Lloyds Bank Annual General Meeting was recently disrupted with share holders being forcibly removed after inquiring into the banks ethical lending policy. There's a Day of Action on the 3rd May and Midland Bank's AGM is on the 24th May - contact

LAMB to become a shareholder! 0161 2744665

A30

Actions are continuing down at the A30 with 6 tree houses now in place after a successful barricading weekend. There are rumours of an eviction around the 14th May. A Beltaine Gathering has also just occurred. 0385 278157/278156 for further info and offers of support.

M11

The resistance to the M11 continues. Keeping pace with the D.O.T onslaught, the campaigners continue to use strategy and tactics fuelled by effort and imagination. The focus has shifted once more, now to a beautiful 4 storey Victorian house renamed "Munstonia" (so called as you'd expect Herman Munster to answer the door!). 'Till recently this fine property was wasted as living quarters for the D.O.T's lackey security guards; but was reclaimed after careful observation, stealth and decisive use of bottle. Now the squat's established, there's urgent need for barricaders to turn the house into a fortress against the forces of "progress". Munstonia is easy to find: Leytonstone Tube, then right up Fillebrook Rd. Its the only house left standing on a street that's now a moonscape. Once there knock on the tin fence. People are needed. Bring tools and the skills, imagination and sound attitude. 0181 9898741

HUNT SAB UPDATE

Latest figures for arrests under the Criminal Justice Act are encouraging: we have had 297 arrests this season (not massively up on average) of which 148 have been under section 68-69 of the Criminal Justice Act. Of the CJA cases, there have been 3 convictions, one bind-over and at least a third (51 at last count) of the cases have been dropped before getting to court. In fact, the picture looks even better as we reckon that at least 75% of the CJA cases will fail. Most of these will probably turn out to be unlawful arrests, instigating a cash bonanza for hunt sabs equal to the Home Office's last "clamp down" (83 separate civil actions, costing various police forces over £250,000).

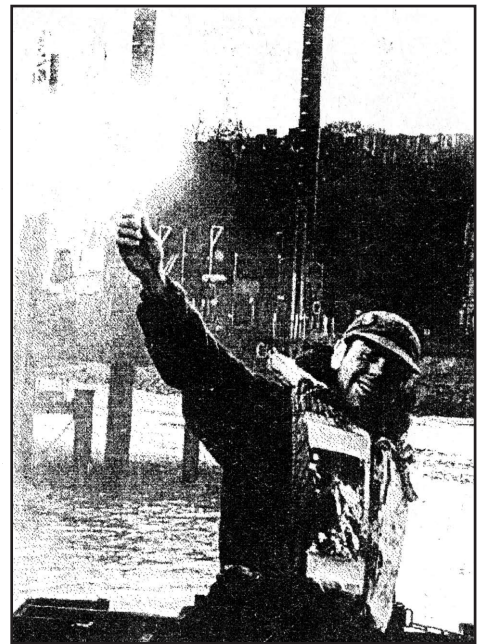
If you deduct the daft CJA arrests from the total, it's not bad for this season, particularly considering local distortions - i.e. 80 of the arrests have been in Cheshire where the police have adopted an "arrest on sight" policy, over which they are likely to come badly unstuck. Contact Hunts Sabs for your nearest group on 0115 9590357

CLIMATE ACTION DAY

May 15th is Climate Action Day, with groups from Finland to Kenya highlighting the risk of global warming associated with increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Many groups are fighting projects that cause increases in carbon dioxide - like motorways, power plants and logging of old-growth forests. More than 400 groups in 68 countries have taken part in Climate Action Days - what's your action going to be? Contact "The Climate is Right for Change" Campaign in Amsterdam for details: +31-20-6928757, Email climax@antenna.nl

CARDIFF BAY BARRAGE

Cardiff EF! took to the Seas with their first boat action against the construction of the Cardiff Bay



THINGS FLARE UP IN CARDIFF BAY!

Barrage in April. The barrage will destroy the breeding ground of migratory wading birds in an attempt to create a dockland environment. This is the first TOTAL destruction of a SSSI and it won't even produce electricity!. Activists tried to board the dredging ship but were knocked back by the ship's Belgian crew turning a power hosepipe on them. When this failed to repel all the protesters one of the dredger crew decided to use his fists, knocking one of them into the water. A welding torch was produced to remove one D-locked protester!. Work was disrupted but not to the extent that had been hoped. The tactic of circling the dredger but not boarding it proved more successful. Other rigs were sailed to and slogans sprayed on them. More actions are planned using the lessons learnt.

PRISONER SUPPORT

Jim Chambers, an veteran M11 protester on remand for alleged Criminal Damage, has been moved from Wormwood Scrubs to Pentonville. Write to him and tell him what you've been up to / what's happening in the world. He needs support and has found letters a real boost: JIM CHAMBERS, PV 2504, HMP PENTONVILLE, CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON. N7 8TT. Chris Cole who has been campaigning against British Aerospace's sale of Hawk fighter aircraft to Indonesia has been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for breaking his injunction not to trespass, or to incite others to trespass, on BAe property. Contact 0151 5461688 for his address. The Spring edition of Earth Liberation Prisoners is out now, giving 16 pages of information on prisoners of conscience from the green, animal rights, tribal, peace and anti-fascist movements. This is ESSENTIAL READING, get it now by sending an SAE and donation (50p+) to ELP, c/o Pox 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset. Email: PMBlackmore@ncl.ac.uk

GRASS ROUTES TOUR '95

Manchester Earth First! are taking a roadshow round Central and Eastern Europe this summer. It will try to give locals a taste of direct action

How to contact Earth First! Action Update.

By phone 01222 383363 and dictate a message into our answerphone, or by post: Action Update c/o Cardiff EF!, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX, or by FAX on 01222 640666, or finally by email to 'dhwilcox@cix.compulink.co.uk' - with subject marked 'Action Update'. Articles should reach us not later than the 20th of the month for inclusion in next months AU! Thank you for your contributions. - The AU team.

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campaigning. The show will include Small World and other direct action videos, info about campaigns, tactics, workshops, and of course, direct action... three months to subvert as many people as possible! If you believe you can help find money (for the video equipment, they are paying their own travel expenses), contacts in Europe, pictures, information, T-shirts etc. for the stall, climbing gear, or any of your own ideas, please write, Email or call: Grass Routes Tour, 2 Hall Avenue, Manchester M14 5JD U.K. Tel:0161 2744665

WELLS RELIEF ROAD

Construction of the Wells "relief" road, bringing pollution to the children of England's smallest city, is soon to begin. Somerset County Council have sneakily started to tear down trees in preparation for this unpopular scheme which puts a road through local school playing fields. There will be/ was a demonstration on April 29th. Meet 12 noon, Milton Roundabout, Wells. Support is urgently needed - contact Solsbury Hill Action Group for details, 0374 953160.

A3 TREE CHOPPING

12 Protesters were arrested trying to stop the destruction of 330 trees planted as a memorial to Canadian servicemen killed in the two World Wars. On 5th April local MP Michael Mates gave his assurance that this desecration would be postponed until after VE day, but the remaining trees were all cut down that night. 3 of the protesters were arrested for assault but only one was charged, and will appear in court on the 4th May along with the 9 others arrested for Aggravated Trespass. Contacts 01635 521770 / 01428 606000

RECLAIM THE LAND

In the first people's protest, against the dwindling amount of common land, in 300 years more than 250 people reclaimed large tracts of Wisley aerodrome, 3 miles from St Georges Hill in Surrey for the last week in April. Currently 'set aside' under EU policy it was left in better shape than when occupied thanks to the planting of trees & crops. The action was designed to reassert people's control over how they live. The Land Is Ours' manifesto for land reform includes new common spaces, a redirection of farm subsidies towards small scale high employment land use and revision of the planning & public inquiry processes which deny people access to the land. *"It's time to say what we want and find solutions - we're now going to set our own agenda."*

GREEN ANARCHIST RAIDED

The Inner Bookshop, which provided Green Anarchist with a postal address, was raided by Police in early March. On the 14th of March the house of its editor and printer was also raided. A computer, discs, cheque books etc. were taken along with many of the magazine's records. The police involved are believed to be from Hampshire

Special Branch. It is probable that Green Anarchist was targeted because of its support of groups like the A.L.F and the Earth Liberation Front. New contact address is: Green Anarchist, BM 1715, London WC1N 3XX

RAMBLE AGAINST MEGAROAD MADNESS!

A walk along the proposed route of the South Coast, Folkestone to Honiton Superhighway will be leaving Folkestone (Kent), Monday June 12 and finishing in Honiton (Devon), Sunday June 25. Walking will be at a modest pace and will visit the sites of the damaging road schemes now being fought along the route. Walks like this allow you to really enjoy some of the countryside and appreciate why we are all campaigning so hard. So, go and join in, just for a few hours, or up to the whole fortnight. Contact 01293 884273 for general info and details of the walk before Southampton, or 01305 773547 to join the walk after Southampton (18th June).

NUCLEAR ALERT

Easter Monday saw Greenpeace actions throughout the country to coincide with the Nuclear Weapons Non Proliferation Treaty Talks being held in New York. At Sellafield 61 people were arrested as 300 protesters broke into THORP, some dressed as drums of plutonium. Several locked on to the roof of the plant whilst others were confronted by armed security during an office occupation.

Meanwhile, at Aldermaston atomic weapons research establishment, protesters poured 6 tons of concrete into a discharge pipe in an attempt to block it. On the 19th April, the 11 month old Women's Peace Camp at Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire, (the largest American Spy "Listening Centre" in the world) was evicted. 7 arrests were made and the women's caravans were seized. The camp is still there - 100 yards down the road and it needs you more than ever.

From April 28th - May 1st the campaign group "Shut Sellafield" will be holding an Action, Vigil, Peace Camp and Party. Celebrate Spring all weekend and remember Chernobyl on Sunday 30th. An action will occur on the Monday, full NVDA and legal briefings given. 01706 371387

TARMAC IN DERBYSHIRE

The A564 is been built across Derbyshire, destroying beautiful countryside at a cost of 110 million pounds. Actions covering 3 different sites took place on the 23rd of March. Work at the junction of the A564 and A6 was disrupted, a pile driver was climbed and £2000 worth of delays were incurred for Tarmac. Actions planned for May and June. Contact 01785 52552/01332 204097

MANCHESTER - EF! & CJA

The first EF! types to be prosecuted under the CJA went to court last month. They were found (just) guilty. The punishment? A 1 year conditional discharge and a share of the costs (£50 each).

EDITORIAL

Great Gathering! However we've still got one problem - there's no one to distribute Action Update! Yup, after a long and appreciated stint it's time for Manchester to pass it on and we need volunteers. Cardiff will continue to write it but someone needs to mail it out. Distribution takes a few days a month - printing, mailing and dealing with subscription details. So please seriously consider whether you could do it. We've had offers of cheap printing but what we really need is someone to give distribution their top priority. Also, please consider photocopying each edition and giving it away/selling it. If A3 is a problem, do it onto 2 doublesided sheets of A4 or even shrink it down onto one sheet of doublesided A4.

The deadline for the June edition is May 20th. So send us your articles, dates, photos etc., keeping them short and concise if you don't want to see our 100 word version of your 3000 word epic! Also, phone to check we've received it. Lastly, sorry to keep moaning but... we have no money to publicise Action Update. If you can spare anything at all please send stamps/cheques to EF!AU in Cardiff.

Keep active, keep imaginative, get in the faces of those making a profit out of environmental destruction, and try to enjoy life while you're at it!

DISCLAIMER: It wasn't us...it was, like, other kids 'n' stuff...!!

Diary Dates

MAY

1st -31st Daily Actions against M77, Glasgow. 0141 946 2700

1 st- 14th Fresh Air Now Actions, Manchester 0161 274 4665

Wed 3rd LAMB Day of Action. 0161 2744665

Thurs 4th Court Appearance of A3 Tree Dwellers

Thurs 4th: British Aerospace Engineering's AGM. Protest 1pm outside Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London. Actions inside. Contact: CAAT 0171 281 0297

Thurs 11th: Anniversary Actions at the M65, Preston. Continuing until the Sunday 0161 8617895

Sat 13th Life After the CJA Conference, Manchester. 0161 2321598

Sat 13th Procession Against Ashton Court Quarry Extension, Bristol. 0374 953160

Sun 14th Reclaim the Streets Street Party, London 0171 254 2290

Sun 14th Rally on proposed Newbury Bypass. 01635 521770

14 - 15 th Mega Climate Action, Glasgow. 0141 9462700

Mon 15th : International Climate Action Day. 0031 20 693 2024 - mad actions all over Europe

15th Earth Night - Pixies and Elves are coming out to play

Thurs 18th Shell AGM, London. Action by Reclaim the Streets. 0171 254 2290 Highlight the plight of the Ogoni people of Nigeria.

Sun 21st Bike to the Future, Hampton Court to Eton. Contact, FoE 0171 490 1555

Wed 24th Midland Bank AGM. Actions 0161 2744665

Fri 26th Critical Mass Cycle Rides in most major cities

JUNE

Thurs 1st : 10th Anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield Actions in Wiltshire?? Contact F.N. 0171 738 6721

Sat 3rd London to Stonehenge Walk begins. Assemble Battersea Park Peace Pagoda, noon.

Sat 10th: Anniversary of Hawk Deal Protest Day of Action, Stop the Hawks 0171 561 1236

12th-25th South Coast Ramble Against Megaroad Madness 01293 884273

15th-17th: Liberty Human Rights Convention, London 0171 403 3888.

Tues 20th Car Free Day, Bath. Avon Gorge EF! 0374 953160

21st-25th Glastonbury Festival - help needed with EF! displays, cafe, marquee, organic veg. Any offers 0151 7944167

Sun 25th CND Conference, London 0171 700 2393

JULY

7th -9th Major Anti CJA Free Festival -somewhere in south/ middle England

17 th- 23rd International Forest Action Camp, Norway. Training on forest direct actions. Fax: +46 60 612506

Wed 26th -Sun 30th: Big Green Gathering, Wiltshire 01747 870667. £25 no dogs.

AUGUST

1st - 18th: Ecotopia 95 Poland, 00 31 20 665 7743 - seriously big environmental gathering / communal living experience.

8th - 9th Nagasaki NVDA, Faslane Peace Camp 01436 820901

11th-14th Solsbury Hill Summer Gathering. Actions, Music and Fun!

SEPTEMBER

Late September: Earth First! National Gathering, Lancashire. Workshops, help needed 0151 7944167

EF! CONTACTS

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