

EARTH FIRST! Action Update

No.28 JUNE 96

30p

'Constant efforts to protect nature without removing the causes of destruction are pointless.' - M. Fukuoka

NEWBURY

The most significant change from the last update is that English Nature has recommended that parts of the route in the Kennet and Lambourne Valleys should be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) in order to protect the habitat of the Desmoulin's Whorl Snail. This means that the whole road must be reassessed and could lead to permission for the existing route to be withdrawn. If the Department of Transport go ahead and ignore the recommendations they would face court action from various environmental organisations. It could be that the Tory slugs are defeated by a 3mm snail and the bypass cancelled! Little has changed in terms of work on the route since the last update. Fences are still rising and falling, pixies are still tunnelling and disrupting work overground. Numbers of security have been reduced to about fifty or sixty, and they are the worst that Reliance has to offer.

The phone, fax and junk mail blockade of the Highways Agency and Costain is continuing with vigour. Please keep it up even Costain admit that it is working and is annoying. Offices and building sites around the country are being hit by occupation squads, pickets and pixies. Please call for a list of sites and offices in your area. There are still the nine camps off route, please come down and visit this summer, we will need all the help we can get if the main contract work starts. You can telephone the 3rd Battle of Newbury on: 01635 45544 for general information or 01635 550552 for the 24 info line.

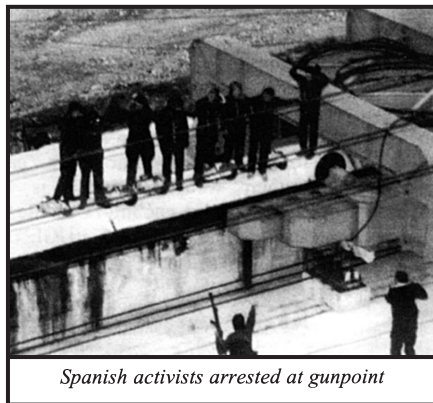
COSTAIN NOW CONFIRMED AS MAIN CONTRACTORS - YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

ITOIZ DAM PROJECT

The Itoiz dam project in Navarra, Spain, not only destroys a large area of the surrounding environment but the two main building contractors have been convicted and imprisoned for paying bribes to secure the contract for this, as well as many other, projects.

There has been a movement to oppose the building of the Dam for the past 10 years and most methods of resistance have been tried. On April 6th eight anti-Dam protesters went to the site of the construction to carry out an action. When they arrived they were confronted by an armed security guard who they disarmed and tied up, leaving his weapon unloaded beside him. The rest of the action went quickly; in about two minutes they were able to saw through six steel cables that were essential for cementing the Dam. The activists were then arrested and savagely beaten and kicked by the Police for around twenty minutes. All this was recorded by an accompanying cameraman. Some of the injuries sustained by the saboteurs were not treated until four days later.

The financial cost of this direct action was estimated at over 1000 million pesetas (about 5 million pounds). Most importantly it has paralysed the construction site for at least five months, until the cables and cementing equipment can be replaced. The eight activists involved are currently in prison in Navarra and are being refused bail. The message that they send from their cells is: "If people ask why we have done this, tell them proudly we have done it out of love, and we would do it again."



Spanish activists arrested at gunpoint

SHELL AGM

On Wednesday 15th May there was the Shell AGM in London. Protests were held in London, Aberdeen, Dublin, The Hague and Washington D.C.. In London, at the site of the AGM, there was a picket outside and a gallows were erected and pictures of the men still being held in Nigerian prisons on the same charges as Ken Saro-Wiwa were posted. Shell held up the transfer of shares to the dissident shareholders so that it was only half an hour before the AGM began that they knew they could get in. Twenty protesters went inside including a MOSOP activist. The Ogoni had asked for no physical disruption so instead a barrage of carefully worded questions kept the focus on Nigeria for nearly the entire meeting. After a hesitation, the chairperson John Jennings, was forced to call for a minutes silence out of 'respect' for Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other eight other activists murdered by the Shell backed military government last November. The company refused to agree to call for the release of all Ogonis still held in detention, including the Ogoni nineteen who are currently in Port Harcourt prison in terrible conditions. They face imminent execution by the same kangaroo court that sentenced the nine to death last year for opposing Shell's devastation of the Niger Delta and the companies support of massacres by the military. Shell said it would not go back into Ogoniland unless full agreement was

reached, but Ogonis are now being forced to sign such an agreement at gunpoint. The company also said it would not work behind a military security shield, but refuses to call for the demilitarisation of the Niger Delta area. Indeed the recent build-up of troops around Ogoniland suggest that if Shell cannot return and resume work, further massacres may take place and the death toll will rise even higher than the current two thousand. More anti-Shell actions are needed - the UK direct action movement is lagging behind Europe in this respect. There will be a strategy meeting at the Gathering on Thursday 13th June. For more information contact Delta on: 0116 255 3223. Keep the network informed of any actions that you do in solidarity.

YOUNG LIONS EARTH FIRST!

In solidarity with the campaign in Europe against the TENS on 30th March, seventeen activists from Young Lions Earth First! occupied the blasting site of a quarry in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The quarry is owned by Murray and Roberts, the biggest road construction company in the country. The quarry was occupied for three days until a private security company called the Springboks, who are mainly ex-members of the South African Defence Force and the Police, forcibly removed them, breaking one of the activists noses as they did so. They are planning more actions in the future, and in case you were wondering about the name, one of the people from Young Lions Earth First! explains, "We use the name Young Lions as this was the name we were known by during the struggle against apartheid. Now that we have won this struggle, we remain comrades in the struggle to liberate the earth".

POBLYCOED (PEOPLE OF THE TREES)

The Reclaim the Valleys actions were great fun. People returned to Selar for it's anniversary and haven't left, with two new sites having been set up there. There were actions on the offices of the County Council and 14 people hung off slag heaps with 'Open cast my arse' written on their bottoms - postcards available soon! A squat was taken for the week in Swansea and two bailiffs turned up to evict one hundred squatters but left again very quickly. They will be keeping pressure on throughout the summer and re-eviction from Selar seems very likely to be sooner rather than later. With at least another eighteen sites that need inhabiting they are proud to be opening the new estate agency at the Earth First! Gathering, and they hope to see everybody there. As these sites are widely spread, with distances between most, anything up to thirty miles, there is a desperate need for CB's and aerials. If you can help or just need more info, please call 0385 711364 or you can also try: 0468 732829 between 8-10pm.

IMPORTANT: Before heading to the EF! Summer Gathering call either 0171 561 9146 or 01749 812665 to confirm site details.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Undercurrents 5 is now available. It covers various issues and has some good footage from Selar. Phone Undercurrents on 01865 203661 to find out how you can order your copy.

Dover live exports are resuming and so are the demonstrations. Contact 01304 374064 for more details.

On Saturday 1st June two thousand people marched through Sheffield as a protest against animal abuse. The march passed off uneventfully with many speakers, including Robin Webb who is currently waiting to go to court after being framed by the Police for possession of a shotgun. Contact ALFSG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX for more details.

It now looks like the Batheaston Bypass will be opening in early July. There will be an action and there is a phone tree being set up. Please do not presume that you are on it - call up and double check so that they can get as many people down there as possible as soon as they know the date. Please call Avon Gorge EF! on 01225 448556.

Tarmac are holding their AGM on Tuesday 11th June at the QEII centre in London at noon. At the time of going to press it is unsure if any actions are being planned, though if you have shares, dust them off and head down to ask the questions that need to be asked.

UK Earth First! now has an excellent internet web page. It has the Action Update on there and will soon have Do or Die as well. In addition to this it has various relevant articles including 'Future Primitive' by John Zerzan and 'Industrial Domestication: Industrialisation and the Roots of Domination'. As well as these articles it has news on ecological resistance world-wide and is also updated regularly to include current events and issues. You can access the page at: <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

Haven Distribution, the anarchist mail order distribution service, is changing to become a free books to prisoners service which will be aimed at sending books and other printed material to prisoners. They are appealing for both financial donations, and from those involved in publishing books, zines, etc. free copies that can be sent out. As they say, a movement that is not supporting prisoners is moving nowhere! For further information, or to send any donations, write enclosing a SAE to: Haven Distribution, BM Haven, London WC1N 3XX.

Earth First! will be having a space at the Big Green Gathering in Wiltshire from 24th-28th July. If any people or campaigns have any displays or information that they would like to be included or can offer resources such as a marquee or tables please leave a message on: 01749 812665. There will be a meeting at the Earth First! gathering in Wales to get people who are interested together and to discuss it further.

CASCADIA FREE STATE

The North-Western area of America, (in particular the states of Washington and Oregon) has been the scene of massive ongoing struggles against the forestry industry. Although huge areas of the old growth virgin forests have been clear-cut for timber, substantial tracts still remain and are being fiercely fought over and defended from attempts to fell them.

In Oregon, the Cascadia Free State has been set up to defend the forests and resist the ecological devastation caused by corporations such as Roseburg Forest Products. Hundreds of people have passed through Warner Creek (the central point of the protest) where a fortress complete with drawbridge and warm tarpees (shelters) has grown around the gate the Forestry Service installed to block citizen access. Additionally, above the camp, activists have dug large trenches and built rock blockades along five miles of the road. A variety of other direct action has also been taken, including locking on to gates and vehicles, using huge tripods to prevent access and physically preventing chainsaw operators from cutting trees.

America's law enforcement agencies have been out in force to protect the logging industry, resulting in almost six hundred arrests since the summer of 1995. Private security guards have also been used and activists have risked injury and death from the actions of chainsaw operators. Despite the efforts of the State and the timber industry, resistance continues to grow, especially as the summer approaches, encouraging more groups and individuals from around the country to get involved. This particular struggle is only one of many battles being fought over America's old growth forests. More information can be found on their webpage which is at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~cnoblitt/>. Or write to the US Earth First! Journal, POB1415, EUGENE, OR 97440.

A1 (M) ACTION

Construction of the A1(M) motorway is part of the long term strategy to transform the A1 trunk road into a motorway from the M25 to Newcastle. Well over £1.5b (1994 prices) will be spent on what has been described by the construction industry as 'England's greatest road widening project'. Parts of the A1 are already motorway. The section between Alconbury and Peterborough, when completed will be one of the first DBFO (Design Build Finance and Operate aka Destroy, Burn, Fell and Obliterate) roads. A consortium of contractors, Road Management Services (RMS) will finance the project through a loan from the European Investment Bank. RMS will then recover their costs through 'shadow tolls'. The A1 is also part of the European TEN (Trans-European Network) transport schemes, a collection of road, rail and waterway strategic routes which are the core projects of the European Union. These are supposed to improve the flow of people and goods in Europe and thus create jobs and regional development. The economic arguments which say that regional economies will benefit from TENs are acutely flawed, and need to be challenged.

On Thursday 16th May twenty five activists from a coalition of campaign groups descended on Alconbury, near Huntingdon and stopped work on one of the sites where construction of the A1(M) motorway between Alconbury and Peterborough has just begun. There were no security guards, so access to the site was easy, and the workmen were completely taken by surprise. Work was stopped for most of the day on a one mile section of the route, where heavy earth moving equipment was preparing the land for part of the thirteen mile

section of motorway. As one digger after another stopped working, and activists moved along the work site, all the massive earth movers suddenly parked neatly in a line as if to a pre-arranged signal! The action was to highlight the madness of this, one of the country's first privatised roads. A spokesman for the contractors said that there had been a 'small delay' of three hours to the work, although we arrived at 10.30am and departed at around 4.00pm! The police arrived, but no arrests were made.

Further actions are planned. For the latest info update and up and coming actions phone 01767 692326.

MIDLAND BANK SHAREHOLDERS IN AGM PANTO FARCE!

"Excuse me Sir, or are you a Madam, do you have a share?" thus spoke a security guard as a pantomime Dame gained entry to the HSBC - Midland AGM on May 31st.

LAMB stole the show in the farce of an AGM telling other shareholders about Midland Banks involvement in the arms trade- financing arms to Iraq; fixing up arms deals so that they profit whilst arms get sold to countries with appalling human rights records, and then the British taxpayer foots the bill.

The Panto Dame kept up the alternative banter throughout the AGM, until it took eight security guards to eject her. The chairman was fired constant comments and questions. Three shareholders poured tomato ketchup blood all over themselves. Whilst another hosted a multiple choice quiz asking, "which bank according to the Financial Times was the most enthusiastic of all banks in its pursuit of export defence financing a) The Co-operative bank b) Midland Bank c) The Sperm bank?"

Quotes of the day included "I'm going to have to eject you", "Oh no you're not", "Oh yes I am". As well as "they're behind you" as security guards approached the protesters.

For more involvement in LAMB we are having a research and training week in Manchester from June 22-24th. For more info please call M/cr EF! on 0161 274 4665.

LEEDS RECLAIM THE STREETS

Leeds streets were reclaimed for the second time on Saturday 18th May. People gathered in City Square and set off to a mystery destination. They succeeded in blocking a road in the civic heart of Leeds, between the Leeds Town Hall and the Library.

Police grabbed one of the tripods and tried to stop the other one being erected despite having told a police liaison person that they would only try to stop it if a major junction was blocked, an ominous sign as they had only stood by at the first event in December. The bouncy castle and stage with PA were soon out, followed by music, bands, face painting, children playing, banners waving, stilt demons stretching and the party was in full swing. Fascists were spotted throwing beer glasses in a nearby pub, but neither they nor the police tactics at the end were able to stop a good party. As soon as it became obvious that the party was about to finish the police horses came marching in, it seemed in order just to provoke people and they then began to haul people away. This only succeeded in causing confusion and bad feeling and delayed the end (probably the intention), and triggered an impromptu march up Woodhouse Lane (Otley Road) slowing traffic to walking pace. A few more people became victims of the snatch squads and there were twelve arrests in total. Leeds

How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

By Post: Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. By Phone: 0171 561 9146 By E-Mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org. Please enclose a SAE for replies, and to subscribe to the free e-mail server - send us your details.

Earth First! Website address: <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

council are good at talking about how environmentally friendly they are but in actuality don't carry anything through. Then as soon as people take positive initiative they send the police in feet first which does nothing but sour peoples relations with the police. The city is officially Transport city '96! Then let's have some proper cycle lanes, park and ride schemes and more pedestrianised streets Leeds City Council. Contact Leeds EF! on: 0113 262 9365 for more information.

HACKNEY ANARCHY WEEK

Over the week of 25th May to 2nd June there was a series of events in Hackney in East London. Billed as Hackney Anarchy Week, it included gigs, debates, workshops on various topics, a small press bookfair as well as the more esoteric events such as training days for the Association of Autonomous Astronauts and a three-sided football match! The week was well planned and successful and it is hoped that there will be another one next year. For more details contact: BM Box Active, London WC1N 3XX.

A5 ANGLESEY

Go ahead for the first section of the new A5 dual carriageway across Anglesey has been given by the Welsh Office. A Welsh Office statement said work begins next Spring on the first eleven miles of the road from Llanfairpwll to Bryngwran, at a cost of £65 million. The decision follows protests from environmental groups and a week-long public enquiry. Five petitions and one hundred and fifty letters of protest were received by the public enquiry and fifteen people gave evidence, while thirteen letters in support of the road were received and ten people gave evidence. Those against the road argued that it will have a detrimental impact on the environment, particularly the proposed cutting at Parc-y-Coed, which would also involve a considerable loss of woodland.

If you are interested in the possibility of direct action call Gwynedd EF! on 01248 600286.

ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS

According to The Daily Telegraph (April 18th, 1996) a new group called the Environmental Rangers has been formed in the US. They have formed to prevent logging and mining in Montana and are particularly angry about a proposal to blast a mile wide pit into the hills near the Blackfoot River to mine for gold. The Environmental Rangers carry firearms and many are Vietnam Veterans. They feel that non-violent protests are not enough any more and as a spokesperson says: 'We are fighting to protect and preserve our

planet. Non-violent protests don't work any more, I've seen non-violent protesters get beaten up for sitting in the middle of the road. I have friends who were almost killed, then arrested, fined and put on probation for their non-violent protests. The bad guys have bought the legal system and they have drawn first blood because they have already committed violence against the land.' They say that they have exhausted every other method of protest, with one of them saying: 'We've tried everything, going to court, going all over the country to meetings, protesting, writing to my congressman, but nobody does anything. Just what do we have to do to get people to take notice?'

BEAL VALLEY

In Beal Valley, near Oldham in Lancashire, the council and Casey's Ltd. (a landfill contractor) are planning to dump all the spoil from the construction of the M66, as well as some industrial waste, there and cover it with a golf course. A local campaign has started and on Sunday 9th June there will be a nature ramble to help people to get to know the local ecology better. Meeting point is the Duke of York pub, Heyside at 10.00am. More information can be obtained from: Beal Valley Rescue on: 01706 841074

MOVE

On Monday 13th May there was a picket outside the US Embassy in London. It was to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the state bombing of the MOVE house in Philadelphia and also in solidarity with Ramona Africa from MOVE, who was the only adult survivor of the bombing that killed thirteen people, and who is currently pursuing a court case against the authorities in Philadelphia to get them to admit responsibility for the murders. For more information contact: Friends of MOVE, PO Box 3069, London SW9 8LU. Tel: 0181 519 9228 / 0171 272 5368

NO M66 CAMPAIGN

If the M66 is finished it will destroy not only the local ecology but also Audenshaw reservoir, several schools, small farms and some houses and flats.

The camps at Daisy Nook and Audenshaw Road are likely to be evicted in the next two weeks. Possible dates are 6th or 12th June. Daisy Nook camp is at the end of a public footpath from Woodhouses Primary School (77 bus from Manchester). Audenshaw Road is approached from the junction of Ashton New Road and Ashton Old Road (most Ashton buses from Manchester go there). Take Lumb Lane and turn right at the end. Support at the camps is needed. Contact: 0161 344 0225 or 0161 627 4862 for more details.

EDITORIAL

If you publish a newsletter or magazine please would you update the contact address for the Action Update as looking through various publications there are a significant number that we have seen that are still using the address in Cardiff as the contact point, and some are still using Manchester and Bristol!

The forthcoming Earth First! gathering is going to be one of the most important events for the radical ecology movement in the country this year. It is the best forum for open discussion and debate that we have and we must make sure that we use it to the best of our ability. Over the course of the week there will be the best chances that we are likely to have for some time to discuss how we can build on the movement and to teach people skills that can be used in defence of the natural world and it's inhabitants. Some important issues need to be discussed and people should start thinking of specific topics that they feel need addressing within the movement. In addition to debating all these issues, conducting training workshops, listening to people speak on important issues, watching films and having fun there will also be a meeting for feedback about all Earth First! publications so those that help in the production of them can learn from everybody else's opinions about the way things are done, and how they could be improved, so please if you have any comments make sure that you tell us. Hopefully we'll see you all at the Gathering.

Note that the Action Update telephone number has changed again. Contact us on: 0171 561 9146.

The Earth First! Action Update is free to prisoners. Please send in the name and address of anybody that might like to receive it and we will send out a free copy of every issue to them.

EVENTS

June

- 8 Cardigan Bay Action, Wales.
Contact Cardigan Bay EF!
- 9 Leicester, RTS Street Party meet
Next to Pavilion in Victoria Park
at 1pm.
- 11 Tarmac AGM, QEII centre,
London at noon.
- 12 - 18 Earth First! Summer Gathering.
Somewhere in North Wales.
Offers of help and general
inquiries call 01749 812665. For
your nearest transport coordinator
only call 0171 561 9146.
- 15 - 16 Trash Trident Actions, and
Faslane Peace Camp 14th
Anniversary Actions.
Tel: 01436 820901.
- 19 - 23 International Whaling
Commission meeting in Aberdeen.
- 22 Confront Michael Howard at his
visit to the Tory Party offices.
Meet 10am Westcliffe Gardens
(off Sandgate Road), Folkestone.
Followed by Rally Against
Injustice at Leas Cliff Hall, The
Leas, Folkestone. Speakers
include Paddy Hill.

July

- 12 - 14 International Earth Nights-The
Animals Revenge; you know what
needs doing!
- 13 London Reclaim the Streets
massive Street Festival. Meet
12.00 noon at Broadgate near
Liverpool Street station. Contact
0171 281 4621.
- 24 - 28 Big Green Gathering, Wiltshire,
Tel 01722 412457.

September

- 2 Farnborough Arms Fair blockade
for more info call CAAT 0171
281 0297.

November

- 5 COPEX Arms Fair Esher, Surrey.
Call CAAT for more info 0171
281 0297.
- 30 International no shop day. Anti
consumerism campaign 0161 237
1630.

WHATLEY QUARRY

The government has agreed another quarrying development in the east Mendip Hills- a Somerset County proposal to build a new road to run from the A361 at Nunery through the minute settlement of Bulls Green to the cross roads at Mells Park Corner. The cross roads is the centre of a quarrying concentration near Leigh on Mendip. The road proposal is called the Bulls Green Link.

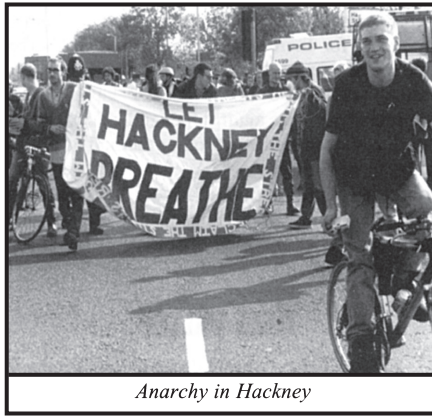
This is as well as the proposed expansion of Whatley quarry by ARC (Amey Roadstone Corporation) still set to take place despite widespread opposition both on a local and regional scale. Increasing levels of quarrying in the Mendip Hills will seriously affect the water table, potentially leading to Bath's historic springs drying up and affecting Bristol's drinking water supplies. This is in addition to more localised problems such as noise, dust and traffic pollution as well as destroying the surrounding natural environment. Stone taken from Whatley was used in the construction of the M3 extension through Twyford Down and in the building of the Batheaston Bypass. The campaign against the expansion/ARC is ongoing. The court cases which resulted from the mass EF! action at Whatley Quarry in December are now over. Of the 55 arrested and charged, (with Aggravated Trespass under the CJA and criminal damage) 28 have unfortunately been found guilty and were fined, 18 have either had their charges dropped or were found not guilty - a further 9 defendants proved to be untraceable!

For more information contact: 01749 880426.

LIVE WILD OR DIE!

'The Wilderness' exists to promote the cause of wild nature, both 'out there' and within ourselves. They do this by putting all donations that they receive into a fund to buy land and let the real expert, wild nature, look after it. As well as this 'The Wilderness' seeks to challenge the arrogant assertions of the mainstream environmental organisations who seem to forget that we share the planet with many other organisms, all of whom are equally important; sets up urban guerrilla planting projects and will work to help the few wild humans who are left by seeking to destroy the system that is murdering those who resist it. In addition to this 'The Wilderness' publishes information that will help people to learn for themselves what wild nature is. As 'they' say: "It may be possible that humans can create a sustainable economy and the problems we currently face will be overcome by 'good management' but we will fight this also as we do not want to live in world of humans and their genetic slaves and mutants-all life is sacred." There will be a workshop/talk at the Gathering. For more

details contact: 'The Wilderness', c/o Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY.



Anarchy in Hackney

HACKNEY RECLAIM THE STREETS

As part of the Hackney Anarchy Week in London there was a Reclaim The Streets action to draw attention to the fact that the Borough of Hackney has one of the lowest proportion of people owning cars in the country, yet still suffers from the ecological and social consequences of all the commuter traffic that passes through the area every morning. A road blockade was planned and on Thursday 30th May an assortment of cyclists and pedestrians met at 7.30am to try to block rush hour traffic. About fifty people walked to a point where the road was due to be blockaded. Unfortunately the police had discovered the tripods and they couldn't be used. Despite this everybody closed the main road and then walked and cycled slowly around the area. There was a comparatively large police presence, both from local Hackney police and also quite a few from the Forward Intelligence Team there to gather information about people involved. Remember to keep your diary free on Saturday 13th July for the Reclaim The Streets festival in London. Contact Reclaim The Streets on: 0171 281 4621 for more information.

CARDIGAN BAY

There will be a National Rally to save Cardigan Bay from the filthy oil moguls. Meet 1pm at Aberystwyth Castle, Aberystwyth, Sat. 8th June. Cardigan Bay is Wales's last Wilderness. This October the giant American oil company CHEVRON intends to drill for oil in the pure waters of our Bay. This is against International Law and will do tremendous damage to the wildlife, environment, and livelihoods of the inhabitants of the coast. The government is

encouraging this, helping Chevron all they can. It's up to us to protect the Bay.

Stand up to protect our beautiful sea from these arrogant, unwelcome invaders. Chevron has a terrible record, they leave filth and shattered lives everywhere they go, don't sit back and watch it happen here. Stand up for Cardigan Bay! Come and hear the speakers, listen to the music, and enjoy the beauty of Cardigan Bay. For further info please contact Cardigan Bay EF! c/o Box E, Oakridge, Taliesen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8JW. Email rck3@aberystwyth.ac.uk

FAIRMILE

At the A30 campaign, the situation described in last month's issue has now changed, and the evictions are not thought to be imminent. The most likely time is now thought to be late summer or early autumn. People are always welcome to get involved and help with various tasks, especially preparing the camps for defence. Contact: 01404 815729 or 0385 278156/7.

URBAN OCCUPATION

'Pure Genius' has more homes appearing all the time. The first court case in the legal proceedings to evict people from the site in Wandsworth was adjourned on a technicality. Guinness did not seem to know how to describe the location of the occupied land. Though they have now served the writ and have told occupiers that they can expect bailiffs any day. Lock-ons have already started to appear and at weekends there will be barricading, people needed. There will also be a Public Enquiry held the first week in June to question again the application for a Safeway on the site. Permanent residents of 'Pure Genius', along with local residents, will go along and tell the enquiry that they do not want yet another supermarket in the area and suggest that the Eco-Village instead be allowed to stay as a far more valuable addition to the community. So far local support and involvement has been very good and all sorts of donations are still coming in.

A piece of land was offered to the people living on site in Wandsworth, by Heritage Estates, in Woodstock, Oxfordshire. It is felt that this is not a suitable site to move to as the aim of occupying the Guinness site was to primarily highlight urban dereliction in our cities. For some reason though, Guinness seem keen for the offer to be taken up. There is an open invite for people to go down to the site and check it out for themselves. The site is on York Road by Wandsworth Bridge, London. Plans are afoot for a 'National No-Guinness Day'. For more information please call The Land is Ours on 01865 722016.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE

Please send me the next twelve copies of the EF! Action Update, here is my minimum contribution of £5 (£6 for International). Don't send cash, make cheques payable to Earth First! Donations above £5, for those who can afford it, enable us to reply to enquiries and give free subscriptions to prisoners, libraries, grassroots and community groups etc. Please send more if you can. Fake names are better for security, and also postal orders are more secure than cheques.

NAME: -----

ADDRESS: -----



Return to: EF! AU Subscriptions, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY

1996 in United Britain, Great Kingdom...

Conservative Party

Labour Party

STREET PARTY!

Democrats

Representation of the Peoples Act 1996

This ballot paper conforms to the standards laid down by the Electoral Reform Society and is registered under Subsection a), Paragraph iii) of the You Mark a Cross On a Piece of Paper Once Every Four Years Meanwhile We Make a Right Pig's Ear of Things and Get Rich Act 1996, Patent No. 37649801.

Get away from it all this Summer!

Music, children's area, info-stalls, art, magic, poetry, food, sunbathing, volleyball, clowns, acrobats, street theatre, trapeze artists, debates, instant beach & a prize for the best fancy dress...

**A FESTIVAL
OF RESISTANCE**

**Meet 12 Noon, Saturday July 13th
Broadgate, next to Liverpool St Station
Reclaim the Streets 0171 281 4621**

EF! CONTACTS JUNE '96

A30 Action
PO BOX 6
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01404 815729
Mobile 0385 278156/7

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c/o Anne
Abbey Street
Ballinrobe
Co Mayo
Eire

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01225 314040

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Rushcroft
Oldham
Lancashire
OL2 7QF
tel contact
c/o Rossendale EF

Belfast EF!
c/o 3-5 Denegal Lane
Denegal St
Belfast

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0121 449 5452

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WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not so much a cohesive group or a campaign as a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop, and eventually reverse the forces that are destroying this planet and it's inhabitants and we believe in using all the tactics available to enable us to do this. The contacts are autonomous groups that consider themselves to share the above principles. International contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other contacts are ones whose aims and principles are ones that we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. New additions or alterations are shown in **bold**.