

Earth First!

Action Update

Oct/Nov 2001

Issue 79

A monthly
round-up of
ecological
and other
direct action
from around
Britain

"Not once have I ever had to doubt the beauty of dissent, the brilliance of trust." Paul Robinson, Gothenburg prisoner.

Disarm DSEi

A fiesta for life against death



Before...

Two squats in south London being used as preparation space were raided on Sept 7th. 4 arrests were made and props destroyed. Events were held in Brighton and London to highlight DSEi and the arms trade.

The big day...

At midday on Sept 11th the main body of activists set off with the London RTS samba band but were soon surrounded by police. After a short stand-off police and protesters moved towards the Excel conference centre. A lot of people were still scattered around the area trying to formulate a plan of action. The Critical Mass cyclists also began to arrive. Around 100 people and the Manchester samba band, attempted to reach the venue via back streets. They passed through housing estates, cheered on by families and school kids. For a moment it seemed as if the whole school would storm the police line. Alas not! This small group was prevented from reaching

the centre but did stop delegates from leaving their hotel. A stilt walker carried a heart-shaped placard which read 'Fighting for peace is like fucking for virginity' and a dodgy arms dealer tried to sell guns to the police. The other main group reached the edge of the centre where music continued and speeches were made. There were some arrests as police tried to contain the protestors. Meanwhile in Trafalgar Square the fountains flowed blood red.

And afterwards...

On Sept 12th the corridor between Custom House Station and the centre was blockaded to prevent delegates from entering the DSEi. On the 13th 2 people swam across the dock towards the Excel centre with anti-arms slogans painted on their bodies; a train full of delegates heading to the fair was stopped at Royal Victoria station and a dinner party for the delegates was disrupted by activists shouting slogans.

Witness appeals

Remember, your witness evidence could stop someone going to jail as prosecutions often rely on police witness statements alone. In particular, one man described as aged 30, 5'7", in a white overall and bicycle helmet with a red cross symbol on it, was arrested at 2.10pm on the south side of the roundabout, south of Royal Victoria Station, whilst trying to help a woman who had been kicked by the police. His solicitor needs to trace this woman. She is described as middle aged, long greyish hair, long flowing dress with a gnarled walking stick. Other witnesses also

The philosophy behind Earth First! is the use of non-hierarchical organisation and direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.

It is not a cohesive group or campaign rather a convenient banner for those interested in these ideas.

needed. Contact Diana Kirsch at Moss & Co 020 8986 8336 diana@mosslaw.co.uk.

Other legal info... To give or receive legal info contact: ldmg@altavista.com

More info on all the protests from: www.uk.indymedia.org or the Disarm DSEi 020 7281 4621; www.disarm-trade.org; www.reclaimthestreets.net; www.wombleaction.mrnice.net

Civilian deaths caused by US bombs 1945-2000

Peru	Sudan	Indonesia
Laos	Congo	Yugoslavia
Cuba	Libya	Afghanistan
Iraq	Granada	El Salvador
China	Cambodia	Nicaragua
Korea	Vietnam	Guatemala

What is terrorism?

The poster text that got Norwich folk in a spot of bother. Anti-war contacts are on Page 3, action reports on Pages 2, 7 & 8.

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you've set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we'd like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

Anti-copyright - photocopy and distribute

News in brief...

- ★ A wombles (White Overalls Movement Building Libertarian Effective Struggles) groups has set up in Bristol 07904 097065 bristolwombles@hushmail.com
- ★ 300 people participated in an RTS in Leuven Belgium, on Sept 15th. The RTS coincided with a meeting of EU Transport ministers www.groenfront.nl/english
- ★ www.seedswapper.com is a free, not-for-profit seed swapping website
- ★ The 1st report of the government's Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission "Crops on Trial" (published Sept 10th) has been highly critical of the validity of government sponsored Farm Scale Trials. This may cause some setbacks to commercialisation. Independent 10/9/01
- ★ Riot police turned out in Sigalens, South-west France on Sept 1st where 250 activists had gathered to destroy 3 GM maize fields. This is the first major police intervention on a French GM action. On Sept 15th near Paris, 40 people destroyed a GM beet test crop
- ★ On Sept 13th angry farmers in South Sulawesi, Indonesia ritually burnt around 2 tons of Monsanto's Bt-cotton with the cry "Go to hell Monsanto". Source Allsorts
- ★ Aug 29th around 800 farmers trashed a field of Monsanto Bt-corn plants in Maltana, Philippines
- ★ The websites of the Earth First Journal, Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front in the US have all mysteriously been removed from the internet
- ★ A Manchester man reported twice trying (and failing) to log-on to his hotmail account. On the third attempt he was delivered an automated message telling him his account had been terminated as "it was not in the interests of US security"
- ★ 3 Spanish anarchists charged with placing bombs in Madrid are in jail despite the judges admitting there was no real evidence against them. inforespresion@yahoo.es
- ★ In response to 'offensive' articles, the Disabled Action Network protested at the Guardian newspaper's Manchester offices in Sept. Source: Loombreaker
- ★ Work was stopped for a few hours by an occupation of the site for a new MacDonald's in Reddish after planning permission had been sneaked through. Source: Loombreaker
- ★ During a speech on Oct 9th Phil Watts, chairman of Royal Dutch Shell, made the remarkable claim that Shell was preparing for "[the] end of the Hydrocarbon Age."(?)
- ★ It is estimated at least 100 Canadians symbolically ate their ballots at the last federal election and 3 now face criminal charges carrying max 5 years in jail or up to \$5000 fine under laws designed to stop people destroying other peoples ballots <http://edibleballot.tao.ca>

Army offices invaded

On Oct 11th around 20 people invaded and occupied the army recruitment office on Queens Road in Brighton as a protest against the war in Afghanistan. Despite uniformed squaddies on the door, the protesters managed to barge their way in, shutting down the office for 1-2 hours during the busy lunchtime period. The group 'No War but the Class War' distributed leaflets to passers-by and hung a banner saying 'Sabotage the War Effort' whilst police closed off the whole road, redirected traffic and called out the fire brigade. Protesters outside talked to people arriving for recruitment interviews and to people in the street. Those inside watched army recruitment videos on the TV and disrupted recruitment interviews. The action was reported on local radio, right after news of more casualties in Afghanistan. nowar@another.com

Action and words

On Oct 7th the 'No War but the Class War' discussion group was holding an open meeting about a class-based response to the current 'war'. 30 minutes into the meeting news of the first US bombings arrived, within the hour they were out in the streets. 60 people set off down Regents Street with loud, vocal "No War but the Class War" chants. Receiving support and encouragement from both pedestrians and motorists (despite the hold-up to traffic) they reached Pall Mall before the cops discovered them. Shunning the gathering leftists in Trafalgar Square the group pushed on to Downing Street where a Socialist Party member told them all to shut-up as their collective voices were drowning out her megaphone! As their numbers were swelled by those who saw movement and activity as better than just standing around, the police began to see them as more of a threat. As a game of cat-and-mouse ensued numbers gradually dropped before the group dispersed to either go home or join the other groups out on the street. Contact nowarbuttheclasswar-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Pixies' prison pranks

Pixies visited a prison construction site on the night of Sept 12th. The site in Ashford, Surrey is earmarked for a new, privately run, women's prison. CAGE occupied the same site last year to highlight the growth in new prisons and the prison industry. Clearance work has started at the site but preferred bidders have not yet been announced.

With little planning, pixies descended on the site compound. Two lorries and a

number of diggers were well and truly trashed and the message "No prison state" left for the contractors. The pixies said "It was fun and easy, give it a go".

Notts visit peat



On Sept 21st 10 people from Nottingham visited Hatfield Moor, Yorkshire as their contribution to the days of action against peat mining. Hatfield Moor is one of the last remaining peat moors in England and is being stripped by Scotts for profit and garden compost.

"Despite a large amount of pre-publicity there was no police presence when we arrived and we entered the moor without hassle. Seeing dust in the distance we headed towards the machines at work and the workers tried to drive away. Despite a half-mile head start we headed them off, trapping the machines and stopping them working for the rest of the day. After about an hour and a half two police officers and the site manager turned up to say that so long as we didn't damage anything we wouldn't be arrested. A useful conversation was overheard: apparently disrupting the factory works would cause them massive problems - so what are you waiting for?"

For more information about the campaign to stop peat mining at Hatfield contact Leeds EF! 0113 262 9365

Nine Ladies update

Firstly we'd like to report the fantastic news that Lee Himlin has been released from prison. Lee had been inside for sabotage of quarry equipment whilst based at the Nine Ladies protest camp which is resisting plans to quarry Stanton Moor in Derbyshire. Other news from the site – They are appealing for useful camp tat like blankets and tree-house materials. Tat runs are going from London - contact ladiestat@yahoo.com if you can help. Also, their mobile phone has been nicked so 07796 428368 does NOT work anymore. If you can help them out with a new one please contact the Action Update. see full wish list at: <http://pages.zoom.co.uk/~nineladies>

Cows in court

On Sept 28th, 11 people were found not guilty at Hemel Hempstead magistrates court of aggravated trespass at the Sainsburys distribution centre in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. They were arrested during protests in February (see AU 74). The prosecution failed to prove that distributing animal produce fed on genetically modified feed is legal. The group revealed in court that despite massive public opposition and issuing a statement agreeing to phase out GM-fed animal products, Sainsburys were still selling the stuff and products weren't even labelled. More cases due. Contact GEN 0207 272 1586 gen@gn.apc.org

Crashing Labour's party

Thousands demonstrated in Brighton on Sept 30th, the first day of the Labour Party Conference. The protest was against privatisation and other issues, with a strong anti-war focus. As the march was heading off, dozens of riot police moved into the crowd to make unprovoked 'intelligence led' arrests, dragging off wombles and others. A wide range of groups marched past numerous blocked streets and along the seafront. Led by a 'carnival collective' band, the march stuck to the agreed route and conditions, staying for around half an hour outside the conference centre.

Then on Sunday a fringe meeting for Penny Mortimer's 'Leave Country Sports Alone' group was gatecrashed by black-clad anti-hunting protesters, who rudely heckled Lady Mallalieu's speech. The police turned up and made an arrest, but the disruption was such that the meeting had to be cut short and abandoned at 8.30pm. Source: Allsorts

Shell action Leeds

On Oct 15th activists disrupted a recruitment talk being given by Shell at the Marriott Hotel in Leeds. Just before the talk was scheduled to begin, activists managed to enter the conference room and disable the projector, remove the boxes of promotional materials belonging to Shell and place their own leaflets on each chair. Potential Shell employees were greeted by information about how Shell damages the environment, robs the poor, murders, tortures, exploits workers and fuels the car crisis, with not an official Shell leaflet anywhere to be found. Meanwhile, outside the hotel, animal rights groups from Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool held a picket to protest against Shell's recent contract with vivisectioners, Huntington Life Sciences.

Solidarity for Paul

There was a solidarity demonstration, for Gotenburg prisoner Paul Robinson on Sept 6th. Many people gathered in front of the Swedish embassy and signed cards for him. Paul was arrested on June 15th, charged with violent riot and sentenced to 1-year imprisonment. He has always denied the charges. The arresting officer stated in court that he saw Paul throw stones over-arm then run away. Video footage and other police evidence contradicts this. At the end of September he lost his initial appeal and will now be appealing to the Supreme Court - a process which may take two months or more. Paul is also appealing against the length of his sentence. He remains in good spirits, undefeated, still fighting and with not an ounce of regret. Please write to him - see 'prisoners.' More info: defendpaul@hotmail.com

Subvert shenanigans

Under the cover of darkness on Sept 25th a subverted billboard in Norwich caused quite a stir. (See text on front cover). The poster was almost complete when the 'proportionate response' from Norwich police arrived: 5 cars (2 unmarked and carrying plain-clothed Special Branch). Not only were these cops willing to run, they were actually quite fast. Unfortunately, two people were arrested. After some intimidation and a night in the cells both were released without charge.

Anarchist action tour-Bristol

The following communiqué was received by the AU from Bristol this month. 6/9: tyres popped and paint scratched on approx. 20 cars at Honda showroom. Corporate recruitment fair sabotaged with fire alarms. 8/9: Shell garage attacked with red paint and damage to car wash. Spray paint message: "*Carlo lives*" and "*murderers*". Yuppie housing development sprayed; "*Yup, yup, yup...here they come*", and another executive home development complex sprayed; "*Executive houses-fucking the poor*". New Nescafé cafe painted with "*murder is everything*". 10/9: Armed forces recruitment centre door locks glued, window smashed and "*No war but the class war*" sprayed alongside anarchist symbol. 13/9: Anti-U.S./capitalist writing on the wall - "*Headline: U.S. bully gets fat lip*", "*World trade = world terrorism*", "*BOOMerang effect*" etc. Cop station sprayed with "*The real terrorist wears a uniform*". TO BE CONTINUED. We incite by staying free - surprise is our trump card.

Diary Dates...

October

22nd Blockade at Faslane Nuclear Missile Submarine Base. 0141 423 1222 for transport from your area
23rd 'Land for People' Working Conference The SPACE, Stroud, Gloucestershire 01453 757040 Mhclarge@aol.com
26th-28th Wild/Front Weekend Netherlands/Belgium weekend@groenfront.nl PO box 85069, 3508 AB Utrecht, Netherlands
27th Stem the Flow? (1 day Symposium on Third World Debt). Friends Meeting House, Frodsham Street, Chester from 10am - 4pm 01244 311952
29th-Nov 9th UN Climate Change Conference COP7, Marrakech, Morocco
29th International SHAC day of action mobile demo. 0845 458 0630
30th-1st Nov Copex exhibition of 'counter insurgency' equipment at Sandown racecourse CAAT 020 72810297
31st 4.30-late demo at HLS Occold, Suffolk
31st Newcastle Environment Forum discussion on "Sustainable Economics: Challenging the Bottom Line" 5.30pm at Newcastle Civic Centre
31st Global Protest' films and discussion at the Side Cinema, Newcastle 8pm, suggested donation £3

November

1st Fox Hunting season begins (perhaps), Hunt Sab Association 01273 622827
3rd Trade Justice Carnival from 12.30 in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, London.
5th 7pm-Late Demo HLS Occold, Suffolk
5th-9th The 4th WTO ministerial meeting in Doha, the capital of Qatar.
10th Actions against shell on the anniversary of the judicial murder of 9 Ogoni activists in Nigeria 020 86789605 mosopgb@aol.com
10th West Country Activist Gathering 2001, St. Werburghs Community Centre, Hurley Rd, Bristol 10-6pm. (more info page 3) westcountryactivist@yahoo.co.uk
www.geocities.com/westcountryactivist/
24th Buy Nothing day, anti-consumerism campaign. Enough 0161 2266668

January 2002

26th Prison Abolition or More Prisons? A conference on the abolition of prisons 10.30 am-5pm, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Sq. prisonabolition@hotmail.com Prison Abolition conference, c/o BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX.

At the AU we love our subscribers. Their support keeps us going and provides cash for printing, postage etc. If you like the AU but don't subscribe then why not? Extra money means we can send free copies to prisoners too. Thank-you.

Contacts for peace

There have been far more peace vigils etc. against the US 'war' than we could possibly have covered. Below is a list of what may be useful contacts. A lot of news is also coming by way of ALLSORTS allsorts@gn.apc.org. See also specific actions reported elsewhere in the AU. War resisters International - e-mail list to co-ordinate peace activities aftermath-11-September-2001-subscribe@yahooogroups.co.uk, 20 7278 4040, info@wri-irg.org www.wri-irg.org; <http://struggle.ws/stopthewar> US Anti-war website; peacenowar-subscribe@lists.riseup.net & www.peacenowar.net - Int. co-ordination website and list

Climate COP7

The Rising tide network have issued a call to take local action to coincide with the COP7 round of Climate talks. The talks, Oct 29th - Nov 9th Marrakesh, Morocco are likely to see further moves towards Climate trading. info@risingtide.nl; www.risingtide.nl

'Missing' in Genoa?

An appeal has arrived from Comitato Anarchico per la Difesa e la Solidarietà (Anarchist Committee for Defence and Solidarity) in Genoa for all those who reported friends missing during the Genoa protests to get in touch. People are still working on the missing persons list and has become difficult to decide if people really are missing. Comitato Anarchico per la Difesa e la Solidarietà, Piazza Embriaci 5/13, 16123 GENOVA, Italy. anarcos@ghostmail.net

PGA call to action WTO summit Qatar Nov 9th

People's Global Action (PGA) is calling on all grassroots social movements, community-based organisations, trade unions, students groups, indigenous peoples, autonomous collectives and everyone who wishes to participate around the world, to carry out actions against the WTO to coincide with the next ministerial summit in Doha, Qatar, November 9th-13th, 2001. Already built into the agenda are trade agreements which cover issues like the privatisation of health, education and water; forcing genetically modified foods and seeds on member countries; and patents on life forms.

Resist the WTO throughout the world through direct action and civil disobedience wherever communities are destroyed and ecosystems sacrificed for the sake of free trade!

A leaflet with more about PGA and the WTO can be downloaded from www.x21.org/pga.

Reports are circulating in the NGO community that the United States will not participate in the Doha Ministerial and the WTO is about to cancel the November meeting because of safety fears. More info at: www.wtowatch.org.

Quieres escribir para Do or Die?

Do or Die are planning to run a set of articles on Latin America (especially indigenous struggles) and are looking for people who are interested in contributing. They have interest in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Chile,

Guatemala, Venezuela, Plan Columbia and Plan Andes. If you are interested in helping contact curcurbitologist@hotmail.com.

SchNews SWP pamphlet

SchNEWS have published a pamphlet criticising and analysing the role of leftist groups, the Socialist Workers Party and Globalise Resistance in the emerging anti-capitalist movement. Paper copies are available for two first class stamps and a SAE from SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 0EF. It is also available at the SchNews website, www.schnews.org.uk.

West Country Activist Gathering

Sat Nov 10th, St. Werburghs' Community Centre, Hurley Rd, Bristol 10-6pm.

In a world where money is king, those who dream of something different become activists. All across the West Country people are challenging the corporations and the bureaucrats, whether it is campaigning against quarries, destroying genetically modified crops, challenging racism or keeping a local hospital open, those who challenge power are diverse and we take joy in diversity. This gathering will bring groups and individuals together to share skills and ideas, to talk and to listen

Lets Localise Resistance!

www.geocities.com/westcountryactivist/
westcountryactivist@yahoo.co.uk

Scottish Genetix Action

A website has been launched at www.scottishgenetixaction.org

Prisoners

If you know of anyone who you think we ought to be supporting get in touch with the AU or ELP (listed opposite), let us know as much as possible (what they're in for, how long, when they're due for release, details of any support campaign etc.). The AU prioritises listing new eco-prisoners ELP carry a more detailed list.

UK

Neil Bartlett FW7083, H.M.Prison Lewes, E.Sussex, BN7 1EA. On remand for alleged bomb hoax phone calls against Exxon Mobil and four animal abusers. Paul Robinson 1090, Goteborg Remand Centre (Haktet), Goteborg Polis Headquarters (Polis Huset), Box 429, 40126 Goteborg, Sweden. UK anarchist serving 1 year following the Gothenberg protests in June, lost his appeal in Sept.

Kerry Whitburn EM 8649, HMP Bedford, St Loyes St, Bedford, MK40 1HG. On remand after a roof-top protest at home of a Du-pont director, a major customer of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). **Address change** Mark Barnsley WA2897 - HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Road, March, Cambs, PE15 OPR. More info from barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com. Dave Blenkinsop EM7899, H.M.Prison Bedford, MK40 1HG,

Serving 3 years for an attack on the Managing Director of HLS. Barry Horne VC2141, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs WR11, 5TZ Serving 18 years for anti-vivisection arsons **Europe** Post Genoa, some Germans - the Leipzig 3 - are still incarcerated and welcome messages, books, hardcore tapes, goodies etc. Peter Kunze, Michael Kohl, Michael Kodritsch. Post should be mailed to: (Name), Casa Circon-

dariale, Marassi, Piazza Marassi 2, 16139 Genova. **International address changes** Iñaki Garcia Koch, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque. Apdo. 250, 31080 - Iruñez - Pamplona, Navarra (España), Spain (5 years for sabotaging a dam construction site). Craig Marshall, #13797662, EOCI, 2500 Westgate, Pendleton, OR 97801, USA. (Serving 5 years 5 months for "Conspiracy to commit arson" and "possession of an incendiary device").

Earth Liberation Prisoners support network

c/o BM Box 2407 London, WC1N 3XX Online newsletter earthlibprisoner@mail.com www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk Urgent ELP Bulletin sends out names of new prisoners as soon as ELP gets them animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com

Writing to prisoners

Remember to include the prisoners number and a return address (prisons won't accept the letter without one, not all accept PO Box address) for more tips on writing contact ELP or Anarchist Black Cross c/o 6 Tilbury Place Brighton BN2 2GY

"Any political movement that does not support it's political internees is a sham movement"

Ojore Lutalo, political prisoner

Agriculture in Britain is in crisis. Whilst some people are blaming the appalling weather last year and corporate folk and their cronies the National Farmer's Union are blaming the high value of the pound and 'foot and mouth' for destroying our export markets, it is evident that there is a much deeper structural crisis. The crisis has its roots in the deliberate government and European Union cheap food policy of the last 50 years. This provided subsidies to farmers to increase production. Very quickly fertilisers, machinery and pesticides became widespread and resulted in farmers intensifying their production and enlarging their farms. It also led to farmers taking out hedges, enlarging fields, cutting down woods and draining wetlands - all the things we hate them for. The crisis is exacerbated by the forced globalisation of agriculture - itself going back to the days when the European empires began raping, pillaging and enslaving the global south. The cash-crop plantations resulting from this era and IMF 'structural adjustment' created an economic structure which allows cheap Southern growers to undercut European farmers by producing traditionally Northern crops such as green beans and apples, whilst the profits are creamed off by multinational middlemen. Improvements in technology mean that fruit and veg can be treated (frozen, irradiated, waxed etc.) and airfreighted across the world to arrive looking fresher (and cheaper) than local produce.

With the establishment of the WTO in 1995 and the beginnings of a concerted effort to liberalise global agricultural markets, farmers around the world were plunged into a new crisis. Now the major supermarkets, food manufacturers and processors have an even freer rein to play farmers around the world off against each other for the cheapest price. Although only 10% of food is traded internationally, it dictates the price of the other 90% of food. This leads to the crazy situation where in 1997, 126 million litres of liquid milk was imported into the UK at the same time as 270 litres of milk was exported. Airfreight has increased 7% each year subsidised by the tax-free status of air fuel.

As farmers cut their costs further, it is unsurprising that the environment, animal welfare standards and human health suffer but it is important to see the pressures on them. In the dairy industry there is an oversupply of milk due to imports. The supermarkets exploit this, regularly paying the farmers around 17p for a litre of milk. This is 5p below what it actually costs the farmers to produce it. The supermarkets make their profits by exploiting the farmers and their animals, while selling the milk for around 34p a litre on the shelves. In this situation, subsidies have become a lifeline to farmers as the average farm income has dropped to £5000. Government restrictions throughout the foot and mouth epidemic have also caused massive abuse of social and animal welfare; in particular the decision not to vaccinate which would have made most of the contiguous cull unnecessary. Farmers have faced huge fines for attempting to feed their animals and look after them properly

Corporate agribastards

The five major supermarkets, (Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Safeways and Somefield) control 70% of all grocery sales in the UK. In turn they deal with less than 30 food manufacturers including Pepsico, Conagra and the main UK manufacturers such as Unilever, Uniq, Hazlewood Foods, Northern Foods and Grampian foods. In the dairy industry

there are only seven processors supplying the supermarkets.

Northern Foods

This is an excellent example of what the food processors of the future will look like. Run by Tony's crony, Lord Haskins, who sits on various government taskforces and openly hates small farmers, it is a multi-million pound operation. It supplies own-brand ready meals to the supermarkets as well as owning, amongst others, Dalepak, Ski Yoghurts, Fox's confectionery and buns for Burger King. This is factory-produced food that is over-packaged and pumped full of additives and preservatives. Anyone who makes this kind of junk cannot really care about consumer health or love food. The ironic thing is that a pack of Dalepak lamb chops cost double the amount you would pay in a small independent butcher. This is the lie of the supermarkets. They claim to sell cheap food, but a quick comparison with a farmer's market or small retailer will show that you can get it cheaper there.

Keep agriculture out of the WTO

Agriculture is unlike any other industry - it cannot be compared, for example, to banking, computers or steel. This is because the agricultural sector is 'multifunctional'. Not only are farmers responsible for our food security but like it or not they are responsible for a large part of the countryside and its biodiversity. Agriculture also forms the basis of rural livelihoods and a backdrop for tourism and leisure. This is why many groups including FoE and Via Campesina claim that it should be kept out of the WTO. They can see that under WTO rules, agricultural trade will take precedence over food security, food safety and food quality as well as animal welfare, labour rights and the effects on the environment of chemically intensive agriculture. It is already clear that there is dispute over definitions of food safety with the US taking Sri Lanka to the WTO court for banning GMOs.

Others feel that a trade agreement could stop the EU and US from dumping cheap food on developing countries, a practice that has made it hard for these countries to develop their own

internal markets. This food dumping takes place because the EU and US heavily subsidise their farmers and subsidise their exports. Developing countries also want the US and EU to open their agricultural markets to their exports. This in turn reveals the utter hypocrisy of the EU and US supposed neo-liberal agenda. There are also moves from developing countries to allow rural development and food security take precedence over trade within the WTO trading rules.

The Qatar ministerial will be the crunch time to decide whether the Agreement on Agriculture will go ahead.

Why we should work with small farmers?

Activists have generally seen farmers as well-off Land-Rover-driving, ancient-hedgerow-trashing, subsidy-junkies, best known among activists for their collective cry of 'git off moi land' on mass trespasses, hunt sabbing and GM crop actions. Meanwhile, farmers have mostly seen activists as a bunch of untidy city types telling them how to live and invading their land on mass trespasses, hunt sabbing and GM crop actions.

There is, however, a harsh social and economic reality to farming today which risks the countryside becoming little more than soulless agricultural prairies and animal factory for the superstores interspersed with golf courses, second homes and theme parks. The current foot and mouth outbreak will only hasten the demise of smaller and family-run farms. If trends continue over the next 5 to 15 years we are likely to see a decline in the number of farmers from 165 000 to between 8 000 - 15 000. This is not just a social disaster on a par with the death of the coal industry, but a cultural and environmental nightmare for anyone who cares about the British countryside and the people who live there.

Farmers have been interacting with the landscape in Britain for over 6000 years. Whilst some environmentalists maintain that FMD has been a blessing for upland Britain by wiping out so many sheep, it is unlikely that this land would revert to a biologically diverse forest eco-system if it was just left to its own devices.

The demise of small farmers is also unlikely to mean that less meat is produced and consumed in Britain. It is simply an excuse for the further industrialisation of meat production towards the hideous Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in the USA. It will also mean more meat is imported from abroad where animal welfare standards are even lower than in the UK.

Small farmers in the UK are a small, disenfranchised and exploited group living at the sharp end of globalisation, some of whom have taken direct action. There is a great deal of potential common ground with farmers who are anti-GMO, anti-hunting, anti-supermarket and pro-environment and pro-animal welfare. There are more out there than you think....

What we can do?

The recent foot and mouth outbreak has provoked a good deal of discussion on the future of agriculture, revealing a general unease about its continued industrialisation.

The main enemies at this stage seem to be the Government, intent on taking the industrial food route, with organics as a niche market to keep the middle classes happy. They are taking their cue from the NFU, the least representative organisation since Globalise Resistance, and its chief exec, 'Biotech' Ben Gill. Other influential food industrialists include Terry Leahy, CEO of Tesco and on various government taskforces, and Lord Haskins of Northern Foods and Express Dairies - now rural recovery co-ordinator for areas badly affected by FMD. The man most in-line for a pie - Sean Rickard, is a former NFU economist. He is the architect behind agro-industrial Britain.

As a direct action movement it is time we gave the supermarkets a good kicking. They are an anti-social phenomenon sitting at the centre of a web of modern problems: transport, health, environment, economic and social dislocation.

International events

Next February, ASEED Europe are organising a pan-European activist gathering to discuss visions of agriculture, in preparation for COP6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in The Hague next April. It will also prepare for the Via Campesina International Day of Farmer's Struggle on 17th April. Via Campesina are an international group of small farmers and peasants who do exciting actions around the world.

Anyone interested in getting involved please contact Action on Corporate Agriculture via Corporate Watch. We're trying to find a better name - please help. Oh and we've got great leaflets so contact us for them. We're also developing a 'What's wrong with supermarkets?' workshop which we will happily take to schools, community centres, NGO's, EF! meetings etc. Also please let us know if your group is doing anything on farming issues or supermarkets etc

**Food and Agriculture Research
Corporate Watch
16B Cherwell Street
Oxford OX4 1BG, UK
Tel +44 (0) 1865 791 391
www.corporatewatch.org**

Action Groups

are local EF! contacts some are active groups others need more people to get in touch

Bath EF!
c/o PO Box 426
Bath, Somerset, BA1 2ZD

Dartmoor EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

Grampian EF!
PO Box 248
Aberdeen AB25 1JE
grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

Gwynedd & Mon EF!
The Greenhouse
1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 1AX
01248 255 821
bangor-werdd@yahoo.co.uk

Leeds EF!
c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Av
Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 262 9365
leedsef@leedsef.org.uk

London Reclaim The Streets
PO Box 9656
London N4 4JY
020 7281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Manchester EF!
Box29, 22a Beswick St
Manchester, M4 7HS
0161 2266 814
mancef@nematode.freemove.co.uk

(Newcastle) TAPP
PO Box ITA
Newcastle NE99 1TA
ne991ta@yahoo.com

Norwich Direct Action Forum
PO Box 487
Norwich NR2 3AL
07944 874 393

Nottingham EF!
c/o 245 Gladstone Street
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595
Nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street, Reading
Berkshire RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@gn.apc.org

Sheffield EF!
c/o Brambles Resource Centre
82 Andover St
Sheffield S3 9EH
0114 279 7164
jimthackery@yahoo.co.uk

South Devon EF!
c/o PO Box 77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

SWAN Network
PO Box 70
Newport NP1 0YD
Swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Contacts List Oct/Nov 2001

Warwick- the old group's folded but someone wants to set up a new one!
Tomgreaves@hotmail.com

York LEAF
C/o SU Centre
University of York, Heslington
York YO10 5DD

Support Groups & Information Networks

Activists' Legal Project
16b Cherwell Street
Oxford, OX4 1BG
01865 243 772
activistslegal@gn.apc.org

Anarchist Teapot
Mobile Kitchen Project
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
katchoo22@tutty.com

Blatant Incitement Project
(outreach & small group support), c/o Manchester EF!
doinit@nematode.freemove.co.uk

CAGE Network
(against the prison system)
c/o 245 Gladstone Street
Nottingham, NG7 6HX
0845 458 9595

Corporate Watch
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 791391
mail@corporatereview.org

Earth Liberation Prisoners support Network
BM Box 2407
London, WC1N 3XX
earthlibprisoner@mail.com

Genetic Engineering Network
GEN, Archway Resource C'tr
1a Waterlow Road
Archway, London, N19 5NJ
020 7272 1586
genetics@gn.apc.org

Primal Seeds
Suite 305, 255 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester M14
www.primalseeds.org
mail@primalseeds.org

URGENT
(green field housing network)
Box HN, 16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01865 794 800
info@urgent.org.uk

Publications

The Agitator-Directory of Autonomous Groups
c/o Haringey Solidarity Group
PO Box 2474, London N8

Counter Information
Autonomous Centre E'burgh
17 West Montgomery Place
Edinburgh EW7 5HA
0131 557 6242

Do or Die
c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Pl.
Brighton BN2 2GY
doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

FINs - for a full list of Free Information Networks, send SAE to: London FIN
c/o 99 Torrino Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Genetix Update
c/o Totnes GenetiX Group
PO Box77, Totness
Devon TQ9 5ZJ
01803 840 098
info@togg.org

Green Anarchist
BCM 1715, London
WC1N 3XX

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

Schnews
PO Box 2600, Brighton
East Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913
schnews@brighton.co.uk

The EF!AU has a list of local radical publications.
Send an SAE or e-mail.

Virtual News

<http://www.ainfos.ca>
a multi-lingual news service by, for and about anarchists

Allsorts - UK based e-news for activists
allsorts@gn.apc.org
www.uk.indymedia.org

Video

i-Contact video network
76 Mina Road, Bristol
BS29TX 01179140188

i-contact@videonet.org
RadiX-video archive for direct action - new address in December
radix@enviroweb.org
www.enviroweb.org/radix

Other Contacts

Advisory Service for Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
020 7359 8814
advice@squat.freemove.co.uk

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.co.uk

Anarchist Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel High St.
London E1 7QX

ChiapasLink
Box 79, 82 Colston St, Bristol
chiapaslink@yahoo.com

Disabled Action Network
3 Crawley Road, Wood Green
London N22 6AN
020 88891361

DELTA
Box Z, 13 Biddulph St
Leicester LE2 1BH
0116 210 9652
lynx@gn.apc.org
www.oneworld.org/delta

Friends of People Close to Nature (FPCN UK)
33 Gould Close
Welham Green, Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL9 7EB
01707 885 994
rains@fpcn-global.org

GenetiX Snowball
Box13, 43 Gardner St
Brighton BN1 1UN
rowantilly@gn.apc.org

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Industrial Workers of the World
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours (TLIO)
16b Cherwell St
Oxford OX4 1BG
01460 249204
office@tlionet.org

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group
BM Haven, London
WC1N 3XX

London GreenPeace & McLibel Campaign
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
020 7713 1269
info@mcspotlight.org

Making Waves
PO Box 1377
Sheffield S36 4BZ
01226 764279
pp3office@aol.com

No Platform anti-fascist network, PO Box 127
Leeds LS3 1TS

Reclaim the Satyagraha!
c/o 5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
07973 539 390
enquiries@satyagraha.org

Solidarity Federation
PO Box 29, SW PDO
Manchester M15 5HW
0161 232 7889

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty Campaign (SHAC)
PO Box 38, Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 1YN
0845 458 0630

Trident Ploughshares 2000
42-46 Bethel St
Norwich NR2 1NR
0845 458 8366
tp2000@gn.apc.org

Protest Camps

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, 33 Heron Rd
Bristol BS5 0LT
0117 939 3746

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire G84 8HT
Scotland
01436 820 901

9 Ladies Anti-Quarry Camp
Lees Cross
Lees Rd, Stanton Lees
Matlock, Derbyshire
Phone stolen - new no. soon!

Sellafield Women's Peace Camp, Box Z (as Leeds EF!)
0113 262 1534

Vallee d'Aspe Camp
Mobile+336 72634905

..and beyond

active campaigns that have had protest camps in the past

Action Against the Toll Motorway (AtoM)
0121 643 9117
actionagainstthetollmotorway@hotmail.com

Golden Cross Road Action Group (Essex), 01702 541 267
07957 915 977

Hockley Housing
01702 206 181

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG14 5WG
07000 785 201

International

For International contacts we recommend the list in Do or Die 9 or ...

Peoples Global Action (PGA) against the WTO and neo-liberalisation, www.apg.org

Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson
AZ 85702 USA
Tel: (520) 620-6900
Fax: (413) 254-0057
collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Every effort is made to keep this contact list as up to date as possible, but we haven't time to check every contact every month. If you have trouble using any contact on this list please let us know. Also please make sure you tell us of any changes. We appreciate receiving any ideas to improve this list and make it as useful as possible.

All additions and alterations each month are shown in bold.

The inclusion of a contact on this list in no way implies the support of the AU editorial collective for that group, it's ideas, actions or indeed anything else.

Devises tree campaign

In Devises, Wiltshire there has been an on-going campaign to save four London plane trees growing in the town square which the council wanted to kill.

Organising themselves into a tree defenders group, locals had prevented the felling of the trees. Despite council assurances the trees wouldn't be felled until further talks had taken place, on Oct 7th contractors chainsawed three trees. When the news broke, locals were quick to act. A picket formed around the tree, a tree sitter climbed it and a car was parked immediately underneath. The action drew local media attention and brought the last tree a temporary reprieve. Source ELP.

Eggy Anne

During a visit to Nottingham to talk about homelessness on Sept 5th, Tory MP Anne Widdecombe had to dodge more missiles. As she entered the building a passing cyclist narrowly missed her with one egg. When she said "[the] fairest way to deal with refugees is to put them all into reception centres" one incensed woman stood up and ranted "you mean prisons don't you Anne, you racist scum?"

Have you ever been to prison? Do you have any idea how people suffer?" and flung two eggs. One hit the rostrum and splattered all over Anne's suit. She was nicked by Special Branch to prevent a breach of the peace (too late) but released later after the old bag had left. Source Allsorts

Women stop nukes

On Sept 23rd feminist avengers took action against the war machine (manifest in the convoy that regularly transports nuclear warheads from Burghfield, Berkshire to Coulport Base, West Scotland). Dressed in pink and silver, and penned in by the police, the women stood

Contact

★ us! ★

EF!AU, PO Box 487

Norwich, NR2 3AL

Tel: 01603 219811

www.eco-action.org/efau

efactionupdate@bigfoot.com

by the road as the convoy went past. The police left. then, to their surprise, the women saw the last convoy truck pass with only a motorcycle escort. They blocked the road, stopped the truck and climbed on top of it, remaining there for an hour claiming "We celebrate all life and weep for all death, we take direct action to show we are not consenting with the war ways of those who conspire globally to exercise control through fear. We will not cease till war is no more."

Contact Faslane Peace Camp (mixed and women's actions) 01436 820901

www.faslanepeacecamp.org Women's

actions vexedgirls@hotmail.com or

mayday77@globalconnekt.com.

Burnley anti-fash

Despite police efforts to ban all political activity in Burnley on Sept 1st, due to threats of an NF march, one group of activists managed to enter the town (despite being a beacon in their bright yellow minibus). After failing to find any other demonstrators (fash or anti) the van mysteriously broke down in a 'drive-thru' McDonalds, blocking it for 30 minutes whilst customers were leafleted. Elsewhere in Burnley people succeeded in leafleting despite the police. Source: Loombreaker

Anti-fash Sunderland

About 60 people turned out to oppose a planned BNP event in Sunderland on Sept 15th. There were only a few fascists, who made no attempt to have a rally. The antis held a very brief and non-confrontational rally followed by leafleting and speeches. Also a new forum and alliance, 'Tyne and Wear Against Racism' has been set up. About 25 people from TWAR went

leafleting round an estate where the BNP are standing candidates in the next election (they've started leafleting already) and leafleted 2500 houses. More events and regular meetings planned. TWAR PO Box 601, Sunderland SR2 7XY.

Anyone visiting fash web sites to check what they're up to is advised to be cautious and think about masking their computers identify. It seems that Yorkshire NF have been up to that nasty old trick of posting up details of alleged antis and may be trying to entrap people through a bogus discussion list called "Smash the Nazis". Source Allsorts

Bristol bike ride

European Car Free Day 2001, Sept 22nd, was celebrated in Bristol, in part, with what was billed as "The Big Bike Ride". Roughly 100 cyclists participated in the ride although some were disappointed that the organisers were keen for it not to turn into a "Critical Mass" type event. Whilst stewards endeavoured to maintain a non-confrontational event against the wishes of some participants, even the most vociferous critics admitted that the children seemed to enjoy it.

Shell abuse animals

As if the human and environmental abuses of the oil industry weren't enough, Shell also have plastic packaging materials tested on animals at Huntingdon Life Sciences. In early September a coalition of animal liberation protesters bought Shell Oil's Stanlow refinery in Cheshire to a halt. From 5:30am lines of people blocked all roads in and out of the site, locked to each other and to concrete-filled oil drums to stop the police from moving them. By the late afternoon the police started dragging people away. 27 were arrested and charged with secondary picketing. Manchester Animal Protection. 07951 228 981 / 07931 586826

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